



ANSI Z535.4-2007

American National Standard

**for Product Safety Signs
and Labels**



ANSI Z535.4-2007

American National Standard
For Product Safety Signs and Labels

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Foreword (Neither this foreword nor any of the informative annexes is a part of American National Standard Z535.4-2007.)

In 1979, the ANSI Z53 Committee on Safety Colors was combined with the ANSI Z35 Committee on Safety Signs to form the ANSI Z535 Committee on Safety Signs and Colors. This committee has the following scope:

To develop standards for the design, application, and use of signs, colors and symbols intended to identify and warn against specific hazards and for other accident prevention purposes.

Five subcommittees were created and assigned the tasks of updating the ANSI Z53 and Z35 Standards, and writing new standards. The five standards include:

- ANSI Z535.1, Safety Color Code [ANSI Z54.1-1979 was updated and combined into this standard in 1991.]
- ANSI Z535.2, Environmental and Facility Safety Sign [ANSI Z35.1-1972 and Z35.4-1972 were updated and combined into this standard in 1991.]
- ANSI Z535.3, Criteria for Safety Symbols [new in 1991]
- ANSI Z535.4, Product Safety Signs and Labels [new in 1991]
- ANSI Z535.5, Accident Prevention Tags (For Temporary Hazards) [ANSI Z35.2-1974 was updated and combined into this standard in 1991.]

In 2002 the Z535 Committee changed the title of Z535.5 to:

- ANSI Z535.5, Safety Tags and Barricade Tapes (for Temporary Hazards).

In 2002, the Z535 Committee voted to form a new subcommittee, ANSI Z535.6. The purpose of this new subcommittee is to develop a standard to complement the existing Z535 standards by dealing with various aspects of the provision of safety information in collateral materials. The new standard was published in 2006.

- ANSI Z535.6, Product Safety Information in Product Manuals, Instructions, and Other Collateral Materials [new in 2006]

In 2006, the title of Z535.1 was changed to:

- ANSI Z535.1, Safety Colors.

Together, these six standards contain the information needed to specify formats, colors, and symbols for safety signs that are used in environmental and facility applications (Z535.2), for product applications (Z535.4), for temporary accident prevention tags and barricade tapes (Z535.5) and for safety information in product accompanying literature (Z535.6).

This standard was prepared by Subcommittee Z535.4 on Product Safety Signs and Labels.

This foreword and all of the Annexes are considered to be informative and are not an official part of this standard. In the vocabulary of writing standards, the word “informative” is meant to convey that the information presented is for informational purposes only and is not considered to be mandatory in nature. The body of this standard is “normative”, meaning that this information is considered to be mandatory.

This Standard provides guidelines for the design of safety signs and labels for application to products. The core guidelines contained in this standard were initially published in the first edition of this Standard. This first edition became available in 1992. In the 1998 revision, Annex A was added to explain the use of safety label components in collateral material used with the product, and Annex B was added to provide helpful principles and guidelines for the design of product safety signs.

In the 2002 revision, Annex C was added to describe the use of ISO formats for product safety signs and labels and Annex D was added to provide translations for signal words.

In the 2007 revision, Annex E was added to provide assistance in selecting a signal word and Annex F was created to separate the normative references from the informative references.

See the ANSI Z535-2006 Safety Color Chart for the purpose of viewing accurate colors. Due to the differences in color printing technologies and color monitors, the appearance of colors in this document may not be accurate.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by the Accredited Standards Committee on Safety Signs and Colors, ANSI Z535. Committee approval of this standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the Z535 Committee had the following members:

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For Product Safety Signs and Labels

1 Introduction

The design of safety signs¹ for products has been influenced for many years by standards originally developed for accident prevention signs to be used in the general environment. As product safety signs evolved, some basic differences developed between their characteristics and those of environmental safety signs: Environmental safety signs are usually larger, observed at longer distances, and frequently contain lesser amounts of information for visual clarity at a distance. Product safety signs are likely to contain more information within a smaller format, are usually observed at closer distances, and must physically and visually integrate with a wide range of product size, shape, and color characteristics. Attempts by product manufacturers to address these variable characteristics have produced numerous approaches to the graphic treatment of such signs.

This standard sets forth a hazard communication system developed specifically for product safety signs and labels. It consolidates a number of previous graphic approaches into a common design direction carefully selected to present product hazard information in an orderly and visually consistent manner for effective communication.

The ANSI Z535.4 standard developed for Product Safety Signs and Labels complements the ANSI Z535.2 standard developed for Environmental and Facility Safety Signs. These standards are similar in many respects. However, they each address different physical and visual requirements as noted above. As a result, the Accredited Standards Committee Z535 has recognized and affirmed the need for these two separate standards.

2 Scope and Purpose

2.1 Scope

This standard sets forth performance requirements for the design, application, use, and placement of safety signs and labels intended to identify hazards for persons using, operating, servicing, or in proximity to, a wide variety of products.

2.2 Purpose

The purposes of this standard are: (1) to establish a uniform and consistent visual layout for safety signs and labels applied to a wide variety of products, (2) to minimize the proliferation of designs for product safety signs and labels, and (3) to establish a national uniform system for the recognition of potential personal injury hazards for those persons using products.

2.2.1 Existing American National Standards

There are a number of existing American National Standards which are recognized for particular industries or specific uses. Compliance with such a standard may be considered for the particular industry or use. It is not the intent of this ANSI Z535.4 standard to replace existing standards or regulations which are uniquely applicable to a specific industry or use. It is the intent to encourage adoption of this standard in subsequent revisions of other standards and regulations.

¹ In this standard, the term "sign" will be used to mean either a product safety sign or label.