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

Part 2:

**Specifications for beach safety flags —  
Colour, shape, meaning and performance**

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

*Partie 2: Spécifications des drapeaux de sécurité pour les plages —  
Couleur, forme, signification et performance*

ISO 20712-2:2007

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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 20712-2 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 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 beach safety flags 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.

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

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# Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

## Part 2:

# Specifications for beach safety flags — Colour, shape, meaning and performance

**IMPORTANT** — The colours represented in the electronic file of this document can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. Although the copies of this document printed by ISO have been produced to correspond (with an acceptable tolerance as judged by the naked eye) to the requirements of this part of ISO 20712, it is not intended that these printed copies be used for colour matching.

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 20712 specifies requirements for the shape and colour of beach safety flags for the management of activities on coastal and inland beaches, to be used for giving information on wind and water conditions and other hazardous conditions, and to indicate the location of swimming and other aquatic activity zones extending from the beach into the water. It also specifies the colorimetric and photometric properties and the physical properties, including strength and colour fastness, of the materials from which beach safety flags are to be made.

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It is not applicable to flags for use on firing ranges or to flags for use to indicate water quality or to signalling used for maritime traffic.

**NOTE** The illustrations in this part of ISO 20712 are as accurate as possible within the limitations of the printing process.

## 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 105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

ISO 105-A03, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A03: Grey scale for assessing staining*

ISO 105-B02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B02: Colour fastness to artificial light: Xenon arc fading lamp test*

ISO 105-B03, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B03: Colour fastness to weathering: Outdoor exposure*

ISO 105-E01, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part E01: Colour fastness to water*

ISO 105-E02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part E02: Colour fastness to sea water*

ISO 105-X12, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part X12: Colour fastness to rubbing*

ISO 2076, *Textiles — Man-made fibres — Generic names*

ISO/CIE 10526, *CIE standard illuminants for colorimetry*

ISO/CIE 10527, *CIE standard colorimetric observers*

ISO 13934-1, *Textiles — Tensile properties of fabrics — Part 1: Determination of maximum force and elongation at maximum force using the strip method*

ISO 13938-1, *Textiles — Bursting properties of fabrics — Part 1: Hydraulic method for determination of bursting strength and bursting distension*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

EN 1049-2:1993, *Textiles — Woven fabrics — Construction — Methods of analysis — Part 2: Determination of number of threads per unit length*

EN 12127, *Textiles — Fabrics — Determination of mass per unit area using small samples*

CIE 15, *Colorimetry*

BS 2F 127:1991, *Specification for nylon fabrics suitable for coating with natural or synthetic elastomers for aerospace purposes*

BS 5441, *Methods of test for knitted fabrics*

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### 3 Terms and definitions

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

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#### 3.1

##### **beach**

area forming a shoreline or sloping bank at the edge of the sea or a river estuary or lake

#### 3.2

##### **beach safety flag**

material that gives a particular safety message by means of a combination of one or more colours and a geometric shape, and is attached by one end to a pole or rope

NOTE A flag can also have additional support, e.g. a horizontal support.

### 4 Beach safety flags

#### 4.1 General





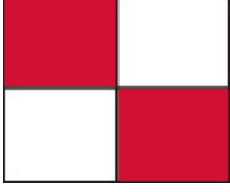
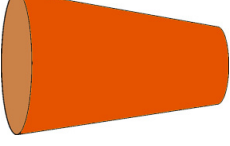
Beach safety flags shall be made of material conforming to Clause 5.

#### 4.2 Meaning, function, shape and colour of beach safety flags

The meaning, function, colour and shape of beach safety flags shall be as specified in Table 1.



Table 1 — Meaning, function, shape and colour of beach safety flags

Beach safety flag	Meaning, function, shape and colour	
 <b>BF.01</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	Dangerous conditions.
	<b>Function</b>	To signify a severe hazard: water conditions unsafe for swimming and other water activities. People should not enter the water.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Rectangle, red.
 <b>BF.02</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	General warning flag.
	<b>Function</b>	To signify a general warning of a hazard which requires a supplementary sign giving further information.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Rectangle, yellow.
 <b>BF.03</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	Lifeguard-patrolled swimming and bodyboarding zone or lifeguard on duty.
	<b>Function</b>	Pair of flags to signify a swimming and bodyboarding zone which has a lifeguard patrol, or a single flag to signify that a lifeguard is on duty.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Rectangle, red and yellow. Divided horizontally into two equal halves; red half at the top.
 <b>BF.04</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	Surfboard and other water craft zone or boundary.
	<b>Function</b>	To signify a zone, or the boundary of a zone, designated for use of surfboards and other water craft.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Rectangle, black and white. Divided into four equal rectangles, two black and two white. Upper black rectangle at the pole side.
 <b>BF.05</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	Emergency evacuation.
	<b>Function</b>	To signify that people should leave the water because of an emergency.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Rectangle, red and white. Divided into four equal rectangles, two red and two white. Upper red rectangle at the pole side.
 <b>BF.06</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	No inflatables to be used on the water.
	<b>Function</b>	To signify the danger of using inflatables in windy or otherwise unsafe water conditions.
	<b>Shape and colour</b>	Truncated cone, orange.