



International  
Standard

**ISO 3864-3**

**Graphical symbols — Safety colours  
and safety signs —**

Part 3:

**Design principles for graphical  
symbols for use in safety signs**

*Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de  
sécurité —*

*Partie 3: Principes de conception pour les symboles graphiques  
utilisés dans les signaux de sécurité*

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3864-3:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- references have been added in the Introduction to the list of translations of referents and to the ISO Online Browsing Platform;
- normative references have been updated;
- exclusion zone for warning signs in [7.4.4](#) has been clarified.

A list of all parts in the ISO 3864 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

This corrected version of ISO 3864-3:2024 incorporates the following corrections:

- Figure 2 and Figure 4 have been updated to the most recent versions.

## Introduction

Graphical symbols in safety signs are used for a wide range of purposes. There is a need to standardize the principles for creating these graphical symbols to ensure visual clarity, to maintain consistency and thereby to improve recognition and comprehension. The principles set out in this document specify the design criteria by which graphical symbols are judged for standardization and publication in ISO 7010.

Graphical symbols used in safety signs are not always intuitively understood. Often training can be necessary to inform people about the meaning of a graphical symbol. Such training can take place by including the meaning of a graphical symbol in operation manuals, company bulletins and training programme materials, as well as by using supplementary text with the safety sign.

NOTE 1 Information on procedures, criteria of acceptability, safety sign templates and application of safety signs, as well as translations of the referents, can be found at <https://www.iso.org/tc145/sc2>.

NOTE 2 All safety signs are available on the ISO Online Browsing Platform at <https://www.iso.org/obp>.

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