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**Graphical symbols — Safety colours and  
safety signs — Safety signs used in  
workplaces and public areas**

*Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —  
Signaux de sécurité utilisés sur les lieux de travail et dans les lieux  
publics*

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Published in Switzerland

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide 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 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 7010 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This first edition of ISO 7010, together with ISO 3864-1, cancels and replaces ISO 3864:1984, which has been technically revised.

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## 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 mobility of labour requires a common method of communicating 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. Education is an essential part of any system that provides safety information.

ISO 7010 is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific safety signing for their industry, to ensure that there is only one safety sign for each safety meaning. It is also intended that this International Standard be revised regularly to include safety signs as they are standardized by ISO, and which conform to the principles given in ISO 3864-1.

The safety signs in this International Standard have been validated by ISO/TC 145/SC 2 according to procedures of standardization current at the time of publication. Future standardization of safety signs may be facilitated with suitable evaluation techniques such as the testing outlined in ISO 9186. Acceptance criteria for safety sign qualification ought to be such that there is confidence that a suitable proportion of the intended audience will understand them. Further design criteria will be added as appropriate and will be approved by ISO/TC 145/SC 2.

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Safety signs given in this International 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.

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

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# Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Safety signs used in workplaces and public areas

**IMPORTANT** — The colours represented in the electronic file of this International Standard can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. Although the copies of this International Standard printed by ISO have been produced to correspond (with an acceptable tolerance as judged by the naked eye) to the requirements of ISO 3864-1, it is not intended that these printed copies be used for colour matching. Instead consult ISO 3864-1 which provides colorimetric and photometric properties together with, as a guideline, references from colour order systems.

## 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 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 International Standard is generally applicable to safety signs in workplaces and all locations and all sectors where safety-related questions may be posed. However, it is not applicable to the signalling used for guiding rail, road, river, maritime and air traffic and, in general, to those sectors subject to a regulation which may differ with regard to certain points of this International Standard and of ISO 3864-1.

This International Standard specifies the safety sign originals that may be scaled for reproduction and application purposes.

Supplementary text signs may be used in conjunction with these safety signs to improve comprehension.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3864-1, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 17724 and the following apply.

### 3.1

#### field of application

context or sphere of activity in which a graphical symbol or safety sign is to be used

**3.2  
format of application**

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

**3.3  
image content**

written description of the elements of a graphical symbol or safety sign and their relative disposition

**3.4  
referent**

idea or object that a graphical symbol is intended to represent

**3.5  
safety colour**

colour with special properties to which a safety meaning is attributed

**3.6  
safety shape**

geometric shape to which a safety meaning is attributed

**3.7  
safety sign**

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

**3.8  
safety sign original**

safety sign with which a referent, a graphical representation and a description of the application are associated

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**3.9  
safety symbol**

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

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**3.10  
supplementary sign**

sign that is supportive of another sign and the main purpose of which is to provide additional clarification

## 4 Referents and categorization of safety signs

### 4.1 General

The summaries in 4.2 and 4.3 are provided to facilitate the search for standardized safety signs.

This International Standard will be maintained electronically through the use of a database. The indexes of this database will be used in these summaries as search engines with each standardized safety sign having a unique reference number.

### 4.2 Referent (safety meaning)

Table 1 gives the list of referents in alphabetical order and provides the safety sign functional reference number.



Table 1 — Summary of referents by alphabetical order

Referent (safety meaning)	Functional reference number
Biological hazard, warning	W009
Direction, 45° arrow (90° increments), safe condition	E006
Direction, arrow (90° increments), safe condition	E005
Drop (fall), warning	W008
Emergency exit (left hand)	E001
Emergency exit (right hand)	E002
Emergency telephone	E004
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 action sign	M001
General prohibition sign	P001
General warning sign	W001
Laser beam, warning	W004
Low temperature/freezing conditions, warning	W010
Magnetic field, warning	W006
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 open flame; Fire, open ignition source and smoking prohibited	P003
No smoking	P002
No thoroughfare	P004
Non-ionizing radiation, warning	W005
Not drinking water	P005
Obstacles, warning	W007
Radioactive material or ionizing radiation, warning	W003
Slippery surface, warning	W011

### 4.3 Categorization of safety signs

Safety signs are categorized according to their function as follows:

- 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 action signs;
- P is the category for prohibition signs;
- W is the category for warning signs.

