

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES
BUREAU OF SAFETY AND REGULATION
GENERAL INDUSTRY SAFETY STANDARDS COMMISSION

(By authority conferred on the general industry safety standards commission by sections 16 and 21 of Act No. 154 of the Public Acts of 1974, as amended, being SS408.1016 and 408.1021 of the Michigan Compiled Laws)

PART 37. ACCIDENT PREVENTION SIGNS AND TAGS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

R 408.13701 Scope.

Rule 3701. This part provides specifications for the design, application and use of signs or symbols and tags to define or signal a specific hazard in, around or about a place of employment where the failure to designate the hazard could lead to an injury. This part does not apply to public air navigation, railroads, streets, highways, marine operations, radiation and biological hazards.

History: 1979 AC.

R 408.13702 Applicability.

Rule 3702. An employer who has an established sign or tag system or policy on the effective date of this part which is equivalent to that prescribed in this part may continue with the policy or system if the key color prescribed in the rule is used. The key color:

- (a) Of danger is red.
- (b) Of caution is yellow.
- (c) Of safety is green.

History: 1979 AC.

R 408.13703 Definitions; A to D.

Rule 3703. (1) "Accident prevention sign" means the surface on which letters or markings are used to warn of a hazard, provide safety instructions, or provide directions. An accident prevention sign may be temporarily or permanently affixed or placed.

(2) "Accident prevention tag" means the surface on which letters or markings are used to warn of an existing or immediate hazard and which is temporarily attached to a part of equipment or structure.

(3) "Caution sign or tag" means a sign or tag used to warn of a potential hazard or to warn against an unsafe practice.

(4) "Danger sign or tag" means a sign or tag used to signal an immediate hazard.

(5) "Do not start tag" means a tag used to tag out a starting mechanism which would cause a hazard if started.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13704 Definitions; E to S.

Rule 3704. (1) "Exit sign" means a sign used to designate a point of discharge from a room or building.

(2) "In plant traffic sign" means a sign used to direct the safe use of a vehicle on plant property.

(3) "Out of order tag" means a tag used to indicate a machine is malfunctioning and its use might create a hazard.

(4) "Plant thoroughfare" means the company streets on plant property.

(5) "Safety instruction sign" means a sign used for general instruction or suggestion relative to safety.

History: 1979 AC.

R 408.13706 Employer responsibility.

Rule 3706. An employer shall provide, install and maintain signs and tags as prescribed by this part where an employee might be or would likely be injured if not alerted to the hazard.

History: 1979 AC.

R 408.13707 Signs generally.

Rule 3707. (1) The type or design of a sign shall be as specified in this part. Safety instruction, directional, and in-plant traffic signs in use before the effective date of this part are excepted from the requirements of this part.

(2) A sign shall be furnished with rounded or blunt corners and shall be free of sharp edges, burrs, splinters, or other sharp projections.

Fastening devices shall not create a hazard.

(3) A sign shall have colors as prescribed in table 1 of ANSI standard, Z53.1-1971, safety color code, which is adopted herein by reference and is available for inspection at the Lansing office of the department of labor.

This standard may be purchased at a cost of \$3.00 from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018, or from the Michigan Department of Labor, 7150 Harris Drive, Box 30015, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13708 Lettering.

Rule 3708. (1) A letter shall be block style, upper case for the upper panel, and upper or upper and lower case for the lower panel.

(2) Letter size shall be determined by the length of the message and maximum visibility and readability. See table 1 for a guide for minimum letter height at safe viewing distance.

(3) Table 1 read as follows:

TABLE 1

| Minimum Viewing Height of | Distance Letters | (Feet) (Inches) |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 5..... | 200-250 | 4 1/2.....150-200 |
| 4..... | 120-150 | 3 1/2.....105-120 |
| 3..... | 90-105 | 2 1/2.....75-90 |
| 2..... | 60-75 | 1 1/2.....40-60 |
| 1..... | 30-40 | 3/4.....20-30 |
| 1/2..... | 10-20 | 1/4.....Less than 10 |

Note 1: Crowding of letters and words reduces legibility.

Note 2: A rule-of-thumb of 35-40 feet viewing distance per inch of letter height may be used for heights of letters greater than 5 inches.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13709 Sign placement and illumination.

