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HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION  
AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS**

**Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized  
System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**  
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**COMMENTS ON THE GHS**

**Graphical symbols, safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours, comprehensibility**

**Transmitted by the International Standardization Organization (ISO)**

**Addendum 2**

Attached is draft standard ISO/DIS 3864-2

"Safety colours and safety signs –  
Part 2: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas -  
Overview of standardised safety signs.

*NOTE: For technical reason, this document is reproduced in black and white only. A colour version is available electronically (<http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.htm>).*

**ISO TC 145/SC 2**

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**ISO/DIS 3864-2**

ISO TC 145/SC 2/WG 1

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## **Safety colours and safety signs — Part 2: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas - Overview of standardised safety signs**

*Couleurs et signaux de sécurité — Partie 2 : Signaux de sécurité sur les lieux de travail et dans les lieux publics - Aperçu de signaux de sécurité normalisés*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organisation for Standardization) is a world-wide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 3864-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

ISO 3864 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Safety colours and safety signs*:

- *Part 1: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas - Design principles*
- *Part 2: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas - Overview of standardized safety signs*
- *Part 3: Product safety labels - Design principles*

## Introduction

There is a need to standardize a system of giving safety information that relies as little as possible on the use of words to achieve understanding.

Continued growth in international trade, travel and more recently in the extensive mobility of labour requires a common method of communicating safety information.

Education is an essential part of any system that provides safety information.

Lack of standardization may lead to confusion and perhaps accidents.

The use of standardized safety signs does not replace proper work methods, instructions and accident prevention training and/or measures.

NOTE Some countries' statutory regulations may differ in some respect from those given in this International Standard.



# Safety colours and safety signs — Part 2: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas - Overview of standardised safety signs

## 1 Scope

This International Standard prescribes safety signs for the purposes of accident prevention, fire protection, health hazard information and emergency evacuation.

The shape and colour that is required to be used for each sign as prescribed by ISO 3864-1 is given together with the graphical symbols contained within each sign.

This standard shall apply generally to all types of premises and other locations, particularly public areas and workplaces, and all premises where there is a requirement for safety information to be conveyed by means of safety signing.

It does not however, apply to signalling used for rail, road, maritime and air traffic, and in general to those sectors subject to a regulation that differs as regards to certain points of this document and those contained within ISO 3864-1.

ISO 3864-2 is intended to be used by all other Technical Committees within ISO charged to develop specific safety signing for their industry, to ensure that there is only one safety sign for each safety meaning.

This part of ISO 3864 comprises safety sign originals that may be scaled for reproduction and application purposes. It is intended that this standard will be continually amended and revised with safety signs standardized by ISO, applying the principles given in ISO 3864-1.

Safety signs given in this standard are considered to have achieved a satisfactory degree of comprehension as established by independent testing or as a result of their use and application at an international level.

The use of supplementary text signs in conjunction with these safety signs may be used to increase comprehension.

## 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 3864, the terms and definitions given in ISO 3864-1 and the following apply:

### 2.1

#### **safety colour**

colour of special properties to which a safety meaning is attributed

### 2.2

#### **safety shape**

geometric shape to which a safety meaning is attributed

### 2.3

#### **safety symbol**

graphical symbol used together with a safety colour and safety shape to form a safety sign

**2.4**

**safety sign**

sign which gives general safety information, obtained by a combination of a specific colour and geometric shape and which, by the addition of a graphical symbol, gives particular safety information

**2.5**

**supplementary sign**

sign used together with one of the safety signs which provides supplementary information

**2.6**

**referent**

subject represented by the graphical symbol

**2.7**

**field of application**

context in which the use of a graphical symbol or sign to convey a message is appropriate

**2.8**

**application format**

type of object on which the symbol or sign is intended to be used

**2.9**

**image content**

elements of the graphical symbol or sign and their relative juxtaposition

**2.10**

**standard image content**

image content as described for each referent in this standard

**2.11**

**guide-line example**

selected graphical interpretation of the graphical symbol or sign which conforms to the standard image content

### **3 Reference indexes**

The following indexes are provided to facilitate the search for standardized safety symbols.

This standard will be maintained electronically with these indexes as the basis for the database and that each safety sign standardized will have a unique reference number.

#### **3.1 Index by referent (safety meaning)**

This index is in alphabetical order of the referent and provides the safety sign reference number (see table 1).

