

Safety Alert



OSHA Updates Signage Rules with Consensus Standards

OSHA is in the process of updating standards to incorporate the latest versions of national consensus and industry standards such as American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards. These updates include updating or removing national consensus and industry standards cited in existing OSHA standards, updating the text of standards that OSHA adopted directly from previous national consensus standards, and replacing specific references to previous national consensus and industry standards with performance requirements.

OSHA recently issued a direct final rule to update its general industry and construction industry signage standards. The standards – [1910.97](#) (Nonionizing radiation), [1910.145](#) (Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags), [1910.261](#) (Pulp, paper, and paper board mills) and [1926.200](#) (Accident prevention signs and tags)– have been updated to include signage references to the latest versions of the ANSI standards on specifications for accident prevention signs and tags, ANSI Z535.1-2006(R2011), Z535.2-2011 and Z535.5-2011. The goal of the update is to improve workplace safety by allowing employers to use the ANSI Z535 standards, which better communicate safety in the workplace.

Employers are able to continue to use the same signs and tags they are using now to meet their OSHA compliance obligations, and to use the newer designs to improve workplace safety. OSHA recognizes that signage is extremely durable and anticipates that employers will gradually transition to ANSI Z535 compliant signs and tags. For example, employers might purchase current designs to replace worn or damaged signage or when additional signage is needed.

OLD



NEW



ANSI Z535 requires a specific set of standards for the design, application and use of signs, colors, and symbols intended to identify and warn against specific hazards and for other accident prevention purposes. The recommended format is intended to provide a safety alert message that is clearly and rapidly understood. Lettering is left justified, as well as upper and lower case to enhance legibility, and internationally recognized pictograms are used for universal comprehension.

Contact us at 800-55-HELPS (800-554-3577) to learn more.