

Examples of the use of signs with an ‘Exclamation mark’: comparison between use under *Classification, labelling and packaging (Regulation No (EC) 1272/2008) (CLP), Signs at work (Directive 92/58/EEC) (SAW) and signs used for other purposes (eg, traffic signs)*

Signs are used in a variety of contexts. Warning, mandatory and traffic signs may employ an exclamation mark symbol. The words ‘danger’, ‘warning’ or ‘caution’ may be included. In some cases it is not clear that the sign relates to a situation that is dangerous or for which caution is actually required. Compare the range of levels of hazard represented by the signs shown below to the ‘moderate hazard’ represented by the CLP pictogram GHS07 shown at the end. Colouring used for some traffic signs appears identical to that used for CLP pictograms: the difference in shape of their borders is a subtlety that will be lost on most people not familiar with the legislation.

We do not comment on the use of these signs. Our point is: given the wide range of contexts and levels of hazard involved in these examples, and in comparison with the ‘moderate’ level of hazard represented by the CLP pictogram GHS07, it does not seem appropriate to designate the SAW sign as ‘General Danger’. Signs employing an exclamation mark may better be considered to constitute an alert: telling people to ‘look out’ or ‘take care’.

It would seem more appropriate to use a different SAW sign to represent hazards at the higher ‘Danger’ level. For example, three exclamation marks could be placed in the triangle.

Examples of the use of signs with an exclamation mark

		
<p>SAW sign</p>	<p>SAW sign</p>	<p>This is rather a general comment</p>



The word 'Caution' is used



The word 'Caution' is used



Traffic sign



The word 'Caution' is used



The word 'Caution' is used



The word 'danger' is used



The word 'warning' is used



Mandatory sign



Mandatory sign



The word 'Caution' is used

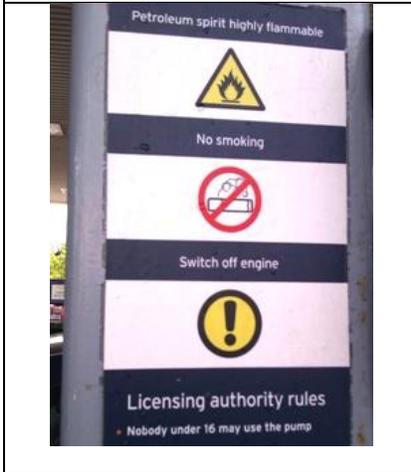
The word 'warning' is used



The word 'warning' is used

Is this dangerous?

What hazard is the sign referring to?



The word 'Caution' is used



Mandatory sign



Quite a range of hazards represented here



The word 'warning' is used



Traffic sign



Traffic sign. Note: the colouring matches that for GHS07



Warning

The CLP pictogram GHS07 and signal word for 'moderate hazard'

Use of signs with an exclamation mark JS 26 May 2016