

Compliance – Resource Bulletin

ANSI Safety Signs

Overview:

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) was founded in 1918. It was created to make United States businesses more competitive on a global scale. It is also meant to better the United States quality of life through the use of standards, and by preserving the integrity of these standards. Standards are documents that provide rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities. ANSI was created to strengthen the U.S. within the global economy while making sure that the products that consumers are using are safe for both them and the environment. ANSI does not develop these standards itself. The Institute is responsible for accrediting standards from other developers making decisions which effect these standards.

One important standard associated with ANSI is Z535. This standard explains the specifications for the safety colors used in ANSI signs. This regulates the various colors so that all the signs are uniform which allows for them to be easily recognized. Uniform colors used on signs helps identify hazards in the workplace (Z535.1-2017).

Resources:

ANSI.org: (Free)

<http://www.ansi.org/>

ANSI Z535.2-2011 (R2017): (\$\$)

<http://webstore.ansi.org/>

ANSI FAQ: (Free)

http://www.ansi.org/about_ansi/faqs/faqs.aspx?menuid=1

ANSI Sign Requirements:

The standard, ANSI Z535.2-2011 (R2017), shows users the various requirements for a visual system of identification related to the potential hazards in both facilities and in the environment. This standard shows the design, application, and use of signs for this system. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (2.1)) The requirements for signs include:

- Sign Header
 - Triangle around exclamation point for personal injury hazard signs (safety alert symbol);
 - Common size on hazard level signal words;
 - Colors of the header are dictated by a hazard signal word;
 - Additional information shown under *ANSI Header Options* section below.
- Signal Words
 - All uppercase lettering (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (8.1.1));
 - Signal words (Danger, Warning and Caution) will use upper case sans serif letters;
 - *Notice* will use italicized, upper case sans serif lettering (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (8.1.1));
- Wording Format for Message Panel
 - Left justified in the text area;
 - Capital and small letters in paragraph form;
 - It is essential to make the lettering a size that people with normal vision can easily read, both up close and from a safe distance away. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (8.3.1))

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- Safety Symbols
 - These symbols may be used to add additional information to a sign or to clarify the message shown.
 - Usually shown on a multi-panel sign where there is room for additional information/images.
 - They should be easily read from various distances.
 - Should be consistent, legible, comprehensible, and simple in order to convey the necessary meaning. (Z535.3-2011 (R2017) (A3.1-4))
- Safety Colors
 - There are specific colors that must be used for signs and other safety identification.
 - Contrast is extremely important on signs to insure visibility. (Z535.1-2017 (4.4))
- Sign Materials
 - Must use materials that will be durable enough to withstand various elements, both in the environment and in a factory setting. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (10.1))

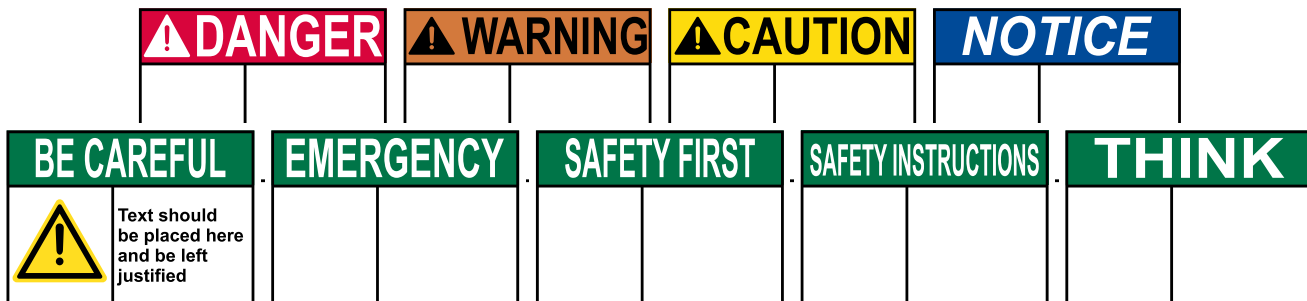
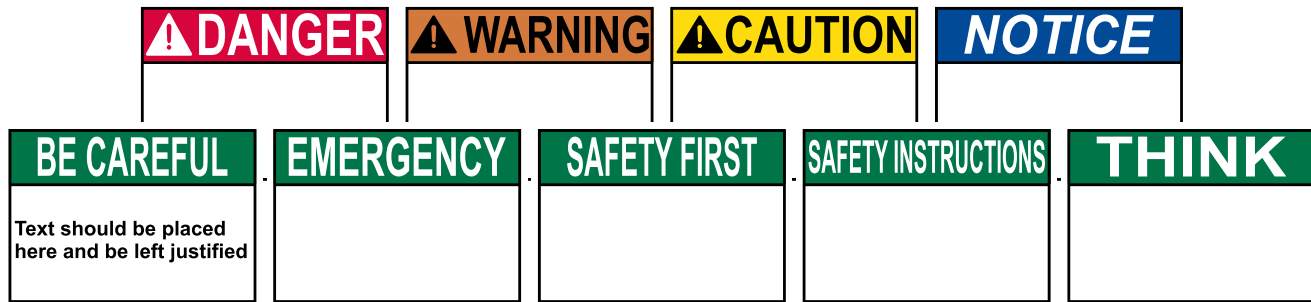
ANSI HEADER OPTIONS:

There are four main signal words that are used in ANSI Sign headers. These include: Danger, Warning, Caution, and Notice. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11))

- DANGER: This type shows a hazardous situation that will result in death or a very serious injury if proper safety precautions are not taken. Used for the most extreme situations only. Includes the safety alert symbol. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11.1))
 - Would include a safety white triangle with a red exclamation mark inside with a red background
- WARNING: This header shows a hazardous situation that could lead to serious injury or death if proper safety precautions are not taken to avoid injury. This header would be used for hazardous situations that are between Caution and Danger in severity. Includes safety alert symbol. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11.2))
 - Would include a safety black triangle with an orange exclamation mark with an orange background.
- CAUTION: This header shows a hazardous situation that could result in minor or moderate injury. Can either include or not include safety alert symbol. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11.3))
 - Would include a safety black triangle with a yellow exclamation mark with a yellow background.
- NOTICE: Used to address practices not related to personal injury. This is a non-hazard related sign. No safety alert symbol used. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11.4))
 - This type of sign would be used more for instruction relating to security, damage to property or sanitation of an area with a blue background.
- OTHER: All other types of signs are used to show instructions or equipment location. There are safety instruction signs which are used to show various procedures or practices. With a sign like this, there are other signal words that can be used, such as: Safe Shutdown Procedure or Lockout Procedure. It is also possible to see signs indicating specific safety equipment like an eye washing station. (Z535.2-2011 (R2017) (4.11.5-6))

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- Samples below:



ADDITIONAL ANSI INFORMATION

Currently, ANSI standards have been adopted by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) which essentially means that all ANSI signs meet the requirements set forth by OSHA. ANSI signs produced before these changes will still be compliant. These changes will help insure the safety of workers in hazardous situations since ANSI Z535.2-2011 (R2017) specifically relates to avoiding hazards in the workplace.

For ANSI Safety Signs visit our store: <http://www.compliancesigns.com>