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Media Release

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Industry launches urgent campaign crackdown on unsafe exit signs

Peak industry body Lighting Council Australia (LCA) has today launched a safety campaign to crackdown on the use of a dangerous line of exit signs.

Photoluminescent (PL) exit signs have come under increased scrutiny due to concerns they pose a safety threat due to their extremely poor visibility in a darkened space during an emergency. Recently, they have entered the market as an alternative to traditional battery-powered exit signs.

CEO Malcolm Richards said that following extensive research conducted by LCA there was an urgent need to crackdown on PL exit signs.

“LCA is incredibly concerned at the safety threat these exit signs pose to any employee, customer or emergency services personnel during an emergency,” Mr Richards said.

“Battery-powered exit signs maintain a strong visibility for hours, but photoluminescent signs fade within minutes thus posing a serious safety hazard that cannot be tolerated.

“LCA is launching a campaign to educate industry on the need to crackdown on the use of PL exit signs and to only use reliable battery-powered signs.”

Mr Richards also said that many PL signs have been installed in a non-compliant manner which has been reported to the local authorities.

Mr Richards also confirmed that the Lighting Council has made representations to the authorities about the signs not being bright enough to be seen which will hopefully bring about a change to the codes and standards governing exit signs.

“Every exit light in Australia should meet the same standard of brilliance which should enable everyone to easily find the exit path in an emergency.”

“Building operators shouldn’t wait for the regulatory framework to catch up before they take steps to lift safety standards that protect both staff and the public.

“Every building operator in the country should undertake an audit of their exit signs. They should ensure that only battery-powered exit signs are installed on any property they operate.”

ENDS.

Inquiries: Malcolm Richards is available for interview. Please phone (07) 3221 9222 or 0467 792 013.

Link to LCA video comparing the performance of a traditional exit sign to PL sign can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT7zQwB0Sak>