

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE
PRECHERGRUPPE
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCE
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

**INFORMATION
INFORMATORISCHE AUFZEICHNUNG
INFORMATION MEMO**

**NOTE D'INFORMATION
NOTA D'INFORMAZIONE
TER DOCUMENTIE**

Brussels, April 1976

HARMONISATION OF SAFETY SIGNS USED AT THE WORKPLACE

The Commission has approved and sent to the Council a draft directive which is intended to standardize all signs conveying prohibitions, orders, warnings and emergency instructions required at the workplace for reasons of safety (1). The primary aim of this directive is to help combat industrial accidents and diseases but it will also help to eliminate some of the obstacles to freedom of movement for persons as the recommended signs will not require a knowledge of the local language.

The safety signs prescribed in the directive have been made as simple and striking as possible and no words at all have been used so that everyone, in particular foreign workers, can tell at a glance what must and must not be done. For this reason a certain use has been made of the familiar symbols used in road signs although the directive does not apply to signs used in rail, road, inland waterway, marine or air transport or to signs used for the transportation of dangerous materials. Some examples of the signs laid down in the directive for use throughout the Community are illustrated in Annex 1.

Work on standardization of safety signs in the workplace has progressed relatively slowly in the relevant committee of the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and as a result many large firms have been producing their own special signs. Hence, in the various Community countries there are now wide differences in the shape, colour and symbol of the signs used and to avoid misunderstanding it has often proved necessary to add a supplementary sign giving the meaning of the symbol in the local language.

The proliferation of signs with varying symbols and languages has meant that they cannot be easily understood by the workers, especially foreign workers, or by the general public in such places as theatres, large department stores etc. The best solution for this problem, in the Commission's view, would be an obligatory harmonisation of the different safety signs applicable throughout the Community.

The draft directive has been prepared with the cooperation of the experts of the national governments and conforms to their views. The Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work on which governments and the social partners are represented has also given its approval. Broadly speaking, the definition of the safety colours and safety signs follows the new ISO standards and allowance has been made for the most recent international experience gained with safety signs.

(1) COM(76) 132

SÆRLIG SIKKERHEDSSKILTNING
BESONDERE SICHERHEITSKENNZEICHNUNG
SPECIAL SAFETY INFORMATION

SIGNALISATION PARTICULIERE DE SECURITE
SEGNALI PARTICOLARI DI SICUREZZA
BEZONDERE VEILIGHEIDSSIGNALERING

1. Forbudsskilte
 Panneaux d'interdiction

Verbotszeichen
 Cartelli segnalatori di divieto

Prohibition signs
 Verbodsborden



Rygning forbudt
 Rauchen verboten
 No smoking
 Defense de fumer
 Vietato fumare
 Verboden te roken



Rygning og åben ild forbudt
 Feuer, offenes Licht und Rauchen verboten
 Smoking and naked flames forbidden
 Flamme nue interdite et defense de fumer
 Vietato fumare o usare fiamme libere
 Vuur, open vlam en roken verboden



Ingen adgang for fodgængere
 Für Fussgänger verboten
 Pedestrians forbidden
 Interdit aux piétons
 Vietato ai pedoni
 Verboden voor voetgangers



Sluk ikke med vand
 Verbot mit Wasser zu löschen
 Do not extinguish with water
 Defense d'éteindre avec de l'eau
 Divieto di usare acqua per spegnere incendi
 Verboden met water te blussen



Ikke drikkevand
 Verbot dieses Wasser zu trinken
 No drinking water
 Eau non potable
 Acqua non potabile
 Verboden water te drinken

P. Advarselkiltte
Planches d'avertissement

Emblemi
Cartelli segnalatori di
pericolo

Warning signs
Waarschuwingsborden



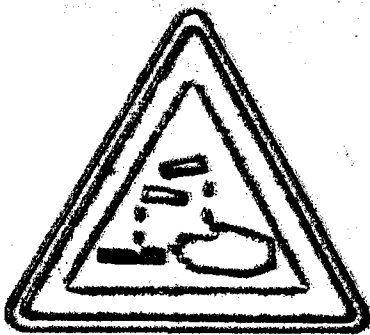
Brandfarlige stoffer
Warnung vor Feuergefähr-
lichen Stoffen
Inflammables matter
Matières inflammables
Materiale infiammabili
Ontvlambare stoffen



