



MEETING LOG

SUBJECT: ANSI Z535 Committee on Safety Signs and Labels

FY 25 OP PLAN ENTRY: Warning Signs and Labels

DATE OF MEETING: 9/26/2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Tim Smith (ESHF)

FILING DATE: 9/29/2025

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Tim Smith (ESHF) (Virtual)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ANSI for the full attendee list

Summary of Meeting:

This meeting of the ANSI Z535 Committee on Safety Signs and Labels, led by the chair of the Committee, Steve Hall, was intended primarily to discuss change proposals for the ANSI Z535-series of standards. The Committee had a brief discussion about an ANSI registered paper, or white paper, that would provide guidance and recommendations for safety signage in data center applications, specifically. The Committee chair noted that they traditionally do not prepare industry-specific documents or guidance, and the Committee concluded that doing so would not be appropriate. The meeting then turned to the standard change proposals received by the Committee.

The Committee received a single change proposal specific to the Z535.4 voluntary standard for product safety signs and labels. The proposal was to add a new wordless product safety label format that uses a color-coded (red, orange, or yellow) “hazard severity panel,” containing a safety alert symbol only, rather than a “signal word panel” to communicate the seriousness of the hazard. The proposer, who is a member of the Committee, included examples of possible revisions to the Z535.4 standard to allow for this option. The Committee had previously considered but not adopted proposals for wordless formats. CPSC staff asked, and received confirmation, that the intent of the proposal was to limit this option to only those signs and labels whose content was exclusively symbols. The proposer stated that he intends to revise the proposal to clarify that point.

There was substantial debate surrounding the proposal. Some of the issues raised and discussed by attendees included the following:

- Color cannot be used in all applications.
- Color can degrade over time.
- Color is intended more to capture attention and does not effectively communicate severity on its own.
- The signal word panel is not the only source of severity information; consumers can infer severity information from other label content.



- Color perception can vary from person to person.
- Color rendition might not be possible in certain low-light conditions.
- No research has been presented to indicate that the proposed change would provide a net benefit to consumers.

During the discussion of the proposal, CPSC staff stated that the proposal does not necessarily differ from scenarios where a non-English literate user is having to read a label with a signal word panel containing an English-language signal word, as that user would be relying solely on the safety alert symbol and color. One attendee also pointed out that most safety labels tend to use “WARNING” rather than the other signal words, meaning that in many cases the presence of the signal word might do little to distinguish among labels.

The Committee ultimately agreed that preparing a revised proposal that would add a statement to the standard to allow for such an option but would point the user to a new informative Annex, where the pros and cons (e.g., limitations, concerns) associated with choosing the option would be discussed. The proposer intends to work with the Z535.4 subcommittee chair to update the proposal by the end of the calendar year and then present the revised proposal to the Committee.

Next Steps:

The ANSI Z535 Committee will meet again once the revised proposal has been completed.