

CITY OF BISBEE CITY CODE Updated 08/06/2014

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ARTICLE 7.10 LIGHT POLLUTION CODE

(O-94-33, O-98-10)

That certain code entitled the City of Bisbee Light Pollution Code, three copies of which are on file in the City Clerk's Office and which has been declared as a public record by Resolution R-82-178 is hereby referred to and adopted and made a part of this chapter as if fully set out in this Code.

7.10.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Light Pollution Code is as follows:

- A. Minimize light pollution and light trespass for the enjoyment and use of property and the night environment by the citizens of the City of Bisbee, and
- B. Encourage the use of types, kinds, construction, installation and uses of outdoor light fixtures, lighting practices and systems which will reduce light pollution and light trespass, and
- C. Benefit astronomical research and observations, and
- D. Conserve energy while increasing nighttime visibility, utility, security and productivity.

7.10.2 Definitions

- A. "Fully shielded" means that fixtures are shielded in such a manner that light rays emitted by the fixture, either directly from the lamp or indirectly from the fixture, are projected below a horizontal plane running through the lowest point on the fixture where light is emitted.
- B. "Outdoor light fixture" means outdoor artificial illuminating devices, lamps, and other devices, permanent or portable, used for illumination or advertisement. Such devices shall include, but are not limited to, search, spot or flood lights for buildings and structures, recreational areas, parking lot lighting, landscape lighting, billboards and other signage and street lighting.
- C. "Partially shielded" means the fixtures are shielded in such a manner that the bottom edge of the shield is below the plane of the center line of the lamp reducing light above the horizontal.

7.10.3 Shielding of Outdoor Light Fixtures

All outdoor light fixtures shall be fully or partially shielded except incandescent fixtures of one hundred fifty watts or less and other sources of seventy watts or less. Streetlight fixtures are exempt from this requirement if the shielding is not available from the manufacturer.

7.10.4 Nonconforming Light Fixtures

In addition to other exemptions provided in this article, outdoor light fixtures not meeting the provisions of this article shall be allowed provided such fixtures are extinguished between the hours of midnight and sunrise by an automatic shutoff device.

7.10.5 Use of Mercury Vapor Light Fixtures

- A. No new mercury vapor outdoor light fixtures shall be installed after the effective date of this section. The use of mercury vapor light fixture is prohibited in the State of Arizona after January 1, 2011.
- B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to outdoor light systems erected prior to 1950.

7.10.6 Searchlights

The operation of searchlights for advertising purpose is prohibited.

7.10.7 Exemptions

A. Light fixtures using fossil fuel (i.e., light produced directly or indirectly by the combustion of natural gas or other utility type fossil fuels) are exempt from the requirements of this ordinance

B. Outdoor lighting on facilities and lands owned and operated or protected by the United States Government, the State of Arizona, Cochise County, or the City of Bisbee are exempt by law from all requirements of this section. Voluntary compliance with the intent of this ordinance at those facilities is encouraged.

C. The illumination of outdoor recreational facilities, public or private, shall be shielded such that the glare or beam does not emit beyond property lines, and no such facility shall be illuminated after 11:00p.m. except to conclude a specific sporting event of any other activity conducted at a ball park, outdoor amphitheater, arena or similar facility in progress prior to 11:00 p.m.

D. The Board of Adjustment may grant a special exemption upon a written finding that there are extreme geographic or geometric conditions warranting the exemption and that there are no conforming fixtures that would suffice.

E. Display of an American Flag not to exceed 150 watts per fixture.

F. Seasonal holiday displays.

7.10.8 Light Trespass

Requirements for laminar heights, shielding, placement and aiming to minimize light trespass and direct glare emitted by a lighting system shall be as follows:

A. Spill light on adjacent residential or unlighted properties shall be minimized by complying with the following:

1. Wall mounted luminaries shall not be mounted higher above the ground than their distance to the property line unless they are mounted so as to direct the light away from the adjacent property, i.e., on a wall on the property line but directed inward. Maximum mounting height for wall mounted luminaries shall be 15 feet.
2. Final determination as to compliance with this section shall be based on point-by-point analysis by the Community Development Director.

B. Direct glare shall be minimized by compliance with the following requirements:

1. The lighting system shall be designed to minimize the impact on sky glow and glare to adjacent properties.
2. The direct glare from the laminar shall not be visible from six (6) feet above grade at the property line.

EXCEPTION: Field Sports lighting.

3. Where the adjacent property is residential and the laminar is a decorative style, the lot line side of the laminar is to be blocked out to eliminate spill and glare.

7.10.9 Violations and enforcement

It shall be unlawful to install or operate an outdoor light fixture in violation of this Code. Any person violating any provision of this Code shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$1000.00. Each and every day which the illegal erection, maintenance, and use continue is a separate offense.