

Australian Standard[®]

**PUBLIC INFORMATION SYMBOL
SIGNS**

PART 0—CONSOLIDATED INDEX

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee MS/3, Public Information Symbols. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 6 May 1986 and published on 5 September 1986.

The following interests are represented on Committee MS/3:

Association of Australian Port and Marine Authorities
Australian Road Research Board
Department of Aviation
Department of Industrial Relations, N.S.W.
Department of Main Roads, N.S.W.
Department of Transport
Health Department of Victoria
Main Roads Department, Queensland
Manufacturers of signs and retroreflective materials
National Safety Council of Australia—S.A. Division
Surf Life Saving Association of Australia
Swinburne Institute of Technology
The Flinders University of South Australia
University of Melbourne
University of New South Wales

In addition, the following Technical Committees of the Association are represented on the committee:

Committees MS/12, Road Signs and Traffic Signals
MS/3/1, Water Safety Signs and Symbols
MD/8, Symbols—Health Care
SF/5, Industrial Warning Signs
FP/-, Fire Protection and Fire Fighting Equipment

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Public Information Symbols. It presents, in single sheet form, the symbols and symbol signs tested and/or approved by the Committee as Australian standards.

A public information symbol is defined as being 'a symbol that is for use by the general public and that is not normally the subject of specialist training'. In addition to symbols which indicate the location of a facility such as a toilet or telephone, symbols considered to comply with this definition are those used in public places and on ways where people may work, assemble or move, and on equipment, maps etc, giving them information and/or instructions such as prohibitions, warnings, rules or restrictions regarding their behaviour.

Symbol signs included in the index were developed by the Association's committees on Water Safety Signs and Symbols, Road Signs and Traffic Signals, Symbols—Health Care and Industrial Warning Signs. The index also includes symbols developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) committee on Public Information Signs.

Symbol signs are being used to overcome language barriers. Testing of the symbols included in this standard proves that a varying percentage of people will not correctly interpret the meaning of many symbol signs. Such symbols will have to be learnt. To reduce the learning process and to reduce the possibility of misinterpretation, a standard has been developed which standardizes the colour and shape to be used for symbol signs used to identify a facility, to warn, to prohibit or to instruct. This is to be found in AS 2342, Part 5.

This consolidated index gives details of all standard symbol signs. Each single sheet specifies what a particular symbol sign stands for (the referent), its function, the field/s of application and the symbolic colour and shape of the sign, and provides artwork for sign manufacturers, printers, etc.

The single sheets have been divided into four symbol sets and these are available in the following parts:

- AS 2899.1 General Information Signs
- AS 2899.2 Water Safety Signs
- AS 2899.3 Hospital Signs
- AS 2899.4 Signs for the Working Environment.*

Standards to be referred to for instructions in the use of each sign are also listed as are the results of the tests. When first presented to those participating in the tests, some symbol signs were poorly understood. At the end of the first test participants were told what each sign meant and a week later they were again shown the signs. The percentage of correct answers in both tests are given as an indication to the users of the effectiveness of the signs and the extent to which a particular symbol will need to be taught.

The committee responsible for this standard has participated in both series of tests carried out by the ISO's committee on Public Information Symbols. Due to cultural and technological differences between countries, the ISO committee decided to standardize only the image content of the graphic symbols. However, for each image content standardized, a guideline example is given in ISO 7001—Public Information Symbols and these have generally been adopted as Australian standard symbols.

Further standard signs will be added from time to time as SAA and ISO testing is completed and additional symbols are standardized.

Specifications for the use of symbol signs designed for specific fields of application, such as for water safety, the working environment, and roads, are given in the separate standards. The Australian standard/s to be referred to before using the particular symbol sign are listed on each single sheet.

Reference is also recommended to—

- AS 2342 Design and Use of Graphic Symbols and Public Information Symbol Signs
 - Part 4—Principles for the Design of Graphic Symbols
 - Part 5—Design of Signs Incorporating Symbols
 - Part 6—Guidelines for the Implementation of Symbol Sign Systems

* Although details of these signs are given in the index, this part will be published when the revision of AS 1319 is completed.

