

IMPORTANCE OF SMOKE ALARMS AND EMERGENCY EXIT LIGHTING IN HOLIDAY HOMES

Emergency exit lighting, which activates when the smoke alarms are triggered, is designed to provide an illuminated path to designated emergency exits. This system is crucial for ensuring a safe and quick evacuation, especially for occupants unfamiliar with the building layout.

Imagine this worst-case scenario: An occupant, having booked a holiday home for the first time, is typically unfamiliar with the building's layout. After enjoying a day exploring Denmark, they return to the home and enjoy a selection of local wines, beers and produce, becoming quite inebriated before retiring for the evening. During the night, a portable charging unit with a Lithium Polymer battery overheats and catches fire, filling the home with thick, black, acrid smoke. Visibility becomes almost non-existent.

The occupant, half asleep and still inebriated, awakens to the sound of smoke alarms, and tries to navigate their way out through the thick smoke. However, due to the lack of visible exit paths, they end up in a pitch-black ensuite or adjacent bedroom and succumb to smoke inhalation.

The potential outcome is dire. However, with compliant emergency exit lighting illuminating a clear path to the designated exits, the chances of the occupant becoming trapped and succumbing to the incident are significantly reduced. This highlights the imperative need for compliant emergency exit lighting in your holiday home.

Why Compliance Matters: Emergency exit lighting must be installed by a licensed electrician familiar with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia (BCA). Upon installation, an Electrical Safety Certificate must be provided, confirming that the work complies with BCA standards, including a reference to the relevant clause, detailing the following in the details of work completed section:

WORDING FOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE

"Installed hardwired and interconnected AS3786 compliant smoke alarms and emergency exit lighting that conforms with the requirements of the BCA 2019 Volume 2 Amendment 1 Parts 3.7.5.4 and 3.7.5.6, and Figure 3.7.5.1 Diagram c"

This is how it should appear on-site and be detailed in your site plan submitted to the Shire:

