



BSI Standards Publication

Water safety signs and beach safety flags

Part 3: Guidance for use

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 20712-3:2020. It supersedes BS ISO 20712-3:2014, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PH/8/1, Graphical Symbols - Safety Signs.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

The UK committee draws users' attention to National Annex NA, which provides further guidance to assist users in the application of this standard.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2020
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2020

ISBN 978 0 539 06854 2

ICS 01.080.10; 97.220.40

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 August 2020.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO
20712-3

Third edition
2020-07

**Water safety signs and beach safety
flags —**

**Part 3:
Guidance for use**

*Signaux de sécurité relatifs à l'eau et drapeaux de sécurité pour les
plages —*

Partie 3: Lignes directrices pour l'utilisation



Reference number
ISO 20712-3:2020(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 20712-3:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes to the previous edition are as follows:

- references to ISO 20712-1 replaced with ISO 7010 as water safety signs with new registration numbers have been incorporated in ISO 7010;
- all four references in [Clause 2](#) moved to the Bibliography as these are informative;
- [3.3](#), 'distance factor' added as an admitted term;
- NOTES in [5.2](#), [6.5](#), [Annex D](#) and [Annex E](#) changed to body text;
- minor editorial changes.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20712 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

This document reflects good practice in the use of water safety signs and beach safety flags. The illustrations show examples of the selection and location of water safety signs and beach safety flags designed to provide information about aquatic hazards and the action necessary to avoid those hazards.

A standardized method of signing with the use of appropriate supplementary text throughout the working and public environment assists the process of education and instruction on the meaning of water safety signs and beach safety flags, and the appropriate actions to take. The intention of this document is to ensure a uniformity of application of water safety signs and beach safety flags which leads to increased familiarity, and therefore improved safety, for the users including visitors and for the general public.

The illustrations within this document are based on assumptions that some of the people may be unfamiliar with the features of indoor or outdoor swimming pools or of the beach. The illustrations are not intended to cover every potentially hazardous situation and they should be interpreted as recommendations and not as minimum requirements.

The use of water safety signs and beach safety flags does not replace the need for proper working methods and safety instruction or for training in accident prevention and the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency, or for the provision of lifeguards.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

NOTE 1 Some countries' statutory regulations might differ in some respect from those given in this document.

NOTE 2 Some countries might differ in some respect from the requirements given in this document where they use the diamond geometric shape for warning signs.

Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

Part 3: Guidance for use

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 gives guidance for the selection and use of water safety signs as specified in ISO 7010 and beach safety flags as specified in ISO 20712-2 in aquatic environments. It provides guidance on their location, mounting positions, lighting and maintenance. It also provides guidance on the design and location of multiple signs.

This document does not apply to traffic signs for use on the public highway or maritime signalling. It is not applicable to flags for use on firing ranges or to flags used to indicate water quality. It does not cover means of escape signs and their illumination which may be present.

NOTE 1 The illustrations in this document are as accurate as possible within the limitations of the printing process.

NOTE 2 This document refers to water safety signs which were originally specified in ISO 20712-1¹⁾. These water safety signs have been integrated in ISO 7010, but are not specifically identified as water safety signs.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

beach

area forming a shoreline or sloping bank at the edge of the sea or a river estuary or lake

[SOURCE: ISO 20712-2:2007, 3.1]

1) This document has been withdrawn and replaced by ISO 7010.