Safety Signs Selection Guide

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Safety Sign Selection Guide

Safety signs are a necessary and required component for warning and communicating messages or notices to your employees, customers and/or the general public. In order to provide a clear and concise message, the sign must meet a variety of requirements and standards. Selecting and placing a safety sign for your facility is more than a workplace requirement, but an opportunity to prevent costly accidents or dangerous hazards for individuals within your facility.

Comply with Applicable Regulations

Check the specific sign requirements of the regulation you're complying with. Exit and fire extinguisher signs are covered by NFPA and IBC, general and chemical hazards by OSHA, traffic and parking signs by the Dept. of Transportation. Layout, text and signal words are covered by OSHA and ANSI. Below are several of the common regulations affecting signs:

Organization	What's Covered
OSHA – Occupational Safety & Health Administration	OSHA 1910.37 Means of Egress, General (Exit signs and routes) OSHA 1910.144 Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards OSHA 1910.145 Specifications for Accident Prevention Signs and Tags OSHA 1910.146 Permit-Required Confined Spaces OSHA 1910.147 Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) OSHA 1910.1200 Hazard Communication (includes updated GHS standard) OSHA 1910.303 Electrical Subpart S; (g)(2)(iii) and (h)(5)(iii)[B] – Warning Signs) OSHA 1926.200 Signs, Signals & Barricades for Construction
DOT – Department of Transportation	Hazardous Materials Warning Placards and Labels - Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 172 Subpart D–Marking, Subpart E – Labeling, Subpart F-Placarding - Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 100-199 MUTCD 2009 with Revisions 1 & 2 (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) is the most current edition of the MUTCD
NFPA – National Fire Protection Association	NFPA 70: National Electrical Code NFPA 101: Life Safety Code NFPA 101B: Code for Means of Egress for Buildings and Structures NFPA 704: Standard System for the Identification of the Hazards of Materials for Emergency Response
ICC – International Code Council	IBC 2012 International Building Code IFC 2012 International Fire Code
IMO – International Maritime Organization	Resolution A.752(18) Egress and Low Level Lighting
ANSI – American National Standards Institute	ANSI Z535.1-2001, Safety Color Code ANSI Z535.2-2002, Environmental and Facility Safety Signs ANSI Z535.3-2003, Criteria for Safety Symbols ANSI Z535.4-2004, Product Safety Signs & Labels
ISO – International Standards Organization	ISO 7010:2011 Prescribes Safety Signs for the Purposes of Accident Prevention, Fire Protection, Health Hazard Information and Emergency Evacuation. ISO 7001:2007 Graphical Symbols, Public Information Symbols
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act	2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design; 703 Signs Meet Occupational Health Administration (OSHA 1910.145) and ANSI (ANSI Z535) regulations and guidelines.

The majority of facility signs need to meet Occupational Health Administration (OSHA 1910.145) and ANSI (ANSI Z535) regulations and guidelines.

Examples:

To Comply with OSHA 1910.145:
OSHA requires safety signs to indicate specific hazards that, without identification, may lead to accidental injury to workers and/or the public or to property damage. These signs must also be designed with rounded or blunt corners and must be free from sharp edges or other sharp projections. Examples of OSHA regulated messages include "Danger," "Caution" and "Safety" signs.

OSHA 1910.145 Examples

To Comply with ANSI Z535:
ANSI Z535 requires a specific set of standards for sign design and application. In order to comply, signs must include universal pictograms that represent various hazards. Each sign must also contain a safety alert symbol and a white on black text box. The use of signs, colors and symbols are intended to identify and warn against specific hazards and accident preventions. These signs are meant to provide a clear and concise safety alert message. Examples of ANSI regulated messages include "Danger," "Warning," "Caution," "Notice" and fire and general safety signs.

Safety Alert Symbol

Left justified upper and lower case ketters

Universal Pictogram

White text on a black background

ANSI Z535 Example

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