

Questions and Answers

Questions et réponses



Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

August 10, 2006

Motion Sensors

Q1. Where can motion sensors be installed?

A1. Motion sensors may be installed to control non-emergency lighting in all areas of a building. In some limited cases, where life safety objectives apply, the Code imposes restrictions on the control of minimum and emergency lighting levels.

Q2. Why were changes made to the Building Code?

A2. The use of motion sensor lighting to control non-emergency lighting can achieve significant energy savings in buildings. The changes to the Code clarify that motion sensors can be used in most cases.

Q3. Are motion sensors mandatory?

A3. This will depend on the type of building and energy efficiency design approach taken. For example, in most larger buildings, motion sensors may be essential towards achieving the energy efficiency targets set out in the Code, which come into effect on December 31, 2006.

Q4. Are there any prohibitions to the use of motion sensors?

A4. Yes, in recognition of emergency evacuation/response needs, motion sensors are not permitted to be used to control emergency lighting in buildings. Motion sensors are also not permitted to control Code defined minimum lighting levels in:

- Exits;
- Corridors serving patients or residents in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes and similar care occupancies; and
- Aisles serving motion picture and performing arts theatres with required floor level lighting.

Q5. What is the level of minimum lighting that must be maintained in exits?

A5. 50 lx measured at floor or tread level and at angles and intersections at changes of level where there are stairs or ramps. Exit lighting in excess of 50 lx may be controlled by motion sensors.

Q6. Can I install motion sensors to control non-emergency lighting in public corridors and other access to exits (e.g., hallways in apartment buildings)?

A6. Yes. Motion sensors which are equipped for fail-safe operation and have illumination timers set for a minimum 15 minute duration may be used in public corridors and other access to exits to control all non-emergency lighting and minimum lighting required by the Code.