

SAFETY SIGNS

Where they are used in workplaces all safety signs must comply with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996. The regulations require that all safety signs comply with Part 1 of BS 5378. The regulations require that all safety signs whenever there is a risk that has not been avoided or controlled by other means, such as engineering controls or safe systems of work. The regulations also require employers to maintain safety signs which are provided by them and explain any unfamiliar signs to their employees and tell them what they need to do when they see a safety sign. Safety signs can be divided into four types.

Prohibition Sign

This is a sign, which indicates that certain behaviour is prohibited such as no smoking, no unauthorised person may operate this machine, no admittance. Prohibition signs are marked as follows :



White background

Red circular band and cross bar

Warning Sign

This is a sign which indicates the need for caution or gives a warning. Examples would be Caution - risk of fire, Caution - wet floor, caution - mind the step.

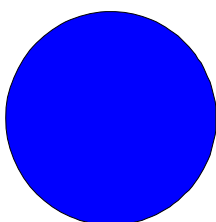


Yellow background

Triangle band should be black, as should any symbol or text

Mandatory Sign

These are signs which indicate the need for mandatory action such as an obligation to wear personal protective equipment. Examples are ear protection or eye protection. Also included in this category are other 'must do' signs such as wash your hands and keep clear - exit from emergency escape route.



Background colour shall be blue.
Text or symbols should be white.

Safe Condition Sign

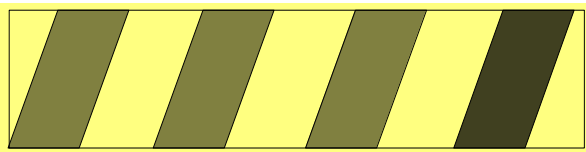
This is a sign which will indicate a safe condition such as the identification of first aid facilities, fire exits, etc.



Green background, text or symbols should be white

Danger Identification

If identification is required of places where there is a risk of collision, falling, stumbling or where there are steps holes in floors or similar hazards, the hazard may be marked with tape or barriers coloured as follows :



Combination of 50% orange/red or safety colour yellow with 50% black.