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Ergonomics — System of auditory and visual danger and information signals

Ergonomie — Système de signaux auditifs et visuels de danger et d'information

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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.

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.

International Standard ISO 11429 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 159, *Ergonomics,* Subcommittee SC 5, *Ergonomics of the physical environment.*

The technical content of ISO 11429 and European Standard EN 981, *Safety of machinery — System of auditory and visual danger and information signals,* is identical. However, the limits of applicability of the standards to other technical fields are different, thus direct transformation of the International Standard into a European standard is not possible. EN 981 was prepared in order to fulfil the Council Directive on essential health and safety requirements relating to the design and construction of machinery and therefore the applicability of the European standard is restricted to this Directive.

Annex A of this International Standard is for information only.

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Ergonomics — System of auditory and visual danger and information signals

1 Scope

To reduce risks associated with misinterpretation of visual and auditory danger signals, this International Standard specifies a system of danger and information signals taking into account the different degrees of urgency.

This International Standard is applicable to all danger and information signals which have to be clearly perceived and differentiated as specified in ISO/TR 12100-2:1992, 5.3, by other requirements or by the work situation, and to all degrees of urgency — from extreme urgency to an ALL CLEAR situation. Where visual signals are to be complementary to sound signals, the signal character is specified for both.

This International Standard does not apply to certain fields covered by specific standards or other conventions in force (international or national); in particular, fire alarms, medical alarms, alarms used in the field of public transport, navigation signals and signals for special fields of activity (for example, military). When new signals are being planned, however, this International Standard should be considered in order to avoid inconsistency.

For auditory signals, the system of signal character is a guideline for a signal language based on message categories which are classified according to urgency. Certain characters are specified for purposes which require safe and rapid recognition. Certain categories allow possibilities for variants, e.g. control and warning signals at workplaces where the signalling is intended for personnel with specific training.

For visual signals, the established meanings of the safety colours are not affected by this International Standard. For different needs, complementary meanings have been assigned to the signals by timed patterns, and in a very few cases by alternating colours.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 7731:1986, *Danger signals for work places — Auditory danger signals.*

ISO 8201:1987, *Acoustics — Audible emergency evacuation signal.*

ISO 8995:1989, *Principles of visual ergonomics — The lighting of indoor danger signals.*

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