






# The Use Of Colour For Safety Purposes

## Use of colour for equipment and hazards identification

The Standards Association of Australia has issued the Australian Standard AS 1318, "Use of Colour for the Marking of Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment in Industry", also known as 'SAA Industrial safety Colour Code', which defines of red, yellow, green and blue for equipment and hazard identification.

### What are the main "safety colours"?

SAFETY COLOURS			
Colour references: AS 1318, AS 1345 and AS 2700			
COLOUR	AS2700 COLOUR	SWATCH	CONTRAST COLOUR
RED	R13 Signal Red		
YELLOW	Y15 Sunflower		
GREEN	G21 Jade		
BLUE	B23 Bright Blue		



The red colour indicates danger.

### Where are these colours to be applied?

#### RED

Red, with or without white, is to be used to identify areas of:

- Danger
- Fire protection equipment
- Stop buttons or Emergency stop controls.

Examples of these are rail crossings, stop signs, fire alarms and boxes, valve locations, sprinkler piping (refer AS 1345), fire blanket receptacles, fire buckets and areas around fire extinguishers, hoses, reels and hydrants.

Other examples are stop buttons for electrical switches used for either normal or emergency stopping of machinery and emergency stop bars or controls on hazardous machines.



The red pipes denote fire hose supplies

## YELLOW

Yellow, with or without black, is to be used to identify areas where:

- Caution is to be exercised
- Radioactive hazards or sources are located

Examples of areas where caution is to be exercised are industrial locomotives, wheeled plant machines, overhead fixtures that extend down into normal operating areas, including low pulley blocks and crane hooks, low doorways, travelling conveyors and low pipes (refer AS 1345), pillars or posts that may be struck, temporary or permanent barricades, and hazards created by the removal of guards or covers for industrial machinery.

Examples of where radioactive hazards or sources are located include areas of radioactive use, storage or contaminated waste and equipment collection.



Yellow colour indicates caution to be exercised

## GREEN

Green, with or without white, is to be used to identify areas of:

- Safety
- First Aid Equipment

Examples of these are location of first aid facilities, stretchers, respiratory and revival equipment, showers, exist signs and safety instruction signs. (Refer AS 1319 for emergency-related information signs.)



Green colour is used for exit signs or safety directions



Blue colour is used for indicating personal protective equipment to be worn

## BLUE

Blue, with white lettering, is to be used where no specific hazard exists, for:

- Mandatory (obligatory) instructions to be followed
- Signs depicting areas where personal protective equipment must be worn
- General information

Examples of these are amenities, offices, parking areas, equipment storage, lockers and entrances.

COLOUR-RELATED STANDARDS REFERENCED	
DOCUMENT	DESCRIPTION
AS 1318	Use of colour for the marking of physical hazards and the identification of certain equipment in industry
AS 1319	Safety signs for the occupational environment
AS 1345	Identification of the contents of pipes, conduits and ducts
AS 2700	Colour standards for general purposes