

Advice Leaflet 58
Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
Fire Fighters' Switches for Luminous Tube Signs etc.

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Introduction

Article 37 of the Order states: -

Subject to the exception detailed below, this article applies to apparatus consisting of luminous tube signs designed to work at a voltage normally exceeding the prescribed voltage, or other equipment so designed and references in this article to a cut-off switch are, in a case where a transformer is provided to raise the voltage to operate the apparatus, references to a cut-off switch on the low-voltage side of the transformer.

The "prescribed voltage" means

- (a) 1000 volts AC or 1500 volts DC if measured between any two conductors; or
- (b) 600 volts AC or 900 volts DC if measured between a conductor and earth.

No apparatus to which this article applies is to be installed unless it is provided with a cut-off switch.

Article 37 of the Order **does not apply** to existing or proposed installations in premises to which a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 has effect, authorising the use of premises for the exhibition of a film. It also does not apply to existing apparatus in premises to which section 10(2) and (3) (requirement to provide cut-off switch) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 apply and that the responsible person' had given notice under subsections (5) or (7).

Provision of Switches

In the case of new installations, within the county of West Yorkshire, the 'responsible person' is required, not less than 42 days before commencement of the work, to give notice to West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) showing the location, colouring and marking of the cut-off switch.

Where such a notice has been served and the Authority is not satisfied with the location colour etc, they must serve a Notice within 21 days stating that their requirements are not satisfied.

In the case of existing installations the 'responsible person' should have given notice to the Authority stating whether the apparatus is provided with a switch and if so where the switch is located and how it is coloured and marked. The Authority may serve a notice on the 'responsible person' indicating any remedial action required.

If the cut-off switch complies in position, colour and markings with the current regulations of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Authority may not serve a notice. Any notice may specify a time period for completion.

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Offences

Any failure by the 'responsible person' to provide notification to the Authority regarding existing or proposed installations, as detailed above.

Any failure by the 'responsible person' to comply with the requirements of a notice issued by the Authority in the time specified as above.

Any person guilty of an offence under the above is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

Appeals

A recipient of a notice may, within 21 days from the day the notice is served, appeal to a magistrate's court. Any such appeal causes the notice to be suspended, until the appeal is withdrawn or successfully resisted.

Advisory Standards

Installations to which this article refers are high-voltage discharge lighting circuits provided for exterior use or interior use in shopping malls, arcades or covered markets etc. where the apparatus is unattended.

For an exterior installation the switch shall be outside the building and adjacent to the equipment or, alternatively, a notice indicating the position of the switch shall be placed adjacent to the equipment.

For an interior installation the switch shall be in the main entrance to the building or at some other position as agreed.

The switch shall be placed in a conspicuous position and generally at not more than 2.7m metres from the ground.

Where more than one switch is installed on any one building, each switch shall be clearly marked to indicate the installation (or part) it controls.

The switch shall be coloured red and have fixed on or near it a durable nameplate of minimum dimensions 150mm BY 100mm marked with the words "FIREFIGHTERS' or (FIREMAN'S) SWITCH".

The switch shall have it's "ON" and "OFF" position clearly marked with the "OFF" position at the top.

It shall be provided with a device to prevent the switch being inadvertently returned to the "ON" position.

Address for Notifications

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