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Second edition  
2003-11-01

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## **Ergonomics — Danger signals for public and work areas — Auditory danger signals**

*Ergonomie — Signaux de danger pour lieux publics et lieux  
de travail — Signaux de danger auditifs*



Reference number  
ISO 7731:2003(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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 7731 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 159, *Ergonomics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Ergonomics of the physical environment*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 7731:1986), which has been technically revised.

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## Introduction

This International Standard specifies criteria applicable to the recognition of auditory danger signals, especially in cases where there is a high level of ambient noise. It covers auditory danger signals, designated in the text of this standard by the use of the phrase "danger signals", which apply to emergency signals and warning signals (see Table 1).

Auditory danger signals can also be found in the following International Standards:

- ISO 8201 dealing with emergency evacuation signals;
- ISO 11429 dealing with auditory and visual danger signals.

Various types of danger signals and their responses are described in Table 1.

It should be noted that ISO 11429 covers this subject in greater detail.

**Table 1 — Various types of danger signals**

Type of danger signal	Response
Auditory emergency evacuation signal	Leave the danger zone immediately
Auditory emergency signal	Take urgent action for rescue or protection
Auditory warning signal	Take preventative or preparatory action

Correctly designed signals can reliably call attention to a hazard or a dangerous situation, even when hearing protection is worn, without causing fright.