

This is a preview of "ISO 20712-3:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Third edition  
2020-07

---

---

# Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

## Part 3: Guidance for use

*Signaux de sécurité relatifs à l'eau et drapeaux de sécurité pour les plages —*

*Partie 3: Lignes directrices pour l'utilisation*



Reference number  
ISO 20712-3:2020(E)

© ISO 2020



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO 20712-3:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Guidance for selection and siting of signs and flags</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1 Guidance for risk assessment.....	2
4.2 Siting.....	3
4.2.1 Water safety signs and multiple signs.....	3
4.2.2 Beach safety flags.....	3
<b>5 Water safety signs</b> .....	<b>3</b>
5.1 General requirements for aquatic environments.....	3
5.1.1 General.....	3
5.1.2 Mounting height.....	4
5.1.3 Lighting.....	4
5.1.4 Sign height and maximum viewing distance.....	4
5.1.5 Use of supplementary text.....	6
5.1.6 Construction: durability and suitability.....	6
5.1.7 Servicing and maintenance.....	6
5.2 Specific requirements for the swimming pool environment.....	6
<b>6 Beach safety flags</b> .....	<b>7</b>
6.1 General.....	7
6.2 Application of specific beach safety flags.....	7
6.2.1 Red flag BF.01.....	7
6.2.2 Yellow flag BF.02.....	7
6.2.3 Red/yellow flag BF.03.....	7
6.2.4 Black/white flag BF.04.....	8
6.2.5 Red/white flag BF.05.....	8
6.2.6 Truncated orange cone.....	8
6.3 Materials for beach safety flags.....	8
6.4 Operation of flags.....	8
6.4.1 Mounting position.....	8
6.4.2 Size of flag.....	8
6.4.3 Hoisting and taking down of flags.....	8
6.5 Flagpole.....	9
6.6 Inspection and maintenance of flags and flagpoles.....	9
6.7 Storage of flags.....	9
<b>7 Multiple signs</b> .....	<b>9</b>
7.1 General requirements.....	9
7.2 Presentation of information.....	9
7.2.1 General.....	9
7.2.2 Typeface.....	9
7.2.3 Type size.....	9
7.2.4 Colour.....	10
7.2.5 Use of symbols.....	10
7.2.6 Terminology and language.....	10
7.3 Types of multiple signs.....	10
7.3.1 Approach signs.....	10
7.3.2 Primary access signs.....	11
7.3.3 Secondary access signs.....	12
7.3.4 Directional signs.....	13

This is a preview of "ISO 20712-3:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

<b>8</b>	<b>Tsunami signing system</b> .....	<b>14</b>
8.1	Planning.....	14
8.2	Tsunami safety signs and associated safety information signs.....	14
<b>Annex A</b> (informative)	<b>Distance factor <math>z</math></b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex B</b> (informative)	<b>Examples of signing swimming pools</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Annex C</b> (informative)	<b>Examples of positioning beach safety flags</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>Annex D</b> (informative)	<b>Typeface for text</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Annex E</b> (informative)	<b>Examples of tsunami signing system</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	.....	<b>28</b>

This is a preview of "ISO 20712-3:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 20712-3:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes to the previous edition are as follows:

- references to ISO 20712-1 replaced with ISO 7010 as water safety signs with new registration numbers have been incorporated in ISO 7010;
- all four references in [Clause 2](#) moved to the Bibliography as these are informative;
- [3.3](#), 'distance factor' added as an admitted term;
- NOTES in [5.2](#), [6.5](#), [Annex D](#) and [Annex E](#) changed to body text;
- minor editorial changes.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20712 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

This document reflects good practice in the use of water safety signs and beach safety flags. The illustrations show examples of the selection and location of water safety signs and beach safety flags designed to provide information about aquatic hazards and the action necessary to avoid those hazards.

A standardized method of signing with the use of appropriate supplementary text throughout the working and public environment assists the process of education and instruction on the meaning of water safety signs and beach safety flags, and the appropriate actions to take. The intention of this document is to ensure a uniformity of application of water safety signs and beach safety flags which leads to increased familiarity, and therefore improved safety, for the users including visitors and for the general public.

The illustrations within this document are based on assumptions that some of the people may be unfamiliar with the features of indoor or outdoor swimming pools or of the beach. The illustrations are not intended to cover every potentially hazardous situation and they should be interpreted as recommendations and not as minimum requirements.

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

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

NOTE 1 Some countries' statutory regulations might differ in some respect from those given in this document.

NOTE 2 Some countries might differ in some respect from the requirements given in this document where they use the diamond geometric shape for warning signs.