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IS 9457 (2005): Safety colours and safety signs - Code of Practice [CHD 8: Occupational Safety, Health and Chemical Hazards]



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Indian Standard SAFETY COLOURS AND SAFETY SIGNS — CODE OF PRACTICE (First Revision)

ICS 01.080.10

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BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS MANAK BHAVAN, 9 BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG NEW DELHI 110002

Price Group 6

FOREWORD

This Indian Standard (First Revision) was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards, after the draft finalized by the Occupational Safety and Health and Chemical Hazards Sectional Committee had been approved by the Chemical Division Council.

This standard was first published in 1980 to unify widely different Codes of practice hoping that those involved in the preparation of new or amended schemes for safety colours and safety signs will base their schemes on the provisions of this standard.

This standard also fulfills the need to standardize a system of providing safety information which does not require the use of words. The need arises because of the increase in national and international trade and travel and the growth of work forces lacking a common language. Further, this standard would help in education which is an essential part of disseminating safety information. It is desirable to standardize these systems as lack of standardization may perhaps lead to confusion and even accidents.

Over the years, throughout the world, Code of practice for safety colours and safety signs have been further developed to draw attention rapidly to hazardous situations and objects. This revision is based on International Standard ISO 3864-1 'Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1 : Design principles for safety signs on workplaces and in public areas'. In the preparation of this standard assistance has also been derived from the following International Standards:

BS : 5378 – Part 1 : 1980	Safety signs and colours — Part 1 : Specification for colour and design
BS : 5378 – Part 2 : 1980	Safety signs and colours - Part 2 : Specification for colorimetric and
	photometric properties of materials

The composition of the Committee responsible for the formulation of this standard is given at Annex B.

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 1960 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (*revised*)'. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be the same as that of the specified value in this standard.

Indian Standard SAFETY COLOURS AND SAFETY SIGNS — CODE OF PRACTICE

(First Revision)

1 SCOPE

This standard prescribes the safety identification colours and design principles for safety signs to be used in workplaces and in public areas for the purpose of accident prevention, fire protection, health hazard information and emergency evacuation.

This standard is applicable to workplaces, all locations and all sectors where safety-related questions may be posed. However, it is not applicable to the signalling used for guiding rail, road, river, maritime and air traffic and generally speaking, to those sectors subject to regulations which may differ.

2 REFERENCE

The standard given below contains provisions, which through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated was valid. All standards are subject to revisions and parties to agreement based on this standard is encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standard indicated below:

IS No. Title 5 : 2004 Colours for ready mixed paints and

enamels (fifth revision)

3 TERMINOLOGY

For the purpose of this standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Coefficient of Retroreflection, R' — Plane retroreflecting surface quotient of the luminous intensity (/) of a plane retroreflecting material in the direction of observation divided by the product of the illuminance (E_1) of the retroreflecting surface on a plane perpendicular to the direction of the incident light and its area (A).

$$R' = \frac{1}{E_1 \cdot A}$$

3.2 Combined Materials — Materials which combine the optical characteristics of photoluminescent and retroreflective materials.

3.3 Critical Detail — Element of a graphical symbol

without which the graphical symbol cannot be understood.

3.4 Fluorescence — Photoluminescence in which the emitted optical radiation results from direct transitions from the photo-excited energy level to a lower level, these transitions taking place generally within 10 ns after the excitation.

3.5 Luminance Contrast — Quotient of the luminance of the contrast colour L_1 divided by the luminance of the safety colour L_2 where L_1 is greater than L_2 .

$$K = \frac{L_1}{L_2}$$

3.6 Luminance Factor — Ratio of the luminance of the surface element in a given direction to that of a perfect reflecting or transmitting diffuser identically illuminated.

3.7 Luminescence — Emission, by atoms, molecules or ions in a material of optical radiation which for certain wavelengths or regions of the spectrum is in excess of the radiation due to thermal emission from that material at the same temperature, as a result of these particles being excited by energy other than thermal agitation.

