



File: 55200-03

April 7, 2011

PNA Group Inc.  
5032 South Service Road  
Burlington, Ontario  
L7L 5Y7

Attn: Martin Troughton:

**RE: Photoluminescent Exit Signage and Universal “Running Man” Exit Signage**

Under the current British Columbia Building Code 2006, photoluminescent exit signage is considered to be externally illuminated exit signage and is permitted, provided it conforms to all the applicable provisions of Article 3.4.5.1. Specific to externally illuminated signs is Clause 3.4.5.1.(3)(b) which describes the characteristics of the signs. In addition, Sentence 3.4.5.1.(4) is important in requiring the luminaire providing illumination for a sign to be on a dedicated circuit connected to the building’s emergency power supply. It should be noted that the dedicated luminaire is not restricted to illuminating just the sign and can provide general lighting as well.

The 2010 edition of the National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) has made significant changes that will affect the appearance of exit signage in Canada. As the model NBCC is adopted by Canada’s provinces and territories new buildings will be equipped with exit signage conforming to the ISO 3864-1 standard. These signs will display a green “running man” pictogram instead of the red EXIT sign we are all familiar with. This new requirement is scheduled to become effective in BC in the fall of 2012 and until that time the use of the running man pictogram would need approval from local building officials under the alternate solutions provisions of the BC Building Code.

Bob Thompson  
Senior Codes Administrator

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**Ministry of Energy and  
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**From:** Percy Melville [mailto:PMelville@cnv.org]

**Sent:** January-26-12 12:44 PM

**To:** Glenn Stainton

**Cc:** 'mtroughton@pnagroupplm.com'; Glenn Stainton; 'brad.howard@telus.net'

**Subject:** RE: Suggested Meeting - PNA Group Inc. - Photoluminescent Signs

Glenn,

I've reviewed the earlier correspondence sent to you by the PNA people, as well as the literature they provided including, most importantly, the letter from Bob Thompson from the BC Building and Safety Standards Branch.

My understanding is that these signs are being proposed for installation in the new City Hall addition and that there are two specific issues:

**1. Are photoluminescent Exit signs acceptable in this jurisdiction?**

Yes. The literature and the code references are clear. Photoluminescent exit signs are acceptable when installed in locations that are permanently lit to a minimum level as prescribed by the current code. In the case of exit signs, the path leading to an exit must be lit to a minimum of 50 lux at the floor which implies that an exit sign 7' above the floor would presumably be subject to a higher level.

**2. Is the "running man" symbol acceptable?**

Yes. The "running man" logo is not yet acknowledged in the current code and is technically not acceptable but, because the 2010 code will be acknowledging the new pictogram, I have no hesitation about accepting the logo 10 months before it is officially accepted as the new standard.

To summarize, "running man" photoluminescent exit signs will be acceptable in the City Hall addition provided they are in fact adjacent to light fixtures that are part of the emergency lighting system and are lit to a minimum of 54 lux at all times during building occupancy. The electrical drawings should confirm that this is the case, and a final inspection will be conducted to verify that the lighting levels on the signs are as specified.

Yours Truly,

Percy Melville

Manager, Inspections

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