

Technical University of Denmark



## Ethical Codex for evacuation experiments involving human beings and conducted by DTU BYG

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## **Ethical Codex for evacuation experiments involving human beings and conducted by DTU BYG**

Buildings become bigger, more spectacular and more complex. The increased complexity entails high challenges for the safety level. Consequently, the fire safety engineer faces new challenges. Different tools are developed to solve the challenges and different software can be used to for instance estimate total evacuation times. However, these tools need input. Scientific evacuation experiments deliver such input . The majority of data are collected more than 30 years ago and the process of designing and build buildings have changes since that time. Hence, it is very important that the data reflect the occupants present in buildings. Evacuation experiments are performed reflecting reality as close as possible. However, performing experiments involving human beings entail ethical considerations.

### **Purpose**

The aim of this codex is to create uniform guidelines for evacuation experiments conducted by DTU BYG. The codex shall ensure the rights for the participants in the experiments. In addition, the codex shall ensure that participants receive uniform necessary information about the experiment.

### **Codex for evacuation experiments**

1. Evacuations experiments and project conducted at DTU BYG always need approval from the Ethical Committee and the Danish Data Protection Agency.
2. Participants shall always receive written and oral information about the aim of the project and method. The written information shall include information and background for the experiment, an experimental plan, side effects and risks, economics and access to experimental results. Template available via Campusnet or supervisor.

3. Participants need to fill out an informed consent before taking part in experiments.
4. Participants can withdraw their consent any time during the experiments without explaining the reasons.
5. Participants are guaranteed full anonymity.
6. Participants may not gain any economical profit from participation, though mileage allowance and food and drinks might be given in relation to the experiment
7. Participation is completely voluntary and participants can withdraw any time.
8. In unannounced evacuation experiments participants must immediately after the experiments are completed give their consent to use data in research.