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COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS AND ON THE GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF CHEMICALS

Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
(Second session, 12 -14 December 2001, agenda item 4)

COMMENTS ON THE GHS

Graphical symbols, safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours, comprehensibility

Transmitted by the International Standardization Organization (ISO)

1. Reference is made to informal document "INF.9" circulated during the first session fo the Sub-Committee, which contained the International Labour Office proposal for harmonized hazard communication tools for the Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

2. ISO is of the opinion that the Sub-Committee should be informed of the basic rules given in existing ISO standards with respect to safety symbols and signs, and suggests that there should be some form of coordination between the GHS Sub-Committee and ISO Technical Committee "ISO/TC 145 Graphical symbols". For this purpose, an information note on the work carried out by TC 145 is reproduced as an annex to this document.

3. Amongst the various ISO/TC 145 sub-committees, ISO/TC 145/SC.2 "Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours" is the one mainly concerned by the activities of the GHS Sub-Committee.

4. ISO/TC 145 would like to bring three documents to the attention fo the GHS Sub-Committee, which are expected to be published as International Standards intended to give guidance and directive to people wishing to create safety signs. These documents which are reproduced as addenda 1-3 to this document are:

Addendum 1:	**ISO/FDIS 3864-1**	Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs Part 1: Design principles for safety signs in workplaces and public areas
Addendum 2:	**ISO/DIS 3864-2**	Safety colours and safety signs Part 2: Safety signs in workplaces and public areas – Overview of standardised safety signs
Addendum 3:	**ISO/DIS 7010**	Graphical symbols – Safety signs in workplaces and public areas

5. The Sub-Committee may wish to provide comments on these draft standards. Comments may also be provided by the Sub-Committee experts to ISO TC 145 through their national ISO member body. It should be noted that the deadline for submitting comments on ISO/DIS 7010 is 5 December 2001.

6. ISO would like to express the wish that cooperation between TC 145 and the GHS Sub-Committee would give rise to the standardization of safety indications which are easily comprehensible and exploited world-wide.

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Annex

NOTE ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ISO/TC 145

Graphical symbols

1. General

The Technical Comittee ISO/TC 145 was established in 1970.

2. Title and scope

Title: Graphical symbols

Scope: Standardization in the field of graphical symbols as well as of colours and shapes, whenever these elements form part of the message that a symbol is intended to convey, e.g. a safety sign.

Establishing principles for preparation, coordination and application of graphical symbols. General responsibility for the review and the coordination of those already existing, those under study, and those to be established. The standardization of new graphical symbols, when requested by a technical committee, or where it does not fall within the activity of an existing technical committee.

Excluded:

- standardization of letters, numerals, punctuation marks, mathematical signs and symbols, and symbols for quantities and units. However, such may be used as a component of a graphical symbol.

The Secretariat of this Technical Committee is held by BSI (United Kingdom). The Secretary is Dr. David Fishman.

Mrs. Anette Schwuchow (Germany) has been appointed as Chairperson of ISO/TC 145.

3. Membership

The member bodies from the following countries participate in the work of ISO/TC 145:

Participants: (14) AFNOR (France), ANSI (USA), BSI (United Kingdom), CSBTS (China), CSNI (Czech Republic), DIN (Germany), GOST R (Russian Federation), IPQ (Portugal), JISC (Japan), KATS (Korea, Republic of), NEN (Netherlands), NSF (Norway), ON (Austria), UNI (Italy)

Observers: (32) ABNT (Brazil), AENOR (Spain), ASRO (Romania), BIS (India), BNSI (Barbados), BSN (Indonesia), CSK (Korea, Democratic People's Republic), DGN (Mexico), DS (Denmark), ELOT (Greece), EOS (Egypt), FONDONORMA (Venezuela), IBN (Belgium), INNORPI (Tunisia), IRAM (Argentina), ISIRI (Iran, Islamic Republic of), ITCHKSAR (Hong Kong, China), MSZT (Hungary), NC (Cuba), NSAI (Ireland, PKN (Poland), SABS (South Africa), SAI (Australia), SCC (Canada), SFS (Finland), SII (Israel), SIS (Sweden), SNV (Switzerland), SUTN (Slovakia), SZS (Yugoslavia), TISI (Thailand), TSE (Turkey)

The last plenary meeting was held in May 2001 in San Antonio. The next plenary meeting will be held in April 2002 in Vienna.

4. Liaisons

Liaisons with the following ISO Technical Committees have been established:

TC 10, TC 10/SC 1, TC 10/SC 8, TC 20, TC 20/SC 9, TC 22, TC 22/SC 13, TC 23, TC 27/SC 1, TC 37, TC 38, TC 39, TC 59, TC 67, TC 70, TC 72/SC 9, TC 82, TC 96, TC 108, TC 110, TC 159, TC 181, TC 184, TC 184/SC 5, JTC 1.

Liaisons with the following IEC Technical Committees have been established:

IEC/TC 3, IEC/SC 3C.

Liaisons with the following international organizations have been established:

EC, ICOGRADA, AISE, ICAO.

5. Committee Structure

Reference	Member body responsible	Committee structure
JWG 11	BSI	*Joint ISO/TC 145-IEC/SC 3C WG : Basic principles for the development and use of graphical symbols* *GT mixte ISO/TC 145-CEI/SC 3C : Principes de base pour le développement et l'utilisation de symboles graphiques*
AG	BSI	*Advisory Group* *Groupe consultatif*
WG 3	BSI	*Terminology* *Terminologie*
WG 5	BSI	*Technical guidelines for the consideration of consumers* *Lignes directrices à l'intention des consommateurs*
SC 1	**BSI**	***Public information symbols*** ***Symboles pour l'information du public (pictogrammes)***
WG 1	BSI	*Evaluation and testing of public information symbols* *Évaluation et essais des pictogrammes*
WG 2	NEN	*Visual design criteria for public information symbols* *Critères visuels de conception des pictogrammes*
WG 3	—	*Graphical symbols covering the needs for information by handicapped persons* *Symboles graphiques pour les besoins en information des handicapés*
WG 4	BSI	*Public information symbols (Revision of ISO 7001)* *Symboles destinés à l'information du public (Révision de l'ISO 7001)*
SC 2	**DIN**	***Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*** ***Identification de sécurité, signaux, formes, symboles et couleurs***
WG 1	DIN	*Safety identification, shapes, symbols and colours* *Identification de sécurité, formes, symboles et couleurs*
WG 2	BSI	*Signs, plates and labels* *Signaux, panneaux et étiquettes*
WG 3	DIN	*Safety guidance systems* *Systèmes de contrôle de la sécurité*
SC 3	**ANSI - SAE Warrendale**	***Graphical symbols for use on equipment*** ***Symboles graphiques utilisables sur le matériel***
WG 1	ANSI	*Coordination and registration of graphical symbols for use on equipment* *Coordination et enregistrement des symboles graphiques utilisables sur le matériel*
WG 2	ANSI	*Graphical symbols for use on equipment - Index and synopsis (Revision of ISO 7000)* *Symboles graphiques utilisables sur le matériel - Index et tableau synoptique (Révision de l'ISO 7000)*

6. ISO/TC 145/SC 2*: Safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols and colours*

Scope:

Standardization of safety identification, signs, shapes, symbols, colours and related subjects with the purpose of providing a complete information system.

The Secretariat of this Technical Sub-Committee is held by DIN (Germany). The Secretary is Mrs. Angela Rosenkranz-Wuttig.

Mr. Norbert K. Schneider (Germany) has been appointed as Chairman of ISO/TC 145/SC 2 until the end of 2003.

Membership:

Participants: (17) AFNOR (France), ANSI (USA), BSI (United Kingdom), DIN (Germany), GOST R (Russian Federation), IBN (Belgium), JISC (Japan), KATS (Korea, Republic of), NEN (Netherlands), NSAI (Ireland), NSF (Norway), ON (Austria), PKN (Poland), SAI (Australia), SII (Israel), SNV (Switzerland), UNI (Italy)

Observers: (10) ABNT (Brazil), ASRO (Romania), CSBTS (China), CSNI (Czech Republic), IRAM (Argentina), SCC (Canada), SFS (Finland), SIS (Sweden), SUTN (Slovakia), TISI (Thailand)

Liaisons:

Liaisons have been established with IEC/SC 3C and ICOGRADA.

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