



ESCAPE ROUTE SIGNS

The following information is provided for guidance only, and should not be used for statutory purposes. For more information refer to **BS 5499-4:2000, The Health & Safety (Signs & Signals Regulations) 1996** and the relevant **'fire safety risk assessment'** guidance document for your premises issued by H.M. Government.

"Where the locations of escape routes and firefighting equipment are readily apparent and the firefighting equipment is visible at all times, then signs are not necessary. In all other situations it is likely that the fire risk assessment will indicate that signs will be necessary". Extract from "fire safety risk assessment" (H.M. Government).

TYPES OF FIRE EXIT SIGN IN GENERAL USE:



a) The 'EU' sign; and



b) The British Standard sign.

There is confusion over which of the above designs is correct. The answer is that both are legal, however most authorities recommend the **British Standard** version as it is more widely understood, and was recently endorsed by the International Standards Organisation (ISO), for ISO 6309: Fire Protection - Safety Signs.

They should in any case not be used together in the same premises.

ELEMENTS OF ESCAPE ROUTE SIGNS:



Graphical symbol, front lit



Back lit



Directional arrow



Supplementary text

| MEANING of SIGNS | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| | Progress forward from here | | Progress down from here |
| | Progress to the left from here | | Progress to the right from here |
| | Progress down to the left | | Progress up to the left |
| | Progress up to the right | | Progress down to the right |

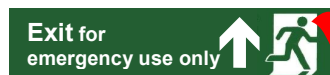
USE OF SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

Every escape route sign should include supplementary text to assist in the understanding of the sign.

EXIT - Used to indicate the conventional route leading out of a building.

FIRE EXIT - Used to indicate an escape route provided specifically to be used in the event of an evacuation.

EXIT for emergency use only - Similar to FIRE EXIT, but should not be used close to FIRE EXIT signs. They should also be used instead of FIRE EXIT and STAFF ONLY or PRIVATE signs together, which could cause confusion.



LOCATION OF SIGNS

Signs should be located in the normal field of vision, and should be prominent, taking precedence over all other signs, ie they should not have to 'compete' with other signs.

SIZE OF SIGNS

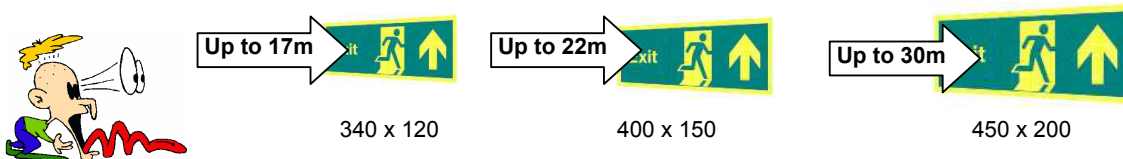
"Signs should be sufficiently large and clear so that they can be easily seen and understood"

Safety signs and Signals Regulations 1996

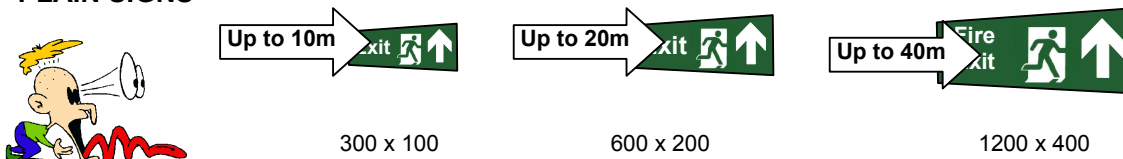
The following sizes (in mm) are for guidance only. Sizes should be assessed on the above criteria in each individual case.

Luminescent signs absorb energy from light and glow in the dark. They can be seen more easily than plain signs, and can therefore generally be smaller.

LUMINESCENT SIGNS



PLAIN SIGNS



FIXING HEIGHTS (FROM FLOOR TO BASE OF SIGN):

Over doors & open spaces: 2 – 2.5m to the base of the sign;

Wall fixed: 1.7 – 2m to the base of the sign.

Large open spaces such as factories and warehouses: as appropriate.