

Graphical symbols and signs — Public information symbols

ICS 01.080.10

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/8, Graphical symbols, to Subcommittee PH/8/2, Public information graphical symbols and signs, upon which the following bodies were represented:

British Hospitality Association
 British Standards Society
 British Tourist Authority
 Chartered Society of Designers
 Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
 Countryside Agency
 County Surveyors Society
 Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
 Forestry Commission
 London Transport
 Manchester Metropolitan University
 National Trust
 Ordnance Survey
 Railtrack
 Royal Institute of British Architects
 Royal Life Saving Society UK
 Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents
 Wales Tourist Board

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard through panels:

British Airports Authority
 Countryside Commission
 Countryside Recreation Network
 English Heritage
 Sign Design Society
 South East England Tourist Board
 Westminster City Council
 Coopted members

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Subcommittee PH/8/2. It supersedes BS 6034:1990, which is withdrawn.

The reason for the publication of this British Standard is the increasing use of non-verbal presentation of information in buildings and other places, and for services, used by the public. The use of graphical symbols is important to assist understanding by all, including those whose first language is not English and those who have disabilities.

This British Standard is related to ISO 7001:1990 but is not equivalent in technical content. This British Standard differs from ISO 7001 in two main ways. Firstly, it is more comprehensive and contains a much greater number of graphical symbols. Secondly, it is the image that is standardized instead of the written description.

Proposals for symbols for consideration for inclusion in a future edition of this standard should be submitted to the Secretary of Subcommittee PH/8/2 at BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL.

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 132, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This British Standard presents a compilation of public information symbols and gives recommendations for their use.

NOTE 1 For the convenience of users, the graphical symbols have been grouped according to the areas where they are normally expected to be used. However, these groupings are not intended to be exclusive and use of the graphical symbols in other areas, where this is considered appropriate, is not precluded.

This standard is not applicable to safety signs, including fire safety signs, or to traffic signs for use on the public highway which are governed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 1994 [1] or specially authorized by the Secretary of State under Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 [2].

NOTE 2 Safety signs, including fire safety signs, are covered by BS 5499. Water safety signs are covered by BS 5499-11.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

graphical symbol

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

NOTE It may be produced by drawing, printing or other means.

2.2

public information symbol

graphical symbol intended to give information to the general public, the understanding of which is independent of specialist or occupational training

2.3

negation

indication of the absence or opposite of something actual or positive

2.4

negation element

element of a graphical symbol intended to negate the original intended message given by the symbol

3 General

3.1 Size

The public information symbols given in this standard are designed to be reproduced in a variety of sizes to suit different applications from, for example, small-scale orientation notices to large-scale wayfinding signs. For the convenience of the user of the standard, a smaller version of each symbol is given.

3.2 Text

The graphical symbols have been designed with the intention that they can be used on their own to convey the information described in the meaning (except the direction arrow, symbol number 4119, which cannot be used on its own, see 3.3). However, they may be combined with the relevant text on a sign or notice etc., if considered appropriate. This might be an advantage with less well established symbols to aid understanding.