Rule 3709. (1) An accident prevention sign shall be so placed:

- (a) To alert and inform in time to avoid the hazard or to take appropriate action.
- (b) As to be legible, without distraction and not create a hazard in itself.
- (c) On a movable object or adjacent so that it will not be obscured when the object is moved.

(2) An accident prevention sign shall be displayed with not less than 2 footcandles of illumination at or near the point of installation during hours when an employee would be present.

History: 1979 AC.

CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNS

R 408.13711 Danger signs.

Rule 3711. (1) A danger sign shall be used only where an immediate hazard exists. The sign shall be removed when the hazard is removed.

(2) A danger sign shall have the signal word "danger" in white within a red oval outlined in white on a black rectangular background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black or red letters on a white background. (See examples in figures 1 and 2.)

(3) An employee shall be instructed that a danger sign indicates immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.

(4) Figure 1 reads as follows:

Figure for 408.13711



History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13713 Caution signs.

Rule 3713. (1) A caution sign shall be used to warn of a potential hazard or to caution against an unsafe practice.

(2) A caution sign shall have the signal word "caution" in yellow on a black background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black letters on a yellow background. (See examples in figure 2 and table 2.)

(3) An employee shall be instructed that a caution sign indicates a possible hazard and that proper precautions shall be taken.

(4) Figure 2 reads as follows:

FIGURE 2

Caution Sign

Figure for 408.13713



History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13714 Exit signs.

Rule 3714. (1) An exit sign shall be used as prescribed in subrule (3) of rule 685 and rule 686 of the general industry safety standards commission standard, Part 6. Fire Exits, being R 408.10685(3) and R 408.10686 of the Michigan Administrative Code, which is available from the Michigan Department of Labor, 7150 Harris Drive, Box 30015, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

(2) An exit sign installed after the effective date of this part shall consist of red or white letters on a contrasting red or white field. An internally illuminated sign shall consist of translucent letters either red or white on a contrasting background of red or white. The background may be either opaque or translucent.

(3) A directional arrow used on an exit sign shall be the same color as the word "exit."

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13715 Safety instruction signs.

Rule 3715. (1) A safety instruction sign shall be used for a general instruction or suggestion relative to safety measures.

(2) A safety instruction sign shall have the signal word in white on a green background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black letters on a white background. (See examples in table 2.)

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13716 Directional signs.

Rule 3716. (1) A safety related directional sign shall have a white arrow on a black upper panel with the lower panel white and any letters in black.

(2) A directional arrow used on a danger, caution, and safety instructional sign shall be black.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13717 Rescinded.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS; 1997 AACS.

R 408.13718 Rescinded.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

SYMBOLS

TAGS

R 408.13731 Tags generally.

Rule 3731. (1) An accident prevention tag shall be used as a temporary means of warning an employee of an existing hazard, such as defective tools or equipment. A tag shall not be used in place of an accident prevention sign or considered a complete warning method.

(2) A tag shall be affixed by string, wire, or adhesive.

(3) A tag shall be large enough to attract attention to the hazard, with the minimum letter size for the signal word in perspective to a safe viewing distance in accordance with R 408.13708.

(4) The signal word shall be in bold type.

(5) There should be no variation in the type of design of tags posted or hung to warn of a specific hazard.

(6) A tag shall be protected or be of such material to last and maintain legibility during the assignment of the tag.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS; 1988 AACS.

R 408.13732 "Do not start" tags.

Rule 3732. A "do not start" tag shall be used to tag out the starting mechanism of equipment that would cause a hazardous condition if activated, unless it is locked out.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13733 "Danger" tags.

Rule 3733. A "danger" tag shall be placed where an immediate hazard or probability of injury exists.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13734 "Caution" tags.

Rule 3734. A "caution" tag shall be used to warn of a potential hazard or to caution against an unsafe practice.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13735 "Out of order" tags.

Rule 3735. An "out of order" tag should be used only for the specific purpose of indicating that equipment or machinery is out of order and that its use might create a hazard.

History: 1979 AC; 1983 AACS.

R 408.13736 Rescinded.

History: 1983 AACS; 1997 AACS.