
**Ships and marine technology —
Design, location and use of shipboard
safety signs, fire control plan signs,
safety notices and safety markings —**

**Part 1:
Design principles**

Navires et technologie maritime — Conception, emplacement et utilisation des signaux de sécurité, signaux relatifs à la sécurité, notes de sécurité et marquages de sécurité à bord des navires —

Partie 1: Principes de conception

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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 8, *Ships and marine technology*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Maritime safety*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 24409-1:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- addition of the definition and use of “fire control plan sign”;
- deletion of references to “mimic signs”;
- updated graphics from ISO 7010; and
- updated graphics from ISO 24409-2.

A list of all parts in the ISO 24409 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.

Introduction

The growth of international travel by ship has created a need to provide people travelling and working on board ships with signs and associated systems that communicate consistent and effective safety information. The ISO 24409 series specifies a system of safety and fire control plan signs on ships and other marine installations that is generally consistent with standardized signs with which many will have gained familiarity in other applications.

As such, the ISO 24409 series clarifies and supplements existing requirements set out in SOLAS regulations II-2/13.3.2.5.1, III/9.2.3 and III/11.5, and in ISO 17631. However, it is directly applicable to shipboard safety and fire control plan signs only, and does not deal with graphical symbols to be used on shipboard plans or documentation used for professionals.

This document spells out general design principles applicable to all types of shipboard safety and fire control plan signs. Specific signs are catalogued in ISO 24409-2, and their application on ships is specified in ISO 24409-3. Shipboard plans for general emergency information will be specified in a future part¹⁾ in the ISO 24409 series.

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1) Planned for future work: ISO 24409-4, *Ships and marine technology — Design, location and use of shipboard safety signs, safety-related signs, safety notices and safety markings — Part 4: Shipboard plans for general emergency information.*

Ships and marine technology — Design, location and use of shipboard safety signs, fire control plan signs, safety notices and safety markings —

Part 1: Design principles

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 specifies general design principles for shipboard safety signs, fire control plan signs, markings and notices intended to communicate safety-related information to persons on board ships.

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, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

ISO 3864-3:2012, *Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Part 3: Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs*

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*

ISO 15370, *Ships and marine technology — Low-location lighting (LLL) on passenger ships — Arrangement*

ISO 17398, *Safety colours and safety signs — Classification, performance and durability of safety signs*

ISO 17724, *Graphical symbols — Vocabulary*

IMO, *International Safety Management (ISM) Code*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

**3.1
determinant**

graphical symbol (3.3) used as a common element within a series of graphical symbols

EXAMPLE Flames for a fire *safety sign* (3.7).

**3.2
fire control plan sign**

sign for specialists, used to identify and locate fire control equipment, not designed according to the rules for *safety signs* (3.7)

Note 1 to entry: These signs are related to the symbols in ISO 17631; see 4.3 below.

**3.3
graphical symbol**

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

**3.4
photoluminescent sign**

sign treated with material incorporating phosphors that, if excited by UV or visible radiation, stores energy, which is emitted as light over a period of time

Note 1 to entry: The term “photoluminescent sign” is used in this document for consistency with terminology used in International Maritime Organization (IMO) publications. It has the same meaning as “phosphorescent safety sign” in ISO 3864-4.

**3.5
safety marking**

marking which adopts the use of safety colours and/or safety contrast colours to convey a safety message or to render an object or location conspicuous

**3.6
safety notice**

sign with written text containing a list of actions to be taken or instructions to be followed in an emergency or for the correct use of equipment

**3.7
safety sign**

sign which gives a general safety message, obtained by a combination of colour and geometric shape and which, by the addition of a *graphical symbol* (3.3), gives a particular safety message

**3.8
supplementary sign**

sign that is supportive of another sign and the main purpose of which is to provide additional clarification

4 Types and use of signs, markings and notices

4.1 General

Shipboard safety signs and fire control plan signs are intended to communicate safety information to passengers, visitors, associated crew and to specialized, trained personnel. The design requirements may differ as a function of the education of the intended audience. However, the objective is that all such signs use similar basic design principles to those in International Standards for safety signs in other public areas and workplaces. The design criteria for specific signs differ according to the type of the sign and the specific context of use. The various categories of signs are described in 4.2.1 to 4.2.7, and in 4.3. Individual signs in these categories are catalogued in ISO 24409-2.

NOTE The three-letter code following each subclause title relates to the nomenclature in ISO 24409-2.

