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**Water safety signs and beach safety  
flags —**

Part 1:  
**Specifications for water safety signs  
used in workplaces and public areas**

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*Signaux de sécurité relatifs à l'eau et drapeaux de sécurité pour les  
plages —*

*Partie 1. Spécifications des signaux de sécurité relatifs à l'eau utilisés  
sur les lieux de travail et dans les lieux publics*

ISO 20712-1:2008

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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 20712-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

ISO 20712 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water safety signs and beach safety flags*:

- *Part 1: Specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas*
- *Part 2: Specifications for beach safety flags — Colour, shape, meaning and performance*
- *Part 3: Guidance for use*

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## Introduction

There is a need to standardize a system giving safety information related to aquatic activity 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.

This part of ISO 20712 is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific safety signing in places of aquatic activity to ensure that there is only one safety sign for each safety meaning. It is also intended that this part of ISO 20712 be revised regularly to include safety signs as they are standardized by ISO, and which conform to the principles given in ISO 3864-1 and the design criteria given in ISO 3864-3.

NOTE 1 Some countries' statutory regulations may differ in some respect from those given in this part of ISO 20712.

NOTE 2 Some countries may differ in some respect from the requirements given in this part of ISO 20712 in that they use the diamond geometric shape for warning signs.

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# Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

## Part 1: Specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas

**IMPORTANT** — The colours represented in the electronic file of this part of ISO 20712 can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. Although the copies of this part of ISO 20712 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

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This part of ISO 20712 prescribes water safety signs intended for use in connection with the aquatic environment. It is intended for use by owners and operators of aquatic environments and by manufacturers of signs and equipment. However, it is not applicable to signalling used for maritime traffic.

The shape and colour required to be used for safety signs, as prescribed by ISO 3864-1, are given together with the graphical symbols contained within each sign. The water safety sign originals meet the design criteria of ISO 3864-3.

This part of ISO 20712 specifies the water safety sign originals that may be scaled for reproduction and application purposes.

This part of ISO 20712 includes water safety signs which require that supplementary text signs be used in conjunction with these water safety signs to improve comprehension.

NOTE The criteria of acceptability adopted by ISO/TC 145/SC 2 are given on website [www.iso.org/tc145/sc2](http://www.iso.org/tc145/sc2).

### 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 3864-3, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 3: Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs*

ISO 9186-1, *Graphical symbols — Test methods — Part 1: Methods for testing comprehensibility*

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 aquatic environment**  
areas such as coastal and inland beaches and waterways, swimming pools and their facilities, and other bodies of water, slurry and other agricultural and industrial liquids storage
- 3.2 format of application**  
type of object on which the symbol or sign is intended to be used
- 3.3 referent**  
idea or object that a safety sign is intended to represent
- 3.4 safety sign original**  
safety sign with which a referent, a graphical representation and a description of the application are associated

### 4 Referents and categorization of water safety signs

#### 4.1 General

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

#### 4.2 Referent (safety meaning)

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

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Table 1 — Summary of referents by alphabetical order

Referent (safety meaning)	Functional reference number
Boating area, warning	WSW016
Crocodiles, alligators or caymans, warning	WSW025
Deep shelving beach, warning	WSW024
Deep water, warning	WSW005
High surf or large breaking waves, warning	WSW023
Incoming tides, warning	WSW018
Keep children under supervision in the aquatic environment	WSM002
Kite surfing, warning	WSW020
No body boarding	WSP016
No diving	WSP005
No jumping into water	WSP014
No kite surfing	WSP018
No manually powered craft	WSP008
No mechanically powered craft	WSP009
No outdoor footwear	WSP013
No parasailing	WSP019
No personal water craft	WSP010
No pushing into water	WSP015
No running	WSP001
No sailing	WSP006
No sand yachting	WSP020
No snorkelling	WSP003
No sub-aqua diving	WSP004
No surf craft	WSP012
No surfing between the red-and-yellow flags	WSP017
No swimming	WSP002
No towed water activity	WSP011
No windsurfing	WSP007
Parasailing, warning	WSW021
Public rescue equipment	WSE001
Quicksand or mud/deep mud or silt, warning	WSW019
Sand yachting, warning	WSW017
Sewage effluent outfall, warning	WSW013
Shallow water (diving), warning	WSW006
Sharks, warning	WSW012

Table 1 (continued)

