

THE USE OF COLOUR FOR SAFETY PURPOSES

HOW IS COLOUR PERCEIVED?

Colour stimulates the colour receptors at the back of our eyes. Colour can convey strong messages to our brain when associated with certain functions or warnings. For example, the colour red is associated with “stop” or “danger.”

USE OF COLOUR FOR EQUIPMENT AND HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

The Standards Association of Australia has issued the Australian Standard AS1318, “Use of Colour for the Marking of Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment in Industry”, from which most of the information in this Dulux PC Tech Note is derived.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN “SAFETY COLOURS”?

The main colours used for designating areas for safety purposes are:

SAFETY COLOURS				
Colour References: Dulux Colour Atlas, AS1318, AS 1345 and AS 2700				
COLOUR	DULUX COLOUR	AS2700 COLOUR	SWATCH	CONTRAST COLOUR
RED	PB1F3 Paraburdoo	R13 Signal Red		
YELLOW	PB1B2 Sunshine Surprise	Y15 Sunflower		
GREEN	P26E8 Green Velvet	G21 Jade		
BLUE	PB2E4 Magnetic Blue	B23 Bright Blue		

WHERE ARE THESE COLOURS TO BE APPLIED?

RED

Red, with or without white, is to be used to identify areas of:

- Danger
- Fire protection equipment
- Stop buttons or Emergency stop controls.

Examples of these are rail crossings, stop signs, fire alarms and boxes, valve locations, sprinkler piping, (refer AS 1345), fire blanket receptacles, fire buckets and areas around fire extinguishers, hoses, reels and hydrants.

Other examples are stop buttons for electrical switches used for either normal or emergency stopping of machinery and emergency stop bars or controls on hazardous machines.



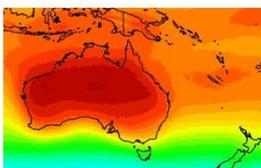
The four primary colours Red Yellow Green and Blue are distinctive and highly visible



You don't need to know Portuguese to figure out that entering this area is risky



The red pipes denote fire hose supplies



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YELLOW

Yellow, with or without black, is to be used to identify areas where:

- Caution is to be exercised
- Radioactive hazards or sources are located

Examples of areas where caution is to be exercised are industrial locomotives, wheeled plant machines, overhead fixtures that extend down into normal operating areas, including low pulley blocks and crane hooks, low doorways, travelling conveyors and low pipes (refer AS 1345), pillars or posts that may be struck, temporary or permanent barricades, and hazards created by the removal of guards or covers for industrial machinery.

Examples of where radioactive hazards or sources are located include areas of radioactive use, storage or contaminated waste and equipment collection.

GREEN

Green, with or without white, is to be used to identify areas of:

- Safety
- First Aid Equipment

Examples of these are location of first aid facilities, stretchers, respiratory and revival equipment, showers, exist signs and safety instruction signs. (Refer AS 1319 for emergency-related information signs.)

BLUE

Blue, with white lettering, is to be used where no specific hazard exists, for:

- Mandatory (obligatory) instructions to be followed
- Signs depicting areas where personal protective equipment must be worn
- General information

Examples of these are amenities, offices, parking areas, equipment storage, lockers and entrances.

OTHER COLOUR-RELATED STANDARDS

AS 1345 Identification of the Contents of Piping, Conduits and Ducts

AS1319 Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment

AS2700 Colour Standards for Paints and Related Materials

Reference: Australian Standard AS1318, "Use of Colour for the Marking of Physical Hazards and the Identification of Certain Equipment in Industry"

For more information, please contact the Dulux Protective Coatings Technical Consultant in your state.



Proceed with caution!



Exit signs and fire safety directions are green



Personal protection equipment signs are blue