4.2 Safety signs

4.2.1 Means of escape signs (MES) — Escape route identification

Means of escape signs are safe condition signs used to indicate location within the ship and to provide directional guidance from any area within the ship to a designated assembly station and/or to exits and survival craft embarkation stations.

4.2.2 Emergency equipment signs (EES) — Use and location of first aid facilities and portable safety equipment

Emergency equipment signs are used to indicate the exact location of first aid facilities, first aid equipment, or portable safety equipment, the type of facility or equipment and any instructions for its use.

4.2.3 Life-saving systems and appliances signs (LSS) — Use and location of life-saving systems and appliances

Life-saving systems and appliances signs are used to indicate the exact location or storage of the life-saving equipment, the type of equipment, the identification number and any instructions for its correct use.

4.2.4 Fire-fighting equipment signs (FES) — Use and location of fire-fighting equipment

Fire-fighting equipment signs are used to indicate the exact location of the fire-fighting equipment, the type of equipment and any instructions for its effective and safe use.

4.2.5 Prohibition signs (PSS) — Prohibited actions

Prohibition signs are used to restrict or prohibit the movement and actions of persons.

4.2.6 Warning signs (WSS) — Identification of hazards

Warning signs are used to warn persons of possible dangerous conditions and hazards and risks that exist on board a ship.

4.2.7 Mandatory action signs (MSS) — Mandatory notices and instructions

Mandatory action signs are used to instruct persons of a specific course of action that shall be followed.

4.3 Fire control plan signs

Fire control plan signs (FCS) are used to provide specific information to qualified shipboard and outside personnel on the use of specialized safety and fire protection equipment on board ship. See [Clause 10](#) for further requirements.

5 Design of shipboard safety signs

5.1 General

5.1.1 Shipboard safety signs shall communicate the intended safety information by the use of one or more of the principles described in [5.2](#) to [5.10](#). Designers shall combine these principles to give the essential details of the specific safety message needed according to the type of safety sign required.

5.1.2 The colour and shape used for safety signs shall comply with ISO 3864-1 and the safety sign shall meet the design criteria of ISO 3864-3.

5.1.3 Safety signs that are required to convey specific safety meanings on board ship shall be taken from ISO 24409-2. In cases where a needed safety message is not covered by safety signs in ISO 24409-2, designers shall check safety sign catalogues from ISO, such as ISO 7010, for the existence of appropriate signs or symbols before designing a new safety sign.

NOTE Designers of new safety signs are encouraged to seek their inclusion in ISO 7010 by application to ISO/TC 145/SC 2.

5.2 Safety messages

A safety sign shall be used to convey only one safety message as follows:

- a) a prohibition sign shall indicate only what or who is prohibited;
- b) a mandatory sign shall indicate only what action is required;
- c) a warning sign shall indicate only the nature of the warning;
- d) a sign for means of escape, emergency equipment, and life-saving systems and appliances shall indicate only the safety action, the location of the equipment and appliances, or the first aid facility, or escape possibilities and routes; or
- e) a fire-fighting equipment sign shall indicate only the location of the fire-fighting equipment and the type of fire-fighting equipment.

5.3 Meaning, function, and image content

In keeping with the design principles of ISO 3864-3, a safety sign shall be assigned a meaning and a function, and the image content of a graphical symbol used in it shall include sufficient critical details to ensure that the meaning and function are unambiguous (see [Figure 1](#)).



Referent — Shipboard assembly station

Function — To indicate the location of an assembly station on board ship

Image content — Five human figures in different sizes standing on a square, four arrows coming from the corners pointing to them

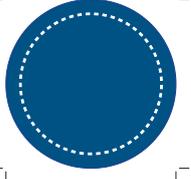
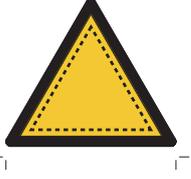
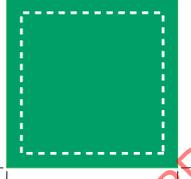
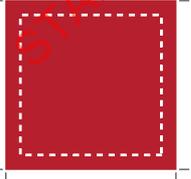
Figure 1 — Example of assignment of meaning to a safety sign (ISO 7010-E032)

5.4 Colour and geometric shape

5.4.1 General

Shipboard safety signs shall be designed using the safety colours, geometric shapes, and specific safety meanings as specified in ISO 3864-1 and as illustrated in [Table 1](#).

