



Posting of Noise Hazard Signs and Decals

FACT SHEET 51-007-0713

Why post warning signs?

Posting of noise hazardous areas and equipment is important to warn personnel of the dangers associated with exposure to noise hazards and the need to wear hearing protection.

What should noise hazard signs look like?

Signs and decals that warn of high noise levels must be attention-grabbing and be easy to understand. They also need to be made in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z535.1 standard. This standard specifies the color and type of symbol that can be used for warning signs and decals.

DANGER signs indicate immediate danger that could result in severe injury or death. Danger signs let personnel know that special precautions are needed. Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) and ANSI Z535.1 specify that the red, black and white colors be used for DANGER.



CAUTION signs warn against potential hazards or caution against unsafe practices. OSHA specifies that the standard color for caution signs shall be a yellow background; the black upper panel will have yellow letters. (All letters used against the yellow background shall be black). The colors must be in accordance with ANSI Z535.1.

Where to post signs?

Noise-hazardous areas must be posted as follows:

- Post entrance to, or periphery of, noise-hazardous areas (85 dBA to 100 dBA) with appropriate **CAUTION** sign.
- Post entrance to, or periphery of, noise-hazardous areas above 100 dBA with appropriate **DANGER** sign.
- Post all firing ranges and other impulse areas (140 dBP and above) with appropriate **DANGER** signs.

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Noise-hazardous equipment must be posted as follows:

- Post noise-hazardous tools and equipment (85 dBA to 100 dBA) with appropriate **CAUTION** sign, label or tag.
- Post noise-hazardous tools and equipment above 100 dBA with appropriate **DANGER** sign.



Additional Considerations

By default, time weighted average (TWA) noise exposures above 103 dBA require double hearing protection. TWA exposures exceeding 108dB are not permitted. For posting of noise-hazardous equipment or areas that exceed 108 dBA consult the local Director of Health Services (DHA) for guidance. Specific use restrictions or hearing protection requirements may be contained in the fielding documents or in equipment technical guides and manuals.

Where to obtain signs and decals?

To order decals and signs for noise hazard warnings contact the United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas at DSN: 552-4805 or Commercial: (913) 684-4805; via email at usarmy.leavenworth.15-mp-bde.list.15th-usdb-sales-store@mail.mil; or visit their website at <http://usdb.leavenworth.army.mil/SalesStore.html>. Be sure to specify the color, wording and design for the sign or decal.

Signs and decals that meet ANSI standards are also available through a variety of commercial vendors.

References:

29 CFR 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Standards

American National Standards Institute: ANSI Standards Z535.1.2.3.4.5 at <http://ansi.org/>

DA PAM 40-501, Army Hearing Conservation Program

The Information Guide, Army Safety Color Code, Markings, Signs and Tags, 2008 (currently not available in electronic format) A printed copy may be requested by contacting the Media and Marketing Division at DSN 558-2062 (commercial: 334-255-2062), or [email forehans@safetycenter.army.mil](mailto:email_forehans@safetycenter.army.mil).

*U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration:
<https://www.osha.gov/doc/outreachtraining/htmlfiles/subpartg.html>*