

Think you know your fire signage..?

Introduced in 2013, the British Standard relating to safe signage, BS EN ISO 7010, is an international standard for consistent safety sign regulation across Europe. It specifies safety signs that use standarised symbols instead of words and reduces the potential for confusion and accidents by ensuring there is only one sign for each meaning.

Adopted in January 2013, replacing the previous British Standard BS5499-5. The standard applies to all locations where safety issues must be addressed, including but not limited to:

- Workplaces
- Other buildings
- Ships
- Public areas

It also includes signs that appear

- in manuals
- on notices
- product labeling
- escape and evacuation plans



There is no legal obligation to change existing signs and it is unlikely that any such requirement will be introduced, however, considering the functionality and practicability of the new signs, you may consider upgrading your signs to the new regulations or at a minimum ensure that any new signs purchased are in line.



Before 2013 the traditional emergency sign used above doorways to identify the escape route, pictured a DOWN arrow. Under BS EN ISO 7010 the DOWN arrow should be used to identify a change of level going down.





Following the introduction of BS EN ISO 7010 the directional arrow above a corridor doorway or exit door, should be the UP arrow. This is to inform the occupants that they need to carry straight on or exit here.





Location Example Sign Meaning On wall or suspended at top of stairs Progress DOWN to the RIGHT. or ramp. (change of level) On half landing wall or stairs. Suspended at change of level. Progress UP to the RIGHT. (change of level) On half landing wall or stairs. Suspended at change of level. Progress FORWARD and across to Suspended in open areas. the right. (suspend in open area) On wall or suspended at top of Progress DOWN to the LEFT. stairs or ramp. (change of level) On half landing wall or stairs. Suspended at change of level. Progress UP to the LEFT. (change of On wall or suspended at foot of stairs or ramp. On half landing wall or stairs. Progress FORWARD and across to the Suspended at change of level. LEFT. (suspend in open area) Suspeded in open areas. Progress FORWARD from here. (direction of travel) Suspended in corridor leading to door. Progress FORWARD and through from Suspended in open areas. here, when sited above door. Suspenced in front of door. Positioned ABOVE door. Progress FORWARD and UP from here. Suspended at foot of stairs or ramp. (change of level) On corridor walls. Progress to the RIGHT from here. Suspended ADJACENT & LEFT (direction of travel) of exit. Suspended at change of direction. On corridor walls. Progress to the LEFT from here. Suspended ADJACENT & RIGHT of exit. (direction of travel) Suspended at change of direction.



Progress DOWN from here. (change of level)

- Suspended at head of stairs or ramp.
- Suspended at change of level.