
**Graphical symbols — Safety colours and
safety signs —**

Part 3:
**Design principles for graphical symbols
for use in safety signs**

Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —

*Partie 3: Principes de conception des symboles graphiques utilisés
dans les signaux de sécurité*



PDF disclaimer

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

© ISO 2006

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions.....	1
4 Designing graphical symbols for use in safety signs.....	2
5 Review of existing standards	2
6 Assignment of meaning, function and image content to the safety sign	2
7 Design criteria	3
7.1 Geometric shapes and colours of safety signs	3
7.2 Size and position of the graphical symbol.....	3
7.3 Layout of templates	6
7.4 Exclusion zone	7
7.5 Line width	10
7.6 Critical detail	10
7.7 Consistency within a family of graphical symbols	11
7.8 Determinants	12
7.9 Combination of graphical symbols or graphical symbol elements.....	14
7.10 Use of arrows in safety symbols.....	14
7.11 Characters	15
Annex A (informative) Additional design guidelines	16
Bibliography	25

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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 3864-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

ISO 3864 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs*:

- *Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas*
- *Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels*
- *Part 3: Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs*

Introduction

Graphical symbols in safety signs are used for a wide range of purposes. There is a need to standardize the principles for creating these graphical symbols to ensure visual clarity, to maintain consistency and thereby to improve recognition and comprehension. The principles set forth in this part of ISO 3864 are the design criteria by which graphical symbols are judged for standardization and publication in ISO 7010 (details of the procedures for the standardization of graphical symbols and safety signs can be found at www.iso.org/tc145).

Graphical symbols used in safety signs are not always intuitively understood. Often training needs to take place to inform people about the meaning of the graphical symbol. Such training can take place by including the meaning of the graphical symbol in operation manuals, company bulletins, training program materials, as well as using supplementary text with the safety sign.



SAI GLOBAL

This is a free 6 page sample. Access the full version online.

The remainder of this document
is available for purchase online at

www.saiglobal.com/shop

SAI Global also carries a wide range of publications from a wide variety of Standards Publishers:



Click on the logos to search the database online.