

AS 1319-1994 STANDARD

SAFETY SIGNS FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL ENVIRONMENT



COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE
INDUSTRIAL WARNING SIGNS

Safety Signs are crucial in any work environment. The primary importance of displaying Safety Signs is to prevent injury and ensure staff and visitors are well aware of the possible dangers and hazards ahead in certain situations and/or environments. Without signs, many employees would lack the necessary direction in times of crisis, and employers might find themselves in significant legal difficulties if any accidents were to arise as a result.

AS 1319-1994 standard for industrial warning signs sets out requirements for the design and use of safety signs intended for use in the occupations environment to regulate and control safety related behavior, to warn of hazards and to provide emergency information including fire protection information. The AS 1319-1994 standard provides direction for the use of safety signs, by means of background colour marking, legend and symbols.

Safety Sign Classification and Use

With regard to the Australian Safety Sign Standard AS 1319-1994, Safety signs are classified and must be used according to their function as follows:

- (a) **Regulatory Signs** – Signs containing instructions with which failure to comply constitutes either an offence at law, or a breach of standing orders, safety procedures or other directions, depending on which kind of control has been imposed at the work site or workplace. They are subdivided as follows:
 - (i) **Prohibition Signs** – Signs that indicate that an action or activity is not permitted.
 - (ii) **Mandatory Signs** – Signs that indicate that an instruction must be carried out.
 - (iii) **Limitation or Restriction Signs** – Signs that place a numerical or other defined limit on an activity or use of a facility.

NOTE: No limitation or restriction signs are given in this Standard. However, the commonly used speed limit sign (see AS 1742.1, Sign No. R4-1) will often be encountered in the workplace.

- (b) **Hazard Signs** – Signs advising of hazards. They are subdivided as follows:
 - (i) **DANGER Signs** – Signs warning of a particular hazard or hazardous condition that is likely to be life-threatening.
 - (ii) **Warning Signs** – Signs warning of a hazard or hazardous condition that is not likely to be life-threatening.

NOTE: The term *caution* used in earlier editions of this Standard has now been replaced by the term *warning*. The two terms are regarded as being interchangeable.

- (c) **Emergency Information Signs** – Signs indicating the location of, or directions to, emergency related facilities such as exits, safety equipment, or first aid facilities.

NOTE: The Standard excludes EXIT signs of the type specified in AS 2293.1 for use inside buildings.

- (d) **Fire Signs** – Signs advising the location of fire alarms and fire-fighting facilities.

Viewing Distance Guide

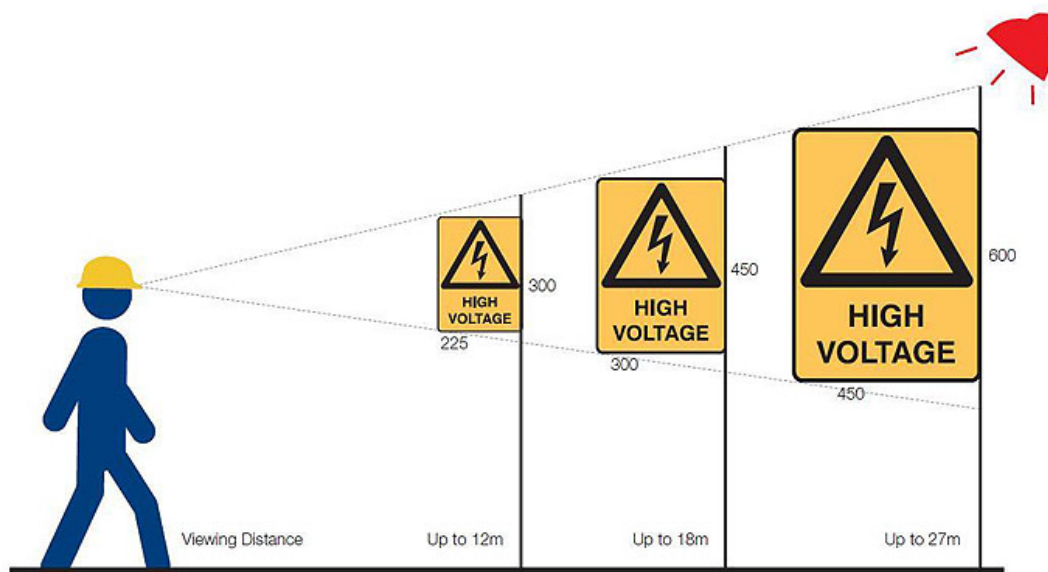
Signs should be large enough to view without straining the eyes when communicating safety messages to employees and/or visitors. Therefore, choosing the size of a sign is more than fitting it to the space you have available.