Table 1 — Geometric shapes, safety colours and contrast colours for safety signs

Geometric shape ^a	Meaning	Safety colour	Contrast colour	Graphical symbol colour	Examples of use
<p>A circle with a diagonal bar</p> 	Prohibition	Red	White	Black	 <p>No eating or drinking ISO 7010-P022</p>
<p>A circle</p> 	Mandatory action	Blue	White	White	 <p>Release falls in launch sequence ISO 7010-M042</p>
<p>An equilateral triangle with radiused outer corners</p> 	Warning	Yellow	Black	Black	 <p>Warning; Drop (fall) ISO 7010-W008</p>
<p>A rectangle (square or oblong)</p> 	Safe condition	Green	White	White	 <p>Lifebuoy with line ISO 7010-E041</p>
<p>A rectangle (square or oblong)</p> 	Fire-fighting equipment	Red	White	White	 <p>Fire monitor ISO 7010-F015</p>

^a The dotted line represents the exclusion zone outside of which graphical symbols shall not reside. See ISO 3864-3.

5.4.2 Colour area of the safety sign

With the exception of prohibition signs, graphical symbols and contrast colours shall be of such dimensions that the safety colour remains the predominant colour of the sign. For this purpose, explanatory text should be considered to be part of the safety colour as described in 6.3. For prohibition signs, the safety colour red shall constitute at least 35 % of the area of the sign.

5.5 Graphical symbols

5.5.1 Graphical symbols shall be designed in accordance with ISO 3864-3. The design of a graphical symbol should:

- a) be simple in order to facilitate comprehension and reproduction;
- b) be readily associated with its intended meaning;
- c) be based on objects, concepts, activities, etc., or a combination of these, which are reliably identifiable by the target audience;
- d) be easily distinguishable from other graphical symbols;
- e) contain only those details that contribute to understanding; and
- f) take into account the possibility of negation.

5.5.2 Graphical symbols on safety signs shall generally be consistent with the corresponding graphical symbols appearing on safety instructions, notices and plans, except for those graphical symbols specifically for the use of specialist, trained crew members, professional fire fighters, or safety or medical personnel. Graphical symbols shall be designed such that they can be sized appropriately to ensure legibility is maintained for the safety sign at the required observation distance. After design of the new graphical symbol, it is strongly recommended that an evaluation be carried out of the comprehensibility of the safety sign in the context in which it is to be used, in accordance with ISO 9186-1. The graphical symbol should then be modified if necessary to improve comprehensibility.

5.6 Combination of graphical symbols or graphical symbol elements

If two or more graphical symbols or graphical symbol elements are combined to form a new graphical symbol, the meaning assigned to the new graphical symbol shall be consistent with the meanings of the individual graphical symbols or graphical symbol elements used (see [Figure 2](#)). The new graphical symbol should consist of as few component elements as possible and the meaning should be unambiguous. Safety signs in which two or more graphical symbols or graphical symbol elements have been combined to produce a new graphical symbol shall be considered as new safety signs.

NOTE Examples of the combination of graphical symbols to form a new graphical symbol are graphical symbols that include a determinant (see [5.7](#) and [Figures 2](#) and [3](#)).



Referent — Eyewash station, ISO 24409-2 EES003 (ISO 7010-E011)

Function — To indicate the location of an eyewash station

Image content — Eye above running water coming out of a shower head, first aid cross determinant

Figure 2 — Example of multiple graphical symbols and a determinant

5.7 Determinants

Determinants may optionally be used in combination with other graphical symbols to improve the comprehension of a safety sign, in accordance with ISO 3864-3. Any existing determinant shall be used

without modification of its meaning. Examples of determinants are shown in [Figure 3](#), and examples of the use of a determinant are shown in [Figures 2](#) and [4](#).

NOTE Determinants can be particularly useful for signs intended to be understood by untrained persons.



Figure 3 — Examples of determinants



Referent — Wheeled fire extinguisher, ISO 24409-2 FES006 (ISO 7010-F009)

Function — To indicate the location of a wheeled fire extinguisher

Image content — Bottle on wheeled cart (profile), flame determinant

Referent — Stretcher, ISO 24409-2 EES005 (ISO 7010-E013)

Function — To indicate the location of a stretcher

Image content — Human figure on a stretcher, first aid cross determinant

Figure 4 — Examples of safety signs using determinants

5.8 Prohibition

5.8.1 Prohibition shall be indicated only by use of a prohibition sign with a negation bar. No other form of negation shall be used. In particular, crosses shall not be placed over graphical symbol elements.

