ANSI/IES RP-1-20

Illuminating Engineering Society

RECOMMENDED PRACTICE:
LIGHTING OFFICE SPACES

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Approved American National Standard ANSI

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Foreword

This Foreword is not part of ANSI/IES RP-1-20. It is provided for informational purposes only.

This Recommended Practice (RP) does not provide general lighting information that is included in other IES documents. If the reader does not already have this information, it may be obtained as needed from the following IES Standards:

The Lighting Science Series:

- *ANSI/IES LS-1-20, Lighting Science: Nomenclature and Definitions for Illuminating Engineering*
- *ANSI/IES LS-2-20, Lighting Science: Concepts and Language of Lighting*
- *ANSI/IES LS-3-20, Lighting Science: Physics and Optics of Radiant Power*
- *ANSI/IES LS-4-20, Lighting Science: Measurement of Light – The Science of Photometry*
- *ANSI/IES LS-5-20, Lighting Science: Color*
- *ANSI/IES LS-6-20, Lighting Science: Calculation of Light and Its Effects*
- *ANSI/IES LS-7-20, Lighting Science: Vision: Eye and Brain*
- *ANSI/IES LS-8-20: Lighting Science: Vision: Perceptions and Performance*

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- *ANSI/IES LP-1-20, Lighting Practice: Designing Quality Lighting for People and Buildings*
- *ANSI/IES LP-2-20, Lighting Practice: Designing Quality Lighting for People in Outdoor Environments*
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- *ANSI/IES LP-6-20, Lighting Practice: Lighting Control Systems – Properties, Selection, and Specification*
- *ANSI/IES LP-7-20, Lighting Practice: The Lighting Design and Construction Process*
- *ANSI/IES LP-8-20, Lighting Practice: The Commissioning Process Applied to Lighting and Control Systems*
- *ANSI/IES LP-9-20, Lighting Practice: Upgrading Lighting Systems in Commercial and Industrial Facilities*
- *ANSI/IES LP-10-20, Lighting Practice: Sustainable Lighting – An Introduction to the Environmental Impacts of Lighting*
- *ANSI/IES LP-11-20, Lighting Practice: Environmental Considerations for Outdoor Lighting*

1.0 Introduction and Scope

1.1 Introduction

For many people, the office is the environment where they spend the majority of their waking adult lives. The expectation is that the time spent in the office will be useful and productive, and that the physical environment will be healthy.

The design of the office greatly influences how well the space meets the needs of the workers and their organization. Lighting is a critical element of the design that may enhance or degrade the work experience and affect the well-being of the workers. Beyond supporting worker performance, lighting may also affect the bottom line of the organization by making the best use possible of materials and electricity.

Describing and defining the office can be a challenge. There is no standard for how workers are organized and divided into groups. There are common tasks shared by many employees and some tasks that are performed by a limited few. Even the common tasks evolve and change over time. Earlier generations have worked mostly on paper, reading and writing with pens and pencils. Often this meant much time scrutinizing low contrast, poor quality visual information. Eventually, self-luminous computer-based tasks entered the work place, first as a specialized task that required unique consideration and accommodations. Over time, and with considerable evolution of the hardware and much greater user familiarity, computer-based tasks have become the ubiquitous, primary basis of office work.

Just as the tasks have changed, so have office layouts and design expectations. Fewer and fewer companies isolate their workers in individual small spaces that