

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO 3864-2

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## Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs —

### Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels

*Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —  
Partie 2: Principes de conception pour l'étiquetage de sécurité  
des produits*



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## 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 3864-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

ISO 3864 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs*:

- *Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas*
- *Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels*
- *Part 3: Design criteria for graphical symbols used in safety signs*

## Introduction

There is a need to standardize a system of communicating safety information on products. This part of ISO 3864 provides layouts for product safety labels that can be used to convey safety information related to the installation, operation, use, maintenance and/or disposal of a product. Product safety labels are not to be used as safety signs on walls in workplaces and public buildings.

This part of ISO 3864 builds on the system of hazard communication set forth in ISO 3864-1. This part of ISO 3864 sets forth additional layouts for product safety labels that assist in communicating:

- a) the severity level of the hazard, and
- b) supplementary safety information in word or symbolic form.

To assist in the communication of safety information across language barriers, all of the product safety label layouts shown in this part of ISO 3864 incorporate safety signs. This part of ISO 3864 includes product safety label layouts that use only safety signs as well as layouts that use additional graphical symbols and text. Product safety labels that include text can be used when some of the necessary safety information cannot be communicated in symbolic form, when the combination of safety sign with text is judged to be more effective or when legal requirements in countries mandate the use of text to communicate safety information. Education is an essential part of any system that provides safety information. Because the amount of safety information necessary to operate or service a product safely may be more than can be conveyed in a product safety label, a product's accompanying documentation (e.g. product literature, installation manual, operation manual, service manual) may supplement the product's safety labels to provide the user with the additional information necessary for safety. A product's user documentation also offers a place to educate users on the meaning of the safety signs and supplementary safety information symbols shown on the product's safety labels (see Annex A).

When a product safety label is to be developed, the hazards associated with the product and their corresponding risks should be evaluated. Many factors are considered when deciding whether or not to warn, whether to warn on the product in the form of a product safety label and/or to warn in user documentation. Such factors include the severity of the risk, the probability of engaging the hazard, the degree to which the risk is obvious, and the type of person likely to possibly engage the hazard.