

BS 5499-1:2002






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Graphical symbols and signs – safety signs, including fire safety signs.

Part 1 of the standard specifies a system for geometric shapes and safety colours for use with appropriate graphical symbols to produce safety signage.

It also defines the colours, letter sizes and letter style to be used.

The table below illustrates how the five types of signs are defined:

Meaning	Shape	Example
Prohibition A red circular band with diagonal cross bar on a white background, the symbol within the circle to be black denoting a safety sign that indicates that a certain behaviour is prohibited.		No smoking
Hazard A yellow triangle with black border and symbol within the yellow area denoting a safety sign that gives warning of a hazard.		High Voltage
Mandatory A blue circle with white symbol denoting a sign that indicates that a specific course of action must be taken.		Fire Exit Keep Clear
Fire Equipment A red oblong or square with symbol in white denoting a safety sign that indicates the location of fire fighting equipment.		Fire Extinguisher
Safe Condition A green oblong or square with symbol or text in white denoting a safety sign providing information about safe conditions.		Evacuation assembly point

Part 1 also defines the size of signs. The full standard details an information annex which gives details of this data and includes this table as a guide:

Maximum viewing distance ^a m	Maximum sign height ^b mm	Recommended letter height in supplementary text sign mm
7	60	5
9	80	7
14	120	10
21	180	15
28	240	20

^a Calculated using equation A.1 with Z=120 and rounded down to the nearest whole metre.
^b For immediate viewing distances the next largest available sign height should be used.

Table A.1 Minimum sign height recommended for different maximum viewing distances.

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