

Graphical symbols and signs —

Safety signs, including fire safety signs —

Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings

ICS 01.080.10; 13.220.01

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/8, Graphical symbols, to Subcommittee PH/8/1, Safety signs (including fire safety signs), upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of British Theatre Technicians
- BRE/LPC Laboratories — Centre for Fire and Security
- British Fire Consortium
- British Sign and Graphics Association
- Cinema Exhibitors Association
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Electricity Association
- Guild of Architectural Ironmongers
- Health and Safety Sign Association
- Home Office
- Institute of Fire Safety
- Lighting Industry Federation Limited
- London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
- Manchester Metropolitan University, Department of Psychology and Speech Pathology
- Ministry of Defence — UK Defence Standardization
- National Illumination Committee of Great Britain
- Photoluminescent Safety Products Association
- Railtrack
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Royal Life Saving Society UK
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
- Sign Design Society Limited
- South Yorkshire Fire Prevention Association and Fire Liaison Panel
- Theatres Advisory Council
- Coopted members

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Amendments issued since publication

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this British Standard:
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Foreword

This part of BS 5499 has been prepared by Subcommittee PH/8/1. It supersedes BS 5378-1:1980 and BS 5378-3:1982, which are withdrawn.

BS 5499 covers safety signs and fire safety signs since it is considered essential that all safety signs follow the same basic vocabulary of safety colours and geometric shapes.

BS 5499 comprises the following parts:

- *Part 1: Specification for geometric shapes, colours and layout;*
- *Part 2: Specification for self-luminous fire safety signs;*
- *Part 3: Specification for internally illuminated fire safety signs;*
- *Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing;*
- *Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings;*
- *Part 11: Water safety signs.*

Part 6 on design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs is being drafted.

The requirements specified in this part of BS 5499 have been drawn up in the light of the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 [1]. This part of BS 5499 is aligned with ISO 3864.

This part of BS 5499 classifies safety signs into five types, namely prohibition, mandatory, hazard, safe condition and fire equipment signs, in accordance with BS 5499-1. Signs within each type fall into one of three categories, A, B or C, which indicate the level of approval by Technical Committee PH/8. These groupings are mirrored in the layout of the standard.

The Technical Committee particularly welcomes proposals for improvements to signs specified as Category C signs, in order to produce signs suitable for registration as approved safety signs. Such proposals should be sent to The Secretary of Technical Committee PH/8, BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL, from whom details of the registration procedure and application forms can also be obtained.

Fire safety notices were standardized in BS 5499-1:1990 which classified them as fire safety signs. Fire safety notices are called up in guidance issued to support legislation. The view of the Technical Committee is that safety signs should replace fire safety notices as soon as appropriate graphical symbols are available.

The purpose of safety signs is to draw attention to objects and situations that affect or could affect health or safety and to provide information about safety, including safety in case of fire. It is important that the graphical symbols used in safety signs are standardized to aid comprehension. Whilst education in the comprehension of signs is essential, incomprehension caused by the lack of standardization can lead to confusion and possibly danger. International travel and mobility of labour increase the need for a standardized method for safety communication.

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

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

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 49 and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This part of BS 5499 specifies safety signs using the system of geometric shapes and safety colours specified in BS 5499-1. It is applicable to signs providing information on the actions to be taken to prevent, or reduce the risk of, accidents, for warning of hazards and for dealing with certain emergencies including the identification of escape routes and the location of fire equipment.

NOTE 1 Fire safety notices are specified in Annex A.

Signs specified as Category A signs have been accepted and registered by Technical Committee PH/8 as approved safety signs.

Signs specified as Category B signs are judged by Technical Committee PH/8 to require the further education of intended viewers before they can be registered as approved safety signs.

Signs specified as Category C signs are judged by Technical Committee PH/8 to require improvements to their graphical symbols as well as further education of intended viewers before they can be registered as approved safety signs.

NOTE 2 In addition to the BSI registration number, where applicable, each sign has been given a code number for ease of reference. These code numbers are made up as follows.

- The first character gives the clause number designation.
- The second character indicates the sign category within that clause.
- The third character is a sequential number for the individual sign.

EXAMPLES

The second registered prohibition sign has the code 6.A.0002. The third unregistered Category B hazard sign has the code 8.B.0056.

This part of BS 5499 does not cover:

- a) road traffic signs;
- b) public information symbols;
- c) International Maritime Organisation symbols;
- d) labels provided under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996;
- e) labels provided under the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

NOTE 3 The illustrations in this standard are as accurate as possible within the limitations of the printing process.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5499-1, *Graphical symbols and signs — Safety signs, including fire safety signs — Specification for geometric shapes, colours and layout.*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 5499 the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

safety sign

sign that gives a general safety message, by means of a combination of a safety colour and a geometric shape and which, by the addition of a graphical symbol, gives a particular safety meaning

3.2 types of safety sign

3.2.1

prohibition sign

safety sign that indicates that specific behaviour is forbidden

3.2.2

mandatory sign

safety sign that indicates that a specific course of action is to be taken

3.2.3

hazard sign

safety sign that indicates a specific source of potential harm

3.2.4

safe condition sign

safety sign that indicates a safety action, the location of safety equipment or a safety facility, or an escape route

3.2.5

fire equipment sign

safety sign that indicates the location or identification of fire equipment or how it should be used

3.3

supplementary sign

sign that is supportive of a safety sign by providing additional clarification

NOTE 1 A supplementary sign may comprise text or an arrow.

