

Section 1006 of the 2006 IBC, as adopted and amended by the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), requires artificial lighting for all means of egress, at an intensity at the floor level of at least one foot candle, at all times the building is occupied. This means normal lighting in the building, and emergency lighting in the case of a power failure. Typically, emergency egress lighting is either battery back-up, or connected to an emergency generator circuit. This lighting is also required for the exit discharge.

When plans are reviewed and approved, it is often not possible to know where display fixtures will be located, the density of products throughout the space, etc. For this reason, the actual number and intensity of emergency lighting fixtures cannot always be determined, until an inspector sees the final layout of the space, and can determine the actual intensity that is present. Additional lighting will be required if the intensity is less than one foot candle.