

Display a Clear and Visible Message

Safety Sign Headers (OSHA 1910.145 and ANSI Z535)

Messages such as “Warning” and “Caution” may seem synonymous, but they actually deliver very different messages. ANSI and OSHA specify that safety signs must indicate and define specific hazards that, without identification, may lead to accidental injury to workers, customers or the general public. The standard headers and definitions are listed below.

DANGER	WARNING	CAUTION	NOTICE	SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicates an imminently hazardous situation which if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. Limited to most extreme situations. Not used for property damage hazards unless personal injury risk to this level is also involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or serious injury. Not used for property damage hazards unless personal injury risk to this level is also involved. Appropriate for signs placed outside of the area or on the exterior of enclosures containing a Danger-level hazard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicates a potentially hazardous which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. May be used to alert against unsafe practices that may cause property damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicates a statement of company policy directly or indirectly related to the safety of personnel or protection of property. Should not be associated with a hazard or hazardous situation, and shall not be used in place of DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate general instructions relative to safe work practices or indicate the location of safety equipment (e.g. eye wash station)

Safety Sign Letter Height (ANSI Z535.2-2002)

9.2.2 Overall size of the lettering

The overall size of the lettering shall be determined by the distance from which the sign can be safely and easily read. The message should be concise as practical. Letters shall be adequately spaced and not crowded.

9.2.3 Minimum letter height

Minimum letter height shall be one unit in height for every 150 units of safe viewing distance from the hazard alerting device for signal words and one unit in height for every 300 units viewing distance for the majority of other words contained on the word message panel. The safe viewing distance must be determined for each specific case where a safety sign is needed. The message panel text shall meet the legibility criteria at the determined safe viewing distance.

Minimum Safe Viewing Distance	<4'	5'	8'	10'	15'	20'	30'	40'	60'	80'	100'	125'	150'	200'
Minimum Height for Favorable Reading Conditions	0.16" *	0.24"	0.32"	0.40"	0.60"	0.80"	1.20"	1.60"	2.40"	3.20"	4.00"	5.00"	6.00"	8.00"
Recommended Letter Height For Unfavorable Reading Conditions	0.33"	0.50"	0.66"	0.83"	1.27"	1.68"	2.51"	3.36"	5.04"	6.72"	8.40"	10.49"	12.58"	16.79"

*0.16 inch (0.4 cm) type is the suggested minimum type size for use on environmental/facility safety signs.