



May 30, 2016

Re: Photoluminescent Tape Installed on Stair Treads

To Whom It May Concern:

IBC code requires that photoluminescent markings be tested to either UL 1994 or ASTM E2072. Both of these standards require markings installed on stair nosings to be slip resistant. Most photoluminescent tape products do not have a slip resistant surface and are therefore not code compliant.

In addition, while the adhesive backing on tape products may be more than adequate for painted surfaces such as walls and handrails, adhesion to concrete stairs can prove difficult and requires very thorough preparation to ensure that dust does not break the bond of the pressure sensitive adhesive.

Safe egress is a life-safety concern and therefore egress marking quality should not be compromised. For this reason, Balco recommends that tape products only be used on handrails and wall surfaces. For stair treads, Balco recommends using one of our stair nosings featuring a slip-resistant abrasive infill and our UL listed photoluminescent strip. This ensures that the stairs will remain safe and properly marked long-term.

Best Regards,

John Harder
Senior Manager
Quality and Engineering Services
Balco, Inc

Enclosures:

Cc: