Graphical symbols and signs —

Safety signs, including fire safety signs —

Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings

ICS 01.080.10; 13.220.01



Committees responsible for this **British Standard**

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/8, Graphical symbols, to Subcommittee PH/8/1, Safety signs (including fire safety signs), upon which the following bodies were represented:

Association of British Theatre Technicians

BRE/LPC Laboratories — Centre for Fire and Security

British Fire Consortium

British Sign and Graphics Association

Cinema Exhibitors Association

Consumer Policy Committee of BSI

Electricity Association

Guild of Architectural Ironmongers

Health and Safety Sign Association

Home Office

Institute of Fire Safety

Lighting Industry Federation Limited

London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Manchester Metropolitan University, Department of Psychology and Speech Pathology

Ministry of Defence — UK Defence Standardization

National Illumination Committee of Great Britain

Photoluminescent Safety Products Association

Railtrack

Royal Institute of British Architects

Royal Life Saving Society UK

Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Sign Design Society Limited

South Yorkshire Fire Prevention Association and Fire Liaison Panel

Theatres Advisory Council

Coopted members

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Amendments issued since publication

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Foreword

This part of BS 5499 has been prepared by Subcommittee PH/8/1. It supersedes BS 5378-1:1980 and BS 5378-3:1982, which are withdrawn.

BS 5499 covers safety signs and fire safety signs since it is considered essential that all safety signs follow the same basic vocabulary of safety colours and geometric shapes.

BS 5499 comprises the following parts:

- Part 1: Specification for geometric shapes, colours and layout;
- Part 2: Specification for self-luminous fire safety signs;
- Part 3: Specification for internally illuminated fire safety signs;
- Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing;
- Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings;
- Part 11: Water safety signs.

Part 6 on design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs is being drafted.

The requirements specified in this part of BS 5499 have been drawn up in the light of the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 [1]. This part of BS 5499 is aligned with ISO 3864.

This part of BS 5499 classifies safety signs into five types, namely prohibition, mandatory, hazard, safe condition and fire equipment signs, in accordance with BS 5499-1. Signs within each type fall into one of three categories, A, B or C, which indicate the level of approval by Technical Committee PH/8. These groupings are mirrored in the layout of the standard.

The Technical Committee particularly welcomes proposals for improvements to signs specified as Category C signs, in order to produce signs suitable for registration as approved safety signs. Such proposals should be sent to The Secretary of Technical Committee PH/8, BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, from whom details of the registration procedure and application forms can also be obtained.

Fire safety notices were standardized in BS 5499-1:1990 which classified them as fire safety signs. Fire safety notices are called up in guidance issued to support legislation. The view of the Technical Committee is that safety signs should replace fire safety notices as soon as appropriate graphical symbols are available.

The purpose of safety signs is to draw attention to objects and situations that affect or could affect health or safety and to provide information about safety, including safety in case of fire. It is important that the graphical symbols used in safety signs are standardized to aid comprehension. Whilst education in the comprehension of signs is essential, incomprehension caused by the lack of standardization can lead to confusion and possibly danger. International travel and mobility of labour increase the need for a standardized method for safety communication.

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 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 49 and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This part of BS 5499 specifies safety signs using the system of geometric shapes and safety colours specified in BS 5499-1. It is applicable to signs providing information on the actions to be taken to prevent, or reduce the risk of, accidents, for warning of hazards and for dealing with certain emergencies including the identification of escape routes and the location of fire equipment.

NOTE 1 Fire safety notices are specified in Annex A.

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 2 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 character indicates the sign category within that clause.
- The third character is a sequential number for the individual sign.

EXAMPLES

The second registered prohibition sign has the code 6.A.0002. The third unregistered Category B hazard sign has the code 8.B.0056. This part of BS 5499 does not cover:

- a) road traffic signs;
- b) public information symbols;
- c) International Maritime Organisation symbols;
- d) labels provided under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996;
- e) labels provided under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

NOTE 3 The illustrations in this standard are as accurate as possible within the limitations of the printing process.

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 5499-1, Graphical symbols and signs — Safety signs, including fire safety signs — 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 addition of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety meaning

3.2 types of safety sign

3.2.1

prohibition sign

safety sign that indicates that specific behaviour is forbidden

3.2.2

mandatory sign

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

3.2.3

hazard sign

safety sign that indicates a specific source of potential harm

3.2.4

safe condition sign

safety sign that indicates a safety action, the location of safety equipment or a safety facility, or an escape route

3.2.5

fire equipment sign

safety sign that indicates the location or identification of fire equipment or how it should be used

3.3

supplementary sign

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

NOTE 1 A supplementary sign may comprise text or an arrow.

NOTE 2 A supplementary sign when used with a safety sign becomes part of the safety sign.

3.4

fire safety notice

sign in established use which uses the geometric shape and safety colour of a safety sign and includes specified text to convey a specific meaning for which there is no standardized graphical symbol

3.5

safety colour

specific colour to which a safety meaning is attributed

3.6

letter height

nominal height of the lower case letter "x"

3.7

sign height

diameter of a circular geometric shape or height of a rectangular or triangular geometric shape NOTE Any border is ignored.

3.8

graphical symbol

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

3.9

determinant

graphical symbol used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols

NOTE For example, the fire determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a telephone conveys the meaning "fire telephone"; the fire determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a hose reel conveys the meaning "fire hose reel"; the first aid determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a shower conveys the meaning "first aid shower".

4 Use of safety signs

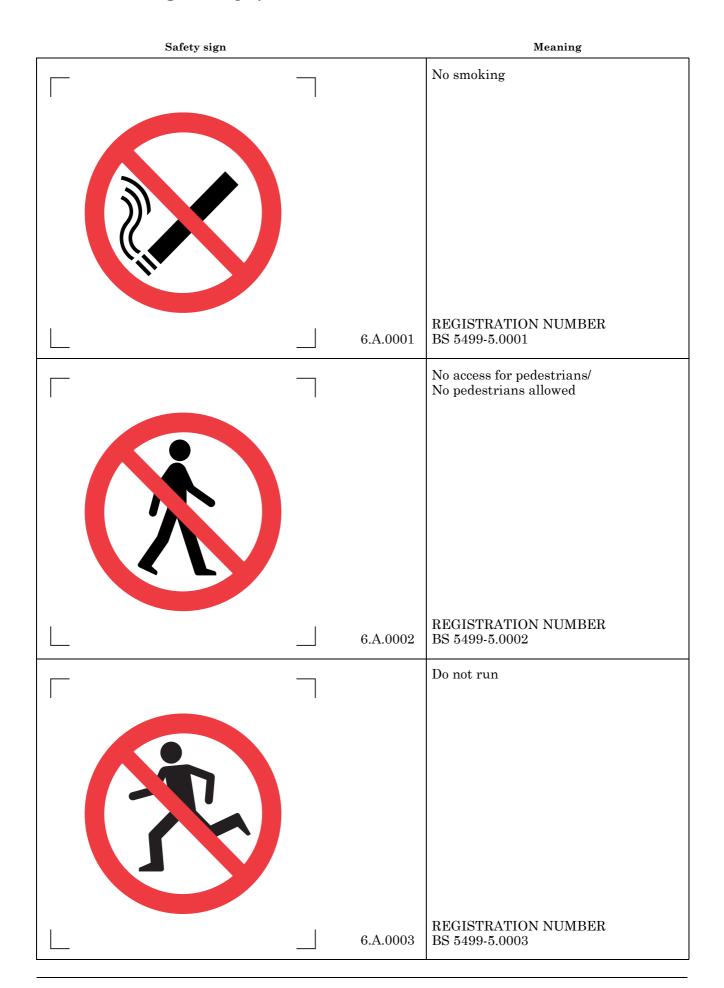
Where a safety sign conveying the required meaning is specified in this part of BS 5499, that sign shall be used

