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Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs —

Part 2:
Design principles for product safety labels

Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —

Partie 2: Principes de conception pour l'étiquetage de sécurité des produits

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

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 documents 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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is 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 3864-2:2004), which has been technically revised.

It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 3864-2:2004/Amd 1:2011.

A list of all the parts in the ISO 3864 series can be found on the ISO website.

Introduction

There is a need to standardize a system of communicating safety information on products. This document provides layouts for product safety labels that can be used to convey safety information related to the installation, operation, use, maintenance and/or disposal of a product. Product safety labels are not to be used as safety signs on walls in workplaces and public buildings.

This document builds on the system of hazard communication set forth in ISO 3864-1. This document sets forth additional layouts for product safety labels that assist in communicating

a)   the severity level of the hazard, and

b)   supplementary safety information in word or symbolic form.

To assist in the communication of safety information across language barriers, all of the product safety label layouts shown in this document incorporate safety signs. This document includes product safety label layouts that use only safety signs as well as layouts that use additional graphical symbols and text. Product safety labels that include text can be used when some of the necessary safety information cannot be communicated in symbolic form, when the combination of safety sign with text is judged to be more effective or when legal requirements in countries mandate the use of text to communicate safety information. Education is an essential part of any system that provides safety information. Because the amount of safety information necessary to operate or service a product safely may be more than can be conveyed in a product safety label, a product's accompanying documentation (e.g. product literature, installation manual, operation manual, service manual) may supplement the product's safety labels to provide the user with the additional information necessary for safety. A product's user documentation also offers a place to educate users on the meaning of the safety signs and supplementary safety information symbols shown on the product's safety labels (see Annex A).

When a product safety label is to be developed, the hazards associated with the product and their corresponding risks should be evaluated. Many factors are considered when deciding whether or not to warn, whether to warn on the product in the form of a product safety label and/or to warn in user documentation. Such factors include the severity of the risk, the probability of engaging the hazard, the degree to which the risk is obvious and the type of person likely to possibly engage the hazard.

Statutory or regulatory requirements in some countries may differ from some requirements given in this document. To facilitate international standardization of product safety labels, this document should be considered when revising regulations.