

## The Latest Updates to the ANSI and ISO Product Safety Label Standards

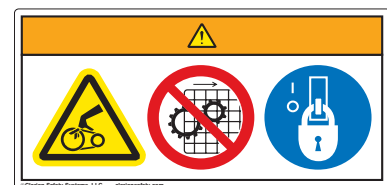
As a product manufacturer, your legal obligation is to meet or exceed the current versions of standards related to your products at the time they are placed into commerce. Use of the principal product safety label standards for the design and layout of your labels is key to fulfilling this requirement. Domestically, the standard to look to is the *ANSI Z535.4 Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels*. Internationally, the primary standard to reference is *ISO 3864-2 Graphical symbols – Safety colours and safety signs – Part 2: Design principles for product safety labels*. Both of these standards are revised according to ANSI and ISO procedures, typically every five years. The ANSI Z535.4 standard is in the process of being balloted for reaffirmation without changes; if that occurs and you have the 2011 standard, there's no need to purchase the next version. The ISO 3864-2 standard was updated in December 2016 and included significant modifications to its content. It's these changes that require your attention.

### Major Changes You Need to Know to ISO 3864-2:2016

**1. The safety label format that used a single safety symbol without an ISO colored surround shape was removed from the standard.<sup>1</sup>** From the ISO 3864-2 standard's perspective, product safety labels must use at least one ISO-formatted safety symbol in addition to the "general warning sign" that serves as the safety alert symbol on the label's severity level panel. Symbols without ISO colored surround shapes can be used in addition to one or more ISO formatted symbols. Such symbols are called "supplementary safety symbols" by ISO.



**2. A new "wordless" format that conveys risk severity was added to the standard.<sup>2</sup>** This new label format uses what ISO calls a "hazard severity panel" but no signal word. It communicates the level of risk through color-coding of the hazard severity panel. This format option eliminates words – making translations unnecessary.



<sup>1</sup> ANSI continues to accept this format.

<sup>2</sup> ANSI does not currently include this option but allows manufacturers to use ISO formats, by way of its section 3.1.1.

### Clarion – Your Resource

Clarion's expertise in the safety label standards and our experience in applying them across hundreds of industries can help you decide which formats are right for you. We're active members of ANSI and ISO and have more than two decades of experience in advancing safety communication. In fact, our CEO is chairman of both the ANSI Z535 Committee for Safety Signs and Colors and of ANSI's U.S. TAG to ISO/TC 145, the ISO standards committee responsible for safety signs, labels, colors and symbols. This group is responsible for writing and developing ISO 3864-2. We stand ready to help you reevaluate your safety labels and choose the formats that best suit your products and markets.