5 Use of supplementary text signs

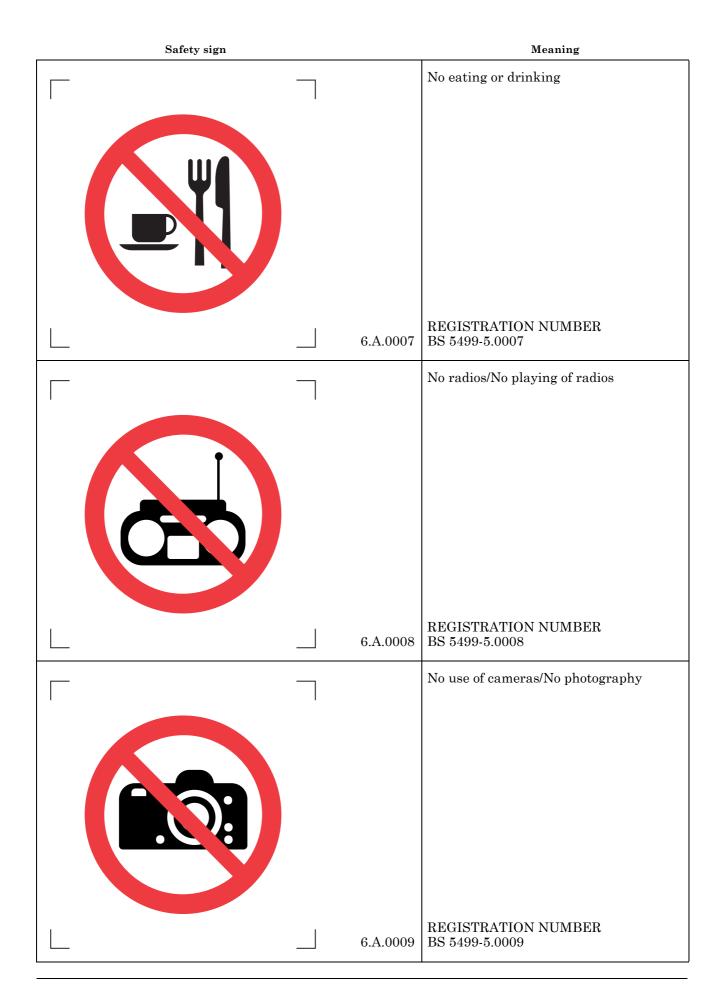
NOTE 1 All types of safety signs may be used with a supplementary text sign if considered necessary or appropriate (see BS 5499-1).

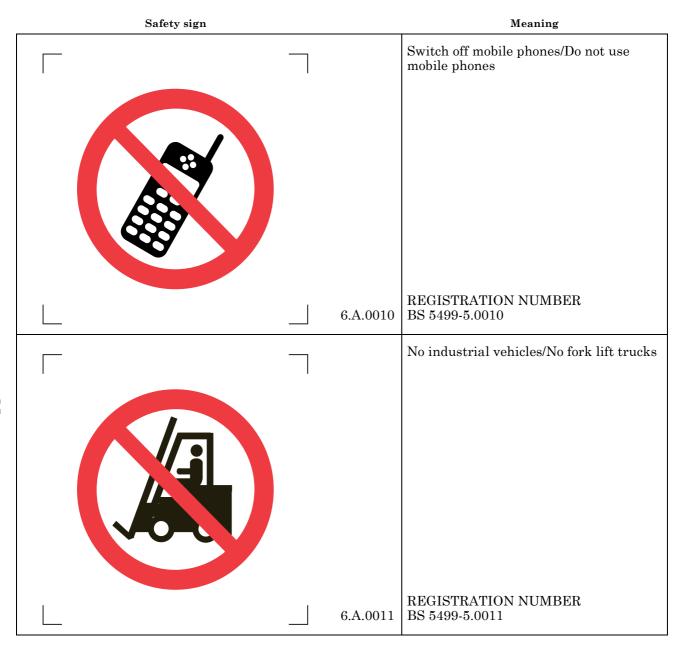
NOTE 2 The wording given beside the safety signs in Clause 6 to Clause 10 is intended to explain the meaning of the signs. If a supplementary text sign is considered necessary to explain the meaning of the safety sign, then this wording, or other wording to the same effect may be used.

The signs specified in Categories B and C shall only be used with a supplementary text sign.



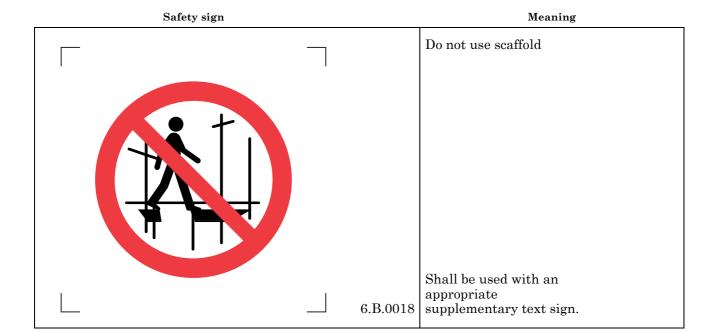
Safety sign			Meaning
			No children allowed
		6.A.0004	REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0004
	7		No dogs
L		6.A.0005	REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0005
	7		Not drinking water
L		6.A.0006	REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0006





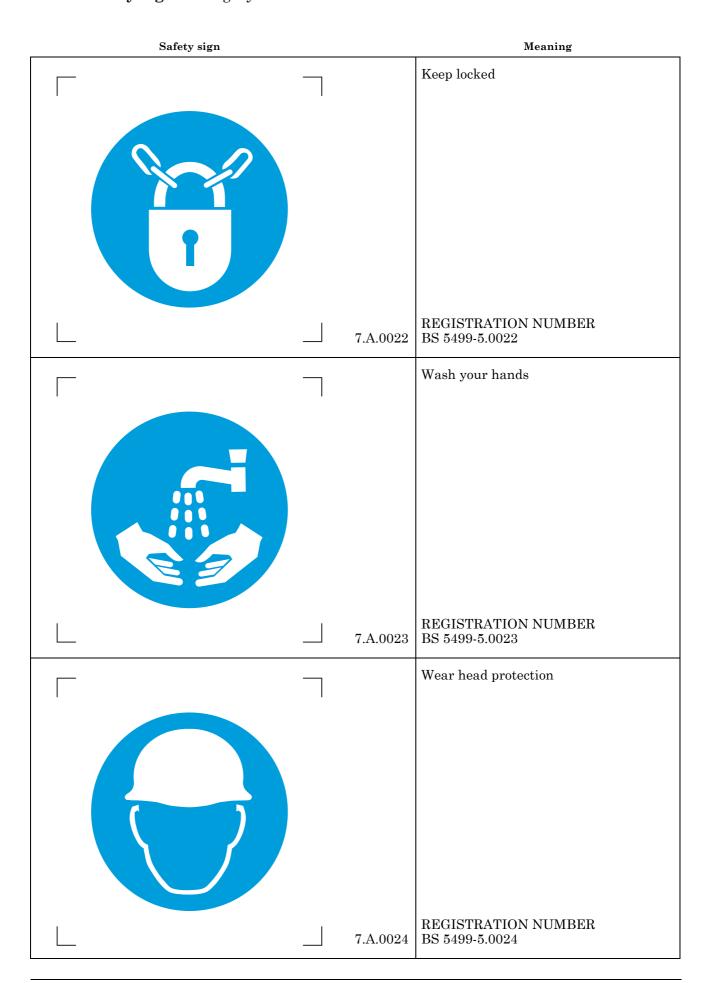
Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. Do not use ladder 6.B.0013 Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. Do not wear metal studded footwear Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.	Safety sign		Meaning
Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. Compared to the supplementary text sign. Compar			
Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. Do not wear metal studded footwear Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.		 3.B.0012	appropriate
Shall be used with an	B	5.B.0013	Shall be used with an appropriate
appropriate supplementary text sign.			Shall be used with an appropriate

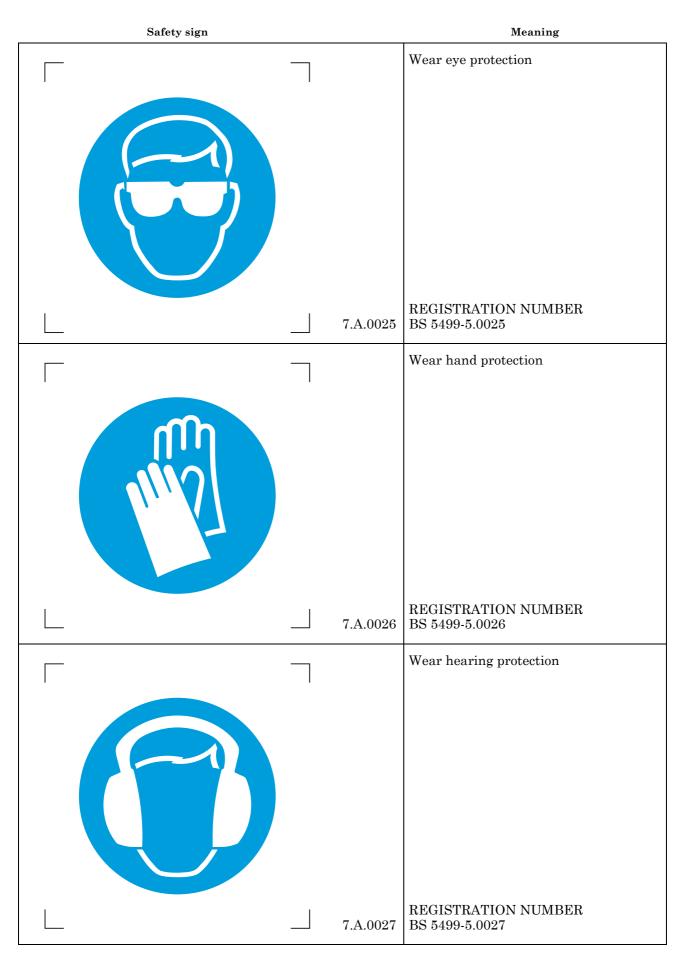
Safety sign			Meaning
	\neg		No admittance for people with pacemakers
		6.B.0015	Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.
Г			Do not use lift
1 3.:			
+			
		6.B.0016	Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.
			Do not use hoist to transport people
	ı	0.50	Shall be used with an appropriate
		6.B.0017	supplementary text sign.



