

COMPLIANCE GUIDE

■ Safety Sign Compliance

Both Formats are OSHA-Compliant

Which is right for you?

ANSI 1967



Signal Word
(Header)

Capital letter,
centered text

ANSI 2011



Signal header
warns of
safety
situations

Universal
graphics help
with hazard
comprehension

Safety hazard
and how to
avoid it is
highlighted

Which Layout is Best for You?

ANSI 1967	ANSI 2011
Over 90% of Safety Signs in US follow this format	Less often used in US workplace
Short messages quickly understood	Can tend to be "wordy"
May or may not use symbols	Standardized symbols are always incorporated
Upper case letters with centered text	Upper & lower case letters with text flush left can be easier to read
Includes the action statement but may not incorporate the hazard description, consequence statement, and emergency information	May provide additional protection (including litigation protection) by including hazard statement, the consequence of the hazard, and emergency information
Signs without symbols may not be as readily understood by non-English speakers	May be more understandable to non-English speakers

■ COMPLIANCE INFO

OSHA SAYS

OSHA Sign regulations had not been updated since their inception in 1971, which referenced the 1967 and 1968 versions of the USASI Z53 and Z35 standards (see ANSI 1967 illustrations above). However, this changed in September 2013 when new OSHA regulations went into effect. OSHA now allows the new ANSI Z535 2011 Standards (see ANSI 2011 illustrations above) as an alternative to the older USASI versions. Either style is compliant and each has it's own pros and cons.

ANSI 1967

Choose the appropriate Signal Word (Header)

ANSI 2011

	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury .	
	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury .	
	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided could result in minor or moderate injury .	
	Indicates information considered important but not hazard-related.	
	Indicates specific safety related instructions or procedures that are related to safe work practices.	

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MATERIAL GUIDE

What's the best sign material to use?

Understanding how and where your sign will live quickly narrows down your material choices.

Where is the sign going to be?

- Harsh or light-duty conditions?
- Inside or outside?
- Bright light or low light?
- Ask for Seton UltraTuff™ overlaminate to add extra protection.

How is the sign mounted?

- On a post or fence?
- On the side of a company vehicle?
- On drywall or cement wall?
- On a curved surface?



Standard Materials (available for custom signs and most stock wordings)										
Material/ Sign Type	Material & Application Notes	Indoor/Outdoor or Both	Thickness	Holes	Adhesive Backing	Standard Guarantee	Life-Time Guarantee Option	Reflective Option	Glow Option	Double-Sided Option
Aluminum	Durable material is lighter than steel and will never rust.	Indoor/Outdoor	.040"	●		10-year	●	●	●	●
Plastic	Lightweight material will not chip, flake or peel in harsh conditions.	Indoor/Outdoor	.060"	●		5-year	●	●	●	●
Adhesive Vinyl	Economical choice bonds to any smooth surface and is flexible for curved objects.	Indoor/Outdoor	.003"		●	5-year	●	●	●	
Special Materials (available on Custom Signs and selective stock wordings)										
Fiberglass	Ideal for harsh conditions. Withstand temperatures of -40 to 190 F.	Outdoor	.100"	●		15-year				
Foam Adhesive	Thick adhesive is the best choice for textured or irregular surfaces.	Indoor	.005"		●	5-year		●	●	
Magnetic	Easy to apply and remove on steel doors, drums, tanks, cabinets, and machines.	Indoor/Outdoor	.020"			5-year	●	●	●	●
3-Way Plastic	Provides 180 degree viewing and comes supplied with foam adhesive and holes.	Indoor/Outdoor	.040"	●	●	5-year		●	●	
2-Way Plastic	2-Way viewing is ideal for hallways, aisles, and corridors.	Indoor/Outdoor	.040"	●	●	5-year		●	●	
Corrugated Plastic	Economical, lightweight signs are bend resistant and come with 4 holes.	Indoor/Outdoor	.160"	●		Short-term outdoor use				
Eco-Friendly Recycle Plastic	Recyclable signs contain over 50% recycled content.	Indoor/Outdoor	.055"	●		5-year				
Anti-Microbial Plastic	Get up to a 99.99% reduction in germs, bacteria, mold and mildew growth.	Indoor	.055"	●	●	5-year				
Interior Décor Polished Plastic	Subsurface graphics resist vandalism and have an easy-to-clean plastic surface.	Indoor	.063"		●	Lifetime	●		●	
Engraved Plastic (Setonflex)	Engraved message is tamper-proof and can be supplied with holes or adhesive.	Indoor	.063"	●	●	10-year				●
30-Mil Vinyl	Thick vinyl material enables sign to flex for curved surface application.	Indoor	.030"			5-year				
Glow-in-the-Dark Vinyl (SetonGlo)	Stores light and glows up to 6 hours without electricity.	Indoor	.010"		●	5-year	●		●	
Glow-in-the-Dark Vinyl (UltraGlo)	High performance signs glow for over 30 hours when charges for as little as 5 min.	Indoor	.010"		●	5-year	●		●	
Reflective Vinyl	Instantly visible when struck by a beam of light.	Indoor/Outdoor	.007"		●	5-year		●		