Referent (safety meaning)	Functional reference number
Slipway, warning	WSW002
Strong currents, warning	WSW015
Strong winds, warning	WSW022
Submerged objects, warning	WSW007
Sudden drop in swimming or leisure pools, warning	WSW008
Surf craft area, warning	WSW004
Thin ice, warning	WSW001
Towed water activity area, warning	WSW003
Tsunami evacuation area	WSE002
Tsunami evacuation building	WSE003
Tsunami hazard zone, warning	WSW014
Unprotected edges, warning	WSW009
Unstable cliff, warning	WSW011
Unstable cliff edge, warning	WSW010
Wear personal flotation devices	WSM001

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**4.3 Categorization of water safety signs**

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Water 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);
- 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 and geometric shape and colour as specified in ISO 3864-1.

## 5 Standardized water safety signs

Tables 3 to 6 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 6. 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 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 6 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
— M	Mandatory action signs	see Table 4
— P	Prohibition signs	see Table 5
— W	Warning signs	see Table 6

Tables 3 to 6 also give a description of the application used for each safety sign.

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Table 2 — Summary of all safety signs









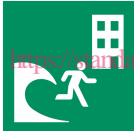






Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category			
	E	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
Safety sign  Reference number Referent	 <b>WSE001</b> Public rescue equipment	 <b>WSM001</b> Wear personal flotation devices	 <b>WSP001</b> No running	 <b>WSW001</b> Warning; Thin ice
Safety sign  Reference number Referent	 <b>WSE002</b> Tsunami evacuation area	 <b>WSM002</b> Keep children under supervision in the aquatic environment	 <b>WSP002</b> No swimming	 <b>WSW002</b> Warning; Slipway
Safety sign  Reference number Referent	 <b>WSE003</b> Tsunami evacuation building	— —	 <b>WSP003</b> No snorkelling	 <b>WSW003</b> Warning; Towed water activity area
Safety sign  Reference number Referent	— — —	— — —	 <b>WSP004</b> No sub-aqua diving	 <b>WSW004</b> Warning; Surf craft area
Safety sign  Reference number Referent	— — —	— — —	 <b>WSP005</b> No diving	 <b>WSW005</b> Warning; Deep water

Table 2 (continued)





















Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category			
	E	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number</p> <p>Referent</p>	—	—	 <p>WSP006 No sailing</p>	 <p>WSW006 Warning; Shallow water (diving)</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number</p> <p>Referent</p>	—	—	 <p>WSP007 No windsurfing</p>	 <p>WSW007 Warning; Submerged objects</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number</p> <p>Referent</p>	—	—	 <p>WSP008 No manually powered craft</p>	 <p>WSW008 Warning; Sudden drop in swimming or leisure pools</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number</p> <p>Referent</p>	—	—	 <p>WSP009 No mechanically powered craft</p>	 <p>WSW009 Warning; Unprotected edges</p>
<p>Safety sign</p> <p>Reference number</p> <p>Referent</p>	—	—	 <p>WSP010 No personal water craft</p>	 <p>WSW010 Warning; Unstable cliff edge</p>

Table 2 (continued)

Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category			
	E	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP011</b>	<b>WSW011</b>
Referent	—	—	No towed water activity	Warning; Unstable cliff
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP012</b>	<b>WSW012</b>
Referent	—	—	No surf craft	Warning; Sharks
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP013</b>	<b>WSW013</b>
Referent	—	—	No outdoor footwear	Warning; Sewage effluent outfall
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP014</b>	<b>WSW014</b>
Referent	—	—	No jumping into water	Warning; Tsunami hazard zone
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP015</b>	<b>WSW015</b>
Referent	—	—	No pushing into water	Warning; Strong currents

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Table 2 (continued)

Safety sign, reference number and referent	Category			
	E	M	P	W
	Means of escape and emergency equipment signs	Mandatory action signs	Prohibition signs	Warning signs
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP016</b>	<b>WSW016</b>
Referent	—	—	No body boarding	Warning; Boating area
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP017</b>	<b>WSW017</b>
Referent	—	—	No surfing between the red and yellow flags	Warning; Sand yachting
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP018</b>	<b>WSW018</b>
Referent	—	—	No kite surfing	Warning; Incoming tides
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP019</b>	<b>WSW019</b>
Referent	—	—	No parasailing	Warning; Quicksand or mud/deep mud or silt
Safety sign	—	—		
Reference number	—	—	<b>WSP020</b>	<b>WSW020</b>
Referent	—	—	No sand yachting	Warning; Kite surfing