Table 2 summarizes the standardized safety signs used in workplaces and public areas in terms of function category, graphical symbol as well geometric shape and colour in accordance with ISO 3864-1.

## 5 Standardized safety signs

Tables 3 to 7 give safety sign originals in a uniform 70 mm size with corner marks to enable accurate enlargement and reduction scaling. 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 in Tables 3 to 7. However some degree of graphical modification is permitted when cultural differences or special application formats need to be considered, provided the original meaning is retained and comprehension of the safety sign is maintained. Consistent reproduction and use of these safety signs will lead to a progressively improved degree of comprehension at the international level.

In cases where the orientation of the symbol is not essential to its meaning, the orientation may be changed.

A graphical symbol may be depicted in outline or filled-in form.

Tables 3 to 7 present the safety sign originals according to their category as follows:

- |     |  |             |
|-----|--|-------------|
| — E | Means of escape and emergency equipment signs (safe condition signs) | see Table 3 |
| — F | Fire safety signs  | see Table 4 |
| — M | Mandatory action signs   | see Table 5 |
| — P | Prohibition signs  | see Table 6 |
| — W | Warning signs  | see Table 7 |

Tables 3 to 7 also give a description of the application of each safety sign.

Table 2 — Summary of all safety signs










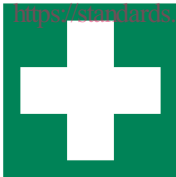






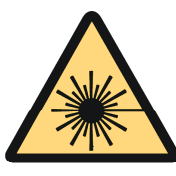












Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category				
	E	F	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs (safe condition signs)	Fire safety signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number Referent</p>	 <p><b>E001</b> Emergency exit (left hand)</p>	 <p><b>F001</b> Fire extinguisher</p>	 <p><b>M001</b> General mandatory action sign</p>	 <p><b>P001</b> General prohibition sign</p>	 <p><b>W001</b> General warning sign</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number Referent</p>	 <p><b>E002</b> Emergency exit (right hand)</p>	 <p><b>F002</b> Fire hose reel</p>	—	 <p><b>P002</b> No smoking</p>	 <p><b>W002</b> Warning; Explosive material</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number Referent</p>	 <p><b>E003</b> First aid</p>	 <p><b>F003</b> Fire ladder</p>	—	 <p><b>P003</b> No open flame; Fire, open ignition source and smoking prohibited</p>	 <p><b>W003</b> Warning; Radioactive material or ionizing radiation</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number Referent</p>	 <p><b>E004</b> Emergency telephone</p>	 <p><b>F004</b> Collection of fire fighting equipment</p>	—	 <p><b>P004</b> No thoroughfare</p>	 <p><b>W004</b> Warning; Laser beam</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category				
	E	F	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs (safe condition signs)	Fire safety signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
Safety sign			—		
Reference number	<b>E005</b>	<b>F005</b>	—	<b>P005</b>	<b>W005</b>
Referent	Direction, arrow (90° increments), safe condition	Fire alarm call point	—	Not drinking water	Warning; Non-ionizing radiation
Safety sign			—		
Reference number	<b>E006</b>	<b>F006</b>	—	<b>P006</b>	<b>W006</b>
Referent	Direction, 45° arrow (90° increments), safe condition	Fire emergency telephone	—	No access for fork lift trucks and other industrial vehicles	Warning; Magnetic field
Safety sign	—	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	—	<b>P007</b>	<b>W007</b>
Referent	—	—	—	No access for persons with pacemakers	Warning; Obstacles
Safety sign	—	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	—	<b>P008</b>	<b>W008</b>
Referent	—	—	—	No metallic articles or watches	Warning; Drop (fall)