

ANSI SIGN COMPLIANCE GUIDE

Both of these formats are **OSHA-compliant:**

Which is right for you?



Compare styles to *choose the best layout for your situation:*

ANSI 1967

- Over 90% of Safety Signs in US follow this format
- Short messages quickly understood
- May or may not use symbols
- Upper case letters with centered text
- Includes the action statement but may not incorporate the hazard description, consequence statement, and emergency information
- Signs without symbols may not be as readily understood by non-English speakers

or ANSI 2011

- Less often used in U.S. workplaces
- Can tend to be “wordy”
- Standardized symbols are always incorporated
- Flush left upper/lowercase letters can be easier to read
- May provide additional protection (including litigation protection) by including hazard statement, the consequence of the hazard, and emergency information
- May be more understandable to non-English speakers

Choose an *appropriate signal word (header) for your hazard:*

	Red: DANGER	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.	
	Orange: WARNING	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury.	
	Yellow: CAUTION	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided could result in minor or moderate injury.	
	Blue: NOTICE	Indicates information considered important but not hazard-related.	
	Green: SAFETY FIRST/THINK	Indicates specific safety related instructions or procedures that are related to safe work practices.	

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 its own pros and cons.