

# COMPLIANCE GUIDE

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION:

# OSHA Tags Compliance Guide











Hazard-alerting tags are used to provide awareness of potential injury hazards.

**The most effective ways to warn employees, contractors and visitors about existing hazards is to use and follow established standards.**

Under OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard, employers can use either the ANSI standards from 1967 -1968 (ANSI Z53.1 and Z35.2) or from 2011 (ANSI Z535.1, Z535.2 and Z535.5) for safety signage. OSHA standards require employers to use accident prevention tags to identify hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations.

## Step 1: Choose the appropriate signal word (header)

A header, or signal word, helps communicate both the severity and importance of your message. The signal word must be readable at a minimum distance of five feet or such greater distance as warranted by the hazard.

ANSI 1967	Choose the appropriate Signal Word (Header)	ANSI 2011
	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, <b>will</b> result in <b>death</b> or <b>serious injury</b> .	
	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, <b>could</b> result in <b>death</b> or <b>serious injury</b> .	
	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided <b>could</b> result in <b>minor</b> or <b>moderate injury</b> .	
	Indicates information considered important but not hazard-related.	
	Indicates specific safety related instructions or procedures that are related to safe work practices.	

## Step 2: Choose the appropriate standard color

Accident Prevention tags use colors that are standardized and easily recognized.



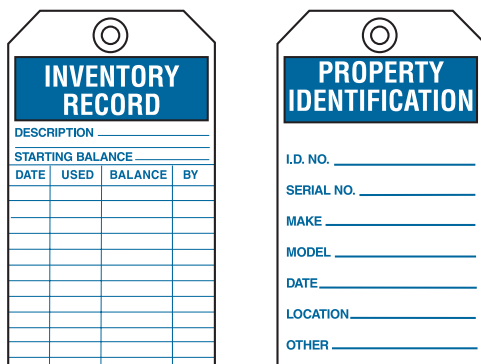
- **White on Red** identifies Danger, STOP, and Electric Power. Common applications include fire protection, emergency egress, emergency stop bars, electrical switches and electric power facilities.



- **Black on Orange** identifies an immediate level of hazard – Warning. It is used to identify hazardous parts of machinery.



- **Black on Yellow** identifies Caution and can be used to alert against unsafe practices, identifying physical hazards and for personal protection messages.



- **White on Blue** is not associated with a specific hazard, but is typically used on policies and information.



- **White on Green** identifies location of first aid, safety equipment and other general safety information.

### Step 3: Use proper risk level signal words to communicate your message clearly and concisely

- The signal word and the major message should be understandable to all employees who may be exposed to the identified hazard.
- All employees must be informed of the meaning of all the tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.
- The use of pictographs as either an alternative or adjunct method of communicating the tag's message may be used to enhance workplace safety by making it more easily understood than written text. This may be particularly beneficial in workplaces where language barriers hinder an employee's ability to comprehend a written message.



The tag's major message should be presented in either pictographs, written text or both



### Step 4: Affix tag(s)

- Affix tags as closely as possible to their respective hazards by means such as a string, wire or adhesive that will prevent its loss or unintentional removal.