
**Graphical symbols — Safety colours and
safety signs —**

Part 3:

**Design principles for graphical symbols
for use in safety signs**

Symboles graphiques — Couleurs de sécurité et signaux de sécurité —

*Partie 3: Principes de conception pour les symboles graphiques utilisés
dans les signaux de sécurité*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 3864-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3864-3:2006), which has been technically revised.

ISO 3864 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs*:

- *Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*
- *Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels*
- *Part 3: Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs*
- *Part 4: Colorimetric and photometric properties of safety sign materials*

Introduction

Graphical symbols in safety signs are used for a wide range of purposes. There is a need to standardize the principles for creating these graphical symbols to ensure visual clarity, to maintain consistency, and thereby to improve recognition and comprehension. The principles set forth in this part of ISO 3864 are the design criteria by which graphical symbols are judged for standardization and publication in ISO 7010 and in ISO 20712-1.

Graphical symbols used in safety signs are not always intuitively understood. Often training needs to take place to inform people about the meaning of a graphical symbol. Such training can take place by including the meaning of a graphical symbol in operation manuals, company bulletins, training programme materials, as well as using supplementary text with the safety sign.

NOTE Information on procedures, criteria of acceptability, safety sign templates and application of safety signs is given on the website: <http://www.iso.org/tc145/sc2>.

Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs —

Part 3:

Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs

IMPORTANT — The colours represented in the electronic file of this part of ISO 3864 can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. Although the copies of this part of ISO 3864 printed by ISO have been produced to correspond (with an acceptable tolerance as judged by the naked eye) to the requirements of ISO 3864-4, it is not intended that these printed copies be used for colour matching. Instead, consult ISO 3864-4, which provides colorimetric and photometric properties together with, as a guideline, references from colour order systems.

1 Scope

This part of ISO 3864 gives principles, criteria and guidance for the design of graphical symbols for use in safety signs as defined in ISO 3864-1, and for the safety sign element of product safety labels as defined in ISO 3864-2.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 3864-1:2011, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

ISO 3864-2, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels*

ISO 3864-4:2011, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 4: Colorimetric and photometric properties of safety sign materials*

ISO 7010, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Registered safety signs*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

ISO 20712-1, *Water safety signs and beach safety flags — Part 1: Specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 17724 and the following apply.

3.1

determinant

graphical symbol used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols

NOTE For example, the fire determinant which, when used with the graphical symbol for a hose reel, conveys the meaning “fire hose reel”; see Figure 17.