HONG KONG EXIT SIGN REQUIREMENTS

FSD 5/2021: Emergency Lighting · FSD 5/2008: Graphical Symbol Exit Signs

What the Fire Services Department requires

Exit signs in Hong Kong licensed and registered premises follow the Fire Services Department fire safety requirements for emergency lighting systems — FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2021, PPA/104(A) (5th Revision, effective 1 June 2022) — together with FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2008 on exit sign designs (installable from 1 September 2008). This page summarises the key rules for exit signs.

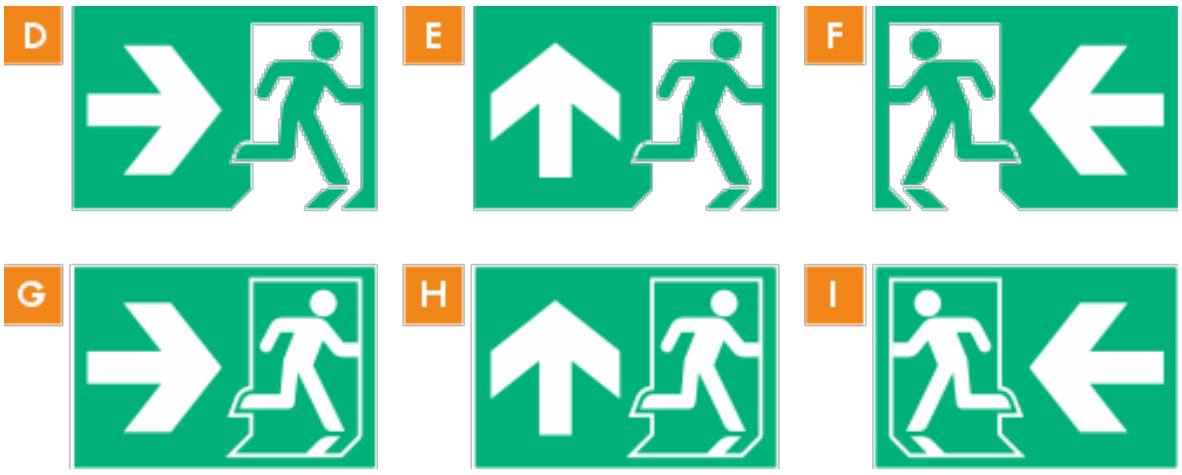
Exit sign design requirements (Circular 5/2008 & CoP §5.10)

- Character exit sign — bilingual characters, letters at least 125 mm high (Helvetica, Marigold or Modified Garamond); Chinese strokes at least 15 mm vertical / 10 mm horizontal
- Combined graphical symbol and characters — a graphical symbol of not less than 125 × 125 mm incorporated between the Chinese and English characters
- Graphical symbol exit sign — a graphical symbol only, not less than 125 × 125 mm (exit symbols E3 / E4); symbol scale a ≥ 125 mm, b ≥ 10 mm (circular Figure 4)
- Directional signs — arrows D1 – D6, required where an exit is not immediately visible
- Colours — high-contrast green and white, green at least 50% of the sign area
- Mounting height — 2 m to 2.5 m above floor level, measured to the base of the sign, directly above the exit doorway
- Uniformity — new buildings: one single type per development; existing buildings: mixed designs acceptable, one type encouraged on major replacement

Testing requirements (Circular 5/2021, Appendix C.14)

Test	Requirement
Monthly functional test	BS EN 50172:2004, not longer than 10% of rated duration
Annual duration test	Full rated duration, result entered in a register
After every test	Required lighting level maintained; mains supply restored
Automatic testing devices	Permitted — same test procedures apply (C.14(d))

Directional legends (D1 – D6)



Directional legends as supplied on the HXS / HXL series — choose per escape route direction.

Emergency performance – for exit signs (PPA/104(A))

Item	Requirement
Rated duration	At least 2 hours of the required illumination
Automatic start	Within 5 seconds of mains failure, at least 90% of the required illumination
Charger	Automatic, 220 V input, recharges the battery to 100% rated capacity within 12 hours
Fitting features	Labelled test switch, charging indicator lamp, low-voltage cut-out

Item	Requirement
Installation & certification	Installed, examined and certified by a registered fire service installation contractor; type-tested by an FSD-accepted laboratory

Automatic testing — IEC 62034

Automatic test systems to IEC 62034:2012 run the required monthly functional and annual duration tests by themselves: tests are performed on schedule, results are stored, and a fault indicator stays on until the faulty component is replaced. A random delay per device staggers adjacent fittings so they do not all test at once.

Official documents

- FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2021 — Fire Safety Requirements for Emergency Lighting Systems in Licensed/Registered Premises [PPA/104(A), 5th Rev.] (effective 1 June 2022; supersedes Circular 1/2006)
- FSD Circular Letter No. 5/2008 — Graphical Symbol Exit Signs (installable from 1 September 2008)
- Published by the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (www.hkfsd.gov.hk)

Exit signs that meet every rule above

The HXS series from Hoye — slim, recessed and multi-mounting pictogram LED exit signs (180 / 270 / 400 mm) with automatic testing to IEC 62034:2012, 3-hour rated battery.

View the HXS LED Exit Sign Series

hoye.com/led-exit-signs