
BULLETIN 2015-006-BU

September 1, 2015

INSTALLATION OF ISO EXIT SIGNAGE (VBBL ARTICLE 3.4.5.1.)

The intent of this bulletin is to establish the clear and consistent upgrade requirements for the installation of new ISO standard exit signs within existing buildings.

As of January 2, 2014, the Vancouver's Building By-law (VBBL) (No. 10908) has referenced green pictogram exit signage conforming to the requirements of the ISO 7010 standard: Signs E001, E002, E005, and E006 as referenced in the VBBL for exit and directional exit signage.

This is a change from existing exit signage referenced in previous By-law editions, and may be confusing when applied to existing buildings covered by Part 11. To assist developer and designers, the City of Vancouver will require incremental upgrading to existing building exit signage throughout based on the following upgrade program for existing buildings:

Additions to Existing Buildings (Vertical or Horizontal):

- a. Signage throughout the new addition shall comply with the new ISO exit signage requirements.
- b. Where the existing building did not have exit signs, exit signage throughout shall comply with the new ISO exit signage requirements.
- c. If existing areas contain older red exit signage to be retained, then all areas of new work are to provide green ISO exit signage, plus those in the required paths of travel from the new addition to an exit or a protected enclosure (i.e. across a fire separation, or to a public corridor).

Major Renovations and Changes of Major Occupancy (F2 or Greater Upgrade):

- a. Exit signage to comply with Part 11 including:
 - i. ISO signage throughout the project area, and
 - ii. ISO signage in public areas along required paths of travel from the project area to an acceptable open space.

Minor Renovations (F1 Upgrade):

- a. Existing single tenant buildings:
 - i. Where the existing building does not have exit signs, new exit signage is to comply with the ISO exit signage requirements.
 - ii. Where existing areas contain older red exit signage, then all areas of new work are to provide ISO signage, plus those in the required paths of travel from the project area to an exit or a separate fire compartment.

- b. Existing multi-tenant buildings:
 - i. Tenant spaces shall be treated individually.
 1. If existing areas contain older red exit signage and the project is considered to be a repair or project areas is less than 10 m², exit signage outside the project area need not be upgraded.
 2. If existing areas contain older red exit signage and the project area does not exceed 50% of the suite area, then all areas of new work are to provide green ISO signage and those in the required paths of travel from the project area to an exit or other public space.
 3. If the proposed project area is a minor renovation and consists of 50% or more of the existing suite floor area, new green ISO exit signage shall be provided throughout the suite and those in the intended primary path of travel from the project area to an exit or other public space.
 - ii. If work is carried out in an existing public area (such as public corridors or service areas) containing older red exit signage, then areas of new work are to provide green ISO signage, plus the required paths of travel leading to an exit or other protected enclosure.

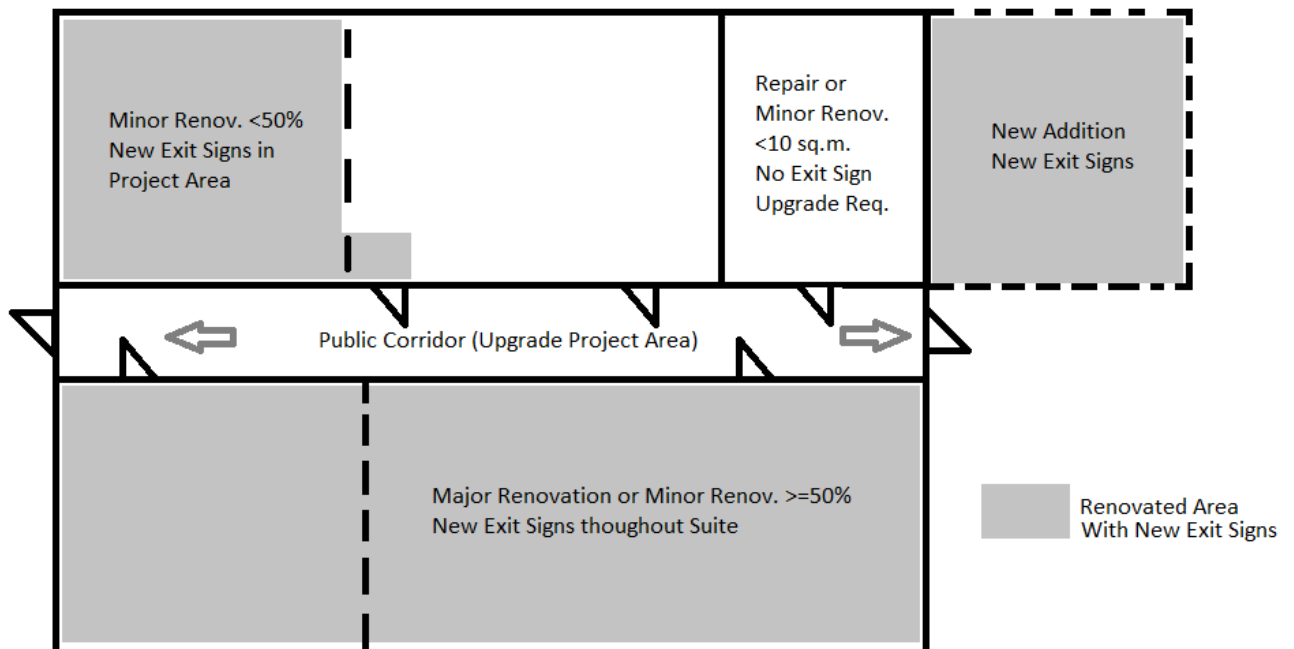


Figure 1: Areas with New Exit Signage Coverage in Renovations

Notwithstanding the above upgrade program, in specific cases of hardship or where unusual circumstances exist, the Chief Building Official or his representative may choose to permit the implementation of an alternative upgrade program.

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