

# History - Jalite Photoluminescent Signs

## Photoluminescent signing - born out of tragedy and now recognised for life safety applications.

The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was marred by one of the most catastrophic events ever witnessed in modern history - the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre Twin Towers. The impact of the tragedy on New York was enormous; leaving close to 3,000 dead. Instigating a special task force to be immediately organised to re-examine the current building and design codes of practice (COP) in relation to exit path markings within high-rise buildings. In February 2003, the Task Force released its findings that detailed significant new recommendations on how high-rise buildings should incorporate photoluminescent materials and how they should function in such an extreme event the COP was titled:

***“Promulgation of the New York city building code reference standard RS 6-1 and RS 6-1a in relation to photoluminescent exit path markings”***

As a result of this new COP, and because of the significant contribution photoluminescent materials made in saving lives in the Twin Towers, the use of photoluminescent systems is now mandatory within escape staircases throughout New York in high-rise commercial buildings.

***‘Photoluminescent systems are now required throughout New York because of their unique ability to emit a powerful light source in the event of total power-loss, even when all emergency lighting is lost, such as the 9/11 incident’.***

