

**GI Part 37. Accident Prevention Signs and Tags  
Compared With  
29 C.F.R. 1910.145 Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags**

**Summary:** The significant differences between GI Part 37. Accident Prevention Signs and Tags and 29 C.F.R. 1910.145 Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags are in:


- Employer responsibility
- Signs generally
- 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

MIOSHA	OSHA
<p><b>R 408.13706. Employer responsibility</b>  <b>Rule 3706.</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision, except for:</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(a) Scope.</b>  <b>1910.145(a)(1)</b> 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.</p>

MIOSHA	OSHA																												
<p><b>R 408.13707. Signs generally</b></p> <p><b>Rule 3707.</b> (1) The type or design of a sign shall be as specified in this part. Safety instruction, directional, and inplant traffic signs in use before December 13, 1974 are excepted from the requirements of this part.</p> <p>(2)****</p> <p>(3) A sign shall have colors as prescribed in table 1 of ANSI standard, Z53.1-1971, safety color code, which is adopted herein by reference and is available for inspection at the Lansing office of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services. This standard may be purchased at a cost of \$3.00 from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018, or from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, 7150 Harris Drive, Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan 48909.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provisions</b></p> <p>Equivalent</p> <p><b>1910.145 Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags.</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(d)(2) Danger signs.</b> The colors red, black, and white shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of Fundamental Specification of Safety Colors for CIE Standard Source "C", American National Standard Z53.1-1967, which is incorporated by reference as specified in Sec. 1910.6.</p>																												
<p><b>R 408.13708. Lettering</b></p> <p><b>Rule 3708.</b> (1) A letter shall be block style, upper case for the upper panel, and upper or upper and lower case for the lower panel.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(3) Table 1 reads as follow:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="123 1087 776 1650"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="123 1087 776 1171">Table 1</th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="123 1171 451 1268">Minimum Height of Letters (Inches)</th> <th data-bbox="451 1171 776 1268">Viewing Distance (Feet)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1268 451 1297">5</td><td data-bbox="451 1268 776 1297">200-250</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1297 451 1327">4½</td><td data-bbox="451 1297 776 1327">150-200</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1327 451 1356">4</td><td data-bbox="451 1327 776 1356">120-150</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1356 451 1386">3½</td><td data-bbox="451 1356 776 1386">105-120</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1386 451 1415">3</td><td data-bbox="451 1386 776 1415">90-105</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1415 451 1444">2½</td><td data-bbox="451 1415 776 1444">75-90</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1444 451 1474">2</td><td data-bbox="451 1444 776 1474">60-75</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1474 451 1503">1½</td><td data-bbox="451 1474 776 1503">40-60</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1503 451 1533">1</td><td data-bbox="451 1503 776 1533">30-40</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1533 451 1562">¾</td><td data-bbox="451 1533 776 1562">20-30</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1562 451 1591">½</td><td data-bbox="451 1562 776 1591">10-20</td></tr> <tr><td data-bbox="123 1591 451 1621">¼</td><td data-bbox="451 1591 776 1621">Less than 10</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NOTE 1: Crowding of letters and words reduces legibility.</p> <p>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.</p>	Table 1		Minimum Height of Letters (Inches)	Viewing Distance (Feet)	5	200-250	4½	150-200	4	120-150	3½	105-120	3	90-105	2½	75-90	2	60-75	1½	40-60	1	30-40	¾	20-30	½	10-20	¼	Less than 10	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision, except for:</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(f)(4) General tag criteria</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(f)(4)(ii)</b> The signal word shall be readable at a minimum distance of five feet (1.52 m) or such greater distance as warranted by the hazard.</p>
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5	200-250																												
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1½	40-60																												
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MIOSHA	OSHA
<p><b>R 408.13709. Sign placement and illumination</b>  <b>Rule 3709.</b> (1) An accident prevention sign shall be so placed:</p> <p>(a) To alert and inform in time to avoid the hazard or to take appropriate action.</p> <p>(b) As to be legible, without distraction and not create a hazard in itself.</p> <p>(c) On a movable object or adjacent so that it will not be obscured when the object is moved.</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision</b></p>
<p><b>CLASSIFICATION OF SIGNS</b></p>	
<p><b>R 408.13711. Danger signs</b>  <b>Rule 3711.</b> (1) A danger sign shall be used only where an immediate hazard exists. The sign shall be removed when the hazard is removed.</p> <p>(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.)</p> <p>(3) An employee shall be instructed that a danger sign indicates immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary.</p> <p>(4) Figure 1 reads as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 1 Danger Sign</p> 	<p><b>Danger signs.</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>1910.145(d)(2) Danger signs. The colors red, black, and white shall be those of opaque glossy samples as specified in Table 1 of Fundamental Specification of Safety Colors for CIE Standard Source "C", American National Standard Z53.1-1967, which is incorporated by reference as specified in Sec. 1910.6.</p>

