

Graphical symbols and signs —

Safety signs, including fire safety signs —

Part 11: Water safety signs

ICS 01.080.10; 97.220.40

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/8, Graphical symbols, to Subcommittee PH/8/2, Public information graphical symbols and signs, upon which the following bodies were represented:

ARTSLINE Disability Access Information Service
 British Hospitality Association
 British Standards Society
 Chartered Society of Designers
 Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
 County Surveyors' Society
 Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions —
 Central Transport Group
 Forestry Commission
 London Transport
 Manchester Metropolitan University
 Ordnance Survey
 Railtrack
 Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation
 Royal Institute of British Architects
 Royal Life Saving Society UK
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The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard through a panel:

British Canoe Union
 British Sub-Aqua Club
 British Tourist Authority
 Health and Safety Executive
 Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management
 Institute of Sport and Recreation Management
 Sport England
 Coopted members

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Foreword

This part of BS 5499 has been prepared by Subcommittee PH/8/2.

The purpose of this standard is to provide a uniform set of water safety signs. The graphical symbols for the signs specified in this standard are based on those given in *National water safety signs* [1] published by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents on behalf of the National Water Safety Committee.

The requirements specified in this standard have been drawn up in the light of the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 [2].

The use of safety signs does not replace the need for proper working methods and instruction or for training in accident prevention and the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 18, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This part of BS 5499 specifies water safety signs, to be used for giving information on the prohibition of certain actions and activities, to give warnings of water hazards or dangerous situations and to give specific instructions for mandatory action.

This part of BS 5499 is applicable to safety signs for use at locations in, on and near water, in coastal and inland waters, including navigational waters, and in all types of swimming pools. These locations include the following:

- indoor and outdoor swimming pools;
- paddling pools;
- harbours, docks, marinas;
- beaches, piers, landing stages, fishing points, bridges over water;
- quarries, industrial and construction sites, agricultural areas;
- water tanks;
- rivers, canals, estuaries, lakes, reservoirs, ponds.

This standard is applicable to water safety signs relevant to sport and recreational activities.

Signs specified as Category A signs have been accepted and registered by Technical Committee PH/8 as approved safety signs.

Signs specified as Category B signs are judged by Technical Committee PH/8 to require the further education of intended viewers before they can be registered as approved safety signs.

Signs specified as Category C signs are judged by Technical Committee PH/8 to require improvements to their graphical symbols as well as further education of intended viewers before they can be registered as approved safety signs.

NOTE In addition to the BSI registration number, where applicable, each sign has been given a code number for ease of reference. These code numbers are made up as follows.

- The first character gives the clause number designation.
- The second number indicates the sign category within that clause.
- The third character is a sequential number for the individual sign.

EXAMPLES

The first unregistered water safety prohibition sign has the code 9.B.3001. The sixteenth unregistered water safety hazard sign has the code 11.B.3016.

With the exception of water safety prohibition sign 9.A.0003 which is Category A, all signs in this part of BS 5499 are Category B signs.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5378-2, *Safety signs and colours — Part 2: Specification for colorimetric and photometric properties of materials*.

BS 5499-1:2002, *Graphical symbols and signs — Safety signs, including fire safety signs — Part 1: Specification for geometric shapes, colours and layout*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 5499 the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

safety sign

sign that gives a general safety message, by means of a combination of a safety colour and a geometric shape and which, by the inclusion of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety meaning

3.2

water safety sign

safety sign for use on, in or near water

3.3 types of water safety sign

3.3.1

water safety prohibition sign

water safety sign that indicates that specific behaviour is forbidden

3.3.2

water safety mandatory sign

water safety sign that indicates that a specific course of action is to be taken

3.3.3

water safety hazard sign

water safety sign that indicates a specific source of potential harm

3.3.4

supplementary sign

sign that is supportive of a water safety sign by providing additional clarification

NOTE A supplementary sign when used with a water safety sign becomes part of the water safety sign.

3.4

graphical symbol

visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

3.5

safety colour

specific colour to which a safety meaning is attributed

3.6

contrast colour

colour that contrasts with the safety colour in order to make the safety colour more conspicuous

4 Types of water safety signs

Each water safety sign shall be of one of the following three types:

- a) a water safety prohibition sign as specified in Clause 9;
- b) a water safety mandatory sign as specified in Clause 10;
- c) a water safety hazard sign as specified in Clause 11.