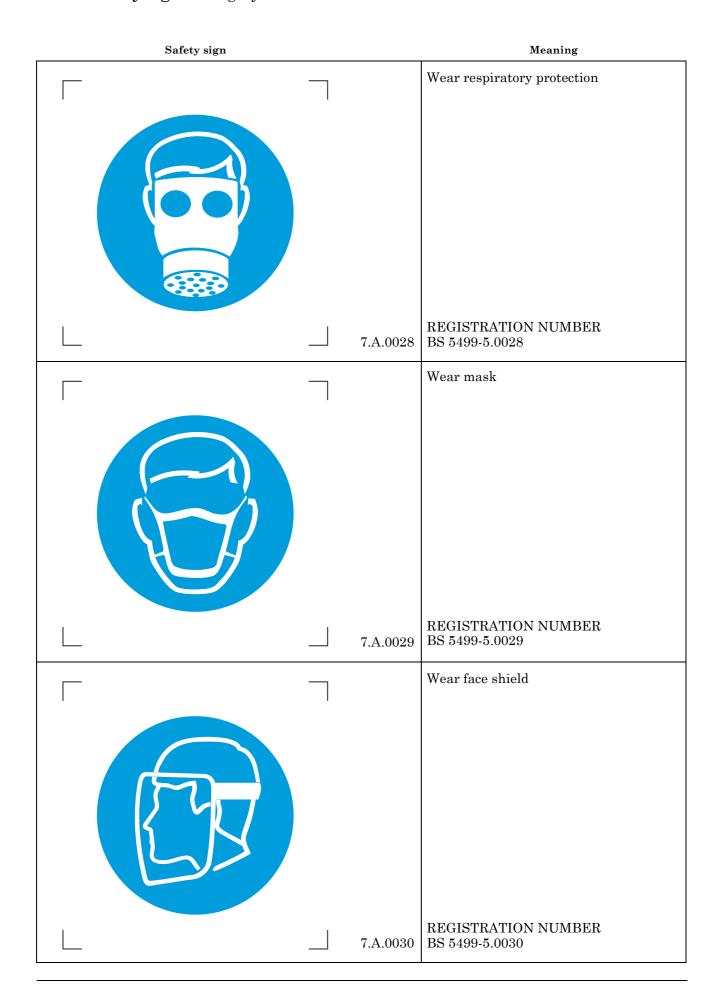
NOTE These signs are considered to need improvement (see Clause 1).

