

Exit Signs FAQs

Q. Do Ecoglo photoluminescent signs comply with National Construction Code (NCC) 2016?

A. YES. The fail-safe operation and cost-effectiveness of photoluminescent signs was recognised in May 2014 by being included in the NCC, and the photoluminescent sign specification, E4.8, was created to offer options, other than solely electrical, to designers and facility managers.

Ecoglo's technical team are fully conversant with the requirements of NCC 2016 and always ensure their designs are compliant.

Q. Why has the use of photoluminescent signs been disparaged by some?

A. There has been a lot of false and misleading information made available by those who have vested interests in other technologies which are battling to compete with Ecoglo photoluminescent signs.

The benefits of using Ecoglo photoluminescent signs are hard to ignore.

- Meet NCC Part E4 requirements
- Reduce construction costs
- Easy to install
- Sustainable
- Life cycle savings
- No maintenance
- No ongoing testing required
- No spare parts to replace or dispose of
- 30 year warranty (indoors)
- Fully supported by our technical team

Q. How much do they cost?

A. Most are under \$50+GST trade price, but double sided signs and signs that need to be seen from more than 16 metres cost more, and if brackets are required to mount the signs from a ceiling or to stick out from a wall, the cost is an extra \$15.

Q. Do they need an electrical light installed near them?

A. No. Ecoglo's technical team can design the installation to make use of the existing light in the building.

Q. How long do they last?

A. A minimum of 30 years when installed indoors before there would be any measurable change in performance.

Q. What maintenance is required?

A. Make sure they are cleaned of dust or dirt build-up.

Q. NCC 2016 Spec. E4.8 Exit Signs requires that they be illuminated with a minimum of 100 lux to make sure they are charged ready for an emergency. What if there isn't 100 lux where the sign needs to be?

A. Ecoglo signs are designed to work in most normal lighting situations. Ecoglo's professional engineer can design a Performance Solution to meet NCC Part E4 in most situations. Contact Ecoglo (engineer@ecoglo.com) for details.

Q. How reliable are they?

A. They have no moving parts or components that will need replacing. As long as they are installed where there are normal indoor light levels, and they are kept reasonably clean, and not physically damaged, they will be visible in an emergency for the time required to meet E4.8 for at least 30 years.

Q. Where are they made?

A. They are manufactured on our own premises in New Zealand using a patented process developed by Ecoglo almost 20 years ago.

Q. Where can they be used?

A. Ideal places are in buildings that are normally occupied when the signs may need to be used, such as classrooms, offices, meeting rooms, retail spaces, factories, and warehouses. In these places if the space becomes dark, the occupier will turn on a light, making sure that the sign remains well charged. Ecoglo Exit signs can also be used in spaces that aren't normally occupied (such as corridors linking rooms and stairwells), but there needs to be a management process for making sure that the signs are always sufficiently charged when someone may need to use them. Contact Ecoglo for more details.

Q. Who can install them?

A. Anyone who knows how to put a screw into a wall, and knows where the exit signs need to be installed to meet the NCC.

Q. What are their environmental credentials?

They are made in a factory that uses electricity (from a supplier committed to sustainable electricity production) as its only energy source. The factory creates no commercial liquid effluent, and negligible air emissions. The signs have no replaceable parts which would need to be disposed of, and no cadmium, mercury or radioactive material. They normally don't require any electricity to be used to keep them charged. They have an extremely long life, and if for any reason they need to be disposed of, they can be included with other aluminium products for aluminium recycling.

Q. Can they be used outdoors?

A. Yes, they are designed to meet the rigours of long term outdoor exposure in our harsh Southern Hemisphere environment. No matter what the weather, they can meet the requirements of NCC Part E4 several hours after sunset, or 24/7 when the distance they need to be seen from is no more than half their rated viewing distance. Contact Ecoglo for specific details.

Emergency Visibility Products FAQs

Q. How much do they cost?

A. The cost varies as it can be dependent on several different factors, such as number of steps, length of pathway, whether or not you are already installing step nosing for example - a factor which may reduce your overall costs. In the majority of situations the cost is substantially less than the alternative option (electrical emergency lighting).

Q. Do they need electrical light installed near them?

A. No, Ecoglo's technical team can design the installation to make use of the existing light in the building.

Outdoors, daylight is sufficient to ensure they will work 24/7.

Q. How long do they last?

A. A minimum of 30 years when installed indoors before there would be any measurable change in performance, and 15 - 30 years outdoors.

Q. What maintenance is required?

A. Make sure they are cleaned of dust or dirt build up.

Q. Ecoglo's information states that minimum charging illuminances of 20 lux, 60 lux and 80 lux for 5 minutes will ensure visibility for 30 minutes, 90 minutes and 120 minutes respectively.

What if these illumination requirements aren't currently met?

A. Ecoglo products are designed to work in most normal lighting situations. Ecoglo's professional engineer can, in many circumstances, design a Performance Solution to meet NCC Part E4. Contact Ecoglo (engineer@ecoglo.com) for details.

Q. Do the lights near the products need to be turned on before the building is occupied?

A. No. Ecoglo photoluminescent products will, in most situations, achieve full operational charge in well under 5 minutes because of residual charge left in them from previous use.

Q. What happens if there is a lights-out emergency in the first 5 minutes of occupation?

A. In most cases Ecoglo products will have sufficient residual charge from when there was light on them before, but even if the product has become fully discharged and someone enters a dark space and turns on a light, Ecoglo products will meet the brightness requirement for a longer evacuation time than the time since the light was turned on. By the time 5 minutes has elapsed the products will have the full charge required for safe evacuation.

Q. How reliable are they?

A. With no moving parts or components that need replacing, Ecoglo products are fail-safe as long as they are installed where there are normal indoor light levels, are kept reasonably clean, and not physically damaged. They will remain visible in an emergency for the time necessary to meet NCC requirements for at least 30 years.

Q. *Where are they made?*

A. They are designed and manufactured on our own premises in New Zealand using a patented process developed by Ecoglo almost 20 years ago.

Q. *Where can they be used?*

A. Ecoglo products can be used anywhere they can be sufficiently charged when someone may need to use them. Our products are in use throughout Australia and overseas in hospitals, educational facilities, apartment blocks, office blocks, retail spaces, factories, warehouses, sports stadiums and many other types of building. Contact Ecoglo for more details.

Q. *Who can install them?*

A. We recommend that a qualified building trades-person installs them in accordance with Ecoglo installation instructions.

Q. *What are their environmental credentials?*

A. They are made in a factory that uses electricity (from a supplier committed to sustainable electricity production) as its only energy source. The factory creates no commercial liquid effluent, and negligible air emissions. The products have no replaceable parts which would need to be disposed of, and no cadmium, mercury or radioactive material. They normally don't require any electricity to be used to keep them charged. They have an extremely long life, and if for any reason they need to be disposed of, they can be included with other aluminium products for aluminium recycling.

Q. *Can they be used outdoors?*

A. Yes, they are designed to meet the rigours of long term outdoor exposure in our harsh Southern Hemisphere environment. No matter what the weather, they can meet NCC Part E4 requirements for at least 15 years outdoors.