


CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

Code Memorandum

To: Department of Buildings Plan Examiners and Inspectors

From: Judith Frydland
Commissioner 

Date: November 22, 2016

Re: **Separate Wiring for Emergency Electrical Systems**

In order to address ambiguities in the language of Section 18-27-700.63(b) of the Chicago Electrical Code and to provide for more standardized enforcement, Section 18-27-700.63(b) is to be interpreted as follows:

(b) *Wiring Separation.* Emergency illumination and exit sign feeders and branch circuits shall be completely separate and independent wiring systems from all other electrical systems starting from the source of current supply to the last lighting outlet on the systems.

Emergency illumination and exit sign branch circuit conductors shall be permitted to occupy the same raceway and share the same branch circuit. These branch circuits shall not be part of multiwire branch circuits.

Emergency unit battery equipment as allowed in Section 18-27-700.43 shall be permitted to share general lighting branch circuits when in conformance with Section 18-27-700.66. Emergency battery unit wiring shall conform to Section 18-27-700.66(c).