

An Introduction to Safety signs and signals for You

Regulations: The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996

Safety signs and signals

They are around us – at home, on roads, at footy stadiums, at work and so on.

They tell us what to do and not to do to look after our health and safety.

At work, when an employer has to provide?

1. **Where there is a significant risk to health and safety that has not been removed or controlled by other methods.**
Employers must ensure:
 - ✓ safety signs and signals are provided (or are in place),
 - ✓ maintained and
 - ✓ they are obeyed by people reading them, looking at them or hearing them.
2. When specified in law. e.g. fire safety signs; hazardous substances product labels, hand signals for hoisting and lifting.

When it is appropriate?

3. Only where their use can further reduce the risk. – e.g. a sign ordering “do not enter”

It is not a substitute

4. For those situations where other methods of control will do it better – e.g. engineering, locks, gates, safety lids.

Determining requirements

5. When doing risk assessments and or when specified and required by law.

Training employees

6. Most signs are self-explanatory. Employers must ensure that their employees are aware of and understand the meaning of safety signs and signals. Be aware and cater for workers whose language of communication is not English.

What is a safety sign?

7. It provides information or instruction about safety or health at work.

Figure 1: Safety sign colours and purpose

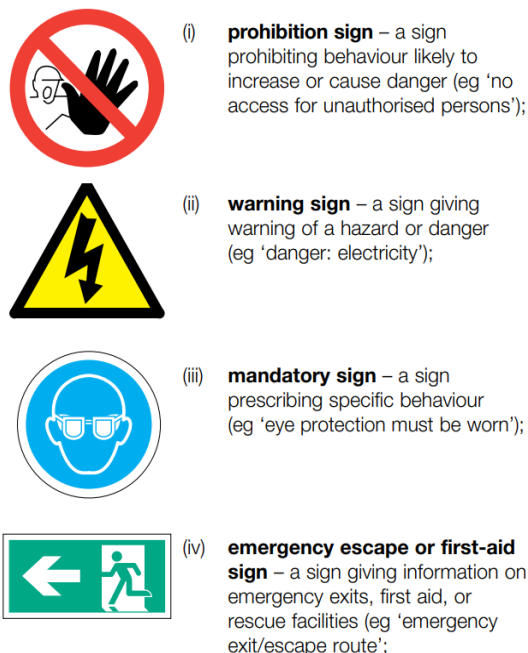


Figure 2: Ways of providing signs and signals






Method	Pictograms	Purpose
Safety Colours	Red, Blue, Yellow, Orange, Green	See Figure 1, above
Sign Shape	Circle, triangle, circle with a cross, diamond and rectangle	
Symbols or pictograms	See Figure 1, above	See Figure 1, above
Illuminated sign		Make it visible and prominent. e.g. Fire exit signs, see figure 1 above
Acoustic signals		Sound signal. e.g. fire alarms
Verbal communication		a predetermined spoken message communicated by a human or artificial voice. e.g. evacuate the building immediately
Hand signals		a movement or position of the arms or hands giving a recognised signal. e.g. for crane lifting operations, directing an aeroplane to its parking slot.
Fire safety signs		What to do in case of a fire or fire alarm

Figure 3: examples of prohibition signs



Figure 4: Examples of mandatory signs



Figure 5: Examples of warning signs

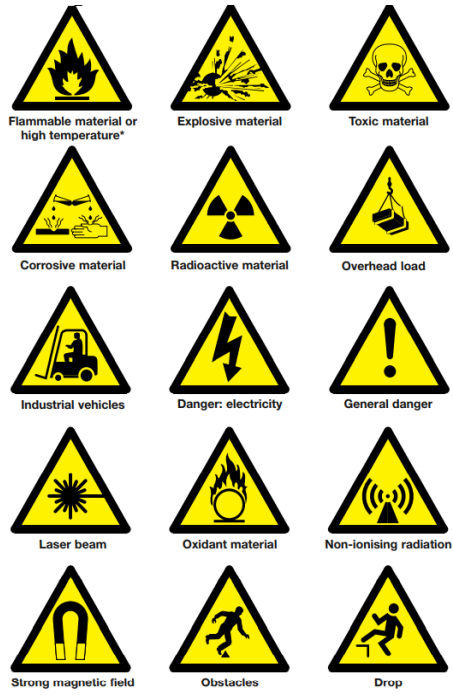


Figure 6: Hazardous and dangerous substances

GHS hazard pictograms

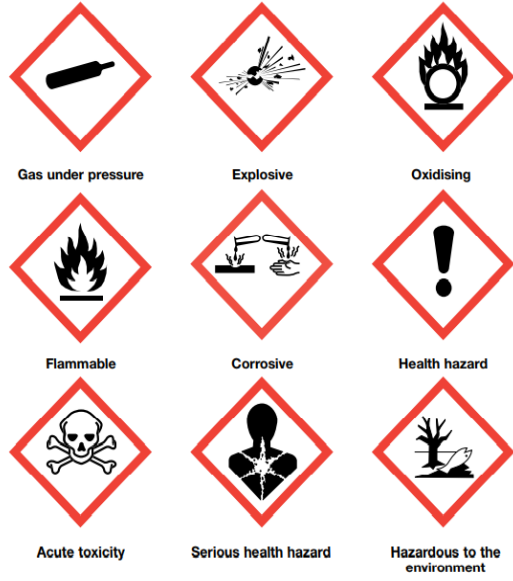


Figure 7: First aid signs

First-aid signs

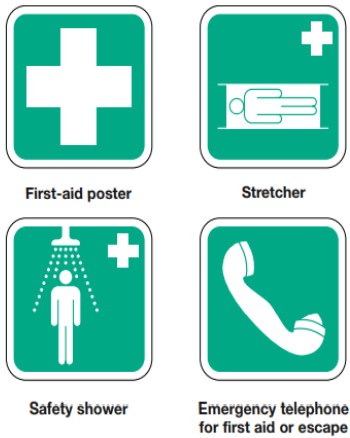


Figure 8: Firefighting signs