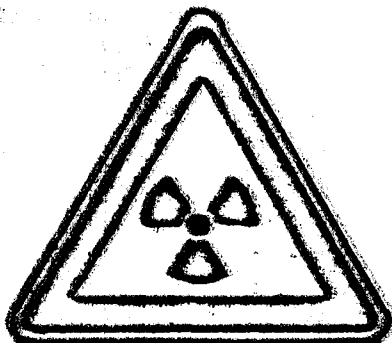
Eksplosionsfarlige stoffer
Warnung vor Explosivstoffen
Explosive matter
Matieres explosives
Materiale esplosivo
Explosieve stoffen



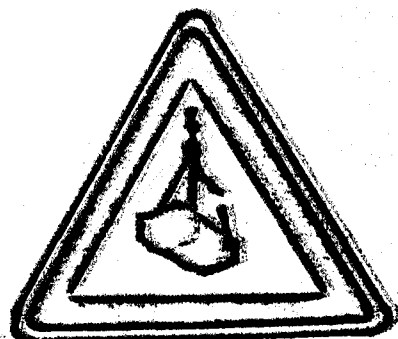
Giftige stoffer
Warnung vor giftigen Stoffen
Toxic matter
Matieres toxiques
Sostanze velenose
Giftige stoffen



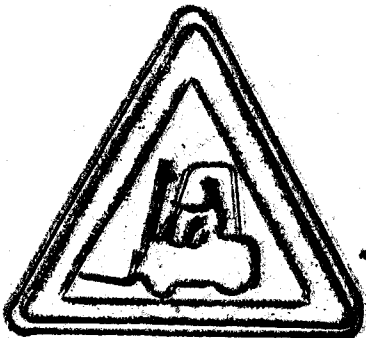
Etterende stoffer
Warnung vor ätzenden Stoffen
Corrosive matter
Matieres corrosives
Sostanze corrosive
Etjvende stoffen



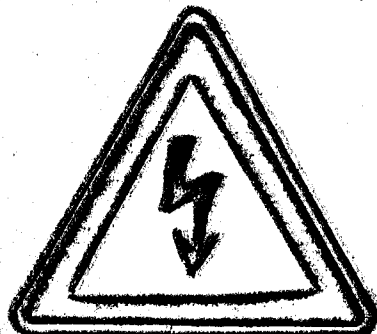
Immerende stråling
Radioaktivitet/afgiftstråling
Warnung vor radioaktiven Stoffen
oder ionisierenden Strahlen
Radioactive matter
Matieres radioactives
Radioaktivt pericolose
Radioaktieve stoffen



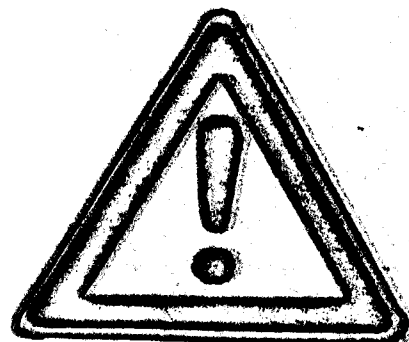
Kra i arbeid
Warnung vor schlechter Last
Heave, overhead load
Charges suspendues
Attenzione ai carichi sospesi
Hangende lasten



Pas på tyvende trafik
Warnung vor Flußfahrzeugen
Bonare, industrial trucks
Characts de manutention
Cartelli di movimentazione
Traansportvoertuigen



Farlig elektrisk spænding
Warnung vor gefährlicher
elektrischer Spannung
Danger high tension
Danger électrique
Alta tensione, pericolo di morte
Gevaar voor hoge elektrische
spanning



Op agt
Warnung vor einer Gefahrstelle
General danger
Danger général
Pericolo generale
Gevaar