MIOSHA	OSHA
<p><b>R 408.13713. Caution signs</b></p> <p><b>Rule 3713.</b> (1) A caution sign shall be used to warn of a potential hazard or to caution against an unsafe practice.</p> <p>(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.)</p> <p>(3) An employee shall be instructed that a caution sign indicates a possible hazard and that proper precautions shall be taken.</p> <p>(4) Figure 2 reads as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 2 Caution Sign</p> 	<p><b>Caution signs.</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(c)(2)(i)</b> Caution signs shall be used only to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices.</p> <p><b>1910.145(c)(2)(ii)</b> All employees shall be instructed that caution signs indicate a possible hazard against which proper precaution should be taken.</p> <p><b>1910.145(d)(4)</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>R 408.13714. Exit signs</b></p> <p><b>Rule 3714.</b> (1) An exit sign shall be used as prescribed in subrule (3) of rule 685 and rule 686 of the general industry safety standards commission standard, Part 6. Fire Exits, being R 408.10685(3) and R 408.10686 of the Michigan Administrative Code, which is available from the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, 7150 Harris Drive, Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan 48909.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(3) A directional arrow used on an exit sign shall be the same color as the word "exit"</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision</b></p>
<p><b>R 408.13715 Safety instruction signs</b></p> <p><b>Rule 3715 (1)****</b></p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Equivalent</p> <p><b>1910.145(d)(6) Safety instruction signs.</b> 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.</p>

MIOSHA	OSHA
<p><b>R 408.13716. Directional signs</b>  <b>Rule 3716.</b> (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</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision</b></p>
<b>SYMBOLS</b>	

<p><b>R 408.13721. Emblem for slow-moving vehicles</b>  <b>Rule 3721.</b> (1)****</p> <p>(2) This 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.</p> <p>(3) 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.</p> <p>(4) The requirements for color and reflectivity, durability, and test procedures shall be as prescribed in SAE-J493, slow moving vehicle identification emblem, which is adopted herein by reference and is available for inspection at the Lansing office of the Department of Consumer and Industry Services. This standard may be purchased at a cost of \$1.50 from the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc., 2 Penn Plaza, New York, New York 10001, or from the Michigan Department of Consumer Industry Services, 7150 Harris Drive, Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan 48909.</p> <p>(5) Figure 3 reads as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 3 Identification Emblem</p> <p>ENGLISH LINEAR DIMENSIONS ARE IN DECIMAL INCHES.                      METRIC LINEAR DIMENSIONS (XX.X) ARE IN MILLIMETERS.                      UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, A TOLERANCE OF ± .06(1.5) APPLIES TO ALL DIMENSIONS.</p> <p>DARK RED REFLECTIVE BORDER                      FLUORESCENT YELLOW-ORANGE TRIANGLE</p> <p>4.20 (106.7)                      50 R (12.7)                      GAP .60 ± .02 (.00 ± .5)                      1.75 ± .04 (.44 ± .1) 3 STIPS                      13.76 ± .07 (349.5 ± 1.8) WITHOUT BACKING PLATE                      14.00 (355.6)                      6.00 ± .01 (152.4 ± .25)                      12 ± .04 (3 ± 1)                      12 ± .04 (3 ± 1)                      210 ± .01 DIA (5.33 ± .25) 2 HOLES                      4.00 (101.6)                      5.97 (151.6)                      11.94 (303.3)                      16.00 (406.4)                      .12 ± .04 (3 ± 1)</p>	<p>Equivalent</p> <p><b>1910.145(d)(10) Slow-moving vehicle emblem.</b> 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.</p>
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MIOSHA	OSHA
<b>TAGS</b>	
<p><b>R 408.13731. Tags generally</b>  <b>Rule 3731.</b> (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.</p> <p>(2) to (3)****</p> <p>(4) The signal word shall be in bolt type.  (5) There should 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.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision, except for:</b></p> <p><b>1910.145(f)(4) General tag criteria</b>  <b>1910.145(f)(4)(iii)</b> The tag's major message shall be presented in either pictographs, written text or both.  <b>1910.145(f)(4)(iv)</b> The signal word and the major message shall be understandable to all employees who may be exposed to the identified hazard.  <b>1910.145(f)(4)(v)</b> All employees shall be informed as to the meaning of the various tags used throughout the workplace and what special precautions are necessary.</p> <p>Equivalent</p> <p><b>No comparable OSHA provisions</b></p>
<p><b>R 408.13732. "Do not start" tags</b>  <b>Rule 3732.</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision</b></p>
<p><b>R 408.13735. "Out of order" tags</b>  <b>Rule 3735.</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>No comparable OSHA provision</b></p>

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