Summary: The significant differences between GI Part 37. Accident Prevention Signs and Tags and 29 C.F.R. 1920.145 Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags are in:

- Employer responsibility
- Lettering
- Sign placement and illumination
- Danger signs
- Caution signs
- Exit signs
- Safety instruction signs
- Directional signs
- Emblem for slow-moving vehicles
- Tags generally
- “Do not start” tags
- “Out of order” tags

The below comparison show only those provisions where MIOSHA rules are different than OSHA or where MIOSHA rules are not included in 29 C.F.R.

****means there is a comparable OSHA rule to this paragraph

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MIOSHA</th>
<th>OSHA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>R 408.13706. Employer responsibility</strong></td>
<td>No comparable OSHA provision, except for:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rule 3706.</strong> An employer shall provide, install and maintain signs and tags as prescribed by this part where an employee might be or would likely be injured if not alerted to the hazard.</td>
<td><strong>1910.145(a) Scope.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1910.145(a)(1) These specifications apply to the design, application, and use of signs or symbols (as included in paragraphs (c) through (e) of this section) intended to indicate and, insofar as possible, to define specific hazards of a nature such that failure to designate them may lead to accidental injury to workers or the public, or both, or to property damage. These specifications are intended to cover all safety signs except those designed for streets, highways, railroads, and marine regulations. These specifications do not apply to plant bulletin boards or to safety posters.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
R 408.13708. Lettering

Rule 3708. (1) A letter shall be block style, upper case for the upper panel, and upper or upper and lower case for the lower panel.

(2) Letter size shall be determined by the length of the message and maximum visibility and readability. See table 1 for a guide for minimum letter height at safe viewing distance.

(3) Table 1 reads as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Height of Letters (Inches)</th>
<th>Viewing Distance (Feet)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>200-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41/2</td>
<td>150-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>120-150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/2</td>
<td>105-120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>90-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/2</td>
<td>75-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>60-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/2</td>
<td>40-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>20-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>10-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>Less than 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE 1: Crowding of letters and words reduces legibility.

NOTE 2: A rule-of-thumb of 35-40 feet viewing distance per inch of letter height may be used for heights of letters greater than 5 inches.

R 408.13709. Sign placement and illumination

Rule 3709. (1) An accident prevention sign shall be so placed:

(a) To alert and inform in time to avoid the hazard or to take appropriate action.

(b) As to be legible, without distraction and not create a hazard in itself.

(c) On a movable object or adjacent so that it will not be obscured when the object is moved.

(2) An accident prevention sign shall be displayed with not less than 2 foot candles of illumination at or near the point of installation during hours when an employee would be present.
**CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNS**

**R 408.13711. Danger signs**

**Rule 3711.** (1) A danger sign shall be used only where an immediate hazard exists. The sign shall be removed when the hazard is removed.

(2) A danger sign shall have the signal word “danger” in white within a red oval outlined in white on a black rectangular background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black or red letters on a white background. (See figure 1.)

(3) Danger signs shall have no variation in the type of design of signs posted to warn of specific dangers and radiation hazards.

(4) An employee shall be instructed that a danger sign indicates immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.

(5) Figure 1

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**R 408.13713. Caution signs**

**Rule 3713.** (1) A caution sign shall be used to warn of a potential hazard or to caution against an unsafe practice.

(2) A caution sign shall have the signal word “caution” in yellow on a black background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black letters on a yellow background. (See figure 2.)

(3) An employee shall be instructed that a caution sign indicates a possible hazard and that proper precautions shall be taken.

(4) Figure 2 reads as follows:

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**OSHA**

**Danger signs.**

1910.145(c)(1)(i) There shall be no variation in the type of design of signs posted to warn of specific dangers and radiation hazards.


**Caution signs.**

1910.145(c)(2)(i) Caution signs shall be used only to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.

1910.145(c)(2)(ii) All employees shall be instructed that caution signs indicate a possible hazard against which proper precaution should be taken.

1910.145(d)(4) Caution signs. Standard color of the background shall be yellow; and the panel, black with yellow letters. Any letters used against the yellow background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard Z53.1-1967.
### MIOSHA

**R 408.13714. Exit signs**  
Rule 3714. (1) An exit sign shall be used as prescribed in subrule (3) of R 408.10685 and R 408.10686 of the General Industry Safety Standard Part 6 “Fire Exits,” as referenced in R 408.13705.  
(2) An exit sign installed after December 13, 1974 shall consist of red or white letters on a contrasting red or white field. An internally illuminated sign shall consist of translucent letters either red or white on a contrasting background of red or white. The background may be either opaque or translucent.  
(3) A directional arrow used on an exit sign shall be the same color as the word “exit.”

