



# EMERGENCY LIGHTING CONFERENCE 2026

THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026  
CAVENDISH CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

TIME	TITLE
9:00AM	Arrival and Registration
9:45AM	Welcome Address
9:50AM	The Risk of Being in the Dark: Human Behaviour, Safe Escape Routes, and the Reality of Sudden Darkness <i>When environments are suddenly plunged into darkness, reduced visibility, disorientation and stress significantly affect movement and decision-making, often challenging assumptions of how people believe they will respond. Luminaire positioning, glare control and light distribution play a critical role in visibility, while modern behaviours such as the use of mobile phone torches can introduce glare, disrupt visual adaptation and reduce the effectiveness of emergency lighting. Key design decisions, including increased illuminance at fire points and other point of emphasis, changes of direction and hazard areas, are rooted in supporting real human behaviour under stress rather than theoretical compliance.</i>
10:10AM	Emergency Lighting in High-Occupancy and 24/7 Environments <i>Emergency lighting in high-occupancy and continuously operated environments such as airports, transport hubs, large public buildings and care settings presents unique design challenges. In many of these spaces, evacuation is not always immediate or practical, and lighting must support both safe movement and controlled occupancy. The focus is on when a stay-put or phased evacuation strategy may be appropriate, particularly in environments such as assisted living and care homes where occupant vulnerability, familiarity and mobility must be carefully considered. Design decisions should be driven by occupancy, risk profile and operational use, ensuring emergency lighting solutions reflect real building conditions rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.</i>
10:30AM	Fire Risk Assessors' Perspective: Priorities, High Risk Areas and Defining Escape Routes <i>Emergency lighting is often designed to meet standards, but assessed against real building risk. Viewing systems through the lens of fire risk assessors reveals how escape routes, critical zones and lighting performance are interpreted in practice. The focus is on how assessors evaluate stairwells, primary escape routes and specific locations, and how decisions are made around route definition, prioritisation and compliance. Understanding this perspective provides insight into how standards are applied, where they are effective, and where further clarity or improvement may be required.</i>
10:45AM	Q&A PANEL
11:00AM	NETWORKING BREAK
11:30AM	Beyond the Commissioning Phase: Operational Excellence in Emergency Lighting <i>Emergency lighting does not end at commissioning. Long-term performance, verification and maintenance are essential to ensure systems continue to operate reliably when needed. The focus is on how end users and maintenance teams can move beyond basic pass or fail testing towards structured, data-driven maintenance strategies, including automated testing, centralised monitoring and integration with modern facilities management systems. Recent updates to BS 5266-1 reinforce the need for periodic verification of light levels over the system lifecycle, ensuring that performance is maintained rather than assumed. Emphasis is placed on maintaining verified light levels, robust inspection regimes and a clear, defensible compliance trail that aligns system performance with legal and regulatory obligations.</i>
11:50AM	Standards, Regulation and What's Coming Next <i>Emergency lighting is entering a period of significant regulatory and technical change. Updates to core standards, shaping fire safety legislation and new technologies are reshaping how systems are designed, specified and maintained. The focus is on the October 2025 update to BS 5266-1, key developments within BS EN IEC 60598-2-22, including lithium battery safety, and the growing role of Adaptive Emergency Escape Lighting Systems (AEELS). Understanding these changes is essential to maintaining compliance while supporting Net Zero objectives and delivering safe, future-ready emergency lighting systems.</i>
12:10PM	Q&A PANEL
12:30PM	NETWORKING LUNCH

PLEASE NOTE: PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For more information, please email:  
icelconference@thelia.org.uk

Organised by:



in association with:





# EMERGENCY LIGHTING CONFERENCE 2026

THURSDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026  
CAVENDISH CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (PART 2)

TIME	TITLE
13:45PM	Defining the Responsible Person
<i>Social housing providers, councils and residential landlords are responsible for life safety systems within multi-occupancy buildings, including flats, apartments and high-rise housing blocks. In these environments, emergency lighting is critical within stairwells, corridors and shared escape routes rather than within individual dwellings. While design, installation and maintenance are often delegated to contractors and consultants, accountability remains with the Responsible Person. The focus is on what duty holders must understand, verify and challenge when managing emergency lighting across communal areas, particularly where multiple stakeholders are involved. Consideration is also given to how emergency lighting aligns with other life safety systems, including fire detection and alarm systems, and how consistent approaches can be applied across residential portfolios.</i>	
14:10PM	Getting It Right First Time
<i>Achieving full compliance in emergency lighting begins at design, not at commissioning. Decisions made early in a project directly influence installation quality, system performance and the need for costly remedial work. The focus is on aligning requirements across BS 7671, BS 5266-1 and BS EN 1838, while addressing real-world challenges encountered during installation and handover. Attention is given to coordination with other building services, ownership of space and priority of systems, ensuring emergency lighting is integrated effectively and performs as intended under emergency conditions.</i>	
14:30PM	Q&A PANEL
14:50PM	NETWORKING BREAK
15:20PM	Leadership Lab: The Future of ICEL and Emergency Lighting
<i>Emergency lighting is entering a period of rapid change, driven by advances in technology, changing regulation and increasing expectations around safety and sustainability. Senior industry leaders will explore the future direction of emergency lighting in the UK, including smart building integration, AI-assisted systems, data-driven maintenance and the role of sustainability within life safety systems. The discussion also provides ICEL with an opportunity to share emerging ideas and proposals, while inviting input from across the industry. Attendees will have the opportunity to contribute suggestions, challenge thinking and provide feedback that helps inform ICEL's future priorities and industry direction.</i>	
15:55PM	Closing Remarks
16:00PM	NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS



PLEASE NOTE: PROGRAMME OF EVENTS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

For more information, please email:  
icelconference@thelia.org.uk

Organised by:



in association with:

