International Standard

ISO 20712-3

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Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

Part 3: Guidance for use

Signaux de sécurité relatifs à l'eau et drapeaux de sécurité pour les plages —

Partie 3: Lignes directrices pour l'utilisation

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 145, *Graphical symbols*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 20712-3:2020), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— Clause 8 and Annex E have been deleted, as tsunami specifications have been incorporated into ISO 22578;

— minor editorial changes have been made throughout.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20712 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document reflects good practice in the use of water safety signs and beach safety flags. The figures show examples of the selection and location of water safety signs and beach safety flags designed to provide information about aquatic hazards and the action necessary to avoid those hazards.

A standardized method of signing with the use of appropriate supplementary text throughout the working and public environment assists the process of education and instruction on the meaning of water safety signs and beach safety flags, and the appropriate actions to take. The intention of this document is to ensure a uniformity of application of water safety signs and beach safety flags which leads to increased familiarity, and therefore improved safety, for users, including visitors, and for the general public.

The figures within this document are based on assumptions that some people could be unfamiliar with the features of indoor or outdoor swimming pools or the beach. The figures are not intended to cover every potentially hazardous situation and they should be interpreted as recommendations and not as minimum requirements.

The use of water safety signs and beach safety flags does not replace the need for proper working methods and safety instruction or for training in accident prevention and the actions to be taken in the event of an emergency, or for the provision of lifeguards.

NOTE 1 The statutory regulations of some countries can differ in some respects from the recommendations given in this document.

NOTE 2 Some countries can differ in regard to the recommendations given in this document for the use of the diamond geometric shape for warning signs.

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Water safety signs and beach safety flags —

Part 3:
Guidance for use

IMPORTANT — The colours represented in the electronic file of this document can be neither viewed on screen nor printed as true representations. For the purposes of colour matching see ISO 3864-4, which provides colorimetric and photometric properties together with, as a guideline, references from colour order systems.

1 Scope

This document gives guidance for the selection and use of water safety signs as specified in ISO 7010 and beach safety flags as specified in ISO 20712-2 in aquatic environments. It provides guidance on their location, mounting positions, lighting and maintenance. It also provides guidance on the design and location of multiple signs.

This document does not apply to traffic signs for use on the public highway or maritime signalling. It is not applicable to flags for use on firing ranges or to flags used to indicate water quality. It does not cover means of escape signs or their possible illumination.

NOTE This document refers to water safety signs which were originally specified in ISO 20712-1.[1)] These water safety signs have been integrated in ISO 7010, but are not specifically identified as water safety signs.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
beach
area forming a shoreline or sloping bank at the edge of the sea or a river estuary or lake

[SOURCE: ISO 20712-2:2007, 3.1]

3.2
beach safety flag
material that gives a particular safety message by means of a combination of one or more colours and a geometric shape, and is attached by one end to a pole or rope

Note 1 to entry: A flag can have additional support, for example a horizontal support.

1) Cancelled and replaced by ISO 7010.

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