

KELLER'S 5-MINUTE WORKPLACE SAFETY TALKS



Signs and Tags

Overview Of Topic

Ideally, the workplace would be hazard-free and safe from potential injuries and accidents. However, many operations involve a certain amount of risk that cannot be reduced through engineering measures or a change in work practices.

Safety signs have been developed as one means of preventing workplace accidents and subsequent injury.

Safety colors

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has developed the following color scheme for warning colors:

- **Safety red** indicates FIRE, DANGER, or STOP. It is most commonly used in flammable liquid identification, emergency stop switches, and fire protection equipment. Danger indicates an immediately hazardous situation that could cause death or serious injury.
- **Safety orange** indicates WARNING. Orange identifies hazardous equipment or situations. Common uses include marking machine hazards that pose cut, crush, or pinch injuries, and for making the insides of movable guards that allow access to gears, chains, and the like. Warning indicates a potentially hazardous situation that could result in death or serious injury.
- **Safety yellow** denotes CAUTION. Used with black lettering, yellow identifies hazards such as conditions that might result in tripping or falling or flammable material storage. Caution indicates a potentially hazardous situation that may result in moderate injury.
- **Safety green** denotes SAFETY. Green identifies the locations of safety equipment, material safety data sheets, and first-aid equipment.
- **Safety blue** denotes NOTICE. It is the color that identifies safety information signs such as personal protective equipment requirements. It also has some specific uses in the railroad industry.

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Sign shapes

Certain sign shapes are used for specific information.

- Triangle or diamond-shaped signs are used for hazard alerts, and are typically orange or yellow.
- Mandatory action symbols, such as those informing workers of the necessity for PPE, are circular and are typically blue in color.
- Square or rectangular indicate safety equipment location would be found, and are usually green in color.
- Certain workplace prohibitions may be identified by posting a sign containing a symbol in a circle with a slash going from the upper left to lower right.

Employee Training

OSHA regulations contain specific training requirements for signs and tags. At 29 CFR 1910.145(c), the rule says that all employees must be instructed that:

- danger signs indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.
- caution signs indicate a possible hazard against which proper precaution should be taken.

Training Tips

Using the employee handout, review the requirements of §1910.145.

Display sample warning signs as used in your facility, and explain where they can typically expect to find these types of signs.

Where To Go For More Information

29 CFR 1910.145—Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.

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Signs and Tags

Overview

In an effort to decrease the number of accidents and injuries in the workplace, OSHA developed two standards on safety color coding, and specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.

There are a few different means of designating signs and tags. Color and shape work well for the purpose of communicating required information.

Warning sign colors

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has developed the following color scheme:



- Red — means fire, danger, or stop.
- Orange — means warning.
- Yellow — means caution.
- Green — means safety.
- Blue — means notice.

Warning sign shapes

Sign shapes have meaning too:

- Triangle — means hazards alerts.
- Circle — signifies mandatory actions.
- Square/Rectangle — signifies information.
- Circle with slash — prohibited activity, based upon sign label or icon.

Warning labels on piping

Labels on piping serve to warn employees and emergency personnel what is contained in the pipes in the workplace. Piping may be labeled as:

- yellow, meaning contents are flammable.
- green, meaning contents are liquid, non-flammable.
- blue, meaning contents are gaseous.
- red, meaning contents are fire quenching materials.

SIGNS AND TAGS HANDOUT

KELLER'S 5-MINUTE WORKPLACE SAFETY TALKS—SPANISH MODULE

Charlas de cinco minutos sobre seguridad en el lugar de trabajo, de Keller—Módulo en español

Rótulos y etiquetas

Visión de conjunto

En un esfuerzo de disminuir el número de accidentes y lesiones en su lugar de trabajo, OSHA desarrolló dos estándares en codificación de color de seguridad, y especificaciones para los rótulos y etiquetas de prevención de accidentes.

Hay unas pocas maneras diferentes de diseñar rótulos y etiquetas. El color y la forma funcionan bien en el propósito de comunicar la información requerida.

Colores para letreros o rótulos de advertencia

El Instituto Americano de Estándares Nacionales (ANSI en inglés) ha desarrollado el siguiente esquema de colores:

- Rojo — significa fuego, peligro, o pare (alto).
- Anaranjado — significa advertencia.
- Amarillo — significa precaución.
- Verde — significa seguridad.
- Azul — significa note.



Formas de los rótulos y letreros de advertencia

Las formas de los letreros también tienen su significado:

- Triángulo — significa estar alerta a riesgos.
- Círculo — significa acción obligatoria.
- Cuadrado/Rectangular — significa información.
- Círculo con raya cruzada — es actividad prohibida, basada en el texto del letrero, o icono.

Etiquetas de advertencia en tubería

Las etiquetas en tubería tienen el propósito de advertir a los empleados y personal de emergencia lo que está dentro del tubo en su lugar de trabajo. Los tubos pueden estar etiquetados como:

- Amarillo, significa que el contenido es inflamable.
- Verde, significa que el contenido es líquido, y no es inflamable.
- Azul, significa que el contenido es gaseoso.
- Rojo, significa que el contenido tiene materiales para apagar incendios.

SIGNS AND TAGS HANDOUT

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