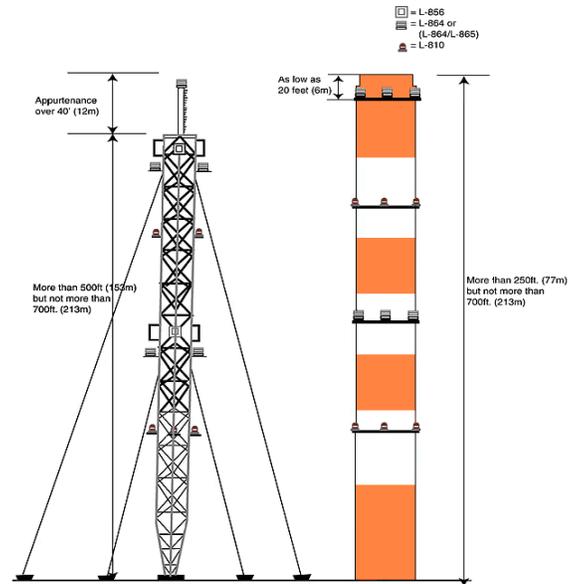
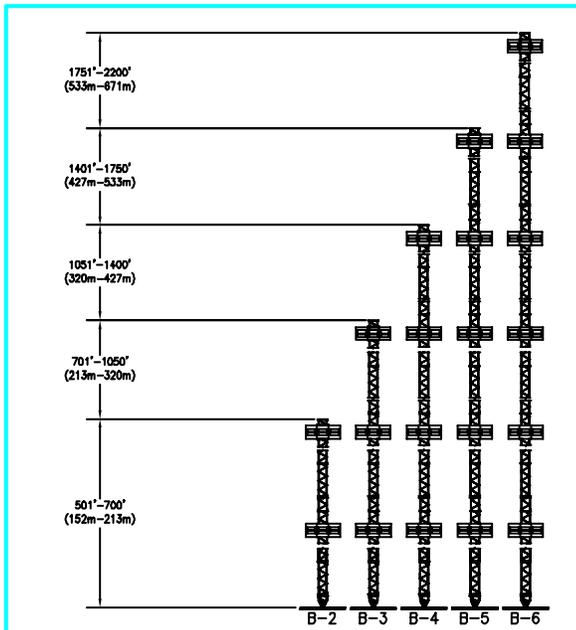
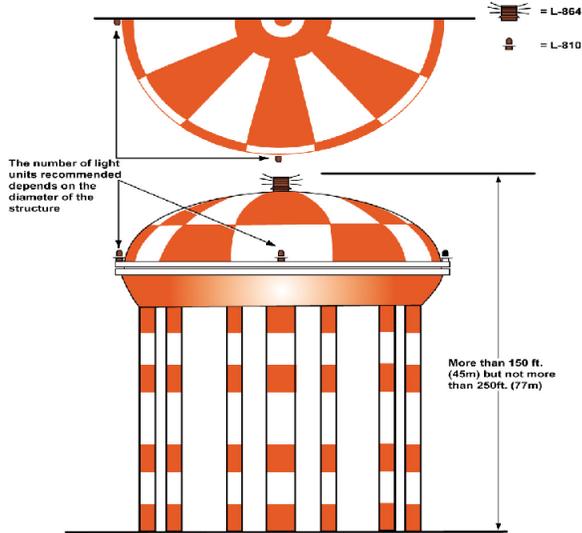




## Obstruction Marking and Lighting



## CHAPTER 5. RED OBSTRUCTION LIGHT SYSTEM

### 50. PURPOSE

Red Obstruction lights are used to increase conspicuity during nighttime. Daytime and twilight marking is required. Recommendations on lighting structures can vary depending on terrain features, weather patterns, geographic location, and in the case of wind turbines, number of structures and overall layout of design.

### 51. STANDARDS

The red obstruction lighting system is composed of flashing omnidirectional beacons (L-864) and/or steady burning (L-810) lights. When one or more levels is comprised of flashing beacon lighting, the lights should flash simultaneously.

**a. Single Obstruction Light.** A single (L-810) light may be used when more than one obstruction light is required either vertically or horizontally or where maintenance can be accomplished within a reasonable time.

**1. Top Level.** A single light may be used to identify low structures such as airport ILS buildings and long horizontal structures such as perimeter fences and building roof outlines.

**2. Intermediate Level.** Single lights may be used on skeletal and solid structures when more than one level of lights is installed and there are two or more single lights per level.

**b. Double Obstruction Light.** A double (L-810) light should be installed when used as a top light, at each end of a row of single obstruction lights, and in areas or locations where the failure of a single unit could cause an obstruction to be totally unlighted.

**1. Top Level. Structures 150 feet (46m) AGL or less** should have one or more double lights installed at the highest point and operating simultaneously.

**2. Intermediate Level.** Double lights should be installed at intermediate levels when a malfunction of a single light could create an unsafe condition and in remote areas where maintenance cannot be performed within a reasonable time. Both units may operate simultaneously, or a transfer relay may be used to switch to a spare unit should the active system fail.

**3. Lowest Level.** The lowest level of light units may be installed at a higher elevation than normal on a structure if the surrounding terrain, trees, or adjacent building(s) would obscure the lights. In certain instances, as determined by an FAA aeronautical study, the lowest level of lights may be eliminated.