5.8.2 The negation bar shall be uninterrupted from top left to bottom right. The graphical symbol shall be designed such that the negation bar does not obscure critical detail.

5.9 Borders

5.9.1 Except for warning signs, borders on safety signs shall be in the safety contrast colour, and shall be photoluminescent for photoluminescent signs. The border shall be not less than 5 mm in width.

5.9.2 For warning signs, a border of yellow or white shall be provided outside the black outline.

5.10 Arrows

Arrows can be added to show actual or potential movement or location of equipment. Where arrows are used to depict different types of movement, forces or pressure, the arrow shall be in one of the forms in relation to the specific meaning given in Table 1 of ISO 3864-3:2012. See also [Clause 9](#).

6 Supplementary signs and combination signs

6.1 General

One or more supplementary signs may be used in conjunction with a safety sign to assist in the comprehension of the safety sign and to provide supplementary information to the safety sign; e.g. by extending the referent's communicated safety message or expanding significantly the amount of safety information associated with the safety sign. Supplementary signs are displayed in supplementary safety sign panels that when arranged in the layouts given in [Clauses 6](#) and [7](#) produce a combination sign.

6.2 Combination signs

6.2.1 A combination sign shall only have one safety message and all supplementary signs used with a safety sign shall refer to the safety meaning of that sign.

6.2.2 Multiple signs shall be used for more than one safety message. See [Clause 8](#).

6.3 Colour of supplementary signs

6.3.1 Supplementary signs are in the safety colour and contrast colour of the safety sign and can be in the positive or the negative expression. White with contrast colour black is used for graphical pictorial panel supplementary signs.

6.3.2 A recognized colour coding system, such as it exists for types of fire extinguishers and as shown in [Figure 8](#), may be used as a header for the corresponding identification description panel supplementary sign. The colour code for DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION from ISO 3864-2 for signal word panel supplementary signs may also be used.

6.4 Text for supplementary signs

Supplementary or explanatory text shall use Helvetica or similar font without serif for letters of the Roman alphabet, and shall be in a suitable language or languages, taking into account the service of the ship and the requirements of the IMO ISM Code with regard to the working language(s) of the ship. Letter height shall be sized appropriately to ensure legibility at the required observation distance. Text may be either upper case when used to be conspicuous as a header or notice, or upper or lower case for objects, and upper and lower case for descriptions or instructions in order to improve readability.

6.5 Types of supplementary signs

6.5.1 Supplementary signs used in combination with safety signs to produce combination signs are as follows:

- a) explanatory text panel supplementary sign;
- b) supplementary text panel supplementary sign;
- c) identification description panel supplementary sign;
- d) location indicator panel supplementary sign;
- e) management information panel supplementary sign;
- f) instruction information/safety notice panel supplementary signs;
- g) graphical (hazard or risk consequence) pictorial panel supplementary signs;
- h) signal word/header panel supplementary signs;

i) directional arrow panel supplementary sign.

6.5.2 An explanatory text panel supplementary sign states the meaning or the referent of the safety sign and is used when the safety sign has not reached sufficient comprehension alone or has not been tested according to ISO 9186-1.



Figure 5 — Examples of combination signs using explanatory text panel supplementary signs (with and without internal borders) (ISO 7010-E055, E029 and E056)

6.5.3 A supplementary text panel supplementary sign provides additional and complementary information to the safety sign in the form of text or numerals and extends the communicated safety message beyond the meaning/referent.

