



Why ICEL's support for high standards matters to every manufacturer of emergency lighting

With few exceptions, UK manufacturers of emergency lighting want the market to appreciate high-quality products backed by fair enforcement of appropriate standards.

We can rightly be proud of the domestic emergency lighting industry's ability to create innovative products, underpinned by superb design and superior production quality. Manufacturers of emergency lighting provide safety-critical products which help to save lives and prevent injury. Reliable operation is an absolute requirement: quality emergency lighting will meet or exceed its photometric, electrical and mechanical specifications for the whole of its rated life.

So it is crucial that specifiers and buyers understand the value and importance of emergency lighting, and that regulators and lawmakers enforce safety standards. And this is why every UK manufacturer of emergency lighting has so much to gain from membership of the Industry Committee for Emergency Lighting (ICEL, at www.icel.co.uk), a part of the Lighting Industry Association.

ICEL is the only industry-wide organisation able to support the enforcement of high quality standards in emergency lighting. There are numerous overseas lighting manufacturers who may cut corners or compromise product performance in order to produce heavily discounted products for the emergency lighting market.

Of course, competition is healthy, and UK industry thrives in open markets. But it will thrive all the more if high minimum standards of operation are enforced and quality is valued. After all, customers do not want to buy cut-price or non-compliant fire extinguishers or defibrillators: why should their attitude to emergency lighting – another type of life-saving product – be any different?

ICEL plays a crucial role in maintaining both the perception and the reality of quality in emergency lighting. It does so both by acting as the voice of the industry, and by supporting the efforts of individual manufacturers to make high-quality and standards-compliant products.

As a representative of emergency lighting manufacturers, for instance, ICEL is active in lobbying for appropriate standards and regulations. ICEL sits on the steering committee of standards body CENELEC tasked with drawing up and publishing standards for emergency lighting. This means that ICEL has a direct influence on CENELEC's standards-setting agenda and on the content of specific standards. ICEL provides a gateway for any member to raise concerns about existing or proposed standards and to lobby for changes.

ICEL is the most trusted representative of the emergency lighting industry recognised by local and national governments in the UK. Legislators have enormous power and resources either to help or hinder our industry and ICEL's influence helps guide the thinking of politicians and officials in ways that benefit both users and the industry as a whole.

LIGHTING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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But ICEL fulfils more than a representative function: it also helps manufacturers to survive and thrive in a competitive market. It does this by:

- offering technical support and guidance to individual manufacturers. ICEL's technical experts are available year-round to provide free advice to members on the implementation of standards, laws and regulations that apply to emergency lighting.
- running regular national technical forums – an outstanding opportunity to update technical knowledge and to meet your peers in the emergency lighting industry
- providing accredited training courses to members on subjects such as the Competent Engineer function (BS 5266)

In fact, ICEL's prominent role in sustaining quality standards in emergency lighting means that ICEL membership is a manufacturer's stamp of quality. Today's ICEL members proudly display the ICEL logo on their websites and letterheads.

The support of members is, of course, crucial to ICEL's ability to pursue its mission. Through a small annual contribution, members of ICEL provide the financial means to support the organisation's work in lobbying, training and compliance. Just as important, the membership's broad coverage lends strength to ICEL's voice, making it a credible body for government departments, regulators and standards-setters to pay attention to.

If your company is a member today, we thank you for your support. If not, and your company manufactures emergency lighting, we urge you to join and help strengthen the industry's voice. ICEL represents all manufacturers and distributors of emergency lighting to all bodies with power to affect our livelihoods. ICEL is also ready to support any and all members in their efforts to stay abreast of changes in technology and regulations.

There is no better way to support both your company and the industry it operates in.

More information about ICEL can be found at www.ice1.co.uk.

For further information: Email: info@ice1.co.uk Website: www.ice1.co.uk



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ICEL is an operating division of
the Lighting Industry Association Ltd.

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