

Signs and Tags

Overview

In an effort to decrease the number of accidents and injuries in the workplace, OSHA developed two standards on safety color coding, and specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.

There are a few different means of designating signs and tags. Color and shape work well for the purpose of communicating required information.

Warning sign colors

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has developed the following color scheme:

Red — means fire, danger, or stop.

Orange — means warning.

Yellow — means caution.

Green — means safety.

Blue — means notice.

Warning sign shapes

Sign shapes have meaning too:

Triangle — means hazards alerts.

Circle — signifies mandatory actions.

Square/Rectangle — signifies information.

Circle with slash — prohibited activity, based upon sign label or icon.

Warning labels on piping

Labels on piping serve to warn employees and emergency personnel what is contained in the pipes in the workplace. Piping may be labeled as:

yellow, meaning contents are flammable.

green, meaning contents are liquid, non-flammable.

blue, meaning contents are gaseous.

red, meaning contents are fire quenching materials.