RCT

Remote Control Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is RCT?
   RCT is a fluorescent emergency ballast technology that uses an infrared receiver and a WHRCT remote control transmitter to test emergency ballast operation. Maintenance personnel can test emergency ballast operation from a remote location instead of manually holding test switches on hard-to-reach fixtures or testing in publicly traveled areas. No ladders or extension devices are needed. Moreover, infrared technology will not interfere with electronic equipment and is impervious to radio frequency (RF) signals, noise and interference that could potentially affect sensitive electronic equipment in certain applications.

2. Which Philips Bodine products feature remote control testing?
   Currently, Philips Emergency Lighting offers this special feature on fluorescent emergency ballast models B50RCT and B30RCT for tubular lamps and 4-pin long compact fluorescent lamps and the Checkmate ET1 for exit signs and wall packs. Refer to individual product specification sheets for complete details.

3. Is RCT self-diagnostic?
   No. The RCT is an alternative testing method for unit equipment. The emergency ballast does not have self-diagnostic capabilities.

4. Why test unit equipment?
   The NFPA National Electrical Code® and Life Safety Code® require periodic testing, visual inspections and written records of the test results for emergency lighting. Fire officials, safety personnel, building owners and specifiers all want the assurance of knowing that life safety equipment is ready at all times.

5. What test schedule does code require for emergency lighting?

   Article 7.9.3.1.1 Periodic Testing of Emergency Lighting Equipment

   Testing of required emergency lighting systems shall be permitted to be conducted as follows:
   1. Functional testing shall be conducted monthly, with a minimum of 3 weeks and a maximum of 5 weeks between tests, for not less than 30 seconds, except as otherwise permitted by 7.9.3.1.1(2).
   2. The test interval shall be permitted to be extended beyond 30 days with the approval of the authority having jurisdiction.
   3. Functional testing shall be conducted annually for a minimum of 90 minutes if the emergency lighting system is battery powered.
   4. The emergency lighting equipment shall be fully operational for the duration of the tests required by 7.9.3.1.1(1) and (3).
   5. Written records of visual inspections and tests shall be kept by the owner for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction.
Installation, Operation and Testing

1. Will written records of test results need to be kept?
   Yes. Code requires that written records be provided for unit equipment test results. Simply POINT-
   CLICK-TEST emergency ballast operation, visually inspect RCT units and log test results.

2. How far away can I test the emergency ballast?
   Depending on the type of fixture, maintenance and safety personnel may test emergency ballast
   operation from up to 32 feet away using the handheld remote control transmitter. (See Range &
   Direction Illustrations in the product’s specification sheet for typical testing range.)

3. If I accidentally activate the wrong timed test, can I cancel it?
   Yes. The remote control transmitter includes a reset option that cancels unintentional activation
   and allows the user to cancel a timed test at any time.

4. Will RCT require different installation?
   Yes. The infrared receiver must be flush mounted with the fixture’s lens so that the signal from the
   remote control transmitter has a clear line-of-sight path.

5. Can B50RCT be installed inside the ballast channel like other Philips Bodine emergency ballasts?
   Yes. Because the infrared receiver and electronic circuitry fit inside the ballast case, the B50RCT
   is the same size as the standard B50. Therefore, the emergency ballast can be installed inside the
   ballast channel or on top of the fixture.

6. Why do the B50RCT and B30RCT include a single-pole test switch?
   UL requires that all emergency lighting provide a test switch, remote control testing or otherwise.
   A single-pole switch is provided with the B50RCT and B30RCT and allows manual tests to be
   conducted at any time.

7. Will the installer be able to conduct a test shortly after installing the emergency ballast?
   A 30-second test may be conducted after one hour. A 90-minute test may be conducted after 24
   hours. For more details, please refer to product installation instructions.

8. How does RCT test?
   Aim the WHRCT remote control transmitter at the infrared receiver visibly located on the
   emergency fixture. Select either a 30-second or 90-minute timed test. The emergency ballast
   simulates an AC power failure by causing the emergency ballast to switch to emergency mode.
   Observe operational testing and record test results. When testing is completed, the emergency
   ballast returns to the charging mode.

* CheckMate ET1
The Philips Bodine CheckMate ET1 is also a remote testing device that provides remote control testing for exit signs and
wall packs. It is easily installed on existing exit sign and wall pack units and permits users to point-click-and-test without
climbing on ladders or using extension devices. As with the RCT emergency ballasts, 30-second and 90-minute tests can
be conducted. One WHRCT handheld remote control transmitter (sold separately) is required.

Any questions?
Call 800-223-5728, e-mail bodineinfo@philips.com or visit www.philips.com/bodine.