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## **BS EN ISO 7010: 2011**

# **Graphical symbols — Safety colours and safety signs — Registered safety signs**



## BS EN ISO 7010 – The reason for change

In 2011 BS EN ISO 7010 was introduced throughout Europe to provide the platform for uniform criteria of safety signage throughout the European community. In its introduction, the Standard states:

***“There is a need to standardise a system of giving safety information that relies as little as possible on the use of words to achieve understanding. Continued growth in international trade, travel and mobility of labour requires a common method of communicating safety information. Lack of understanding may lead to confusion and the risk of accidents.....”***



## **BS EN ISO 7010 – The reason for change**

***“This international Standard is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific safety signing for their industry, to ensure that there is **only one safety sign for each safety meaning**”***

**The issue regarding the need for standardised systems and symbols used with safety signs can perhaps be greater appreciated when we consider the common types of Escape Route signage currently found within the UK and the messages they convey:**



**Arrow up, arrow down ..... what does it all mean?**

**British Standard BS 5499    BS EN ISO 7010    HTM 65**



**European Directive 92 / 58 / EEC  
“Euro”**



**All the signs featured above convey the message to  
progress forward and through from here**



## Problems!

BS signing system follows the same protocol as one-way system and diversions signs. i.e. arrow up indicates proceed on and forward from here and should be positioned above the majority of exits including final exits.



“Euro” signs use an arrow down to indicate the same message



This causes great confusion especially when you consider that BS arrow down is used to indicate a change of level i.e. stairs, ramp, ladder etc.





## **Problems!**

**BS 5499-4: 2013 Safety Signs - Code of Practice for Escape Route Signing states that *“to avoid confusion, all signs within a system of escape route signing should be of similar style, design, size & formats”***

**Or, in layman’s terms - Differing sign types should be avoided and consistency of signage should be maintained!**

**This is the most common issue with “Euro” signs as many wayfinding luminaires fitted above final exits feature “Euro” decals. Why?**

- **Most are/were manufactured in Eastern Europe where “Euro” system is standard**
- **Fitted by electricians who do not understand/care about relevant standards**

**Innumerable comical attempts to maintain consistency have resulted**



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## Rogue's Gallery

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## **Problems!**

**So why do we accept “Euro” signs in the UK?**

***The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996***

**Specifies that as members of EU we should accept the European (commonly installed) system if desired in the UK**

**Specifies that all escape route signing should feature a figure and also a directional arrow**





## BS EN ISO 7010 The escape route sign of the future



Symbols from British Standard BS 5499



No text from “Euro” - European  
Directive 92 / 58 / EEC

*A system of giving safety information that relies as little as possible on the use of words to achieve understanding*



## BS EN ISO 7010 – Further reason for change

*“This international Standard is intended to be used by all Technical Committees within ISO charged with developing specific safety signing for their industry, to ensure that there is **only one safety sign for each safety meaning**”*





## BS EN ISO 7010 – Categorisation of Safety Signs

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This raises the question as to whether existing signage should be updated purely as a result of the amended ISO 7010? In short, the answer is **“No”**!

However, all safety signage should be reviewed and regularly maintained with compliance to ISO 7010 being achieved this way.

As a general rule of thumb ISO 7010 signage should be installed on all new premises and those that have/are undergoing major refurbishment as the Standard is not retrospective!

It is worth noting that the requirements for all safety signage to be maintained and reviewed comes from the following:

The L64 Guidance Document - The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) (3rd edition - Published 2015) provides practical advice on how to comply with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 and it states that ***“All safety signs must be properly maintained so that they are capable of performing the function for which they are intended”***.



## BS EN ISO 7010 – Categorisation of Safety Signs

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This legal requirement is also further underpinned by the Standard BS 5499-10 Code of Practice for the Use of Safety Signs Including Fire Safety Signs which states that an organisation should

***“provide for the continuing monitoring of the effectiveness and continued relevance of the safety signing or fire safety notice system and of each individual safety sign and fire safety notice”***

and that they

***“ensure that safety signs and fire safety notices are properly maintained”***.

The Standard also advises that

***“a formal review of the safety signing or fire safety notice system should be carried out annually”***

# Thank you!

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