

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO 11683

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## Packaging — Tactile danger warnings — Requirements

*Emballages — Indications tactiles de danger — Exigences*

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ISO 11683:1993(E)

## Foreword

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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.

International Standard ISO 11683 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (as EN 272) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*, in parallel with its approval by the ISO member bodies.

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## Introduction

When blind or visually handicapped persons are handling a package, it is difficult or impossible for them to ascertain whether it contains harmless or dangerous substances or preparations.

This problem may be solved by

- providing packages which contain dangerous substances or preparations with a tactile symbol in accordance with this International Standard;
- teaching the blind and visually handicapped persons the meaning and the positioning of the tactile symbol on the package.

For blind and visually handicapped persons, a tactile symbol which is simple in its presentation makes the teaching and learning process easy and provides a guarantee of recognition.

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# Packaging — Tactile danger warnings — Requirements

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements for a tactile danger warning on packagings which are intended for certain dangerous substances and preparations. It does not apply to packaging for pharmaceutical products.

This International Standard does not specify the dangerous substances and preparations to be contained in packagings with a tactile danger warning. These are to be specified by legislative authorities.

This International Standard specifies a tactile symbol which is a raised equilateral triangle.

## 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

**2.1 dangerous:** Description specified by legislative authorities for certain substances (see 2.1.1) and preparations (see 2.1.2).

**2.1.1 substance:** Chemical elements and their compounds as they occur in the natural state or as produced by industry.

**2.1.2 preparation:** Mixture or solution composed of two or more substances.

**2.2 packaging:** Any form of container in which substances or preparations are directly packaged.

**2.3 package:** Packaging with its contents.

**2.4 bottom:** Normal standing surface of the packaging.

**2.5 handling surface:** That part of the package which is touched by the user during normal use, viz. picking up or handling when opening and emptying the contents of the package.

**2.6 edge:** Zone where the upright surface(s) and the bottom meet.

## 3 General requirements

The tactile symbol shall be placed on the product packaging itself, and not on any secondary packaging such as a carton box protecting a glass bottle.

Packaging with a bottom shall be provided with a tactile symbol on the upright handling surface near the edge. For packaging not provided with a bottom, see 6.3.

The requirements in clauses 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 shall be fulfilled.

## 4 Requirements for the tactile symbol

The symbol is considered tactile when it complies with the requirements in clause 5. This applies equally to symbols which are an integral part of the packaging or which are presented otherwise, e.g. on an adhesive label or attached to the packaging.

## 5 Symbol dimensions

### 5.1 Normal size

The symbol shall be an equilateral triangle with sharp or rounded corners (see figure 1).

At the corners, the sides shall be either joined or not more than 1,0 mm apart.

The length  $L$  of the side shall be  $18 \text{ mm} \pm 2 \text{ mm}$ .

The triangle shall consist of a frame, of which the width  $B$  shall be  $1,7 \text{ mm} \pm 0,2 \text{ mm}$ .

The height  $H$  of the frame cross-section shall be between 0,25 mm and 0,5 mm.

The minimum area of the cross-section of the frame shall be  $0,5 H \times B$ , and the shape of the cross-section may be for example rectangular or semicircular (see section AA).

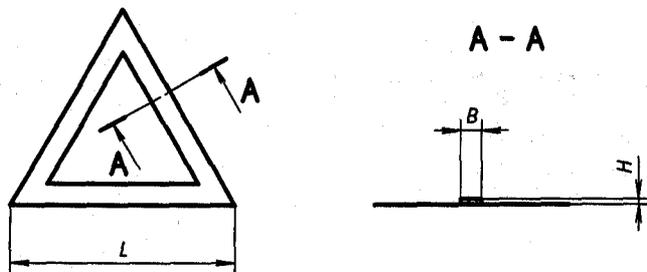


Figure 1 — Tactile danger warning symbol

## 5.2 Reduced size

A tactile symbol (see figure 1) may be used for small packagings (see 6.4) or for flexible packagings with integral symbols, using the following dimensions:

$$L = 9 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}$$

$$B = 1 \text{ mm} \pm 0,2 \text{ mm}$$

$$H = \text{between } 0,25 \text{ mm and } 0,5 \text{ mm}$$

## 6 Location of the symbols

### 6.1 General requirements

The tactile symbol shall be located in such a way to avoid confusion with any other embossed patterns.

When two symbols are required according to clause 7, these shall be spaced on the perimeter equidistant from each other.

### 6.2 Packaging with a bottom

The whole of each tactile symbol(s) shall be located on the upright handling surface near the edge, within the range indicated in figure 2, such that the top of the triangle is not more than 50 mm from the bottom of the packaging.

### 6.3 Packaging without a bottom

The tactile symbol(s) shall be located on the handling surface as near as possible to the opening system(s) or the normal point(s) of opening.

## 6.4 Small packaging

If the packaging is too small to carry a normal-size tactile symbol according to 5.1, the reduced-size symbol according to 5.2 shall be used. The location of the symbol is at the discretion of the manufacturer.

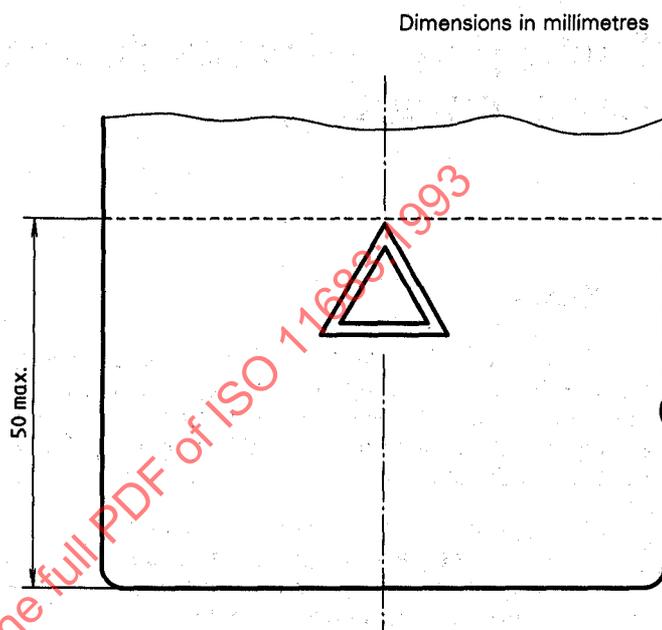


Figure 2 — Location of the tactile danger warning symbol on packaging with a bottom

## 7 Number of symbols

### 7.1 Packaging with a bottom

#### 7.1.1 Rectangular or square packaging

One symbol is required on one of the short sides if the length of that side is 110 mm or less.

If the length of the short side is greater than 110 mm, one symbol shall be located on each of the short sides; for square packaging, one symbol shall be located on each of two opposite sides.

#### 7.1.2 Round packaging

One symbol is required if the diameter of the packaging is 110 mm or less. If the diameter is larger than 110 mm, two symbols in total shall be used.

#### 7.1.3 Other packaging shapes

One symbol is required if the perimeter of the packaging at the edge is 345 mm or less. If the perimeter is larger than 345 mm, two symbols in total shall be used.