

Photoluminescent vs Tritium

Although tritium signage has been an industry standard for power-free applications, recent increases in regulation, shortages of tritium gas, and therefore increased cost and lead time, have led many to seek other options. The chart below will assist you in determining if photoluminescent exit signs are the best alternative for your application.

| | PHOTOLUMINESCENT | TRITIUM |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Average Purchase Cost | \$90 | \$275 |
| Operating Cost | \$0 | \$0 |
| Average Installation Cost | \$15 | \$15 |
| Hazardous Waste Fee | \$0 | \$150 |
| Ambient Light Requirement | 54 Lux* | None |
| Electrical Usage | None | None |
| Non-hazardous Materials | Yes, <i>non-toxic</i> | No, <i>tritium gas</i> |
| UL Listed | Yes | Yes |
| Expected Lifetime | 25+ years | 10 years |
| Registration Exempt | Yes | No, <i>must be registered with Nuclear Regulatory Commission</i> |
| Safe to Handle | Yes, <i>made of non-toxic materials</i> | No, <i>follow hazardous material handling guidelines</i> |
| Current Industry Lead Time | In stock - 1 week | 12-24 weeks |

*54 lux (5-foot candles) is a measurement of light levels on a surface. This is the minimum level of light that must be on the sign face at all times during building occupancy. A single fluorescent fixture near the sign that can provide enough lighting to "read a newspaper at arm's length" is considered by many inspectors to be a minimum of 5 ft-candles of illumination. However, the only accurate way to check the amount of light on the sign face is with a light meter.