

**LOG OF MEETING  
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of the ANSI Committee Z535 on Safety Signs and Colors

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 17–18, 2021

**PLACE OF MEETING:** Virtual/Teleconference

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Tim Smith (ESHF)

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Tim Smith (ESHF)

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Contact ANSI for attendee list

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

This two-day meeting of the ANSI Committee Z535 on Safety Signs and Colors was led by the Chair of the Z535 Committee, Steve Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss change proposals to the various Z535-series standards, for eventual publication in 2022.

The Committee discussed “global” change proposals that generally apply to all Z535-series standards. The outcomes of these discussions included the following:

- *Update dated references.* The individual subcommittees will review their standards for dated references to other standards, and will update them to make sure they reflect the latest versions.
- *Update text about existing standards:* The Committee agreed to revise language stating that the Z535 standards are not intended to replace existing industry or domain-specific American National Standards, to say that they are not intended to replace industry or domain-specific standards or regulations, more broadly. A sentence that was deleted from the latest revision to Z535.1, stating that it is the intent to encourage adoption of the Z535 standards in later revisions of the other standards or regulations, will be added back to that standard.
- *Do not eliminate non-ISO colored safety alert symbols.* The Committee rejected a proposal to add a note to the Z535 standards about the Committee’s intent to use only the yellow, ISO versions of the safety alert symbol in subsequent revisions of the standards, but will reconsider the issue in the future.
- *Do not adopt ISO 7010.* The Committee rejected a proposal to create a new ANSI/ISO standard, or to add an Annex to Z535.3, that would show the registered safety symbols included in ISO 7010. Instead, the Committee drafted a paragraph to be included in Annex C of Z535.3, stating that the Committee does not promote a particular variant, or symbol, for a particular concept to be conveyed, and that multiple variants can be appropriate.

The Committee then discussed ANSI Z535.3-specific change proposals. The outcomes of these discussions included the following:

- *Remove option for multiple-choice testing.* The Committee approved a proposal for multiple-choice testing to be removed as a comprehension-testing option, leaving only open-ended testing. The approval included a revision to one statement to say that open-ended comprehension should be used because it allows the respondent to answer without being given “clues.”
- *Add some ISO versions of symbols.* The Committee rejected a proposal for all illustrations that are in conflict with ISO 7010 to be replaced with ISO versions. However, the Committee did agree to consider adding a limited number of examples of ISO symbols to illustrate the appearance of symbols with surround shapes. A working group will be formed to decide which symbols should be added.

The Committee then discussed ANSI Z535.4-specific change proposals. Some of the initial proposals up for discussion were ones that had been addressed by the earlier “global” change proposal discussions. The Committee rejected a proposal to delete the Exceptions clause (section 3.2), which states that conflict of certain requirements of Z535.4 with federal, state, or municipal regulations “shall not invalidate other requirements” of the standard. A working group will be formed to rewrite this clause to say that other regulations and standards may supersede Z535.4.

CPSC staff was unable to attend the rest of the meeting, which was scheduled to discuss additional Z535.4 change proposals, as well as Z535.6 change proposals and an update on Z535.7.