



Interpretation

Section 11. Protective arrangements in electric supply stations

Rule 111 – Illumination

A. Under normal conditions

B. Emergency lighting

Table 111-1—Illumination levels

(2017 Edition, pages 43 and 44; 2023 Edition, pages 41 and 42)
(19 January 2025) IR602

Question: Please clarify whether the footcandle (lux) values listed in the table are true minimum values, or if they are minimum average values—meaning the average illumination level cannot go below these levels?

Discussion: There have been some conflicting discussions as to the exact meaning of these values, as often required light levels are noted as averages rather than minimums. Please provide clarification as to the intent of the values listed in Table 111-1.

Interpretation

The Interpretations Subcommittee has reviewed your request and developed the following consensus response.

Rule 111A outlines illumination levels under normal conditions, as detailed in Table 111-1. However, the illumination levels in Table 111-1 are recommended rather than required minimum levels. In the absence of how the specified levels in Table 111-1 are to be used (minimum, minimum average, etc.), Rule 012C will be applicable.

Additionally, this interpretation request references Rule 111B, which specifies illumination levels for emergency lighting. The lighting levels for station exit paths are required.

National Electrical Safety Code and NESC are both registered trademarks and service marks of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. The NESC is available from The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (<https://standards.ieee.org/standard/>).