

BS 5499-1:2002 Graphical symbols and signs – safety signs, including fire safety signs

The standard specifies a system for geometric shapes and safety colours for use with appropriate graphical symbols to produce safety signage. It also defines the colours, letter sizes and letter style to be used.

The standard has a number of parts, including:

Part 1: Specification for geometric shapes, colours and layout.






Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing.

Part 5: Signs with specific safety meanings.

Part 6: Creation and design of graphical symbols for use in safety signs.

Part 11: Water safety signs.

The table below illustrates the geometric shapes, safety colours and contrast colours for safety signs:

Meaning	Shape	Example
Prohibition A red circular band with diagonal cross bar on a white background, the symbol within the circle to be black denoting a safety sign that indicates that a certain behaviour is prohibited.		No smoking
Hazard A yellow triangle with black border and symbol within the yellow area denoting a safety sign that gives warning of a hazard.		High Voltage
Mandatory A blue circle with white symbol denoting a sign that indicates that a specific course of action must be taken.		Fire Exit Keep Clear
Fire Equipment A red oblong or square with symbol in white denoting a safety sign that indicates the location of fire fighting equipment.		Fire Extinguisher
Safe Condition A green oblong or square with symbol or text in white denoting a safety sign providing information about safe conditions.		Evacuation assembly point