

Photoluminescent Systems Debut in New York - The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly

By Geoffrey Peckham

This presentation will focus on what happened in New York between 2004 and 2006. For all practical purposes, it was the first large scale test for the photoluminescent safety products industry in the United States. The story is one that is filled with politics, standards work, competition, and a fixed deadline. The hope was for a large and profitable amount of business, and a jumpstart of the photoluminescent industry in the U.S. The end result did not live up to these expectations.

The reasons why the NYC Dept. Of Buildings and Local Law 26 chose to exclusively use a photoluminescent solution for stairwell way guidance systems is where the important lesson of this story begins (and ends) for the photoluminescent safety products industry. This talk will describe where things went right in New York, where they could have gone better, and where they failed miserably.

Please note that the views shared will be personal insights on the topic from someone who was closely involved in the process, from writing the code to installing the systems.