

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The application of exit sign requirements in existing buildings has been clarified for both installation and maintenance.

2018 CODE: 1031.4 Exit signs. Exit signs shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the building code that was in effect at the time of construction and the applicable provisions in Section 1013 1104. Decorations, furnishings, equipment or adjacent signage that impairs the visibility of exit signs, creates confusion or prevents identification of the *exit* shall not be allowed.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The previous language had been interpreted to require existing buildings to install exit signs to meet the provisions of Section 1013 in the 2015 Fire Code. This meant that every time the requirements were modified in Section 1013, all buildings would need to comply with those revised requirements. Since Section 1031 covers maintenance, the original intent was to require that the exit signs were maintained.

To correct this language, the revision clarifies that existing exit signs must be maintained in accordance with the original code that required their installation and any additional requirements found in Section 1104.

Retroactive construction requirements are contained in Chapter 11. This reference to Section 1104 sends the code user to Sections 1104.3 and 1104.4. Section 1104.3 requires that exits signs have internal or external illumination, or are the self-luminous type of exit sign. Section 1104.4 states that when illumination of the means of egress is required in Section 1104.5, then the exit signs shall be visible under the emergency power illumination. Section 1104.5 also has an exception for self-luminous type exit signs.

The end result is that existing buildings do not need to comply with the current requirements for exit signs, but the exit signs must be illuminated in both normal and emergency power modes.

1031.4

Exit Signs in Existing Buildings



International Code Council®

Existing exit which must be illuminated under normal lighting and emergency lighting.



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