3.8 Ordinary Materials — Materials which are neither retroreflecting nor luminescent.

3.9 Retroflecting Materials — Materials which reflect radiation in a direction close to the opposite of the direction from which it came.

3.10 Phosphorescence — Photoluminescence delayed by storage of energy in an intermediate energy level.

3.11 Photoluminescence — Luminescence caused by absorption of optical radiation.

3.12 Safety Colour — Colour of special properties to which a safety meaning is attributed.

3.13 Safety Marking — Marking which adopts the use of safety colours and/or safety contrast colours to convey a safety message or render an object or location conspicuous.

3.14 Safety Sign — Sign which gives a general safety message, obtained by a combination of a colour and

IS 9457 : 2005

geometric shape and which by the addition of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety message.

3.15 Supplementary Sign — Sign that is supportive of another sign and whose main purpose is to provide additional clarification.

4 PURPOSE OF SAFETY COLOURS AND SAFETY SIGNS

4.1 The purpose of safety colours and safety signs is to draw attention rapidly to objects and situations affecting safety and health and to gain rapid understanding of a specific message.

4.2 The use of safety colours and safety signs should not replace the need for proper accident prevention measures.

4.3 Safety signs shall be used only for instructions which are related to safety and health.

5 GEOMETRIC FORM, SAFETY COLOURS AND SAFETY SIGNS

5.1 Safety Colours

There shall be four safety colours — red, yellow, green and blue. Their shades shall be close match to the following shade numbers (*see* IS 5):

Red	;	Shade number 537 signal red
Yellow	:	Shade number 309 canary yellow
Green	:	Shade number 221 brilliant green
Blue	:	Shade number 166 french blue

5.1.1 Periodic checks should be made to ensure that the colours of the signs and symbols continued to be a close match to the standard shades mentioned above.

5.2 General meaning assigned to geometric shapes safety colours and contrast colours for safety signs is given in Table 1.

6 DIMENSIONS OF SAFETY SIGNS

The preferred dimensions of safety sign and preferred letter sizes should be as given in Table 2.

7 LAYOUT OF SAFETY SIGN

7.1 General

The safety colours, contrast colours and geometric shapes (*see* **5**) shall be used only in the following combinations to obtain the five basic types of safety signs (*see* Fig. 1 to 7).

Where a graphical symbol is not available to indicate a particular desired meaning, the meaning shall be obtained preferably by using the appropriate general sign together with a supplementary sign (*see* Fig. 8 to 16).

Borders are recommended to achieve contrast between the safety and/or supplementary sign and the surrounding. The value of the border is 0.025 to 0.05 of the geometric shape as shown in Fig. 1 to 10 and using the dimensions ' a_s ' for rectangular signs. For practical reasons d is equal to d_s and b is equal to b_s within a tolerance of 5 percent.

7.2 Prohibition Signs

Prohibition signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 1.

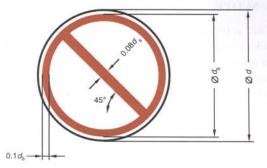


FIG. 1 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A PROHIBITION SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	:	White
Circular band and diagonal bar	:	Red
Graphical symbol	:	Black
Border	:	White

The safety colour red shall cover at least 35 percent of the total area of the sign.

7.3 Mandatory Action Signs

Mandatory action signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 2.

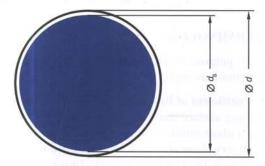


FIG. 2 LAYOUT REQUIREMENT FOR A MANDATORY ACTION SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	:	Blue
Graphical symbol	:	White
Border	:	White

The safety colour blue shall cover at least 50 percent of the area of the sign.

