



Does the MES970 LED Demarcation Light for Escalators Meet the Code?

Yes, it Does! Here's Why -

Some of the older ASME A17.1 codes, for example the 2004 code, require that all escalators have “fluorescent” demarcation lights at top and bottom. This code was originally written before the rapid advances in LED technology, and the obvious intent of the code was to disallow the use of incandescent lamps.

Some have tried to use this wording to disallow the use of LEDs. The problem with that thought is that in section 1.2, the code says, “The provisions of this Code are not intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety to those prescribed by this Code, provided that there is technical documentation to demonstrate the equivalency of the system, method, or device. The specific requirements of this Code shall be permitted to be modified by the authority having jurisdiction based upon technical documentation or physical performance verification to allow alternative arrangements that will assure safety equivalent to that which would be provided by conformance to the corresponding requirements of this Code.”

Newer codes, for example the 2010 code, have removed the requirement for demarcation lights altogether, but most people continue to use them because of safety and liability issues, and are, of course, under these codes, free to use whatever type they wish.

In addition, the ASME Standards Committee has recently proposed the following new ballot:

8.6.3.12 Replacement of Demarcation Lights

Fluorescent lighting fixtures shall be permitted to be replaced by any type light source, except incandescent sources, and shall comply with all other applicable step demarcation lighting requirements under which the escalator was installed or altered.

This requirement is expected to be balloted and approved at the January 2011 A17.1 Standards Committee meeting.

Light Years Ahead!

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