#### **3.2 Index by functional reference number**

This index is in numerical order within the different categories of safety signing according to their function (see table 1)

- E is the category for means of escape and emergency equipment signs (safe condition signs)
- F is the category for fire safety signs
- M is the category for mandatory instruction and action safety signs
- P is the category for prohibition safety signs
- W is the category for warning safety signs

Table 1 — Reference indexes

Index by referent (safety meaning)	Index by functional reference number
Biological hazard, warning	W010
Direction, arrow (90° increments), safe condition	E005
Direction, arrow (45° increments), safe condition	E006
Drop (fall), warning	W009
Emergency exit (left hand)	E001
Emergency exit (right hand)	E002
Emergency telephone	E004
Explosive atmosphere, warning	W003
Explosive material, warning	W002
Fire alarm call point	F005
Fire emergency telephone	F006
Fire extinguisher	F001
Fire fighting equipment, collection of	F004
Fire hose reel	F002
Fire ladder	F003
First aid	E003
General mandatory sign	M001
General prohibition sign	P001
General warning sign	W001
Laser beam, warning	W005
Low temperature/freezing conditions, warning	W011
Magnetic field, warning	W007
Naked flames forbidden; fire, open ignition source and smoking prohibited	P003
No access for fork lift trucks and other industrial vehicles	P006
No access for persons with pacemakers	P007
No metallic articles or watches	P008
No smoking	P002
No thoroughfare	P004
Non-ionising radiation, warning	W006
Not drinking water	P005
Obstacles, warning	W008
Radioactive material, warning	W004
Slippery surface, warning	W012

### 3.3 Index of safety signs by category and reference number

The following is a graphical index of the standardised safety signs for public areas and workplaces, listed in terms of the five safety sign categories defined by geometric shape and colour as required by ISO 3864-1.

#### Safe Condition Signs



#### Fire Safety Signs



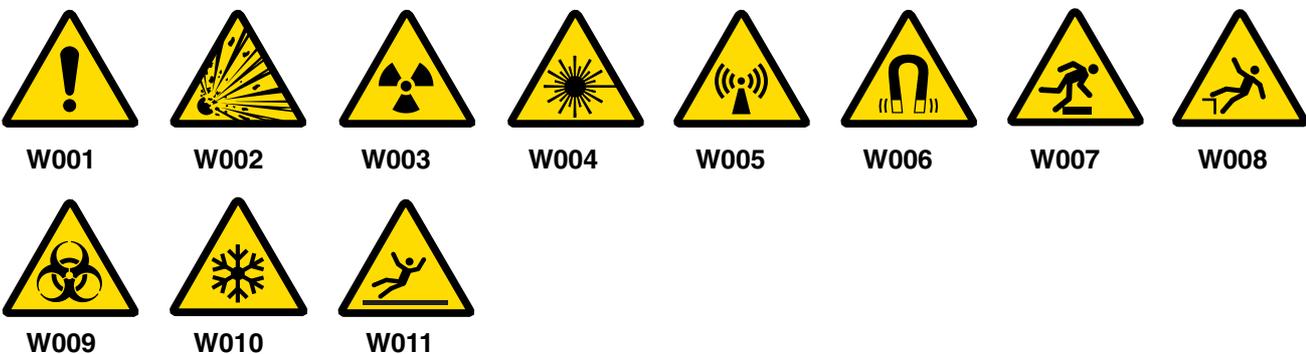
#### Mandatory Action Signs



#### Prohibition Signs



#### Warning Signs



#### **4 Standardized safety signs**

The following safety sign originals are provided in a uniform 75mm size with corner marks to enable accurate enlargement and reduction. The sign illustrations are shown without borders in order to allow for consistent reproduction scaling, though the use of borders is encouraged as defined by ISO 3864-1. The safety signs should be reproduced exactly as shown. However, some degree of graphical modification is permitted when cultural differences or special application formats must be considered, provided comprehension of the sign is maintained. Consistent reproduction and use of these safety signs is expected to lead to a progressively improved degree of comprehension at the international level.



**E001**

**Referent**

Emergency exit (left hand)

**Function**

To signify an escape route

**Standard Image Content**

Full view of man moving (to left) through doorway

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Safety:** Safe condition

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Supplementary arrow sign is used to give directional information (E005, E006)

Safety manuals and notices

To improve conspicuity, use with a supplementary sign

**Additional Information**

See ISO DIS 3864-1 for examples of use



**E002**

**Referent**

Emergency exit (right hand)

**Function**

To signify an escape route

**Standard Image Content**

Full view of man moving (to right) through doorway

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; public places and in places of work

**Safety:** Safe condition

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Supplementary arrow sign is used to give directional information (E005, E006)

Safety manuals and notices

To improve conspicuity, use with a supplementary sign

**Additional Information**

See ISO DIS 3864-1 for examples of use 1

**E003****Referent**

First aid

**Function**

To signify the location of first aid equipment or facilities

**Standard Image Content**

A white cross on a green background or an alternative appropriate recognised ethnic device

**Field of Application**

For places of work, manufacturers and users

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension.

