

No BS Fact Sheet No. 15



Advanced Signs

Signs must be used, where necessary, to help people identify escape routes, find fire fighting equipment and emergency fire telephones. These signs are required under the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 and must comply with the provisions of those Regulations.

Safe Condition Signs

Safety sign standards use the term “safe condition” signs to categorise signs which indicate the location of first aid equipment and emergency instructions for people with special needs.

First aid equipment, including specialist rescue equipment, requires conspicuous location, especially if the equipment is provided for the use of emergency personnel. Signs should be prominently displayed to indicate the location of the appropriate equipment.

The images below illustrate examples of first aid equipment location signs and examples of special needs instruction signs respectively, together with their meanings and uses.



Emergency services information signs

Signs to assist the emergency services in locating and identifying firefighting equipment are important, especially when equipment is located in a visibly poor position.

When a standardised symbol is not available to represent a particular piece of equipment, a rectangular or square sign with a red background showing flames in accordance with BS 5499-5 and supported with supplementary text would be enough to satisfy the requirements of the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996.

The table below shows examples of signs for the emergency services which locate and identify equipment.

DETAILS OF EMERGENCY SERVICES	
Emergency telephone number for:	
AMBULANCE
POLICE
FIRE
Nearest casualty hospital:	
Telephone No.
Local doctor:	
Telephone No.
The nearest emergency telephone is located at:	
This site address
Telephone Number

Fire hydrant signs

When an emergency water supply is available for firefighting, it will normally be accessed through hydrants. The location of each hydrant should be shown by an indicator plate complying with BS 3251: 1976: Specification. Indicator plates for fire hydrants and emergency water supplies. This standard specifies the construction, size, content and colour of the plates. There are four classes of indicator plate – A, B, C and D.

Class A and B plates are the most common plates used for hydrants – examples of these plates are shown below.



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Checklist

- Where necessary, are escape routes and exits, the locations of fire-fighting equipment and emergency telephones indicated by appropriate signs?
- Have you provided notices such as those giving information on how to operate security devices on exit doors, those indicating doors enclosing fire hazards that must be kept shut and fire action notices for staff and other people?
- Are you maintaining all the necessary signs and notices so that they continue to be correct, legible and understood?
- Are you maintaining signs that you have provided for the information of the fire and rescue service, such as those indicating the location of water suppression stop valves and the storage of hazardous substances?



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