

10 MUST-HAVE SIGNS FOR OSHA COMPLIANCE

A yellow radiation warning sign with a black trefoil symbol and the word "RADIATION" in black capital letters below it.

Facility Walkthrough

The most effective way to alert employees and visitors of any potential hazards is through the use of safety signs. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard states that organizations may post safety signs that comply with either the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards from 1967-1968 (ANSI Z53.1, Z35.1 & Z35.2) or from 2011 (ANSI Z535.1, Z535.2 & Z535.5).

A visual facility walkthrough successfully guarantees that your organization displays the proper safety signs in necessary areas. The following list provides a wide-ranging list of signs that should be posted throughout your facility. For additional detailed and specific regulations, visit [OSHA.com](https://www.osha.com).



1. Exit and Evacuation Signs

According to OSHA, emergency exits and evacuation pathways are required to be visibly marked, particularly where pathways are not obvious. Additionally, any other passage or doorway that could potentially be misconstrued as an exit must be visibly marked as well. All authorized exit signs must be continually visible, have distinct colors and be illuminated by a light source or self-illuminating. Signs are required to read "EXIT" legibly in letters no less than 6" H or 3/4" W.

Examples include:

- EXIT signs with text only that lead directly to exits
- EXIT signs with arrows that offer pathways to the closest exit



2. Fire Signs

According to OSHA regulations, locations of fire extinguishers and fire hose cabinets are required to be specified. Labelling these appropriately guarantees quick action by emergency personnel or properly trained employees in the event of an emergency.

Examples include:

- Fire Alarm signs specify where the alarms are located
- Fire Extinguisher signs pinpoint where portable extinguishers are available
- Fire Evacuation signs offer direction to safe pathways during an emergency

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3. Electrical Arc Flash Hazard Signs

Arc flash accidents can be extremely hazardous and at times deadly. OSHA necessitates that signs are placed to indicate high voltage areas and access areas in order to provide a safe working space near energized electrical equipment. NFPA 70E requires panelboards, switchboards, meter socket enclosures and motor control centers are all appropriately marked with arc flash labels throughout times of maintenance.

Examples include:

- Danger - Battery Charging Area signs designate areas where batteries are charging and electrified
- Danger - High Voltage signs designate areas with high voltage that could potentially cause serious injury or death



4. First Aid Signs

According to OSHA, first aid supplies must be properly labeled and readily available at all times in the event of an emergency.

Examples include:

- First Aid signs designate treatment for minor injuries or provide care before medical aid is able to be obtained
- Eye Wash or Safety Shower signs designate areas to immediately rinse your body or eyes when contact with hazardous materials occurs
- AED signs identify locations of Automated External Defibrillators in the event of an emergency



5. Flammable/Combustible Signs

As stated by OSHA, areas and containers that contain combustible or flammable liquids, vapors or materials have to be labeled with noticeable warning labels.

Examples include:

- Danger- No Smoking, No Open Flames signs indicate areas that could possibly ignite flammable vapors or hydrogen gas
- Flammable signs designate areas that could possibly combust from a flammable reaction



7. Hazardous Area Signs

OSHA required accident prevention signage be posted to warn employees about possible hazards, unsafe practices or area procedures.

Examples include:

- Caution or Danger - Hot signs designate areas that have high levels of heat and danger
- Biohazard Signs indicate rooms, materials or equipment that are contaminated by hazardous elements or contain them
- Radiation signs indicate radiation areas with a specified pictogram to guarantee maximum safety within these areas



8. Confined Space Rings

Confined Space signs alert employees of specific areas that require authorized permits and have precise instructions when entering a risky confined space.

Examples include:

- Danger - Confined Space signs provide visible warnings for permit entry or authorized only areas, identify confined workspaces and provide entry instructions to employees



9. Machine and Equipment Signs

Machine and Equipment signs warn employees of potential dangers in machine operating areas that could cause personal injury or equipment failure.

Examples include:

- Pinch Point signs remind employees of areas where hands need to be clear of when running equipment in order to avoid injury
- Warning signs provide machine guard requirement, emergency shut down and automatic start-up warnings



10. Slip, Trip and Fall Signs

Areas where it is necessary to have basic instructions or suggestions to maintain safety should display slip, trip and fall signs. Areas where this would be required include passageways, balconies, staircases, aisles or other similar areas within a facility.

Examples include:

- Watch Your Step signs indicate areas that have steps or that may have uneven floors
- Caution - Slippery Floor signs alerts individuals of wet or slick areas where falling could easily occur