**R 408.13715 Safety instruction signs**  
**Rule 3715 (1)**  
(2) A safety instruction sign shall have the signal word in white on a green background in the upper panel. The lower panel where additional wording may be used shall be black letters on a white background.

**R 408.13716. Directional signs**  
**Rule 3716. (1)** A safety related directional sign shall have a white arrow on a black upper panel with the lower panel white and any letters in black.  
(2) A directional arrow used on a danger, caution, and safety instructional sign shall be black

### OSHA

No comparable OSHA provision

Equivalent

**1910.145(d)(6) Safety instruction signs.** Standard color of the background shall be white; and the panel, green with white letters. Any letters used against the white background shall be black. The colors shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of American National Standard, Z53.1-1967.

No comparable OSHA provision
R 408.13721. Emblem for slow-moving vehicles

Rule 3721. (1)****

(2) An emblem, described in subrule (1) of this rule, shall not be used as a clearance marker for wide machinery or as a replacement for required lighting.

(3) Advertising or other markings shall not be placed on the emblem.

(4) This slow-moving vehicle emblem shall consist of a fluorescent yellow-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border. (See figure 3.) It shall be entirely visible in daylight and at night from all distances between 600 and 100 feet from the rear when directly in front of the lawful upper beam of the headlamps.

(5) The emblem shall be mounted, point up, in a plane perpendicular to the direction of travel, plus or minus 10 degrees. It shall be placed centrally at the rear of the vehicle, unobscured, and 2 to 6 feet above the ground measured from the lower edge of the emblem. It shall be securely attached to the vehicle.

(6) The material, location, mounting, and other elements, of the emblem shall be in accordance with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Standard ASAE R276, "Emblem for Identifying Slow-Moving Vehicles," 1966 edition or ASAE S276.2 "Slow-Moving Vehicle Identification Emblem," 1968 edition, as adopted in R 408.13705.

(7) Figure 3 reads as follows:

![Diagram of Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem](image)

Note: All dimensions are in inches.

Equivalent

1910.145(d)(10) Slow-moving vehicle emblem. This emblem (see fig. J-7) consists of a fluorescent yellow-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border. The yellow-orange fluorescent triangle is a highly visible color for daylight exposure. The reflective border defines the shape of the fluorescent color in daylight and creates a hollow red triangle in the path of motor vehicle headlights at night. The emblem is intended as a unique identification for, and it shall be used only on, vehicles which by design move slowly (25 m.p.h. or less) on the public roads. The emblem is not a clearance marker for wide machinery nor is it intended to replace required lighting or marking of slow-moving vehicles. Neither the color film pattern and its dimensions nor the backing shall be altered to permit use of advertising or other markings. The material, location, mounting, etc., of the emblem shall be in accordance with the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Emblem for Identifying Slow-Moving Vehicles, ASAE R276, 1967, or ASAE S276.2 (ANSI B114.1-1971), which are incorporated by reference as specified in Sec. 1910.6.
**MIOSHA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAGS</th>
<th>OSHA</th>
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</table>
| **R 408.13731. Tags generally**  
**Rule 3731.** (1) An accident prevention tag shall be used as a temporary means of warning an employee of an existing hazard, such as defective tools or equipment. A tag shall not be used in place of an accident prevention sign or considered a complete warning method. | **No comparable OSHA provision, except for:**  
1910.145(f)(4) General tag criteria  
1910.145(f)(4)(iii) The tag’s major message shall be presented in either pictographs, written text or both.  
1910.145(f)(4)(iv) The signal word and the major message shall be understandable to all employees who may be exposed to the identified hazard.  
1910.145(f)(4)(v) All employees shall be informed as to the meaning of the various tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.  
Equivalent |
| (2) to (3)****  
(4) The signal word shall be in bolt type.  
(5) There shall be no variation in the type of design of tags posted or hung to warn of a specific hazard.  
(6) A tag shall be protected, or be of such material to last and maintain legibility during the assignment of the tag. | **No comparable OSHA provisions**  
Equivalent |
| (7) to (9)**** | |
| **R 408.13732. “Do not start” tags**  
**Rule 3732.** A “do not start” tag shall be used to tag out the starting mechanism of equipment that would cause a hazardous condition if activated, unless it is locked out. | **No comparable OSHA provision** |
| **R 408.13735. “Out of order” tags**  
**Rule 3735.** An “Out of order” tag should be used only for the specific purpose of indicating that equipment or machinery is out of order and that its use might create a hazard. | **No comparable OSHA provision** |

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