Table 1 General Meaning of Geometric Shapes, Safety Colours and Contrast Colours

(Clause 5.2)

Geometric Shape (2)	(3)	Safety Colour (4)	Contrast Colour (5)	Graphical Symbol Colour (6)	Example of Use (7)
Circle with Diagonal Bar	Prohibition	Red	White	Black	a) No Smokingb) No Unauthorised Vehiclesc) Do not Drink
Circle	Mandatory Action	Blue	White	White	 a) Wear Eye Protection b) Wear Personal Protective Equipment c) Switch off Before Beginning Work
Equilateral Triangle	Warning	Yellow	Black	Black	a) Danger Hot Surfaceb) Danger Acidc) Danger High Voltage
Square Restancle	Safe Condition Means of Escape Safety Equipment	Green	White	White	a) First Aid Roomb) Fire Exitc) Fire Assembly Point
Rectangle	Fire Safety	Red	White	White	 a) First Alarm Call Point b) Fire Fighting Equipment c) Fire Extinguisher
Square	Supplementary Information	White or the Colour of the Safety Sign	Black or the Contrast Colour of the Relevant Safety Sign	Symbol Colour of the Relevant Safety Sign	As Appropriate to Reflect Message given by Graphical Symbol
	(2) Circle with Diagonal Bar Circle Circle Equilateral Triangle Equilateral Triangle Equilateral Triangle Equilateral Triangle Equilateral Triangle	(2)(3)Image: Circle with Diagonal BarProhibitionImage: Circle with Diagonal BarMandatory ActionImage: Circle Circle CircleWarningImage: Circle Circle Circle CircleWarningImage: Circle	(2)(3)Colour (4)(3)Red(4)ProhibitionRed(5)Mandatory ActionBlue(6)WarningVellow(7)Safe Condition Bcape Safety EquipmentGreen(8)Safe Condition Means of Escape Safety EquipmentGreen(9)Safe Condition Means of Escape Safety EquipmentRed(10)Fire Safety RectangleFire Safety Means of Escape Safety Equipment(10)SquareSafe Safety Means of Escape Safety Equipment(10)SquareFire Safety Means of Escape Safety Equipment(10)SquareSafety Means of Escape Safety Equipment(10)SquareSafety Square(10)SquareSupplementary of the Colour of the Colour	(2)(3)Colour (4)Colour (5)(3)(3)RedWhite(4)ProhibitionRedWhite(5)Mandatory ActionBlueWhite(1)Mandatory ActionBlueWhite(2)WarningYellowBlack(1)Safe Consition Bicape Safety EquipmentGreenWhite(2)Safe Consition Bicape Safety EquipmentGreenWhite(2)Fire SafetyRedWhite(3)Fire SafetyRedWhite(4)Supplementary InformationSupplementary of theBlack or the Contrast Contrast Contrast of the	(2)(3)Colour (4)Colour (5)Symbol Colour (6)(3)ProhibitionRedWhiteBlack(1)Mandatory ActionBlueWhiteWhite(2)Mandatory ActionBlueWhiteWhite(2)Mandatory ActionBlueWhiteBlack(2)Mandatory ActionSelueSelueBlack(2)Mandatory ActionVellowBlackBlack(3)WarningVellowBlackBlack(4)Safe Condition Excipe Safety EquipmentGreenWhiteWhite(5)SequareFire SafetyRedWhiteWhite(5)Fire SafetyRedWhite or the ColourSymbol Colour SequareSupplementary Supplementary InformationBlack or the Contrast of the Relevant Safety Safety

SI No.	Modular Height of Sign Plate	Diameter or Height of Geometric Safety Sign (b)	Height of Letter 'x'
	mm	mm	mm
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1)	75	60	5.0
ii)	100	sir	6.6
iii)	150	120	10.0
iv)	225	180	15.0
v)	300	240	20.0
vi)	600	480	40.0
vii)	750	000	50,0
viii)	900	720	60.0
ix)	1 200	960	80.0

Table 2 Dimensions of Safety Signs

(Clause 6)

7.4 Warning Signs

Warning action signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 3.



FIG. 3 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A WARNING ACTION SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	: Yellow
Triangular band	: Black
Graphical symbol	: Black
Border	: Yellow or white

The safety colour shall cover at least 50 percent of the total area of the sign.