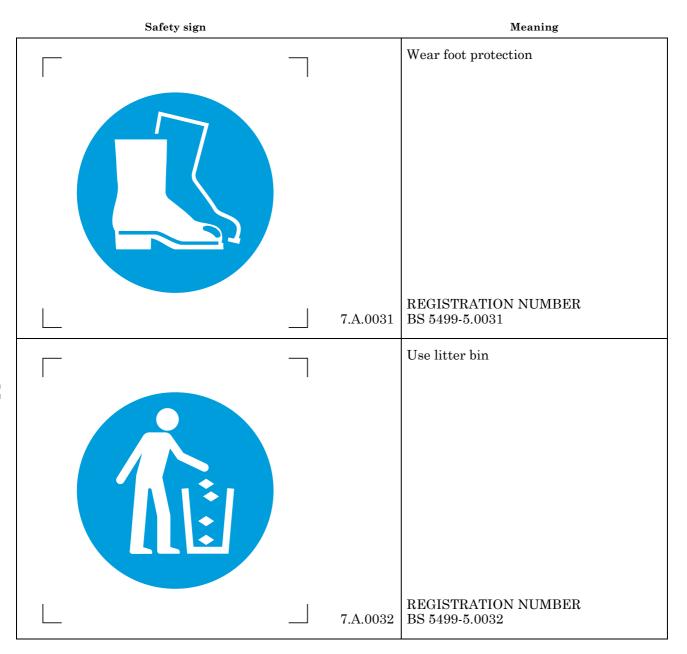


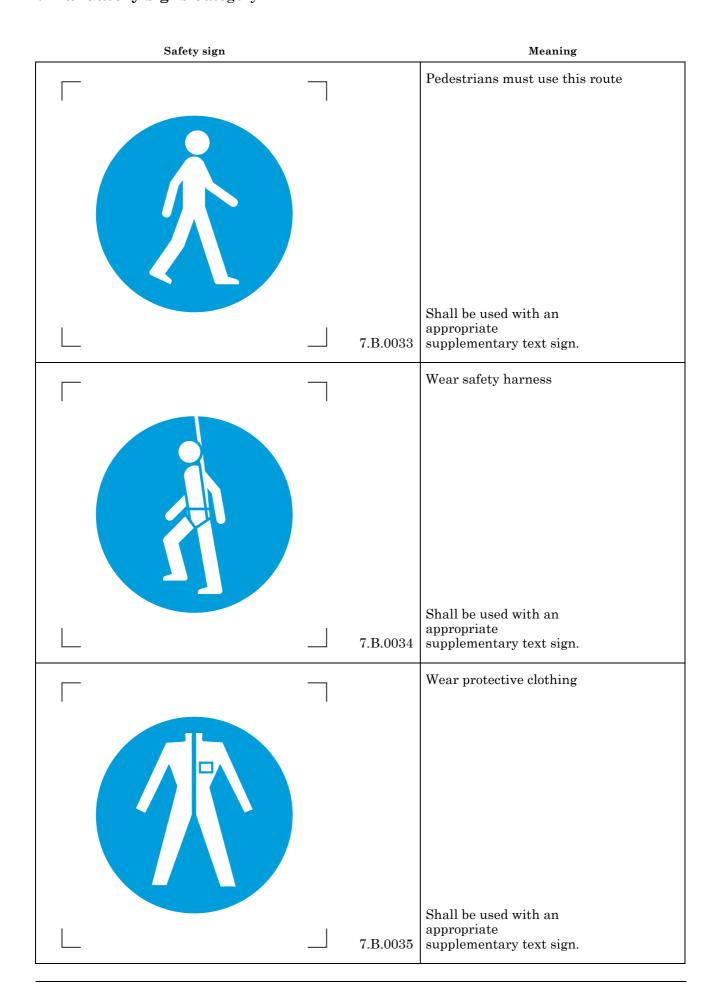


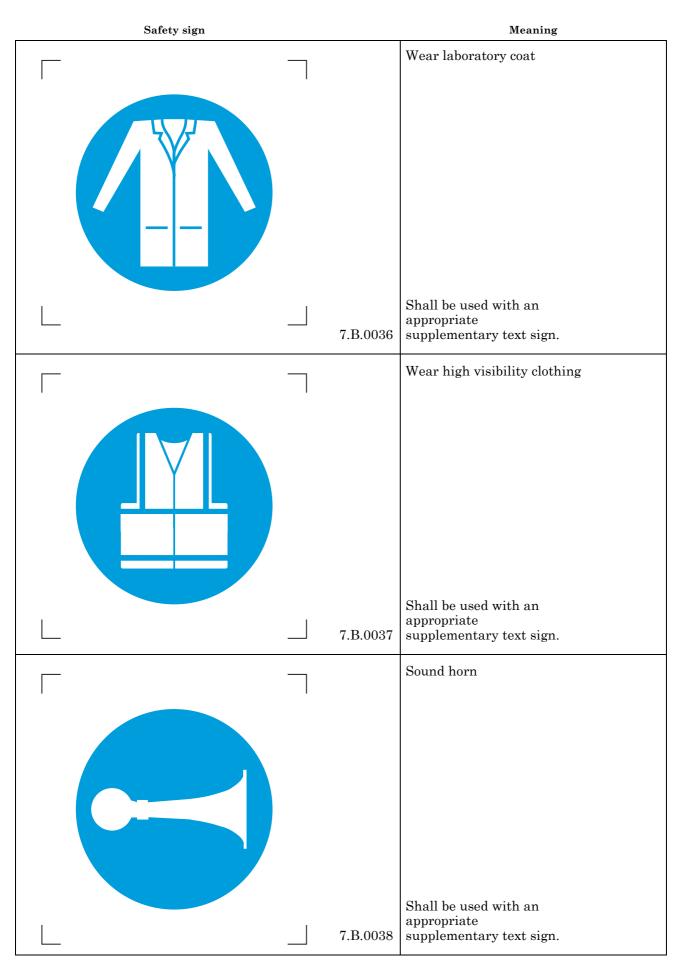


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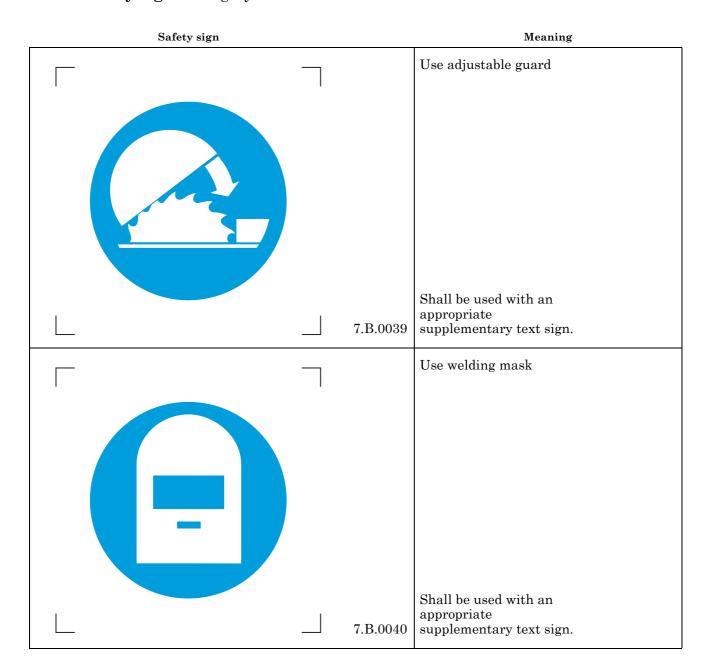




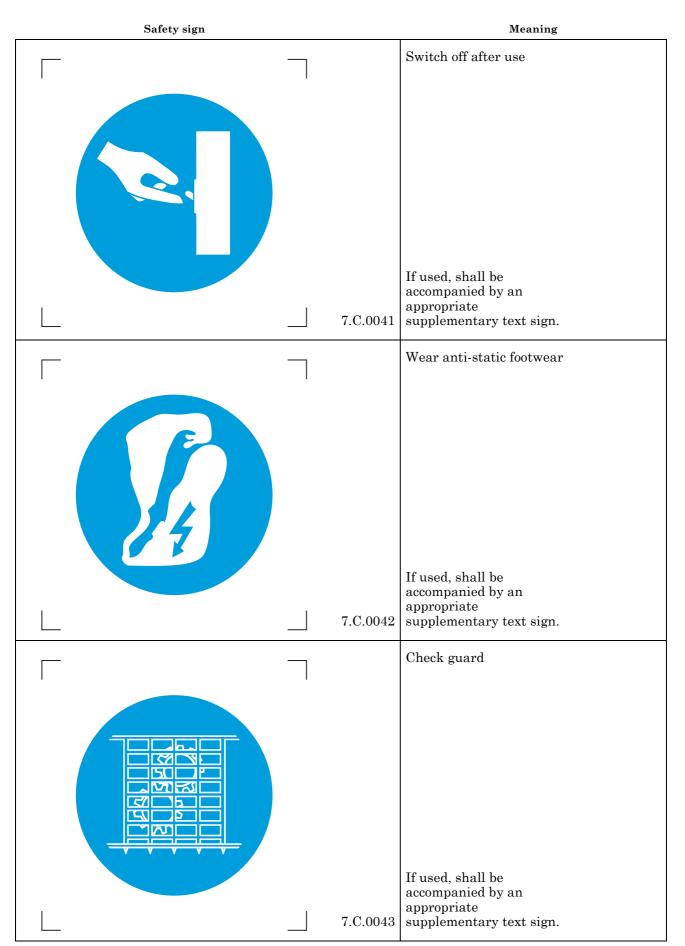




16



NOTE These signs are considered to need improvement (see Clause 1).



NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning Beware electricity (See also 8.B.0054) REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0044 BS 5499-5.0044 Beware toxic material/Beware poison REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0045BS 5499-5.0045 Beware flammable material REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0046 BS 5499-5.0046

NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

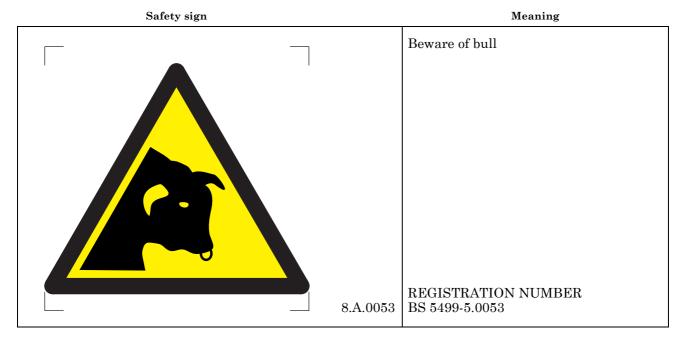
Safety sign Meaning Beware biological hazard REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0047 BS 5499-5.0047 Beware ionizing radiation NOTE $\,$ As specified in BS 3510. REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0048 8.A.0048Beware slippery surface REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0049 BS 5499-5.0049

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NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

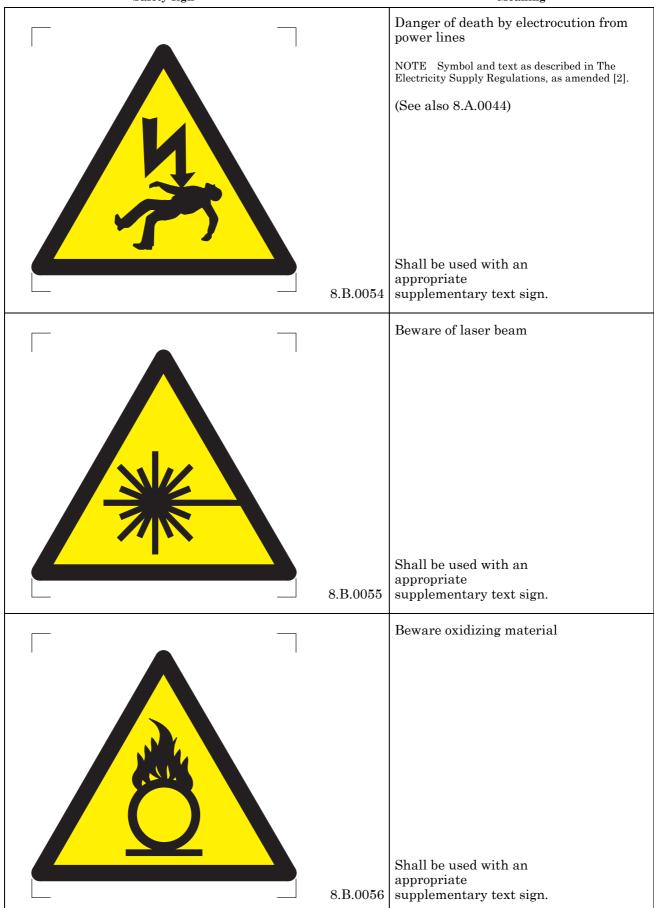
Safety sign Meaning Beware trip hazard/ Beware uneven surface REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0050 8.A.0050Beware of industrial vehicles/Beware of fork lift trucks REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0051BS 5499-5.0051 Beware of guard dog/Beware of dog REGISTRATION NUMBER 8.A.0052BS 5499-5.0052

NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

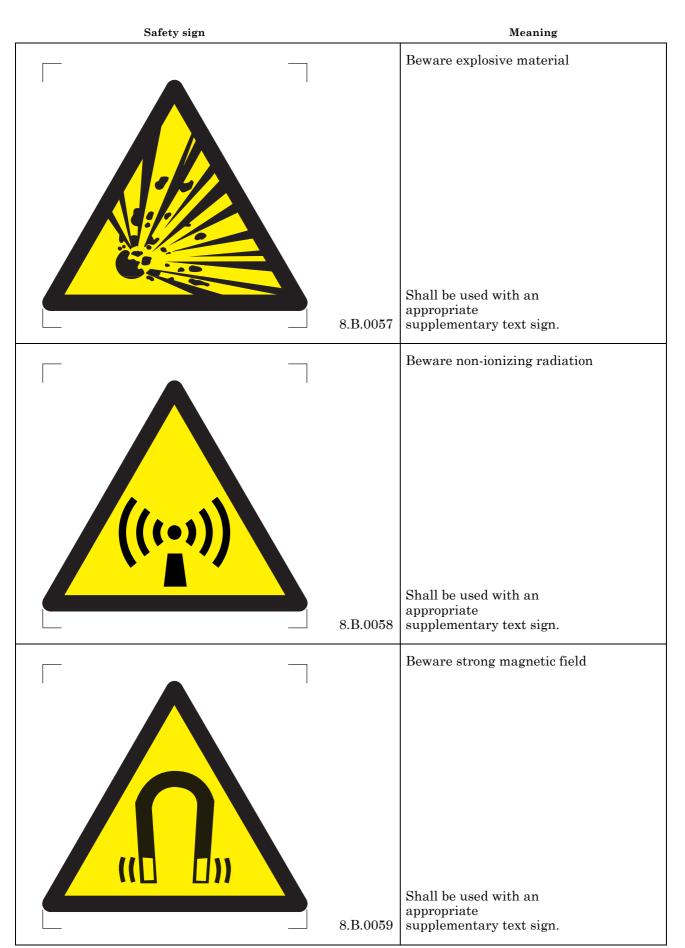


NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning



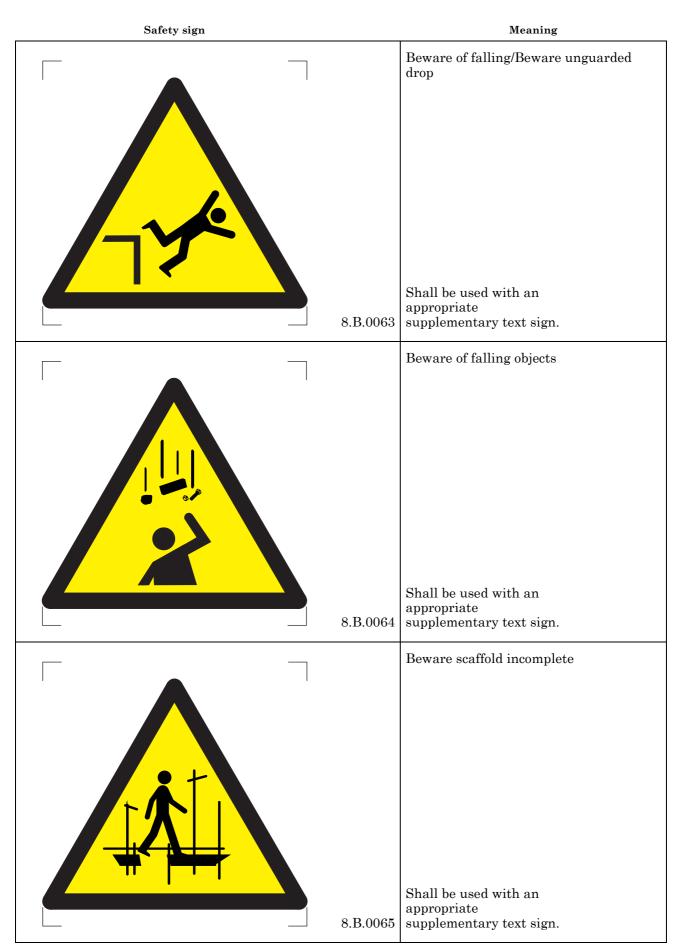
NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).



NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning Beware low temperature Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0060 supplementary text sign. Beware corrosive Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0061 $supplementary\ text\ sign.$ Beware of sudden loud noises Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0062supplementary text sign.

NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

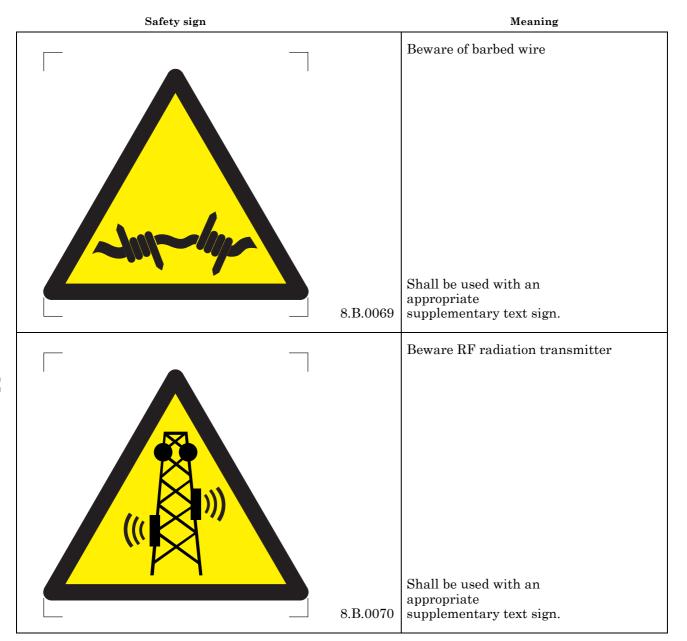


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NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning Beware compressed gas Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0066 supplementary text sign. Beware of heavy goods lorries Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0067supplementary text sign. Beware of overhead loads/ Beware crane operating overhead Shall be used with an appropriate 8.B.0068 supplementary text sign.

NOTE Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).



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NOTE 1 These signs are considered to need improvement (see Clause 1).

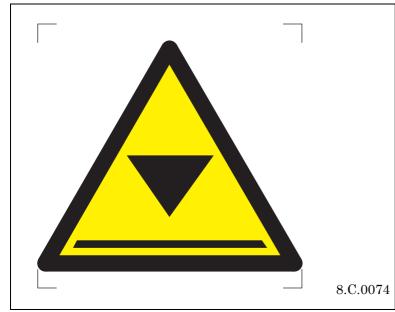
NOTE 2 Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning Beware motor stops and starts automatically/Beware remotely controlled equipment If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate 8.C.0071supplementary text sign. Fragile roof If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate 8.C.0072supplementary text sign. Overhead fixed obstruction If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate 8.C.0073 supplementary text sign.

NOTE 1 These signs are considered to need improvement (see Clause 1).

NOTE 2 Hazard signs may be accompanied by supplementary text signs indicating the degree of risk (see BS 5499-1).