For information on how the symbols were developed, reference should be made to—
AS 2342 Design and Use of Graphic Symbols and Public Information Symbol Signs
Part 2—Method for Determining the Need for a Symbol and for
Establishing the Design Criteria
Part 3—Test Procedures for Evaluating Graphic Symbols and Symbol
Signs

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard
for
PUBLIC INFORMATION SYMBOL SIGNS

PART 0—CONSOLIDATED INDEX

1 SCOPE. This standard lists the referents for standard public information symbol signs and gives the function and field/s of application for each sign. It also defines terms used in this standard and on the single sheets in —

- AS 2899.1 General Information Signs
- AS 2899.2 Water Safety Signs
- AS 2899.3 Hospital Signs
- AS 2899.4 Signs for the Working Environment*

NOTE: Application of the symbols may be extended into other fields upon written permission being obtained from the Standards Association of Australia. This is to reduce the risk of inappropriate use of the symbol which could cause confusion to the public. Such requests should be referred to the Executive Officer, Committee MS/3, Standards Association of Australia, P.O. Box 458, North Sydney, 2060.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

- AS 1319 Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment
- AS 1428 Code of Practice for Design Rules for Access for the Disabled
- AS 1742 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
 - Part 1—General Introduction and Index of Signs
 - Part 6—Service and tourist signs for motorists†
- AS 2342 Design and Use of Graphic Symbols and Public Information Symbol Signs
 - Part 3—Test procedures for evaluating graphic symbols and symbol signs
 - Part 5—Design of signs incorporating symbols
 - Part 6—Guidelines for the implementation of symbol sign systems
- AS 2416 Design and Application of Water Safety Signs
- AS 2786 Symbols—Health Care in Hospitals
- ISO 7001 Public Information Symbols
- ISO 3864 Safety Colours and Safety Signs

3 DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions apply:

3.1 Graphic symbols.

3.1.1 Referent—a precise statement of what the symbol stands for.

3.1.2 Function—details of the purpose of the symbol sign.

3.1.3 Field of application—areas where the use of the symbol is appropriate.

3.1.4 Symbol set—an integrated range or series of graphic symbols for use in a defined field of application.

3.1.5 Public information symbol—a symbol intended for use by the general public and that is not normally the subject of specialist training.

3.2 Symbol signs.

3.2.1 Symbol sign—a sign that communicates a particular message, obtained from a combination of a symbolic shape, symbolic colour and graphic symbol.

3.2.2 Standard symbol sign—a symbol sign approved by the Standards Association of Australia.

3.2.3 Direction sign—a sign that indicates direction.

3.2.4 Fire sign—a sign that indicates the position of fire protection equipment or firefighting equipment, or which identifies such equipment.

3.2.5 Imperative signs.

(a) *Regulatory sign*—a sign that contains an instruction with which failure to comply constitutes an offence under law.

(b) *Mandatory sign*—a sign that indicates that the instruction given is obligatory.

NOTE: Failure to comply does not constitute an offence under law.

(c) *Prohibition sign*—a sign that indicates that an action or activity is prohibited.

(d) *Limitation or restriction sign*—a sign that indicates the degree to which an activity or use of a facility is limited or restricted.

3.2.6 Information sign—a sign that supplies information about the availability and location of facilities and when and where activities are permitted.

3.2.7 Safe condition sign—a sign that indicates that it is safe to proceed or that an activity can be undertaken with safety.

3.2.8 Warning sign—a sign that warns of a particular danger or dangerous conditions.

3.2.9 Physical characteristics.

(a) *Structural elements*—the individual components that together make up a symbol sign (see Table 1 in AS 2342, Part 5).

* Although details of these signs are given in the index, this part will be published when the revision of AS 1319 is completed.

† In course of preparation.