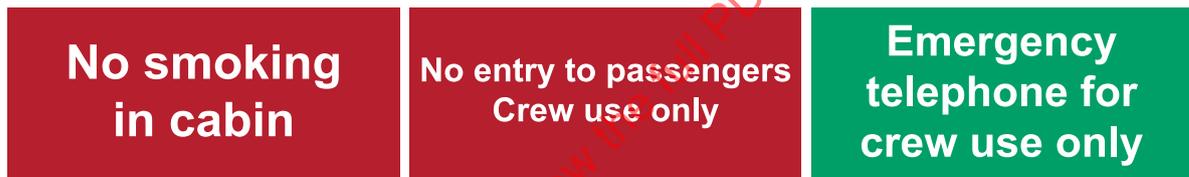


Figure 6 — Examples of supplementary text panel supplementary signs

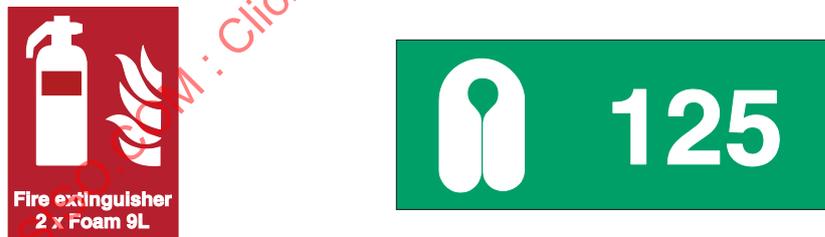


Figure 7 — Examples of combination signs using supplementary text panel supplementary signs (without internal border) (ISO 7010-F001 and E044)

6.5.4 An identification description panel supplementary sign provides precision concerning the nature of equipment.



Figure 8 — Examples of combination safety signs using identification description panel supplementary signs (with and without internal borders) (ISO 7010-F001)

6.5.5 A location indicator panel supplementary sign provides information as to the location of equipment relative to the safety sign.



Figure 9 — Example of combination signs using location indicator panel supplementary signs (with internal borders) (ISO 7010-F002)

6.5.6 A management information panel supplementary sign provides information about the identification and location or the particular site of the equipment.



Figure 10 — Examples of combination signs using management information panel supplementary signs (with internal borders) (ISO 7010-E038 and E032)

6.5.7 An instruction information/safety notice panel supplementary sign provides a series of instructions related to the safety sign or location.

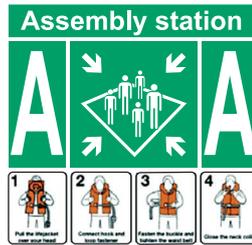


Figure 11 — Example of a combination sign using explanatory text panel, management information panel and instruction information panel supplementary signs (with internal borders) (ISO 7010-E032)

6.5.8 A graphical (hazard or risk consequence) pictorial panel supplementary sign in yellow with contrast colour black provides additional risk or hazard information not provided by the safety sign to reinforce the safety messages.



Figure 12 — Example of a combination sign consisting of ISO 24409-2, WSS018, with a graphical (hazard or risk consequence) pictorial panel supplementary sign and supplementary text supplementary signs (ISO 7010-W018 and W024)

6.5.9 A signal word panel supplementary sign is used as a header to a safety sign for hazards and is given in ISO 3864-2. In a similar format other signal word panel supplementary signs may be used as headers for safety signs such as mandatory instructions and safety and evacuation plans. The supplementary sign can be with or without the general safety sign.



Figure 13 — Examples of signal words used with and without safety signs

6.5.10 A directional arrow panel supplementary sign is used to indicate the direction of movement of people or the direction of the location of the place and is used to design combination signs for escape route and evacuation.

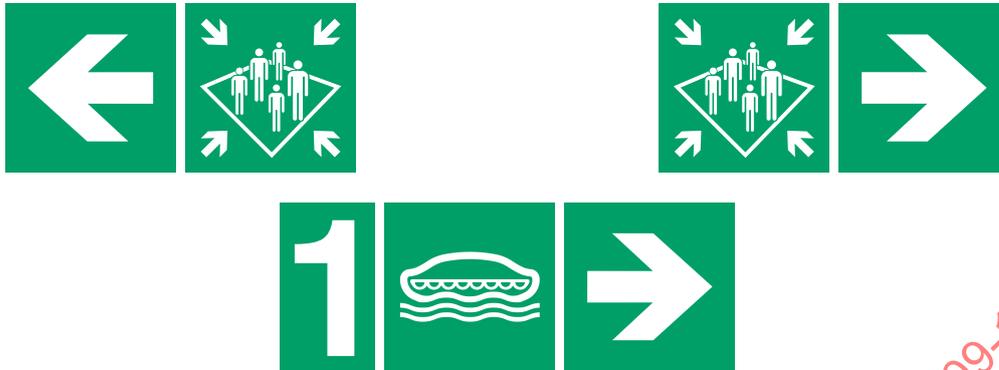


Figure 14 — Examples of combination signs using directional arrow supplementary signs (with internal borders) (ISO 7010-E032 and E036)

7 Layout of combination signs

7.1 General

The general design principles for layouts of combination signs are given in ISO 3864-1. Shipboard safety signs frequently use more than one supplementary sign type as described in [Clause 6](#).

