



## UNIT EQUIPMENT, EXIT SIGNS AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING

This bulletin is intended to clarify the requirements of Canadian Electrical Code Rules 46-304 and 46-400 as they pertain to the installation of unit equipment for emergency lighting and exit signs. Please familiarize yourself with the scope of Section 46 (46-000) and the Appendix B notes.

Section 46 of the CE Code covers the installation requirements of exit signs, unit equipment and emergency lighting when such life safety equipment is specifically mandated by the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC). However, when such life safety equipment is installed on a voluntary basis (i.e. when such life safety equipment is not mandated by the NBCC) compliance with Section 46 of the CEC represents a good engineering practice. Consultants and installers are responsible for contacting the Authority Having Jurisdiction over the administration of the NBCC for the specific requirements of exit signs, unit equipment and emergency lighting in any particular building. Appendix G of the CEC should be used as a cross-reference guide between the CEC and the NBCC in this regard.

Rule 46-304 (4) requires that unit equipment be actuated upon the failure of the power supply to the normal lighting in the area. The inspection department interprets normal lighting to be area lighting that is **not wired as night lighting**.

Rule 46-400 (2) permits exit signs to be connected to a circuit supplying emergency lighting in the area where these exit signs are installed.

The circuit supplying emergency lighting may be, for example, a 120-volt circuit sourced from an emergency generator-fed panel which is supplying 120-volt lighting in an area. This circuit may also be a normal (non-emergency) 120-volt circuit supplying unit equipment which, upon its failure, activates DC emergency lighting. See Rule 46-304(4).

Note: When installed voluntarily, all installations of unit equipment, exit signs and emergency lighting shall be installed in accordance with section 12 and other pertinent sections of the CEC. However, complying with Section 46 of the CEC is a good engineering practice, as indicated above.

In the case of a discrepancy, the installer shall provide the inspector with acceptable documentation from the designer and/or the AHJ responsible for the administration of the NBCC, to substantiate compliance with the requirements of the NBCC and section 46 of the CEC.