NOTE With the exception of the one Category A water safety prohibition sign, which is numbered in accordance with BS 5499-5 where an identical safety sign is specified, the signs are sequentially numbered starting at 3001.


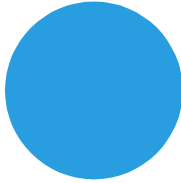

5 Safety colours and contrast colours for water safety signs

The safety colour and contrast colour used for a water safety sign shall be as specified for the particular type of sign in BS 5499-1, as shown in Table 1. The colorimetric and photometric properties of the safety colours and contrast colours shall be in accordance with BS 5378-2.

6 Geometric shapes for water safety signs

The geometric shape used for a water safety sign shall be as specified for the particular type of sign in BS 5499-1, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 — Geometric shapes, safety colours and contrast colours for water safety signs^a

Geometric shape	Meaning	Safety colour	Contrast colour	Graphical symbol colour	Examples of use
A circle 	Prohibition	Red	White	Black	No swimming No diving No personal water craft to be used
A circle 	Mandatory action	Blue	White	White	Wear lifejacket
An equilateral triangle with radiused outer corners 	Hazard	Yellow	Black	Black	Strong currents Thin ice Deep water

^a For the colour and geometric shape of supplementary text signs see BS 5499-1:2002, Clause 10.

7 Layout of water safety signs

The layout of water safety signs shall be in accordance with BS 5499-1:2002, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 as applicable.

8 Supplementary text signs

A supplementary text sign shall only be used in association with a water safety sign.

NOTE 1 The purpose of a supplementary text sign is to either:

- give the meaning of the graphical symbol on the water safety sign; or
- provide more information to expand or particularize the meaning of the water safety sign.

With the exception of the water safety prohibition sign 9.A.0003, which is a Category A sign and, therefore, does not require a supplementary text sign, the water safety signs specified in this part of BS 5499 are all Category B signs and so shall only be used with a supplementary text sign.


NOTE 2 The water safety prohibition sign 9.A.0003 may be used with a supplementary text sign if considered necessary.

The supplementary text sign shall be located underneath or to the left or right of the water safety sign. Supplementary text signs shall be in English.

NOTE 3 The English text may be supplemented by text in other languages when more than one language is in common use in the locality in which the sign is to be used. Where supplementary text signs in more than one language supplement a water safety sign, it is essential that the words in each language convey the same meaning.

The layout of supplementary text signs shall be in accordance with BS 5499-1:2002, 10.2.




9 Water safety prohibition signs Category A

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.A.0003</p>	<p>Do not run</p> <p>NOTE This safety sign is also specified in BS 5499-5:2002, Clause 6.</p> <p>REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0003</p>



9 Water safety prohibition signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.B.3001</p>	No swimming
 <p>9.B.3002</p>	No snorkelling equipment
 <p>9.B.3003</p>	No sub-aqua equipment

9 Water safety prohibition signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.B.3004</p>	<p>No diving</p>
 <p>9.B.3005</p>	<p>No sailing</p>
 <p>9.B.3006</p>	<p>No windsurfing</p>



9 Water safety prohibition signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.B.3007</p>	No rowing
 <p>9.B.3008</p>	No motorized craft
 <p>9.B.3009</p>	No personal water craft to be used


9 Water safety prohibition signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.B.3010</p>	<p>No water skiing</p>
 <p>9.B.3011</p>	<p>No surfboarding</p>
 <p>9.B.3012</p>	<p>No inflatables in the water</p>




9 Water safety prohibition signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>9.B.3013</p>	No outdoor footwear
 <p>9.B.3014</p>	No fishing




10 Water safety mandatory sign Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>10.B.3015</p>	<p>Mandatory action — lifejackets to be worn</p>




11 Water safety hazard signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle, a black silhouette of a person is shown diving into water, with three wavy lines below representing the water surface.</p> <p>11.B.3016</p>	Beware — diving area
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle, a black silhouette of a boat is shown being pushed by strong, wavy currents.</p> <p>11.B.3017</p>	Beware — strong currents
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle, a black silhouette of a person is shown slipping on a patch of thin ice, with jagged lines representing the ice.</p> <p>11.B.3018</p>	Beware — thin ice




11 Water safety hazard signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>11.B.3019</p>	Beware — sailing area
 <p>11.B.3020</p>	Beware — slipway
 <p>11.B.3021</p>	Beware — windsurfing area


