
Proposed new warning graphical symbols for buoyancy aids

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Introduction

CEN TC162 Working Group 10 are proposing new warning and advice symbols for learn-to-swim buoyancy aids to be used in Europe.

Graphical symbols related to safety issues are linked to standard geometric shapes and a colour.

A series of ISO standard sets strict rules for the design and pictorial element of graphical symbols.

Graphical symbols are related to the product and its wider use, place of use etc. to which they are attached. Therefore the information content does not need necessarily to contain this product as an pictorial element. It is even better to keep the design free of particular products in order to ensure universal application as far as the risk, behaviour, place of use etc. is concerned.

Graphical Symbols can be combined but each symbol has to be meaningful and spontaneously comprehensible by itself. The pictorial elements have to be as simple as possible. Rough lines are to be preferred. Dense pictures can not be spontaneously recognised. Furthermore the size (restricted space for attachment) has to be considered.

Taking this into consideration a poster is being produced to raise awareness of the new warning symbols and feedback is required from the Conference on the suitability of the graphical symbol designs.

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