**E004****Referent**

Emergency telephone

**Function**

For summoning first aid or rescue

**Standard Image Content**

Telephone receiver in profile, with determinative cross or with another appropriate element, evocative for the targeted cultural group

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

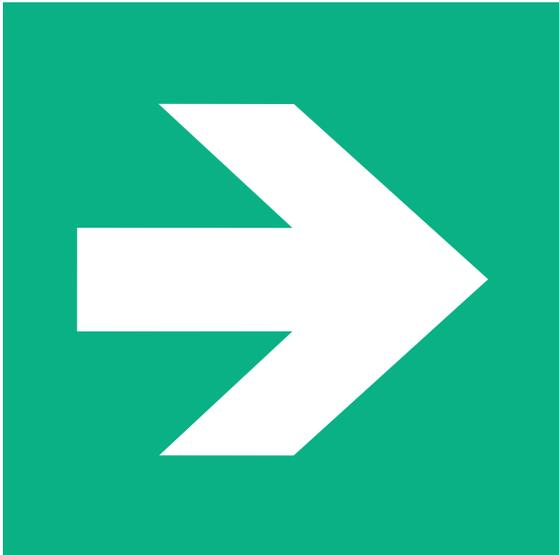
**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension.



**E005**

**Referent**

Direction

**Function**

To indicate direction (the arrow may be rotated in increments of 90° from the vertical)

Standard Image Content

Arrow with Belgian head, with angle at apex of between 84° and 86°

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing as supplementary sign

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

See ISO DIS 3864-1 supplementary sign



**E006**

**Referent**

Direction

**Function**

To indicate direction (the arrow may be rotated in increments of 90° from 45°)

Standard Image Content

Arrow with Belgian head, with angle at apex of between 84° and 86°

and 86°

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing as supplementary sign

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

See ISO DIS 3864-1 supplementary sign



**F001**

**Referent**

Fire extinguisher

**Function**

To signify a fire extinguisher

**Standard Image Content**

Front view of fire extinguisher with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and places of work

**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100



**F002**

**Referent**

Fire hose reel

**Function**

To signify fire equipment

**Standard Image Content**

Fire hose reel in profile, with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and places of work

**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100



**F003**

**Referent**

Fire ladder

**Function**

To signify a fire ladder

**Standard Image Content**

Front view of vertical ladder, with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use and places of work

**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100



**F004**

**Referent**

Collection of fire fighting equipment

**Function**

To signify a collection of fire fighting equipment

**Standard Image Content**

Fire helmet, with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use and in places of work

Fire safety

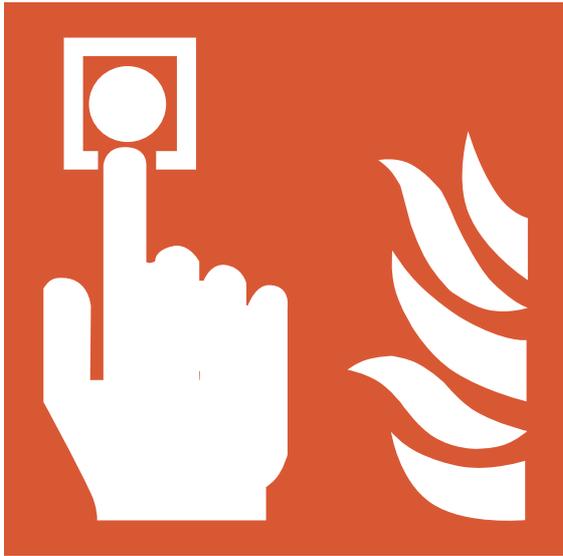
**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100. The shape of the helmet may be changed to better represent a country's style of fire helmet.

