

Remote Control Testing Emergency Ballasts

Frequently Asked Questions

Remote Control Testing and Code Requirements

1. What is RCT™?

RCT™ is a fluorescent emergency ballast technology that uses an infrared receiver and 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 Bodine products feature remote control testing?

Currently Bodine offers this special feature on model B50RCT for tubular lamps and (4-pin) long compact fluorescent lamps. Refer to individual product Specification Sheet 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 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?

The NFPA's 1997 Life Safety Code requires regular testing for self-contained unit equipment and exit signs. Article 5-9.3 Periodic Testing of Emergency Lighting Equipment states:

A functional test shall be conducted on every required battery-powered emergency lighting system at 30-day intervals for a minimum of 30 sec. An annual test shall be conducted for a 1½-hr duration. Equipment shall be fully operational for the duration of the test. Written records of visual inspections and tests shall be kept by the owner for inspection by the authority having jurisdiction.

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Installation, Operation and Testing

6. 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.

7. Can B50RCT be installed inside the ballast channel like other 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.

8. Why does the B50RCT 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 unit, and allows manual tests to be conducted any time.

9. 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.

10. How does RCT™ test?

Aim the 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.

Any Questions? Call 800-223-5728, Fax 901-853-5009 or E-mail info@bodine.com