



## Safety Signs and Labels

Prepared especially for:



On a daily basis, everyone is exposed to some type of hazard. For insurance reasons, making sure the correct signs or labels are present is key to keeping insurance costs down. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) developed the Z535 standard for relaying important hazard information. The standard's stated purpose is to:

- establish a uniform and constant visual layout for safety signs and labels applied to a wide variety of products
- minimize the proliferation of designs for product safety signs and labels
- achieve application of a national uniform system for the recognition of potential personal injury hazards for those persons using products

These standards were set forth to be easily recognized by the masses when near a hazardous area. The following shows the different hazard levels along with signal words and colors that make up part of the ANSI standard for safety signs and labels:


**DANGER:** Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is to be limited to the most extreme conditions. The word DANGER shall be in white letters on a safety red background.

**WARNING:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury. The word WARNING shall be in black letters on a safety orange background.

**CAUTION:** Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices. The word CAUTION shall be in black letters on a safety yellow background.

In addition to the signal words and safety colors, other warning features dictating requirements for uniform signs and labels were specified in the Z535 standard that include:

- A safety alert symbol located to the left of the signal word
- A signal word located inside the signal word panel
- A signal word panel located at the top of the sign or label
- A panel with a word message and/or safety symbol occupying the center and lower part of the sign or label
- A border surrounding all information

Getting into the habit of reading all safety signs and labels whenever they are present, as well as posting them where they are needed, could help you avoid costly and/or severe repercussions. 

**For more information on this article, please e-mail [iha-insurance@assuranceagency.com](mailto:iha-insurance@assuranceagency.com) or phone 847.463.7300 to speak with an IHA member services representative.**



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