

COMPLYING WITH SIGNAGE

Safety Signs are a requirement by law to help protect the safety of every person. The regulations require organisations to install a safety sign where there is a significant risk to health and safety that has not been avoided or controlled by the methods required under the relevant law.

There are various safety signs, each with their own classification and use. They are used as an aid to:

- Communicate information on hazards
- Communicate the need for personal protective equipment (where other control strategies are inadequate or impracticable)
- Communicate the location of safety equipment/emergency facilities (eye wash station, first aid etc.)
- Give guidance and instruction in an emergency

It is therefore necessary that all persons (staff/visitors) are able to understand the message and the risks associated with not complying with the signage.

For maximum effectiveness safety signs should be mounted close to the observer's line of sight in the vertical plane, and should be located against a contrasting background where possible.

The Australian Standard for Safety signs (AS1319-1994) does not specify a required material or size for a safety sign.

Types of Signage



Mandatory Signs

- Specifies an instructions that must be carried out.
- Symbols (or pictograms) are in white on a blue circular background.
- Sign wording, if necessary is in black lettering on a white background.



Prohibition Signs

- Specifies a behaviour or actions which are not permitted.
- The annulus and slash is depicted in red over the action symbol in black.
- Sign wording, if necessary is in black lettering on a white background.



Warning Signs

- These signs warn of hazards or a hazardous condition that is not likely to be life-threatening.
- The hazard symbol is black on a yellow background and a triangle around the hazard symbol.

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- Sign wording, if necessary is in black lettering on a yellow background.



Emergency Information Signs

- These signs indicate the location of, or directions to emergency related facilities (exits, first aid, safety equipment etc.)
- Features a white symbol and/or text on a green background.



Danger Signs

- Provide warning when a hazard or a hazardous condition is likely to be life threatening.
- The word danger is featured inside a red oval inside a black rectangle.



Fire Signs

- Advise the location of fire alarms and firefighting equipment.
- They contain a white symbol and/or text on a red background.

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