

Building Code Clause F6 and F6/AS1 exemption

This guidance discusses the exemption for visibility in escape routes allowed under the Acceptable Solution F6/AS1.

This information was confirmed as current in February 2016. It originally appeared in Codewords newsletters prior to January 2014.

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Of interest to Building consent authorities, Designers

The application of Building Code Clause F6 Visibility in Escape Routes has previously been discussed with engineers and representatives of building consent authorities. Discussions focused on the exemption allowed under performance criterion F6.3.1 of the Building Code and Acceptable Solution F6/AS1 Paragraph 1.2(c).

MBIE wishes to clarify the situation as follows:

From any start point on an escape route to the nearest exit, where the length of travel is less than 20m, the exemption from the provision of emergency lighting may apply.

Where, from any start point to the nearest exit, the travel distance is greater than 20m, emergency lighting is required for the remainder of the escape route.

The nearest exit must be identified by signage complying with Building Code Clause F8. Where the exit is not visible from the start point on the escape route, directional signage complying with Clause F8 is also required.

Clause F6 requires consideration of visibility of specified features in escape routes only in the event of failure of the main lighting.

All guidance related to F6 Visibility in escape routes(<https://www.building.govt.nz/building-code-compliance/f-safety-of-users/f6-visibility-in-escape-routes/>)

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