

Memorandum

To AIA, ASID and Electrical design professionals
From Stefan R Graf IALD, IES, LC
Re New standards of practice in lighting design and risk management
Date November 20, 2006

Greetings

This memo is to inform the design community of the new lighting design standards recently established by the Illuminating Engineering Society, a national society that publishes the recommended practices of lighting design for interior and exterior lighting systems.

AIA and ASID design professionals are required to provide best practice standards to their clients by contractual or ethical obligations and need to become aware of the new standards. They are published in the IES Handbook Section 10: Quality of the Visual Environment / Lighting Design Guide. It is especially important to *inform project owners* of these standards (see attached)

You will see that lighting design has evolved well beyond just providing specifications and footcandle calculations. The Lighting Design Guide requires that lighting address new criteria for human needs, economic considerations, environmental issues and architectural integration. These factors all can have a substantial economic impact to the project owner. Research has proven that properly designed lighting offers great economic benefits to the owner and building occupants. On the other hand, poorly designed lighting can have a detrimental effect; leaving the architect and electrical engineer liable to potential claims should the design fall short of the new standards of practice. The long term economic impact to a project is the reason to address this professionally.

All design professionals must become aware and informed of these new standards and at the very least, notify the project owner's representative. If the owner decides these standards are not important to their project and the architect has record of this, then the risk of future liability is reduced.

Design professionals should note that, for a project to meet the new standards, the design team must address the issues that impact lighting economics and lighting quality, including: daylighting integration, worker satisfaction, biological health, safety, psychological perception, visual comfort and life cycle costs of the lighting systems. Good project management is also essential to prevent changes of the specified lighting by contractors or suppliers that were not part of the design process or do not have the education to make informed decisions. A waiver of liability should be signed by anyone wishing to make changes to the specified design when the design is provided through a careful design process. To assure the lighting is created and implemented properly, it will also be important that someone be responsible throughout the design process; from concept development, through specifications, construction management and commissioning of the lighting systems.

We urge you to form qualified teams for your projects to address these issues. Interview and select recognized 'career professional' independent lighting practitioners that have made lighting their specialty, attend national education conferences and stay abreast of the latest lighting research, techniques and technologies. This is your best course of action to achieve best practice results.