
**Security and resilience – Emergency
management – Guidelines for colour-
coded alert**

*Sécurité et résilience – Gestion des situations d'urgence – Lignes
directrices relatives aux alertes par code couleur*



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 292, *Security and resilience*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 22324:2015), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

The changes are as follows:

- the title has been updated;
- references to guidance in other relevant standards have been added;
- the Bibliography has been updated.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

People can be faced in their daily lives with various kinds of risks. People at risk should be able to take appropriate safety actions when faced with hazards even if they do not have a full understanding of them.

Public warnings, through a combination of prior notifications and alerts, enable people at risk to take appropriate and timely actions to protect their safety. ISO 22322 provides further guidance on public warning.

Colour-coded alerts are used to notify people at risk of status changes on a safety or danger continuum in allowing them to take appropriate actions.

This document will lead to better understanding of colour-coded alerts by reducing confusion and prompting more appropriate responses in an emergency situation.

Security and resilience – Emergency management – Guidelines for colour-coded alert

1 Scope

This document gives guidance on the use of colour codes to inform people at risk as well as first response personnel about danger and to express the severity of a situation.

This document is applicable to all types of hazard in any location.

This document does not apply to the method for displaying colour codes, detailed ergonomic considerations related to viewing displays or safety signs covered by ISO 3864-1.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22300, *Security and resilience — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 22300 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Guidance for use of colour codes

4.1 General

Red, yellow and green (and the spectrum in between in terms of hue) should be used to express the status of a hazard. Black, purple, blue and grey should be used to give supplementary information about the hazard. ISO 22322 provides further guidance on public warning.

4.2 Colour codes to express the status of hazard

4.2.1 General

The colour codes to express the status of hazard are as follows:

- Red is associated with danger and should be used to notify people at risk to take appropriate safety actions immediately.
- Yellow is associated with caution and should be used to notify people at risk to prepare to take appropriate safety actions.
- Green is associated with a safe status and should be used to notify people at risk that no action is required.