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Safescape (NZ) Ltd is the NZ Distributor for Clevertronics Products

## To Our Readers:-

Another Christmas has come and gone, and if, like us, you took the opportunity for some R & R it is probably already feeling like a long time ago. As a friend put it "no one needs a holiday like someone who has just had one".

However, some members of our organisation worked through, and we can now advise that our website is up and running at :-

[www.safescape.net.nz](http://www.safescape.net.nz)

Please take the time to visit us. It is not a glitzy, all-singing all-dancing site, but it provides all the basic information you need to know about our product range, including the availability of downloadable PDFs. Specific inquiries can be made directly from the site, which we endeavour to acknowledge within 24hrs.

Happy browsing!

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## A REPEAT ALREADY!

WE PUBLISHED THIS ITEM IN THE FIRST EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER AND AS THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY POSITIVE WE REPEAT IT HERE.

### SELF TEST — A SAFER OPTION

With all the best will in the world, the testing of emergency lighting installations is not seen by building managers as the highest priority they have. Many installations are supervised by staff occupying the building, but who have no training regarding the importance of a properly functioning system. Typically these will be smaller installations such as retail premises, bank branches etc. A self test system is also applicable to a large installation in a single tenancy or where access to the luminaires is relatively difficult. Self Testing can remove all the chance from such installations by automatically signalling the current state of the unit, be it an Emergency or EXIT.

Self Testing, or Diagnostic mode, is a feature offered on nearly all Clevertronics Emergency and EXIT equipment. It comprises an additional plug-in board which allows the fitting to be programmed to perform a self diagnosis every 6 months, the result of which is indicated by a coloured flashing LED. During the Test the Normally Red LED will emit a "Test in Progress" signal comprising a slow Yellow flash. A successful Test will be shown by a slow Red/Yellow flash for a period of 5 days, after which it will revert to the normal solid Red state. A "Failed Test" signal is a fast Red/Yellow flash which will be maintained until such time as the unit is serviced.

Self Test requirements are included in AS2293.3.

For more details e-mail [support@safescape.net.nz](mailto:support@safescape.net.nz) requesting a copy of "Self Test Guide and Overview" or download from [www.safescape.net.nz](http://www.safescape.net.nz)

## What is an "Escape Path?"

This is a question that confronts all who are engaged in designing an emergency lighting installation. Some interpretations allow for gangway or notional corridors only in larger areas, others for a much wider coverage.

At least two of our professional clients have sought a legal definition of the term, and the results have been remarkably similar. In both cases the definition described an escape path being required from "all places of work or general circulation" or words to that effect. This includes just about all areas except the broom cupboards.

Whilst there are still some grey areas (small airlocks at the entry to toilets for example) the above definition theoretically includes such areas. Our Australian colleagues take no risks and include them, although it is acknowledged that the Australian environment is heavily influenced by their inherent right to sue, thereby encouraging a conservative approach.

Our advice is that if the area under consideration could be occupied by anyone going about their normal duties, even if only for a short period (Document or Equipment Storage for example), it should be included in the design.

## Emergency Lighting System Maintenance.

NZ is fortunate not to have had a serious large scale fire incident involving death in recent years. However, we had some power blackouts last year (remember?), and one of the incidents that caught our attention in the TV reportage was the description by a Queen St office worker of the difficulty in finding one's way down an internal fire escape with the only visual aid being a cigarette lighter!

Whilst this particular incident was probably due more to poor maintenance than system design, it does indicate that some of our emergency lighting installations are not up to scratch for one reason or another.

This should not be happening in the current regulatory environment and we urge all designers to not only take care when designing and specifying emergency lighting installations, but ensure their clients are aware of their ongoing responsibilities and costs regarding emergency lighting installations.

Our experience is that those who are responsible for large installations are generally well aware of what is required of them, but those who occupy a smaller building are not and a tardy landlord can put their safety at risk.

## Thought for the Day

*If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. Work is x; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth shut.* Albert Einstein