Safety sign Meaning

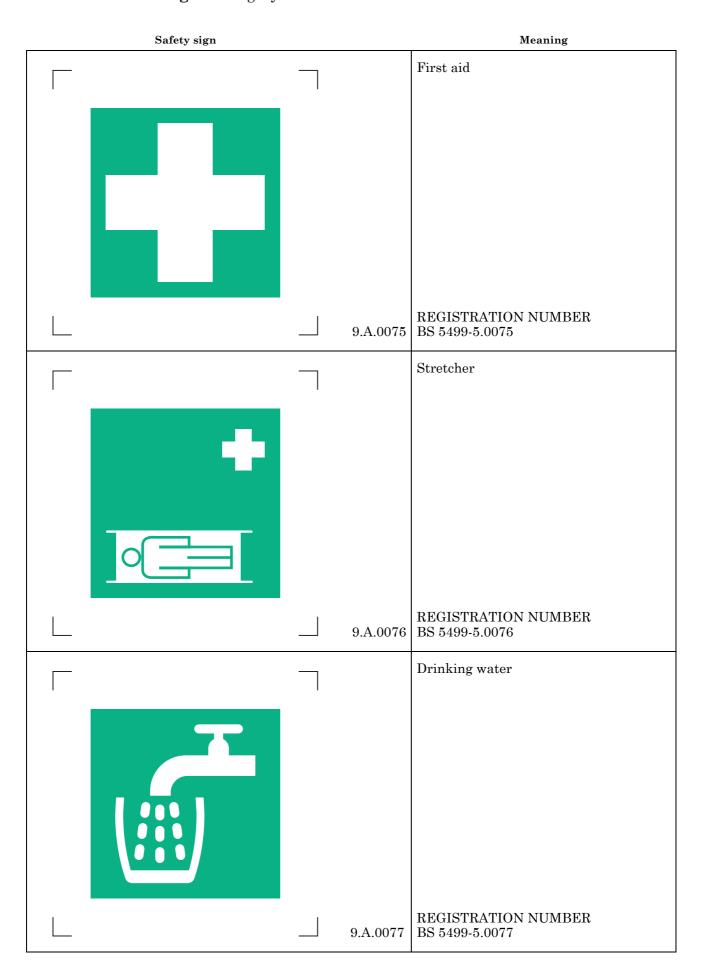


Limited headroom

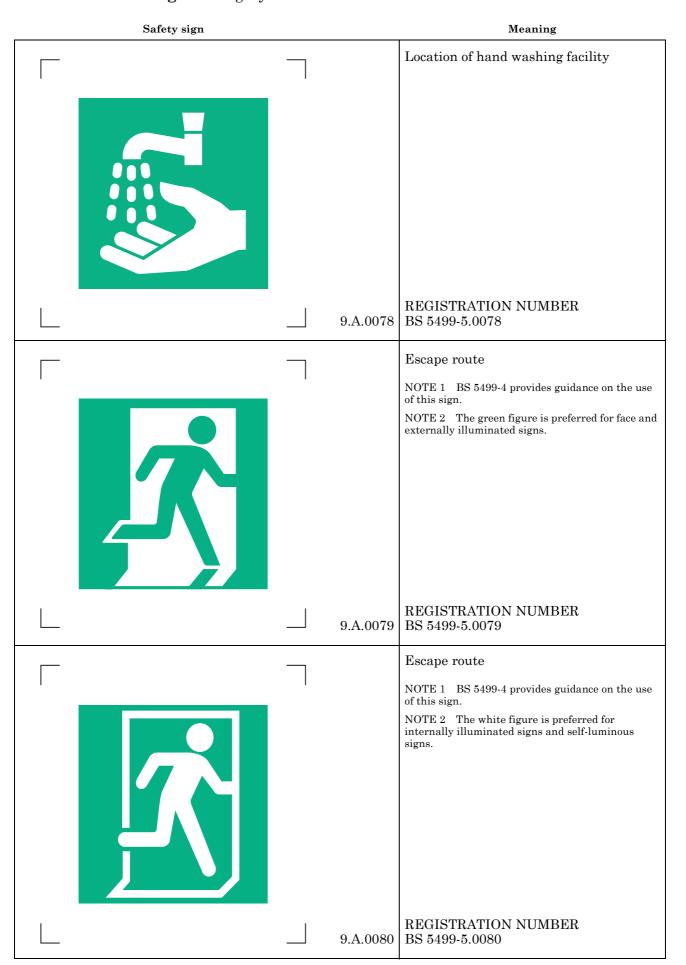
NOTE Clear height may be shown in a supplementary text sign.

If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate supplementary text sign.

