



International  
Standard

ISO 22578

## Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Natural disaster safety way guidance system

*Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de  
sécurité — Système de guidage pour mise en sécurité en cas de  
catastrophe naturelle*

Second edition

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## Foreword

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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 second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 22578:2022) and ISO-22578-2:2024, which have been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- ISO-22578-2 has been incorporated as [Annex D](#).

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).

## Introduction

There is a need to standardize a system for giving safety information related to evacuation to safety evacuation areas in the event of natural disasters that relies as little as possible on the use of words to achieve understanding.

It is extremely important for people who do not understand the local language to figure out the evacuation route instantly when they encounter a natural disaster in a foreign country.

This document reflects best practice; the illustrations show installation practice designed to provide the optimum amount of information to clearly identify the hazards of different types of natural disaster in order to direct evacuation by the appropriate location of evacuation route signs and evacuation plan signs, and the selection of places of refuge.

International travel increases the need for standardized methods of safety communication. A standardized method of signing with the use of appropriate supplementary signs and text throughout the public environment assists the process of education and instruction on the meaning of the evacuation route signs and place of refuge signs, and the appropriate actions to take.

The illustrations within this document are based on the assumption that people might be unfamiliar with the features of the natural disaster or the location of places of refuge.

It is important that the application of safety way guidance systems is standardized to aid comprehension. While education in the comprehension of the signs and evacuation plan signs is essential, incomprehension caused by lack of standardization can lead to confusion and possibly hinder effective evacuation.

This document does not purport to include all the necessary aspects or requirements of the design of a natural disaster safety way guidance system. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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