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

To Our Readers:-

Much to the surprise of us all, the DBH released a proposed revision document for Clause F6 in June with just 7 days for response. Despite such a short review period, many did respond and the final draft was released last month. It now appears on the DBH website effective as from 18th October 2007. The nub of the changes refer to the adoption of AS2293 2005 Parts 1 & 3 as our new Emergency Lighting Standard for New Zealand and it certainly clears up many of the anomalies and grey areas associated with its predecessor. The principle changes are discussed in another panel. The subsequent series of seminars conducted by Geoff Waller were well attended by the professional offices and the thanks of the industry go to Geoff and BECA Consultants for their input to these seminars.

support@safescape.net.nz

Written and Edited by Richard Ponting & Jim Breaden

South Island Agent

Mark Herring Lighting Ltd
t: 03 365 6020

Wellington

Richard Ward Consultancy
t: 04 478 7084

ATTENTION ALL FIRE SERVICES ENGINEERS

DIRECTIONAL SOUND EQUIPMENT

DSE Systems are a step closer now that we have the demonstration system up and working in Ports of Melbourne building in Melbourne, Australia. Several hundred Fire Engineers and Fire Services designers have now experienced the system first hand and the feedback has been extremely positive.

Land-based installations have now been completed in Europe and the UK in such diverse locations as commercial office buildings, airports, major road tunnels, hospitals and tertiary teaching institutions.

This additional Escape Aid tool is now being offered to building designers as a means of broadening the range of alternative escape route design in Australia and New Zealand.

For further details contact: support@safescape.net.nz

AS2293 2005 Parts 1 & 3

The adoption of AS 2293 2005 as the new Standard has come as a welcome relief to all concerned. It has removed many of the problem grey areas associated with AS/NZS2293 1998, but has specifically excluded some of the higher profile issues surrounding the original Australian version of the 2005 code. For example, until such time as Clause F8 of the Building Code is changed we remain with the text version EXIT signage as our standard "Acceptable Solution" legend. There are no barriers to using the "Running Man" pictogram if you wish, but this must be submitted as part of an "Alternative Solution" as prescribed in the DBH Alternative Solution document. (A copy of this document together with Clauses F6 & F8 will be available shortly on our website under Codes & Standards)

We do not recommend the use of pictograms in a mixed signage mode such as would be the case in extending an existing installation. Remember, all Clevertronics standard Exit signs are supplied with a complete set of both types of legends as standard, so the fitting of directional arrows or the selection of text or pictograms can be left until commissioning.

Other significant changes require the provision of 1lux (direct illumination) on the escape path for small areas, however larger areas (e.g. shopping malls, stair wells and other public spaces) may require considerably more. Areas with high illumination levels will also require special treatment to avoid the longer eye adaptation periods associated with these types of installations. It is expected that we will have spacing tables similar to those that have been in use in Australia for many years to allow quick design of new installations.

With reference to escape paths, lighting is not required in the first 20m of an escape path unless major obstructions such as partitions, desks, etc, are in the way. Our belief is that this will require a similar evaluation of the escape path as we have been working with, i.e. large open offices must be included, but single occupancy peripheral offices are probably outside the definition of an escape path.

Standby generators and UPS systems are still permissible, but the maximum allowable delay period for some types of areas will preclude the use of generators due to their potentially long run-up time. There are also limitations as to what other services can be run on the emergency generators or UPS systems other than emergency lighting, and in some cases they have to be dedicated entirely to the provision of emergency lighting.

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4W Cold Cathode
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Thought for the Day

I was court-martialled in my absence and sentenced in my absence, so I said they could shoot me in my absence.
Brendan Behan – Irish activist and writer.