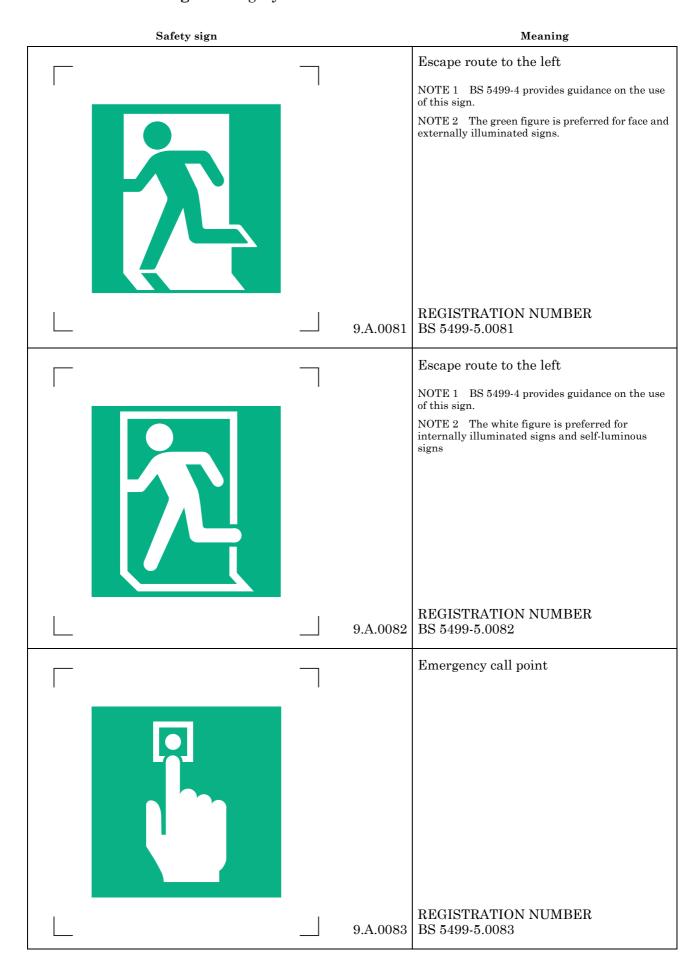
9 Safe condition signs Category A



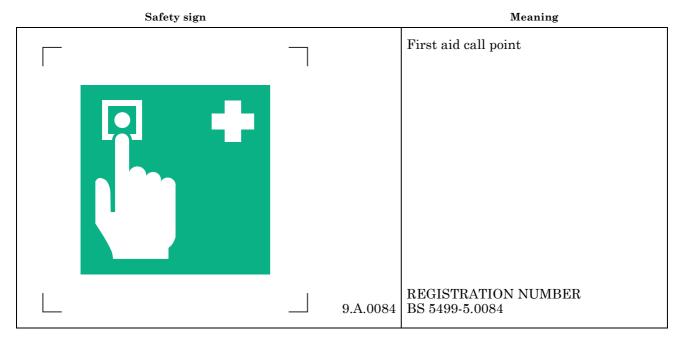
9 Safe condition signs Category A



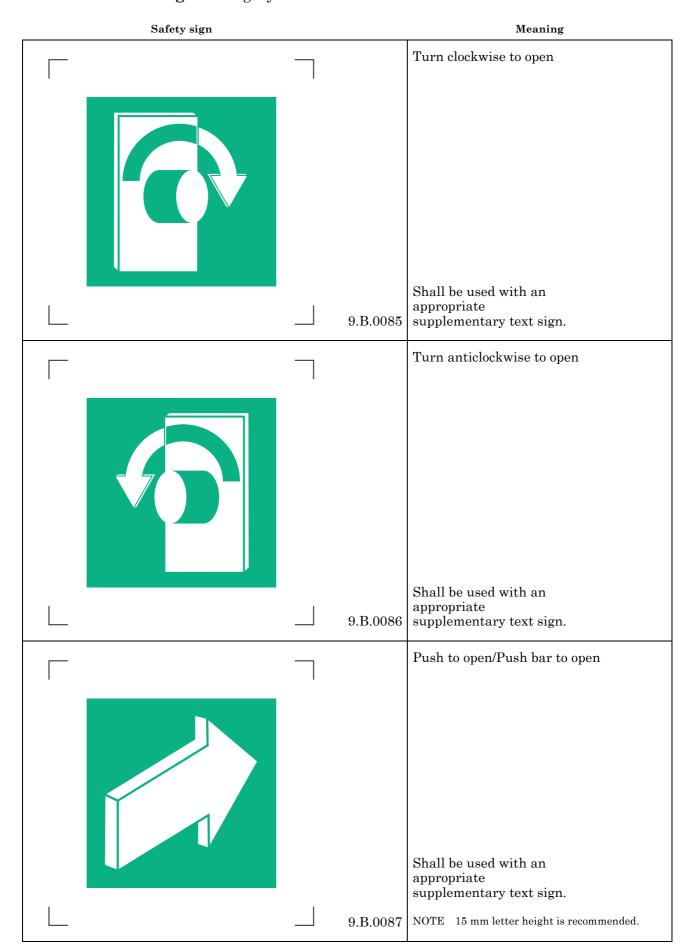
9 Safe condition signs Category A



9 Safe condition signs Category A



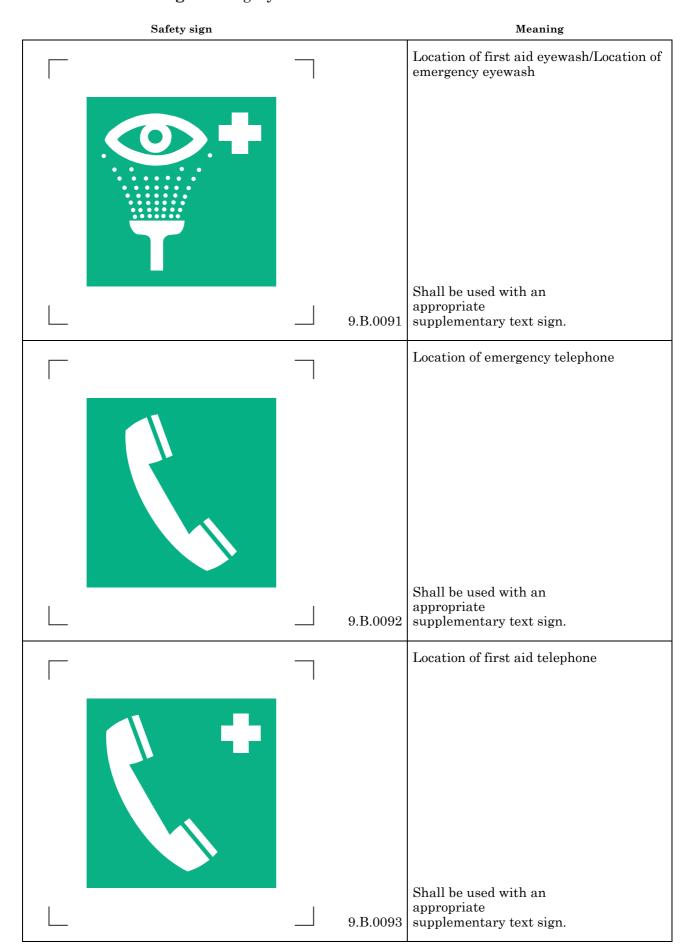
9 Safe condition signs Category B



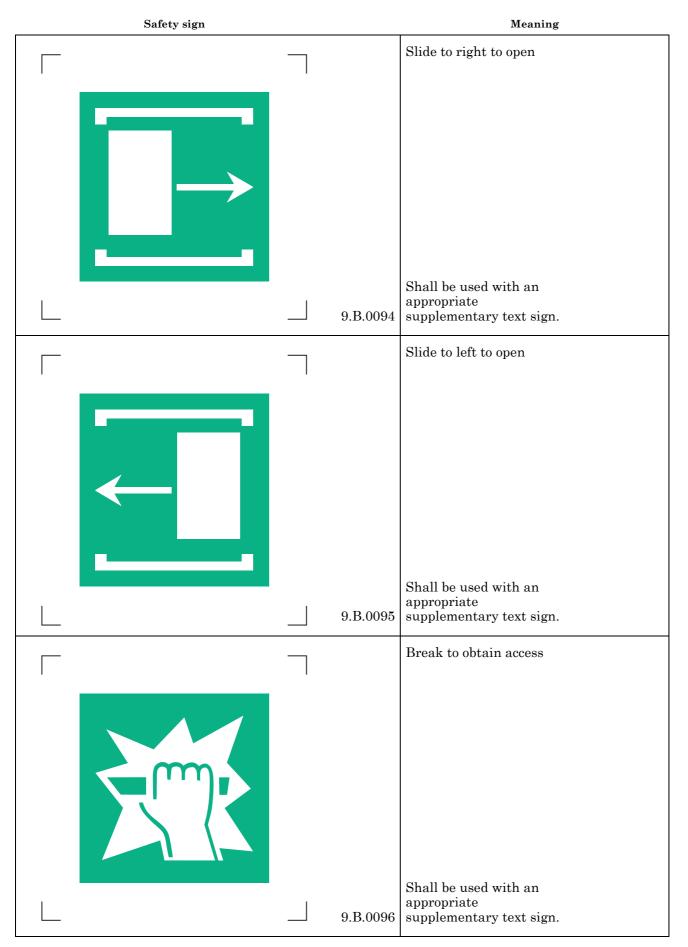
9 Safe condition signs Category B

Safety sign		Meaning
		Pull to open
	9.B.0088	Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.
		Location of evacuation assembly point
		Shall be used with an appropriate
L	9.B.0089	supplementary text sign.
Г		Location of first aid shower/Location of emergency shower
		Shall be used with an
	9.B.0090	appropriate

9 Safe condition signs Category B

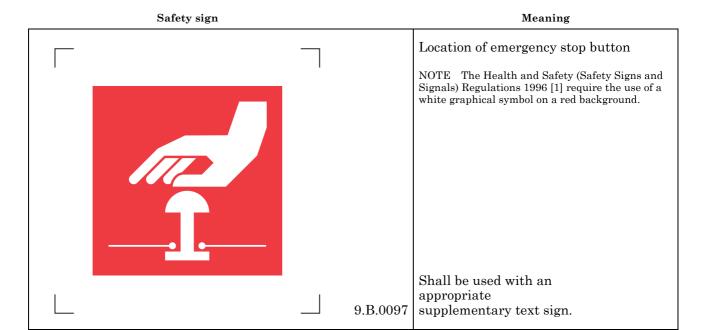


$\textbf{9 Safe condition signs} \ \mathrm{Category} \ \mathrm{B}$

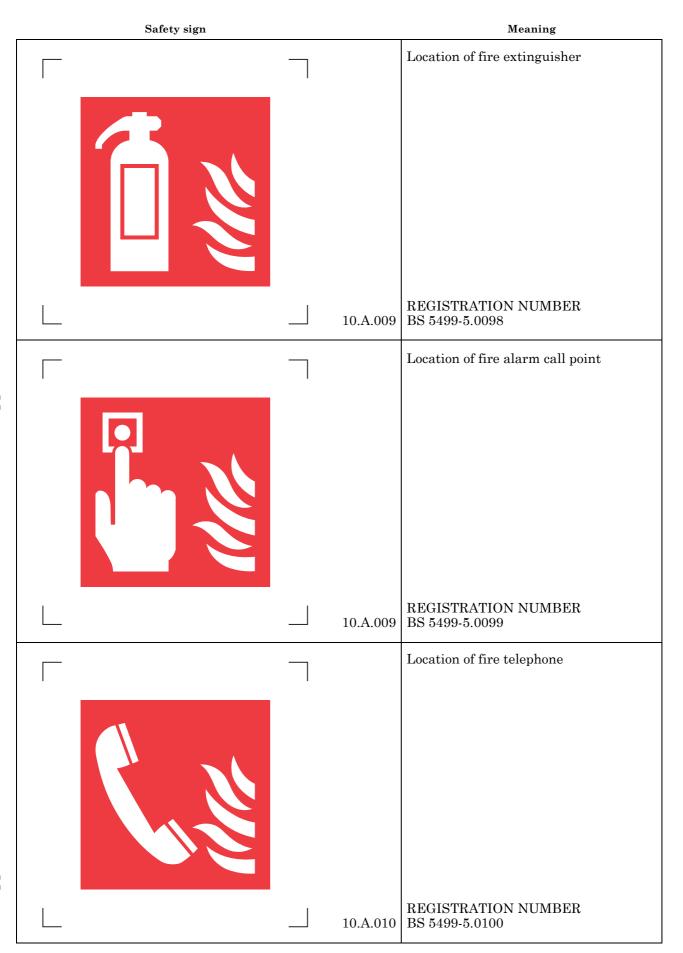


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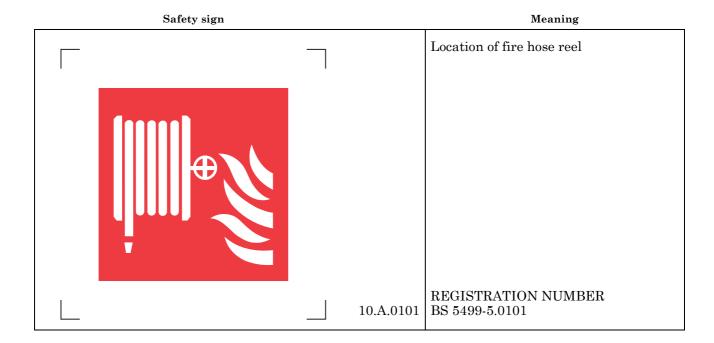
9 Safe condition signs Category B



