

BS 5499-4:2013



BSI Standards Publication

Safety signs

Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to vi, pages 1 to 50, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 5499 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 December 2013. It was prepared by Subcommittee PH/8/1, *Graphical symbols – Safety signs*, under the authority of Technical Committee PH/8, *Graphical symbols*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

This part of BS 5499 supersedes BS 5499-4:2000, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This part of BS 5499 is part of a series that contains the following current part:

- BS 5499-10, *Guidance for the selection and use of safety signs and fire safety notices*.

The original suite of standards on safety signs in BS 5499 included BS 5499-1, BS 5499-5, BS 5499-6 and BS 5499-11. They were all crosslinked. All have been superseded as follows:

- BS 5499-1 is superseded by BS ISO 3864-1;
- BS 5499-6 is superseded by BS ISO 3864-3;
- BS 5499-5 is superseded by BS EN ISO 7010;
- BS 5499-11 is superseded by BS ISO 20712-1;
- BS ISO 3864-4 is new and covers material replacing that in the previous edition of ISO 3864-1, specifically the colour of safety signs. BS 5378-2 has been withdrawn.

Information about this document

This British Standard has been prepared to improve public safety by providing recommendations on the use and location of escape route signs together with advice on the use of arrows to provide directional information.

This is a full revision of the standard and the principal changes are a consequence of the adoption of ISO 3864-1, ISO 3864-3 and ISO 3864-4 as British Standards and the graphical images of the registered safety signs in BS EN ISO 7010 with regard to colour specification and presentation. The example figures used in this edition no longer include the graphical images BS 5499-5; 2002, 0080 and 0082 as options because they are no longer registered safety signs. All escape route signs now include a direction arrow. Additional recommendations are provided on viewing distances for escape route signs and associated supplementary text, including the effects of viewing angle.

Use of this document

The colours represented in the electronic file of this British Standard can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. Although the copies of this British Standard have been produced to correspond (with an acceptable tolerance as judged by the naked eye) to the colour requirements, it is not intended that these printed copies be used for colour matching. Instead, colorimetric and photometric properties together with, as a guideline, references from colour order systems are provided in BS ISO 3864-4.

This part of BS 5499 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 5499 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this part of BS 5499 that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to competent people, for whose use it has been produced.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the Clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

Contractual and legal considerations

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

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

This British Standard reflects good practice for the implementation of an escape route signing system. The figures within this standard show a system designed to provide the optimum amount of information to identify clearly the location and direction of the means of escape from the premises to a place of safety. The escape route signs used conform to BS EN ISO 7010.

A standardized method of signing with the use of appropriate supplementary text throughout the premises assists the process of education and instruction on the meaning of safety signs, and the appropriate actions to be taken.

The signing of escape routes might form part of the management of means of escape. Many considerations have to be taken into account, including the requirements of people with special needs, in order to establish a safe procedure. Advice can be found in BS 9999. The supplementary text component of the signs shown in the illustrations demonstrates how escape route signing can have a role to play in the management of a building. The use of supplementary text helps building occupants to differentiate normal egress routes from those intended for emergency use only.

By following the principles set out within this standard, the designer or specifier of the escape route signing can assist in creating a uniformity of application of escape route signs to increase familiarity, and therefore improve safety, for the building's occupants, visitors and for the general public. The figures within this standard are based on the assumption that some of the occupants may be unfamiliar with the premises and the figures are to be interpreted as recommendations and not as minimum requirements.

1 Scope

This part of BS 5499 gives recommendations for the selection and use of escape route signs conforming to BS EN ISO 7010 to be provided within buildings. This part of BS 5499 gives further recommendations on the use of appropriate escape route signs conforming to BS EN ISO 7010:2012, E001 and E002, the use of supplementary text to assist in the interpretation of signs and the use of arrows to provide additional directional information.

This British Standard covers the use of all escape route signing systems within premises, including the selection of the appropriate type of sign, the location of signs, mounting positions, lighting and maintenance. The standard covers high-mounted signs as specified by BS EN ISO 7010 but it does not cover low-mounted way guidance systems (see BS ISO 16069).

This British Standard applies to premises where a formal risk assessment carried out under management of health and safety, and in particular the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 [1], has indicated a need for escape route signs to form an integral part of normal working procedures. This need exists where the premises are complex or may be unfamiliar to any of the occupants.

This British Standard does not cover the determination of the need for escape route signing. This British Standard assumes that a need for escape route signing has already been established. However, signs can be used with advantage in most premises, other than domestic premises.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5266-1, *Emergency lighting – Part 1: Code of practice for the emergency escape lighting of premises*

BS EN 60598-1, *Luminaires – Part 1: General requirements and tests*

BS EN 60598-2-22, *Luminaires – Part 2-22: Particular requirements – Luminaires for emergency lighting*

BS EN ISO 7010:2012, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Registered safety signs (ISO 7010:2012)*

BS ISO 3864-1, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Part 1: Design principles for safety signs and safety markings*

BS ISO 3864-3, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Part 3: Design principles for graphical symbols for use in safety signs*

BS ISO 3864-4, *Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Part 4: Colorimetric and photometric properties of safety sign materials*

BS ISO 17398:2004, *Safety colours and safety signs – Classification, performance and durability of safety signs*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of BS 5499-4, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 combination sign

sign that combines a safety sign and one or more associated supplementary signs on the same rectangular carrier