

JANUARY 29, 2019

UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN MARKETPLACE REGARDING RUNNING MAN SIGNS

Over the past year, 3 major changes have occurred that solidify the Canadian Marketplace for Running Man Signs Manufactured and Distributed by PL Solutions Inc. It has been suggested by several Clients, as well as respected Engineering and Architects supporters that we write a simple update, as follows;

1. UL/ULC CAN S -572 APPROVAL TO 2 FOOT CANDLES/120 MINUTES

Only PL Solutions has achieved this level of approval, and it makes a difference with Fire and Building Officials. All other Photoluminescent Manufacturers require 5 Foot Candles and/or limited to 30/60/90 minutes. This limit's where they can be installed, but even more impactful was, even though the Code requires "all Buildings to have at least 5 Foot Candles of Light throughout the Building while occupied", what happens if a light burns out, or the Maintenance is not done? Even though, in reality, this is not the Signs fault, the Bottom Line is Life Safety, and that is impacted.

With PL Solutions having a Running Man (in reality, all of our Products) approved to 2 Foot Candles, and be to Code for the Maximum allowed for any sign (Electric or PL), we can be installed anywhere, and Building and Fire Officials now support our signs.

2. ULC CANADA STANDARDS, SECOND EDITION CAN ULC S 572

Standards for Photoluminescent Signs and Path Marking Systems were officially updated, to eliminate the ambiguous and confusing, original wording, which was used by the Electrical Lobby to campaign against the PL Technology. In the past, the concern was that PL Signs had to be "continuously illuminated, and if by an electrical source, the source had to be a dedicated source."

Now, the requirement is very simple, "continuous illumination is not required." The PL Technology is now recognized as our own power source, similar to Solar Panels.

Interestingly, the E.P.A. published their findings after 3 years of studies, and PL EXIT SIGNS qualify under the UL 924, as "no longer required to be internally illuminated, or require a light source."

As well, UL 924 requires all Exit and Running Man signs to have a minimum of a 5 Year Warranty. To our knowledge, not 1 Canadian LED Sign achieves this requirement. Most are 1 Year, or none at all.

3. ACCESSIBILITY CANADA ACT – BILL C-81

This Legislation is meant to Guarantee “all Canadians the same expectation of Safety in the Workplace.” This includes Visitors, and/or Employees in every Building in Canada.

Recently, the Running Man signs (Electric and PL) were added, as they are part of the Language Liability issues, as only 58% of Canadians have English as a First Language, and 22% have French as a First Language (STATISTICS CANADA). This leaves 20% of Canadians having another Language as their Mother Tongue. As a result, a much higher focus is now on replacing Exit and Sortie Signs, as they can be a Liability issue. As of today, we will not speculate as to timelines, but we have been seeing Fire Inspectors much more active on Signage.

CONCLUSION

All the above is really Common Sense. For over 35 Years, PL Safety Products have been used across Europe, Asia, and Australia, and the Technology is widely recognized as responsible for Saving Lives. (I.S.O., I.M.O., NYC Law-21, E.P.A., N.F.P.A., and many more.)

At this point, Canada is now switching to The Running Man Sign. The choice is either LED or PL.

PL Signs are Green, LEED Qualified, use NO Electricity, have NO GHG Emissions, need NO ongoing Maintenance, are Recyclable, and Guaranteed 25 Years. Most importantly, they will always work in any Emergency, and Save Lives.

LED Signs are TOXIC, usually have 0 – 1 Year Warranty, need continual Maintenance, and Replacement. Walk into any Building with LED Signs, and at least 50% do not work. At this point, PL Signs are “the Best Option Available” (E.P.A.). It is time to look seriously at your options.

Thank You

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