NOTE 2 A supplementary sign when used with a safety sign becomes part of the safety sign.

3.4

fire safety notice

sign in established use which uses the geometric shape and safety colour of a safety sign and includes specified text to convey a specific meaning for which there is no standardized graphical symbol

3.5

safety colour

specific colour to which a safety meaning is attributed

3.6

letter height

nominal height of the lower case letter “x”

3.7

sign height

diameter of a circular geometric shape or height of a rectangular or triangular geometric shape

NOTE Any border is ignored.

3.8

graphical symbol

visually perceptible figure with a particular meaning used to transmit information independently of language

3.9

determinant

graphical symbol used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols

NOTE For example, the fire determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a telephone conveys the meaning “fire telephone”; the fire determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a hose reel conveys the meaning “fire hose reel”; the first aid determinant when used with the graphical symbol for a shower conveys the meaning “first aid shower”.

4 Use of safety signs

Where a safety sign conveying the required meaning is specified in this part of BS 5499, that sign shall be used.

5 Use of supplementary text signs

NOTE 1 All types of safety signs may be used with a supplementary text sign if considered necessary or appropriate (see BS 5499-1).

NOTE 2 The wording given beside the safety signs in Clause 6 to Clause 10 is intended to explain the meaning of the signs. If a supplementary text sign is considered necessary to explain the meaning of the safety sign, then this wording, or other wording to the same effect may be used.

The signs specified in Categories B and C shall only be used with a supplementary text sign.

6 Prohibition signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
	No smoking REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0001
	No access for pedestrians/ No pedestrians allowed REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0002
	Do not run REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0003

6 Prohibition signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
 6.A.0004	No children allowed REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0004
 6.A.0005	No dogs REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0005
 6.A.0006	Not drinking water REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0006

6 Prohibition signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
	No eating or drinking 6.A.0007 REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0007
	No radios/No playing of radios 6.A.0008 REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0008
	No use of cameras/No photography 6.A.0009 REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0009

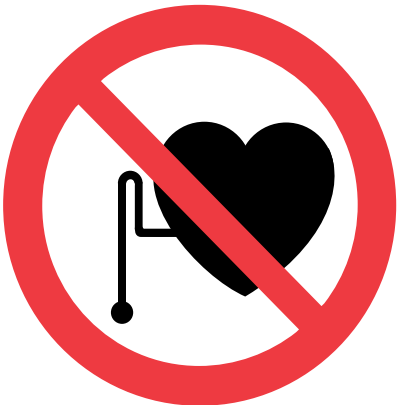
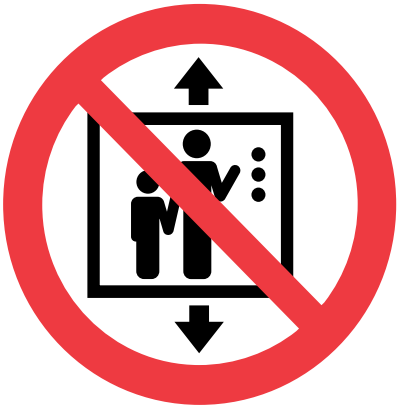
6 Prohibition signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
	Switch off mobile phones/Do not use mobile phones REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0010
	No industrial vehicles/No fork lift trucks REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0011

6 Prohibition signs Category B

Safety sign	Meaning
 6.B.0012	No naked flames Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.
 6.B.0013	Do not use ladder Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.
 6.B.0014	Do not wear metal studded footwear Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.

6 Prohibition signs Category B

Safety sign	Meaning
	No admittance for people with pacemakers Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. 6.B.0015
	Do not use lift Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. 6.B.0016
	Do not use hoist to transport people Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign. 6.B.0017

6 Prohibition signs Category B

Safety sign	Meaning
 6.B.0018	Do not use scaffold Shall be used with an appropriate supplementary text sign.

6 Prohibition signs Category C

NOTE These signs are considered to need improvement (see Clause 1).

Safety sign	Meaning
	Do not extinguish with water If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate supplementary text sign.
	No unauthorized access If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate supplementary text sign.
	Do not operate/Do not touch this switch If used, shall be accompanied by an appropriate supplementary text sign.

7 Mandatory signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
	Keep locked REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0022
	Wash your hands REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0023
	Wear head protection REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0024

7 Mandatory signs Category A

Safety sign	Meaning
 7.A.0025	Wear eye protection REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0025
 7.A.0026	Wear hand protection REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0026
 7.A.0027	Wear hearing protection REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0027

7 Mandatory signs Category A

Safety sign		Meaning
	7.A.0028	Wear respiratory protection REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0028
	7.A.0029	Wear mask REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0029
	7.A.0030	Wear face shield REGISTRATION NUMBER BS 5499-5.0030