
Safety signs and colours

Part 1. Specification for colour and design

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Foreword

This revision of BS 5378 has been prepared under the direction of the Personal Safety Equipment Standards Committee and consists of three Parts, which may be purchased separately. BS 5378 : 1976 has been withdrawn.

Over many years, widely different codes and systems of safety signs have been developed.

This British Standard specifies a system for giving health or safety information that keeps the use of words to a minimum. The need for such a system has arisen due to the increase in international trade and travel and the development of work forces that do not share a common language.

Attention is drawn to the fact that education and training is an essential part of any system for giving health or safety information.

BS 5378 was originally published in 1976 and was based upon the draft international standard ISO/DIS 3864 issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Since publication of that draft, the EEC has issued a Directive (77/576/EEC) 'Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States relating to the provision of safety signs at places of work'. Effect is given to this Directive in Great Britain by the Safety Signs Regulations 1980 (SI 1980 No. 1471), and BS 5378 : Part 1 : 1980 is called up in these regulations.

The Directive is based upon the ISO work.

The international standard, ISO 3864, was published in 1984 and covers the same subject matter as Parts 1 and 2 of BS 5378, but it is not identical with them. Attention

is drawn in BS 5378 : Part 2 to the main differences between the publications.

This Part of BS 5378 is in line with the EEC Directive (77/576/EEC) and was prepared in anticipation of the preparation of the Safety Signs Regulations 1980 (SI 1980 No. 1471).

BS 5378 : Part 2 gives guidance on the preferred sizes of signs and specifies the colorimetric and photometric properties of materials.

BS 5378 : Part 3 has been produced to cover additional requirements.

This British Standard will also be used as a basis for other standards dealing with signs and symbols for specific purposes. Attention is drawn, for example, to BS 5499 : Part 1, which gives more detailed requirements for signs displayed to give information on fire precautions and means of escape in case of fire. In addition, reference may also be made to BS 5499 : Parts 2 and 3*.

Since international agreement has not yet been reached on a symbol for emergency exits, a symbol for these has not been specifically included as an example in this Part of BS 5378. In the meantime, however, the principles recommended in this Part of BS 5378 for colour and shape should be adopted in relation to such a symbol.

NOTE. This Part of BS 5378 is called up in the Safety Signs Regulations, 1980 (SI 1980 No. 1471).

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