**F005****Referent**

Fire alarm call point

**Function**

To signify a fire alarm call point

**Standard Image Content**

Hand with projecting finger on push button of call point, with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and places of work  
Fire safety

**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100

**F006****Referent**

Fire emergency telephone

**Function**

To signify fire emergency telephone

**Standard Image Content**

Telephone receiver shown in profile, with determinative flames

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and places of work  
Fire safety

**Format of Application**

Fire safety signing

Fire safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

ISO comprehension test series 1979/80 run by Easterby & Graydon, AP reports 99 & 100



**M001**

**Referent**

General mandatory sign

**Function**

To signify a mandatory action

**Standard Image Content**

Exclamation mark

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

**Additional Information**

Requires supplementary sign to give further information



**P001**

**Referent**

General prohibition sign

**Function**

To signify a prohibited action

**Standard Image Content**

None, prohibition shape and colour only

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Requires supplementary sign to give further information



**P002**

**Referent**

No smoking

**Function**

To prohibit the smoking of cigarettes, pipes, cigars etc

**Standard Image Content**

Cigarette shown in profile with smoke

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P003**

**Referent**

Naked flames forbidden

Fire, open ignition source and smoking prohibited

**Function**

To prohibit smoking and all forms of naked flame

**Standard Image Content**

Match shown as profile with flame

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P004**

**Referent**

No thoroughfare

**Function**

To prohibit an unauthorised person from using a designated thoroughfare

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised man walking (left hand)

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P005**

**Referent**

Not drinking water

**Function**

To prohibit the drinking of unsuitable water

**Standard Image Content**

Tap above glass containing water indicated by wavy lines

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P006**

**Referent**

No access for fork lift trucks and other industrial vehicles

**Function**

To prohibit the use of fork lift trucks and other industrial vehicles in hazardous areas

**Standard Image Content**

Truck shown as profile with stylised driver

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P007**

**Referent**

No access for persons with pacemakers

**Function**

To prohibit a person from passing through a device that might harm a pacemaker

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised heart shape with cable

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**P008**

**Referent**

No metallic articles or watches

**Function**

To prohibit metallic articles and watches in a designated area

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised face of an analog wristwatch and the flat side of a key

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing  
Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W001**

**Referent**

General warning sign

**Function**

To signify a general warning

**Standard Image Content**

Exclamation mark

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing  
Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Requires supplementary sign to give further information



**W002**

**Referent**

Warning; Explosive material

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from explosive materials

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised exploding bomb

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W003**

**Referent**

Warning; Radioactive material

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from radioactive material

**Standard Image Content**

As abstract image shown opposite

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

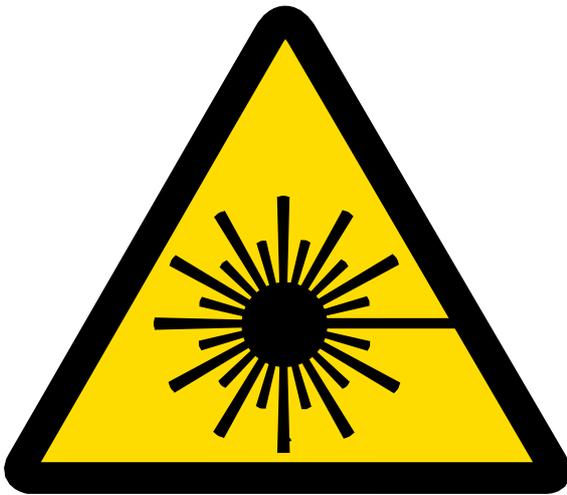
**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W004**

**Referent**

Warning; Laser beam

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from a laser beam

**Standard Image Content**

As abstract image shown opposite

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W005**

**Referent**

Warning; Non-ionising radiation

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from non-ionising radiation

**Standard Image Content**

As abstract image shown opposite

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension

**W006****Referent**

Warning; Magnetic field

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from a magnetic field

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised magnet with two radiating arcs either side

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension

**W007****Referent**

Warning; Obstacles

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from obstacles

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised man tripping over floor obstacle

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W008**

**Referent**

Warning; Drop (fall)

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from a drop

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised man falling from the edge of a surface

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension



**W009**

**Referent**

Warning; Biological hazard

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from a biological hazard

**Standard Image Content**

As abstract image shown opposite

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension

**W010****Referent**

Warning; Low temperature/freezing conditions

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from low temperature

**Standard Image Content**

As abstract image shown opposite

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text sign may be used to increase comprehension

**W011****Referent**

Warning; Slippery surface

**Function**

To warn of a hazard or danger from a slippery surface

**Standard Image Content**

Stylised man falling on a slippery surface

**Field of Application**

Both for everyday use; Public places and in places of work

**Format of Application**

Safety signing

Safety manuals and notices

**Additional Information**

Supplementary text may be used to increase comprehension