



# Stairwell Identification Signs

The International Fire Code sets forth minimum requirements for maintaining the life safety of building occupants. In this instance, stairwell identification signs are required at each floor landing in new and existing buildings with interior exit stairways and ramps connecting more than three stories.

The intent of this requirement is to make signs visible and immediately recognizable to building occupants and emergency responders using the stairway.

The following requirements for stairway identification provide a reliable approach for life safety. The signs must be positioned in a consistent and uniform manner within the interior exit stairways and ramps.

## Floor Identification Signs

A sign shall be provided at each floor landing in an interior exit stairway and ramp connecting more than three stories designating all of the following:

- Identification of the stair or ramp
- Floor level
- Terminus of the top and bottom of the interior exit stairway and ramp
- Availability of roof access from the interior exit stairway and ramp for the fire department

- Direction to, the exit discharge, and
- Be located 60" (1524 mm) above the floor landing in a position that is readily visible when the doors are in the open and closed positions.

To aid people with vision impairment, a floor-level sign in raised characters and Braille complying with ICC A117.1 shall be located at each floor level landing adjacent to the door leading from the interior exit stairway and ramp into the corridor to identify the floor level. Braille may be located on floor ID sign or a separate sign placed directly below the floor ID sign.

## Signage Requirements

Stairway identification signs shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. The signs shall be a minimum size of 18 inches (457 mm) by 12 inches (305 mm).
2. The letters designating the identification of the interior exit stairway and ramp shall be a minimum of 1.5 inches (38 mm) in height.
3. The number designating the floor level shall be a minimum of 5 inches (127 mm) in height and located in the center of the sign.



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4. All other lettering and numbers shall be a minimum of 1 inch (25 mm) in height.

5. Characters and their background shall have a non-glare finish. Characters shall contrast with their background, with either light characters on a dark background or dark characters on a light background.

6. When required signs are installed in the interior exit stairways and ramps of buildings subject to luminous egress markings (example: high-rise buildings), the signs shall be made of the same materials as required for luminous egress markings.

## Self-Luminous and Photo-Luminescent Requirements

Luminous egress path markings shall be permitted to be made of any material, including paint, provided that an electrical charge is not required to maintain the required luminance. Such materials shall include, but not be limited to, self-luminous materials and photoluminescent materials.

Materials shall comply with either:

1. UL 1994; or
2. ASTM E 2072, except that the charging source shall be 1 foot-candle (11 lux) of fluorescent illumination for 60

minutes, and the minimum luminance shall be 30 millicandelas per square meter at 10 minutes and 5 millicandelas per square meter after 90 minutes.

Example Sign:

