

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 20559:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

First edition  
2020-08

---

---

## **Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Guidance for the development and use of a safety signing system**

*Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —  
Lignes directrices pour le développement et l'usage d'un système de  
signaux de sécurité*



Reference number  
ISO/TS 20559:2020(E)

© ISO 2020

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 20559:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)



**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/TS 20559:2020". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</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 General</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Safety signing system components</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1 General.....	2
5.2 Signage on evacuation routes.....	2
5.3 Fire equipment signs.....	3
5.4 Signs indicating the location of safety equipment or a safety facility or a safety action (safe condition signs).....	4
5.5 Safety signs for accident prevention (warning signs, prohibition signs and mandatory action signs).....	5
5.6 Escape and evacuation plan signs.....	6
5.7 Pipe and tank markings.....	7
5.8 Safety markings.....	7
5.8.1 General.....	7
5.8.2 Yellow/black.....	7
5.8.3 Red/white.....	7
5.8.4 Green/white.....	7
5.8.5 Blue/white.....	7
5.9 Product safety labels.....	7
<b>6 System component selection plan</b> .....	<b>8</b>
6.1 General.....	8
6.2 Use of risk assessments and the hierarchy of controls.....	8
6.3 Selection of the type of signing system component and its content.....	8
6.4 Consistency.....	9
6.5 Comprehension training.....	9
6.6 Use of combination signs and multiple signs.....	9
6.6.1 General.....	9
6.6.2 Use of supplementary signs in combination signs and multiple signs.....	10
6.7 Selecting sign materials.....	10
6.7.1 General.....	10
6.7.2 Luminous materials.....	11
6.8 Elimination of outdated existing safety signs and markings.....	11
<b>7 Installation plan</b> .....	<b>11</b>
7.1 General.....	11
7.2 Display.....	11
7.3 Orientation.....	12
7.4 Mounting height.....	14
7.5 Size.....	14
<b>8 Performance evaluation</b> .....	<b>15</b>
8.1 General.....	15
8.2 Inspection and maintenance.....	15
<b>9 Documentation</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>16</b>

## 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*.

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).

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 20559:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Introduction

The primary objective of safety signing systems is to support the provisions of a safe and healthy workplace or public area.

For those responsible for the health and safety of people in an organization or for the safety of people in a public area, implementing an effective safety signing system is a strategic and operational decision. The success of these systems of visual safety communication depends on leadership, commitment and participation from all levels and functions of the organization.

The information contained in this document gives safety professionals a “systems” approach to safety signage that works in tandem with an organization’s occupational health and safety management system (see ISO 45001).

Several ISO documents have been written for the design of the components of safety signing systems. This document provides a framework for systematically using these safety sign components to reduce risk by accurately communicating:

- the nature of potential hazards in facilities and related to equipment, and how to avoid these potential hazards;
- the location of essential safety equipment and fire equipment;
- the accurate identification of materials and related safety precautions;
- evacuation paths that lead persons to a place of safety.