

## As part of a strong and effective safety and health program, your workplace safety signs must:

- ✓ Warn of workplace hazards
- ✓ Instruct employees on the proper care and precautions to take
- ✓ Protect against accidental injuries and property damage
- ✓ Comply with regulations and avoid fines

ANSI 1967	Choose the appropriate Signal Word (Header)		ANSI 2011
	Red: <b>DANGER</b>	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, <i>will</i> result in <i>death</i> or <i>serious injury</i> .	
	Orange: <b>WARNING</b>	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided, <i>could</i> result in <i>death</i> or <i>serious injury</i> .	
	Yellow: <b>CAUTION</b>	Indicates a hazardous situation that, if not avoided <i>could</i> result in <i>minor</i> or <i>moderate injury</i> .	
	Blue: <b>NOTICE</b>	Indicates information considered important but not hazard-related.	
	Green: <b>SAFETY FIRST/THINK</b>	Indicates specific safety related instructions or procedures that are related to safe work practices.	

**ANSI 1967**

**Both formats are OSHA-Compliant**

*Which one is best for you?*

**ANSI 2011**

— Signal Word (Header)

— Capital letters. Centered text

— Symbol on right side (optional)

ANSI Z535 Signal Word

Symbol is quickly recognized by non-English speakers

Upper and lower case lettering left justified is easier to read

### 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 proponents and detractors.

Which Version is Best for Me?	
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