7.2 Borders

Combination signs can be designed as a displayed array of separate supplementary sign panels and the safety sign panel with borders or as a display of panels with no internal borders on a single sign board.

7.3 Arrangements

The examples given in [Figures 15](#) to [17](#) show commonly used arrangements.

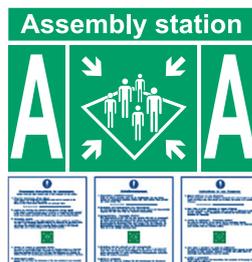


Figure 15 — An example of an instruction information panel supplementary sign (ISO 7010-E032)

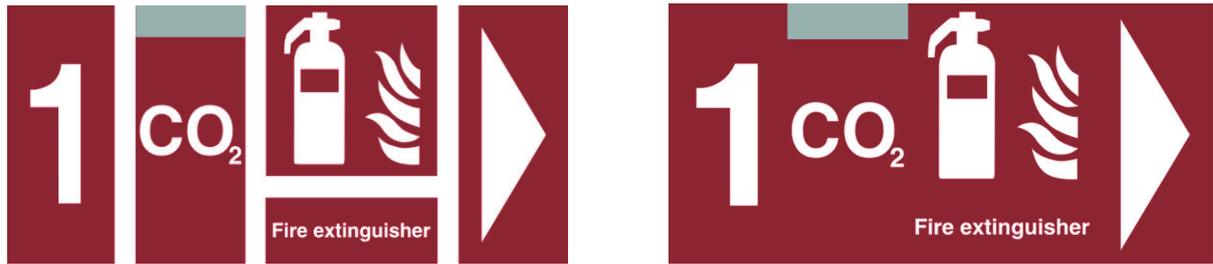


Figure 16 — ISO 24409-2, FES001 (ISO 7010-F001), example of fire extinguisher combination signs using explanatory text panel, identification panel and directional arrow right supplementary signs with and without internal borders

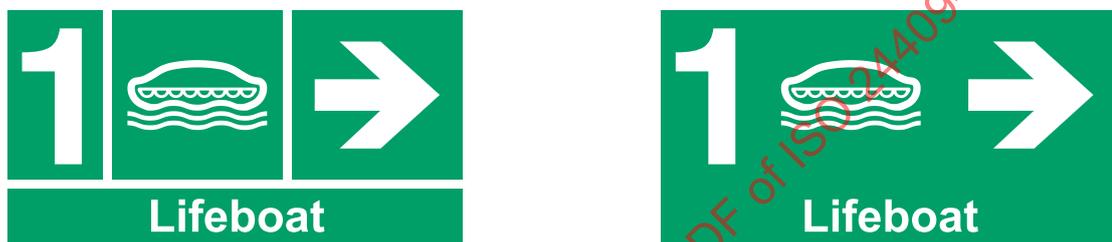


Figure 17 — An example of a combination sign with explanatory text panel and directional arrow right with internal borders and without internal borders (ISO 7010-E036)

8 Multiple signs

8.1 A multiple sign is a sign comprising one or more safety signs and one or more supplementary signs on a single rectangular carrier. Adjacent edges of the signs shall have the same size; internal borders may be omitted.

8.2 Multiple signs may incorporate combination signs, as illustrated in the example in [Figure 18](#), or fire control plan signs.



Figure 18 — Example of multiple signs incorporating a warning sign with supplementary text panel, a prohibition safety sign with a supplementary text panel and a mandatory safety sign with supplementary text panel (ISO 7010-W017, P010, M009)

9 Use of arrows

Arrows may be used to convey directional information in safety signs, either as part of the same sign or immediately adjacent to it. Arrows shall only be used in conjunction with a safety sign. Directional arrows shall be placed above or below, or to the left or right, of the safety sign. [Table 2](#) provides examples of the use of different types of arrows to convey different safety messages when used in various types of safety signs.

NOTE Refer to Annex A of ISO 24409-3:2014 for illustrative examples of typical use and placement of directional arrows to mark escape routes.

Table 2 — Examples of the meaning conveyed by a particular arrow when used only in conjunction with a safety sign

Sign	Meaning (as viewed from in front of sign)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Progress up to the right (indicating change of level). 2) Progress forward and across to the right from here when suspended within an open area.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Progress down to the left (indicating change of level).