

**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 and 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**

		
SAW sign	SAW sign	This is rather a general comment

		
<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	<p>Traffic sign</p>
		
<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	<p>The word 'danger' is used</p>
		
<p>The word 'warning' is used</p>	<p>Mandatory sign</p>	<p>Mandatory sign</p>

		
	<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	<p>The word 'warning' is used</p>
		
<p>The word 'warning' is used</p>	<p>Is this dangerous?</p>	<p>What hazard is the sign referring to?</p>
		
	<p>The word 'Caution' is used</p>	



		
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
		
	<p>Warning</p> <p>The CLP pictogram GHS07 and signal word for 'moderate hazard'</p>	

Use of signs with an exclamation mark JS 26 May 2016