7.5 Safe Condition Signs

Safe condition signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 4 or Fig. 5.



FIG. 4 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A SQUARE SAFE CONDITION SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	1	Green
Graphical symbol	1	White
Border	4	White

The safety colour green shall cover at least 50 percent of the area of the sign.

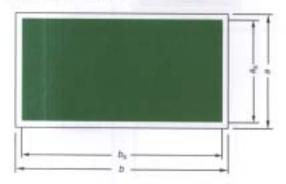


FIG. 5 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A RECTANGULAR SAFE CONDITION SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	12	Green
Graphical symbol	1	White
Border		White

The safety colour green shall cover at least 50 percent of the area of the sign.

7.6 Fire Safety Signs

Fire safety signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 6 or Fig. 7.

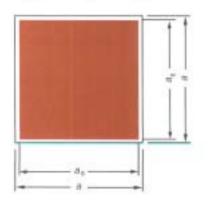


FIG. 6 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A SQUARE FIRE SAFETY SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	- 13	Red
Graphical symbol	1	White
Border	;	White

The safety colour red shall cover at least 50 percent of the area of the sign.

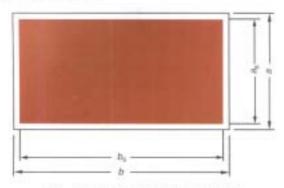


FIG. 7 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A RECTANGULAR FIRE SAFETY SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour		Red
Graphical symbol	+	White
Border	=	White

The safety colour red shall cover at least 50 percent of the area of the sign.

8 LAYOUT OF SUPPLEMENTARY, COMBINATION AND MULTIPLE SIGN

8.1 General

Words may be used to supplement or clarify the meaning of the symbol(s) used on a safety sign. Words shall be placed in either a separate supplementary sign or as a part of a combination sign.

8.2 Supplementary Signs

Supplementary signs shall comply with the layout requirements given in Fig. 8 or Fig. 9.

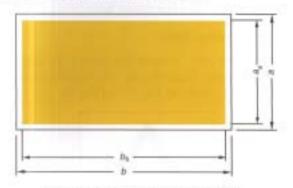


FIG. 8 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	t	White or safety colour of the safety sign	
Symbol or text colour	t	Relevant contrast colour	
Border	:	White	

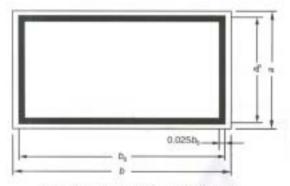


FIG. 9 LAYOUT REQUIREMENTS FOR A SUPPLEMENTARY SIGN WITH BORDERS

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Background colour	1	White or safety colour of the safety sign
Symbol or text colour	;	Relevant contrast colour
Border	÷	White
Boundary	÷	Black

8.3 Position Assignment of a Supplementary Sign

The positions of the supplementary sign are shown in Fig. 10. The supplementary sign shall be placed below (see Fig. 11) to the right (see Fig. 12) or to the left of the safety sign.



FIG. 10 POSITION ASSIGNMENT OF A SUPPLEMENTARY SIGN

8.4 Combination Signs

Combination signs contain the safety sign and the supplementary sign on one rectangular carrier. Examples are shown in Fig. 11 and Fig. 12.



FIG. 11 LAYOUT FOR A COMBINATION SIGN WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY SIGN BELOW THE SAFETY SIGN

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Colour of	sign	carrier	1	Colour of the safety sign	
				or white	

Symbol or text colour : Relevant contrast colour



FIG. 12 LAYOUT FOR A COMBINATION SIGN WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY SIGN TO THE RIGHT OF THE SAFETY SIGN.

The colours of the sign shall be as follows:

Colour of sign carrier : Symbol or text

Colour

: Colour of the safety sign or white relevant contrast colour

8.5 Multiple Signs as a Means of Communicating **Complex Safety Messages**

A multiple sign is a combination sign containing two or more safety signs and/or associated supplementary signs on the same rectangular carrier. An example of a layout for a multiple sign used to communicate a warning, a mandatory instruction to avoid risk of injury and/or provide a prohibition message is given in Fig. 13.