VIEWING DISTANCE GUIDE



SIZE	10" x 7"	14" x 10"	20" x 14"
Pedestrian Viewing Distance (Favorable Conditions)	15 ft.	25 ft.	40 ft.
Moving Vehicle (i.e. Forklifts) (Favorable Conditions)	10 ft.	15 ft.	20 ft.

Note - Distances are approximate based on optimal viewing. Other factors can improve or diminish optimal conditions, such as lighting, smoke/mist/smog, and if the viewer is stationary or on a moving vehicle.

Determine Your Sign Size

How to Use This Chart

1. Determine your desired viewing distance (this will determine letter size).
2. Count the number of letters (and spaces) in the longest line of your message.
3. Find that number in the row next to your desired viewing distance. The approximate sign width is below that number.

Desired Viewing Distance	Letter Size	Number of Letters (and Spaces) in Longest Line of Message = Approx. Sign Width							
10'	.75"	10 Char. 5" W Sign	16 Char. 8" W Sign	18 Char. 10" W Sign	22 Char. 12" W Sign	29 Char. 14" W Sign	34 Char. 18" W Sign	40 Char. 20" W Sign	49 Char. 24" W Sign
15'	1"	7 Char. 5" W Sign	11 Char. 8" W Sign	14 Char. 10" W Sign	17 Char. 12" W Sign	22 Char. 14" W Sign	26 Char. 18" W Sign	30 Char. 20" W Sign	34 Char. 24" W Sign
18'	1.5"	5 Char. 5" W Sign	8 Char. 8" W Sign	9 Char. 10" W Sign	11 Char. 12" W Sign	15 Char. 14" W Sign	18 Char. 18" W Sign	20 Char. 20" W Sign	24 Char. 24" W Sign
20'	2"	4 Char. 5" W Sign	6 Char. 8" W Sign	7 Char. 10" W Sign	9 Char. 12" W Sign	11 Char. 14" W Sign	14 Char. 18" W Sign	16 Char. 20" W Sign	19 Char. 24" W Sign
25'	2.5"	2 Char. 5" W Sign	4 Char. 8" W Sign	5 Char. 10" W Sign	6 Char. 12" W Sign	8 Char. 14" W Sign	10 Char. 18" W Sign	11 Char. 20" W Sign	14 Char. 24" W Sign
30'	3"	2 Char. 5" W Sign	3 Char. 8" W Sign	4 Char. 10" W Sign	5 Char. 12" W Sign	6 Char. 14" W Sign	7 Char. 18" W Sign	8 Char. 20" W Sign	10 Char. 24" W Sign
40'	4"	1 Char. 5" W Sign	2 Char. 8" W Sign	3 Char. 10" W Sign	3 Char. 12" W Sign	4 Char. 14" W Sign	5 Char. 18" W Sign	6 Char. 20" W Sign	7 Char. 24" W Sign
60'	6"	1 Char. 5" W Sign	1 Char. 8" W Sign	2 Char. 10" W Sign	3 Char. 12" W Sign	3 Char. 14" W Sign	4 Char. 18" W Sign	5 Char. 20" W Sign	6 Char. 24" W Sign

Viewing distance can vary. Distances shown in chart are for optimal visibility and impact of the sign. Please call us if you need further help in determining letter size or approximate width of your sign.

Mounting & Placement Recommendations:

- Installation should be in a well-lit, easily accessible and visible location.
- Where light levels are poor, the signs should incorporate artificial lighting or reflective or photoluminescent (glow) material as appropriate.
- Signs should be installed in the line of sight and not be obscured by doors, racks or other objects.
- Safety and fire equipment signs must be clearly visible in the immediate vicinity of the equipment or do not create a distraction, and are not a hazard in themselves.
- Signs must not be placed on moveable objects or adjacent to moveable objects like doors, windows etc., which if moved, will obscure the sign.
- Faded, degraded, or damaged signs should be replaced immediately.