International Standard

ISO 3864-3

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.

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 document 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).

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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 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3864-3:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— references have been added in the Introduction to the list of translations of referents and to the ISO Online Browsing Platform;

— normative references have been updated;

— exclusion zone for warning signs in 7.4.4 has been clarified.

A list of all parts in the ISO 3864 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

This corrected version of ISO 3864-3:2024 incorporates the following corrections:

— Figure 2 and Figure 4 have been updated to the most recent versions.

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 out in this document specify the design criteria by which graphical symbols are judged for standardization and publication in ISO 7010.

Graphical symbols used in safety signs are not always intuitively understood. Often training can be necessary 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 and training programme materials, as well as by using supplementary text with the safety sign.

NOTE 1 Information on procedures, criteria of acceptability, safety sign templates and application of safety signs, as well as translations of the referents, can be found at https://www.iso.org/tc145/sc2.

NOTE 2 All safety signs are available on the ISO Online Browsing Platform at https://www.iso.org/obp.

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 document can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. For the purposes of colour matching see ISO 3864-4, which provides colorimetric and photometric properties together with, as a guideline, references from colour order systems.

1 Scope

This document provides 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 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 3864-1:2011, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

ISO 3864-4, *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*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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/

3.1
determinant
graphical symbol used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols

EXAMPLE The fire determinant, when used with the graphical symbol for a hose reel, conveys the meaning “fire hose reel”; see Figure 17.