${\bf 10\; Fire\; equipment\; signs\; Category\; A}$

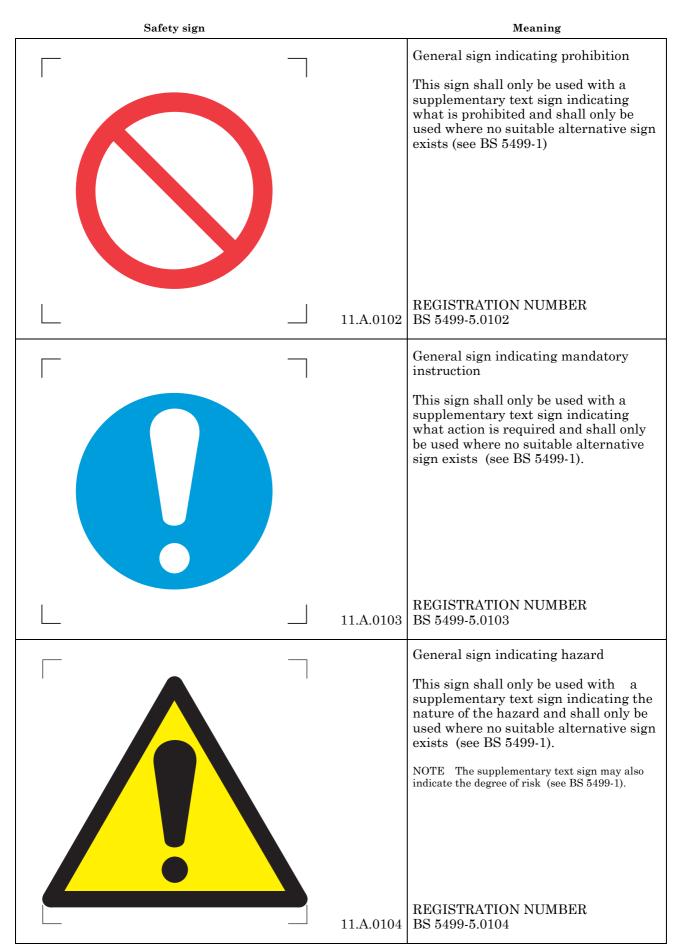


10 Fire equipment signs Category A

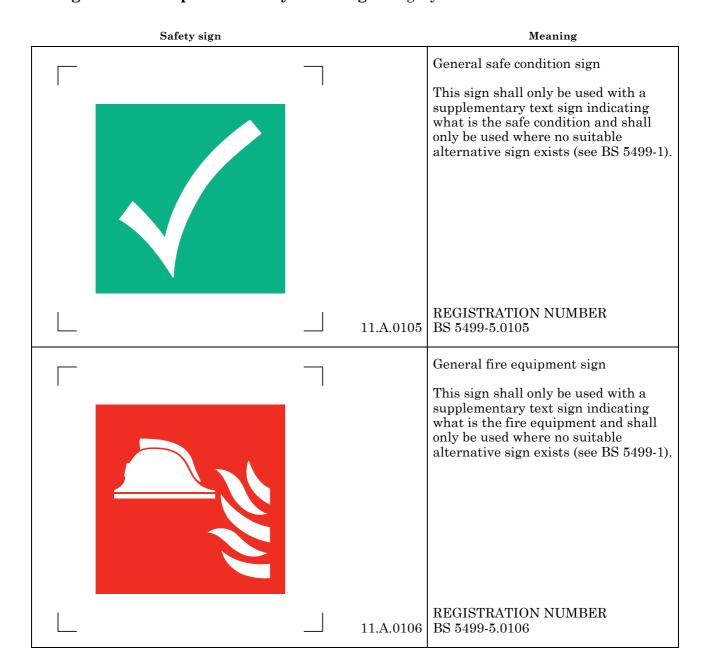


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11 Signs with no specific safety meaning Category A

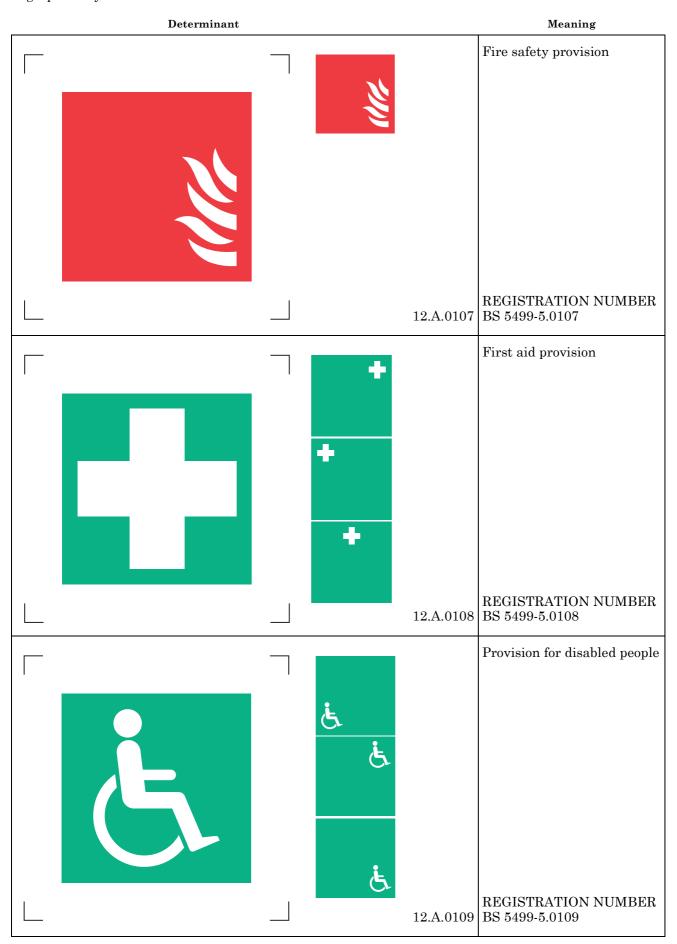


11 Signs with no specific safety meaning Category A



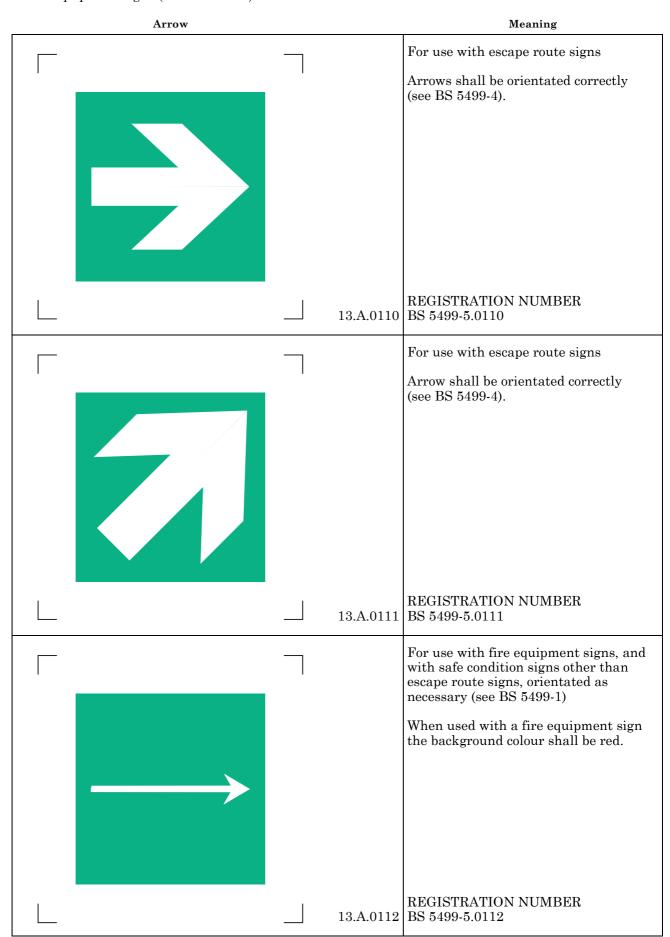
12 Determinants Category A

Determinants shall not be used as safety signs and shall only be used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols.



13 Arrows Category A

Arrows shall not be used as safety signs and shall only be used as a supplementary sign with safe condition or fire equipment signs (see BS 5499-1).



Annex A (normative) Fire safety notices

A.1 Mandatory notices

Notice		Notes
Fire door keep shut	A.1.01	Letter height 5 mm Sign height 60 mm
Fire door keep locked shut	A.1.02	Letter height 5 mm Sign height 60 mm
Automatic fire door keep clear	A.1.03	Letter height 5 mm Sign height 60 mm
Secure door open when premises are occupied	A.1.04	Letter height 5 mm Sign height 80 mm
Remove security fastening when premises are occupied	A.1.05	Letter height 5 mm Sign height 80 mm

A.1 Mandatory notices

Notice		Notes
Fire exit keep clear	A.1.06	Letter height 20 mm Sign height 240 mm
Escape route keep clear	A.1.07	Letter height 20 mm Sign height 240 mm

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A.2 Fire equipment notices

Notice	Notes		
Foam inlet	Location of foam inlet		
	Letter height 15 mm A.2.08 Sign height 120 mm		
Dry riser 2	Letter height 15 mm A.2.09 Sign height 120 mm		
Wet	Letter height 15 mm A.2.10 Sign height 120 mm		
Fire- fighter's switch	Location and identification of fire-fighter's switch Letter height 10 mm A.2.11 Sign height 120 mm		
Fire plan	Letter height 10 mm A.2.12 Sign height 120 mm		

Bibliography

Standards publications

BS 3510:1968, Specification for a basic symbol to denote the actual or potential presence of ionizing radiation.

BS 5499-4:2000, Safety signs, including fire safety signs — Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing. ISO 3864:1984, Safety colours and safety signs.

Other publications

- [1] GREAT BRITAIN. Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 (SI No. 1996/341). London, The Stationery Office.
- [2] GREAT BRITAIN. The Electricity Supply Regulations 1988 (SI No. 1988/1057). London, The Stationery Office.

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