

<b>Talk No:</b> 64	<b>Title:</b> Safety Signs
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**Introduction:** Signs, signals and symbols in the workplace are an important tool for informing workers and others who may be present of the hazards nearby, the precautions to be taken and the actions to be followed in the event of an emergency. Such signs, signal and symbols are not limited to graphic signs, they may also include verbal, or acoustic signals (for e.g. fire alarms) as well as other devices such as tape or barriers warning of hazardous areas or enclosures.

**There are 4 basic categories of safety signs:**

Prohibition Signs are red in colour and indicate that certain behaviours are prohibited or must be stopped immediately. The sign is a red circle with a bar running through it on a white background.  
**This symbolises STOP.**



Warning Signs are yellow in colour and give warning or notice of a hazard. The signs are black outlined triangles filled by yellow. The symbol or text is always in black.  
**This symbolises CAUTION.**



Mandatory Signs are blue in colour and indicate that a specific course of action is required. The sign is a blue circle with white symbols or text.  
**This symbolises that you MUST do something.**



Safe Condition Signs are green in colour and provide information about safe conditions. These signs are rectangular or square in shape, are always green with white symbols or text.  
**This Symbolises GO.**



**Key Points to consider are:**

- Obey all site safety signs, failure to do so will be treated seriously
- Check for safety signs before entering any premises or new area, obey the premises rules
- Ensure you wear PPE identified as mandatory on the premises
- Familiarise yourself with Fire Safety and Emergency Exit signage when you first arrive on the premises
- Remember signs are there for you to obey and inform others so that they can obey
- Failure to obey a sign posted in the interests of health and safety is a criminal offence

**KNOW YOUR SIGNS – YOU LIFE MAY DEPEND ON THEM**