In multiple signs, the order of the safety signs (and/or the corresponding supplementary signs) should according to the importance of the safety messages. The horizontal layout may also be used.



FIG. 13 EXAMPLE OF A LAYOUT FOR MULTIPLE SIGN

8.6 Combination Signs Using the Supplementary Sign Depicting an Arrow, with and without Supplementary Text Signs

A graphical symbol sign, a supplementary sign and a supplementary directional arrow sign, may be combined to provide a comprehensive directional safety message. Examples are given in Fig. 14 to Fig. 16.

A combination sign on one carrier may omit internal borders.

Directional arrows shaft be placed below or to the left or right of the safety sign.



Left from here

Left from here

FIG. 14 EXAMPLE OF A COMBINATION SIGN WITH DIRECTIONAL ARROWS ON LEFT



FIG. 15 COMBINATION SIGN WITH DIRECTIONAL ARROWS ON RIGHT: EXAMPLE 1





Straight on

FIG. 16 COMBINATION SIGN WITH DIRECTIONAL ARROWS ON RIGHT: EXAMPLE 2

9 LAYOUT OF SAFETY MARKINGS

9.1 The bands are of equal width inclined at an angle of approximately 45° (see Fig. 17 to Fig. 20).

The colours of safety marking which indicate hazard locations shall be a combination of yellow and contrast black as shown in Fig. 17.



YELLOW AND CONTRAST BLACK

FIG. 17 SAFETY MARKING FOR INDICATING HAZARD LOCATIONS

9.2 The colours of safety marking which indicate prohibition or location of fire fighting equipment shall be a combination of red and contrast white as shown in Fig. 18.



RED AND CONTRAST WHITE

FIG. 18 SAFETY MARKING FOR INDICATING PROHIBITION OR LOCATION OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

9.3 The colours of safety marking which indicate a mandatory instruction shall be a combination of blue and contrast white as shown in Fig. 19.



BLUE AND CONTRAST WHITE

FIG. 19 SAFETY MARKING FOR INDICATING A MANDATORY INSTRUCTION

9.4 The colours of safety marking which indicate a safe condition shall be a combination of green and contrast white as shown in Fig. 20.



GREEN AND CONTRAST WHITE

FIG. 20 SAFETY MARKING FOR INDICATING A SAFE CONDITION

10 DESIGN OF SYMBOLS

10.1 Design of symbols shall be as simple as possible and details not essential for the understanding of safety message should be omitted.

10.1.1 Examples of some safety symbols in common use are given in Annex A.

NOTE — If symbols shown in this standard do not cover a particular desired meaning, other symbol already standardized in other connection should be tried or text only should be used.

ANNEX A

(Clause 10.1.1)

SAFETY SYMBOLS IN COMMON USE





CAUTION, RISK OF DANGER



CAUTION, RISK OF FIRE



CAUTION, RISK OF EXPLOSION



CAUTION, RISK OF CORROSION



CAUTION, RISK OF LIFE



CAUTION, RISK OF IONIZING RADIATION



CAUTION, RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK



FIRST AID



GENERAL INDICATION OF DIRECTION



INDICATION OF DIRECTION TO FIRST AID



EYE PROTECTOR MUST HE WORN



RESPIRATORY PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN



HEAD PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN



HEARING PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN



HAND PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN



FOOT PROTECTOR MUST BE WORN

ANNEX B

(Foreword)

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

Occupational Safety and Health and Chemical Hazards Sectional Committee, CHD 8

Organization

National Safety Council, Navi Mumbai Confederation of Indian Industries, New Delhi

Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, Mumbai

Airport Authority of India, New Delhi

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Mumbai Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai

Central Boiler Board, New Delhi Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi Century Rayon, Thane

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This Indian Standard has been developed from Doc : No. CHD 8 (1189).

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