

Health and safety

Safety signs and symbols

The *Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996* states that all new health and safety signs must contain pictorial symbols in addition to text. Other requirements contained in these regulations include the following:

- If a hazard cannot be adequately controlled by any other means, then it must be marked with a safety sign.
- Every employer must ensure that their employees are trained in the meaning of safety signs.
- Any emergency escape route and firefighting equipment must have its location identified with safety signs.

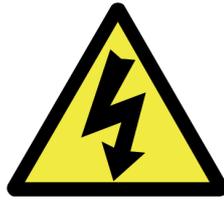
Most workplaces have safety signs and posters to alert you to something any dangers. These are grouped into four categories:

- Warning signs – Yellow/Black
- Information signs – Green/White
- Mandatory signs – Blue/White
- Prohibition signs – Red/White

In addition, there are location signs for firefighting equipment.

Warning signs

Warning signs are triangular and yellow with a black border. They mean **caution, risk of danger or hazard ahead**.



Danger Electricity



Drop



General

Information signs

Safe condition signs are rectangular and white on a green background and indicate the correct place to go or the correct action to be taken in an emergency. They give information about safe conditions. You are likely to find extra information included with any of the safety signs, such as the type of first aid available, the particular type of eye protection required, the clearance height of an obstacle, etc.



Fire Exit



First Aid



Fire Assembly Point

Mandatory signs

Mandatory signs are white on a blue background, circular and mean **you must do** something.



Safety helmet must be worn



Ear protection must be worn



Eye protection must be worn

Prohibition signs

Prohibition signs are circular in shape, have a crossbar through the centre and mean **stop or do not**. They are red on a white background and must be obeyed.



No Smoking



Do Not Extinguish with Water



No Unauthorised Persons

Firefighting equipment signs

The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations require the location of all firefighting equipment to be marked in red. Typical signs are shown on the right.



Safety Signs and symbols – Recap

Answer the following, referring to the notes in this Worksheet if necessary.

1. For each of the signs below, enter their colour.
 - Warning signs –
 - Information signs –
 - Mandatory signs –
 - Prohibition signs –

2. What action should be taken if a hazard cannot be adequately controlled by any other means?

Stretch and challenge task:

3. You may find it helpful to look up some of these online.
 - What part of the body is protected by a hard hat?
 - What type of sign would inform you to wear a hard hat?
 - Which sign colour of sign would you need to display on a fire exit?
 - In the electrical industry, we use which colour of sign to identify high voltage?
 - Which type of sign would need to be in place to stop a person entering a building site, if they were not authorised?