

Emergency Lighting Admin Overload

Why compliance takes so much time and how estates teams can reduce the burden

Emergency lighting is a critical safety system, but for many estates and facilities teams, it has become one of the most administratively demanding parts of building compliance. While the fittings themselves are designed to protect occupants in an emergency, the processes around testing, recording, fault-finding, and reporting often place a disproportionate workload on already stretched teams.

The hidden workload behind “routine” compliance

On paper, emergency lighting compliance appears straightforward. Standards such as BS 5266-1:2025 set out clear requirements for regular testing, fault identification, and record keeping. In practice, however, meeting those requirements across a live, complex estate is rarely simple.

For many organisations, emergency lighting management involves:

- ✓ Monthly functional testing across multiple areas
- ✓ Annual duration testing
- ✓ Manual recording of results
- ✓ Chasing faults across whole estates
- ✓ Coordinating access to occupied spaces
- ✓ Preparing documentation for audits and inspections

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How Intelligent Lighting Changes The Picture

Intelligent emergency lighting systems address these challenges by shifting the focus from manual intervention to visibility and automation.

Key differences include:

Automated testing

Self-testing emergency luminaires carry out functional and duration tests automatically, in line with required schedules. This removes the need for routine manual testing visits, freeing estates teams to focus on higher-value work.



Centralised reporting

Test results and fault data are recorded automatically and made available through a central interface. This provides a clear, consistent record of compliance without the need for manual data entry or reconciliation.

Accurate fault information

When a fault occurs, intelligent systems identify:

- The exact fitting
- Its location
- The nature of the issue

This allows maintenance teams to attend site with the right information and parts, reducing repeat visits and unnecessary disruption.



Reduced disruption

Because testing and monitoring happen in the background, there is less need for intrusive checks in occupied spaces. This is particularly valuable in healthcare, education, and retail environments where access is sensitive.

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Supporting estates teams, not replacing them

The aim of intelligent emergency lighting is not to remove control from estates teams, but to support them with better information and fewer manual tasks.

By reducing routine admin and improving visibility, teams can:

- Spend less time proving compliance
- Identify issues earlier
- Plan maintenance more effectively
- Reduce stress around audits and inspections



A more sustainable approach to compliance

As estates responsibilities grow and resources remain tight, emergency lighting systems need to do more than meet minimum requirements. They need to support the people responsible for them.

Reducing administrative burden, improving visibility, and simplifying compliance processes are not “nice to haves”. They are increasingly essential to maintaining safe buildings without overwhelming the teams that manage them.



Emergency lighting will always be a critical safety system. The way it is managed, however, does not need to be as demanding as it has traditionally been.

About Trojan Lighting

We design, manufacture and support intelligent lighting systems. We work closely with estates teams, consultants, and contractors to deliver solutions that reduce energy use, simplify compliance, and support long-term operation.



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