In order to comply with AS 1319-1994 you must consider the environment, lighting and viewing distance – these factors will determine the size of sign required to suit your application.

The recommended minimum sizes as per AS 1319-1994 are as follows. For a pictogram and worded sign in a factory or work environment, where lighting is good and the sign will be mounted in a reasonably prominent position.

- Pictogram size:
 - 15 mm per metre of viewing distance
- Text size:
 - Upper case: 5 mm per metre of viewing distance
 - Lower case: 4 mm per metre of viewing distance

For Safety Signs, please use the below diagram as a guide.










External or internal illumination of signs should be considered where the general lighting, either natural or artificial, does not provide for adequate visibility of signs. Signs in poor lighting conditions that are not likely to fall readily into the observer's line of sight will need to increase the size by 50%.

Safety Sign Colour and Shape

Sign layouts in each of the sign categories, except danger signs, may comprise symbolic signs, signs with words or a combination of the two. Danger signs have words only and messages which can only be classified as warnings of hazards. The symbolic shapes and colour coding for each of the sign functions is listed in the following table:

Colour and Shape Requirements for Safety Signs

Sign Function	Symbolic Shape	Legend Colour	Background Colour
Regulatory Prohibition		Black	White
Regulatory Mandatory		White	White
Regulatory Restriction		Black	White
Hazard Warning		Black	Yellow
Hazard Danger		Black	White
Emergency Information		White	Green
Fire Sign		White	Red

Safety Sign Layout

Any symbolic sign or shape should be placed within the rectangle, above the words if the sign has its long axis vertical, or to the left of the words if the sign has its long axis horizontal. The corners on all square, rectangular and triangular signs should also be rounded.

Regulatory signs must have black letters on a white rectangular background with optional black border and white surround.

- **Prohibition signs** must have a red annulus and slash with white interior and no symbol.

Hazard signs must have black letters on a yellow rectangular background with optional black border and yellow surround.

- **Warning signs** must have a symbolic shape comprising the yellow triangle with a black exclamation point.

Mandatory signs must comprise black words only, on a square or rectangular sign with a white background and its long axis vertical.



Danger signs incorporate the word DANGER in white letters on a red symbolic oval shape. The signs must comprise a white rectangle with black enclosure and white surround with the DANGER symbol on a black background placed above or to the left of the white rectangle. The legend within the white rectangle must comprise a worded warning message in black letters. Symbols are not used on DANGER signs.



Emergency Information signs must comprise a white symbol or worded legend, or both, on a green rectangular sign with white enclosure. Where two or more signs are required at one location, they may be placed on the one signboard, but each sign must have its own white enclosure.

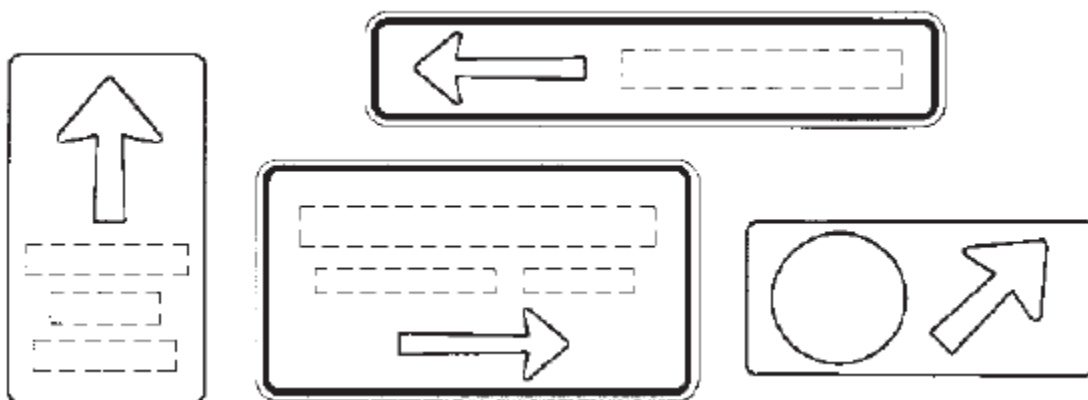


Fire signs must comprise a red rectangular sign with white legend and enclosure. Legends must comprise words or symbols, or both, indicating the location of fire alarms or fire-fighting facilities. Associated messages other than those indicating such facilities must be conveyed by means of separate signs.



Directional Flow Arrows

The use of arrows with emergency information signs or fire sign to indicate the direction to a facility or an item of equipment, is illustrated below, together with shape and dimensional details of two recommended forms of arrow. An arrow should never be placed on the opposite side of a symbol or legend away from the direction to which it points.



For more information on the AS 1319-1994 Standard, please visit the following source:

Standards Association of Australia – <https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-us/Standards/AS-1319-1994-223535/>