### 52. CONTROL DEVICE

Red obstruction lights should be operated by a satisfactory control device (e.g., photo cell, timer, etc.) adjusted so the lights will be turned on when the northern sky illuminance reaching a vertical surface falls below a level of 60 foot-candles (645.8 lux) but before reaching a level of 35 foot-candles (367.7 lux). The control device should turn the lights off when the northern sky illuminance rises to a level of not more than 60 foot-candles (645.8 lux). The lights may also remain on continuously. The sensing device should, if practical, face the northern sky in the Northern Hemisphere. (See AC 150/5345-43.)

### 53. POLES, TOWERS, AND SIMILAR SKELETAL STRUCTURES

The following standards apply to radio and television towers, supporting structures for overhead transmission lines, and similar structures.

#### a. Top Mounted Obstruction Light.

**1. Structures 150 Feet (46m) AGL or Less.** Two or more steady burning (L-810) lights should be installed in a manner to ensure an unobstructed view of one or more lights by a pilot.

**2. Structures Exceeding 150 Feet (46m) AGL.** At least one red flashing (L-864) beacon should be installed in a manner to ensure an unobstructed view of one or more lights by a pilot.

**3. Appurtenances 40 Feet (12m) or Less.** If a rod, antenna, or other appurtenance 40 feet (12m) or less in height is incapable of supporting a red flashing beacon, then it may be placed at the base of the appurtenance. If the mounting location does not allow unobstructed viewing of the beacon by a pilot, then additional beacons should be added.

**4. Appurtenances Exceeding 40 Feet (12m).** If a rod, antenna, or other appurtenance exceeding 40 feet (12m) in height is incapable of supporting a red flashing beacon, a supporting mast with one or more beacons should be installed adjacent to the appurtenance. Adjacent installations should not exceed the height of the appurtenance and be within 40 feet (12m) of the tip to allow the pilot an unobstructed view of at least one beacon.

**b. Mounting Intermediate Levels.** The number of light levels is determined by the height of the structure, including all appurtenances, and is detailed in Appendix 1. The number of lights on each level is

determined by the shape and height of the structure. These lights should be mounted so as to ensure an unobstructed view of at least one light by a pilot.

### 1. *Steady Burning Lights (L-810).*

#### (a) *Structures 350 Feet (107m) AGL or Less.*

Two or more steady burning (L-810) lights should be installed on diagonally or diametrically opposite positions.

#### (b) *Structures Exceeding 350 Feet (107m)*

*AGL.* Install steady burning (L-810) lights on each outside corner of each level.

### 2. *Flashing Beacons (L-864).*

#### (a) *Structures 350 Feet (107m) AGL or Less.*

These structures do not require flashing (L-864) beacons at intermediate levels.

#### (b) *Structure Exceeding 350 Feet (107m)*

*AGL.* At intermediate levels, two beacons (L-864) should be mounted outside at diagonally opposite positions of intermediate levels.

## 54. CHIMNEYS, FLARE STACKS, AND SIMILAR SOLID STRUCTURES

### a. *Number of Light Units.*

1. The number of units recommended depends on the diameter of the structure at the top. The number of lights recommended below are the minimum.

2. When the structure diameter is:

(a) *20 Feet (6m) or Less.* Three light units per level.

(b) *Exceeding 20 Feet (6m) But Not More Than 100 Feet (31m).* Four light units per level.

(c) *Exceeding 100 Feet (31m) But Not More Than 200 Feet (61m).* Six light units per level.

(d) *Exceeding 200 Feet (61m).* Eight light units per level.

### b. *Top Mounted Obstruction Lights.*

1. *Structures 150 Feet (46m) AGL or Less.* L-810 lights should be installed horizontally at regular intervals at or near the top.

2. *Structures Exceeding 150 Feet (46m) AGL.* At least three L-864 beacons should be installed.

3. *Chimneys, Cooling Towers, and Flare Stacks.* Lights may be displayed as low as 20 feet (6m) below the top to avoid the obscuring effect of deposits and heat generally emitted by this type of structure. It is important that these lights be readily accessible for

cleaning and lamp replacement. It is understood that with flare stacks, as well as any other structures associated with the petrol-chemical industry, normal lighting requirements may not be necessary. This could be due to the location of the flare stack/structure within a large well-lighted petrol-chemical plant or the fact that the flare, or working lights surrounding the flare stack/structure, is as conspicuous as obstruction lights.

c. *Mounting Intermediate Levels.* The number of light levels is determined by the height of the structure including all appurtenances. For cooling towers 600 feet (183m) or less, intermediate light levels are not necessary. Structures exceeding 600 feet (183m) AGL should have a second level of light units installed approximately at the midpoint of the structure and in a vertical line with the top level of lights.

1. *Steady Burning (L-810) Lights.* The recommended number of light levels may be obtained from Appendix 1. At least three lights should be installed on each level.

2. *Flashing (L-864) Beacons.* The recommended number of beacon levels may be obtained from Appendix 1. At least three lights should be installed on each level.

(a) *Structures 350 Feet (107m) AGL or Less.* These structures do not need intermediate levels of flashing beacons.

(b) *Structures Exceeding 350 Feet (107m) AGL.* At least three flashing (L-864) beacons should be installed on each level in a manner to allow an unobstructed view of at least one beacon.

## 55. GROUP OF OBSTRUCTIONS

When individual objects, except wind turbines, within a group of obstructions are not the same height and are spaced a maximum of 150 feet (46m) apart, the prominent objects within the group should be lighted in accordance with the standards for individual obstructions of a corresponding height. If the outer structure is shorter than the prominent, the outer structure should be lighted in accordance with the standards for individual obstructions of a corresponding height. Light units should be placed to ensure that the light is visible to a pilot approaching from **any** direction. In addition, at least one flashing beacon should be installed at the top of a prominent center obstruction or on a special tower located near the center of the group.