11 Water safety hazard signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle is a black silhouette of a person in a rowing boat on wavy lines representing water.</p> <p>11.B.3022</p>	Beware — rowing area
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle is a black silhouette of a motorboat on wavy lines representing water.</p> <p>11.B.3023</p>	Beware — motorized craft
 <p>A yellow triangular warning sign with a black border. Inside the triangle is a black silhouette of a person water skiing on wavy lines representing water.</p> <p>11.B.3024</p>	Beware — water skiing area

11 Water safety hazard signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>11.B.3025</p>	<p>Beware — surfboarding area</p>
 <p>11.B.3026</p>	<p>Beware — deep water</p>
 <p>11.B.3027</p>	<p>Beware — shallow water</p>

11 Water safety hazard signs Category B

Water safety sign	Meaning
 <p>11.B.3028</p>	Beware — sudden drop

Bibliography

Standards publications

BS 5499-5:2002, *Graphical symbols and signs — Safety signs, including fire safety signs — Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings.*

Other publications

- [1] ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS. *National water safety signs*, 1987¹.
- [2] GREAT BRITAIN. Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 (SI No. 1996/341). London, The Stationery Office.
- [3] HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE. *Five steps to risk assessment*. INDG163 (revision 1) 1998².
- [4] ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK and ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS. *Safety on British beaches*. 1st Edition 1993³.
- [5] ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK and ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS. *Safety at inland water sites — Operational guidelines*. 1st edition 1999³.
- [6] HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE. *Managing health and safety in swimming pools*. HSG179, 1999².

¹ Available from: Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, RoSPA House, Edgbaston Park, 353 Bristol Road, Birmingham B5 7ST. Tel: 0121-248-2000.

² Available from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA. Tel: 01787 881165, email: hsebooks@prolog.uk.com

³ Available from RoSPA and from Royal Life Saving Society UK, River House, High Street, Broom, Warwickshire B50 4HN. Tel: 01789 773995.

Numerical index

9.A.0003 ⁴⁾	Do not run
9.B.3001	No swimming
9.B.3002	No snorkelling equipment
9.B.3003	No sub-aqua equipment
9.B.3004	No diving
9.B.3005	No sailing
9.B.3006	No windsurfing
9.B.3007	No rowing
9.B.3008	No motorized craft
9.B.3009	No personal water craft to be used
9.B.3010	No water skiing
9.B.3011	No surfboarding
9.B.3012	No inflatables in the water
9.B.3013	No outdoor footwear
9.B.3014	No fishing
10.B.3015	Mandatory action — lifejackets to be worn
11.B.3016	Beware — diving area
11.B.3017	Beware — strong currents
11.B.3018	Beware — thin ice
11.B.3019	Beware — sailing area
11.B.3020	Beware — slipway
11.B.3021	Beware — windsurfing area
11.B.3022	Beware — rowing area
11.B.3023	Beware — motorized craft
11.B.3024	Beware — water skiing area
11.B.3025	Beware — surfboarding area
11.B.3026	Beware — deep water
11.B.3027	Beware — shallow water
11.B.3028	Beware — sudden drop

⁴⁾ Sign number as given in BS 5499-5.

Subject index

	Prohibition	Mandatory action	Hazard
Deep water (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3026
Diving (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3004	—	11.B.3016
Fishing (prohibition)	9.B.3014	—	—
Ice — thin (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3018
Inflatables — not to be used in water (prohibition)	9.B.3012	—	—
Lifejackets — to be worn (mandatory action)	—	10.B.3015	—
Motorized craft (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3008	—	11.B.3023
Outdoor footwear (prohibition)	9.B.3013	—	—
Personal water craft (prohibition)	9.B.3009	—	—
Rowing (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3007	—	11.B.3022
Running (prohibition)	9.A.0003 ⁵⁾	—	—
Sailing (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3005	—	11.B.3019
Shallow water (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3027
Slipway (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3020
Snorkelling equipment (prohibition)	9.B.3002	—	—
Strong currents (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3017
Sub-aqua equipment (prohibition)	9.B.3003	—	—
Sudden drop (hazard)	—	—	11.B.3028
Swimming (prohibition)	9.B.3001	—	—
Surf boarding (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3011	—	11.B.3025
Water skiing (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3010	—	11.B.3024
Windsurfing (prohibition) (hazard)	9.B.3006	—	11.B.3021

⁵⁾ Sign number as given in BS 5499-5.

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