

# The Ultimate Guide to Safety Signs on Ships

**SAFETY  
FIRST!**  
International Standard Safety Health & Environmental Signs

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## The Ultimate Guide to Safety Signs on Ships

First Edition

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Safety signs and symbols are used extensively on board ships to alert crew members to working hazards, escape routes, type of equipment etc.

These signs act as a pictorial illustration to help seafarers increase their level of personal safety on ships.

Safety signs use a variety of colours and symbols, which have been acknowledged by the regulatory bodies of the shipping industry, to explain different aspects related to the operation and maintenance of the ships.

It is imperative that sea going professionals are able to identify and understand the safety signs, as they greatly help in reducing the number of accidents on ships.

In order to provide sea going professionals with a concise guide that would help them to identify safety signs quickly and easily, Marine Insight has specially compiled the eBook - “The Ultimate Guide to Safety Signs on Ships”.

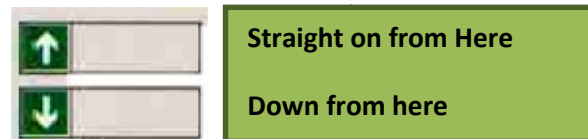
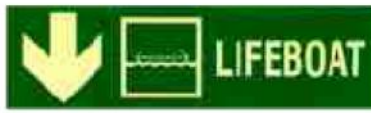
If remembering the meaning of safety signs is a problem for you, then this pocket guide is your best friend.

Each and every safety sign and symbol used on ships has been categorized and explained to help seafarers remember the signs in the most effective manner.

The Ultimate Guide to Safety Signs on Ships is a must-have book not only for sea going professionals but also for those working on shore, as most of these safety signs are standardized by the International regulatory bodies for use all around the world.

# Safety Signs on Ships

## Direction Signs for Life Boats on Ships

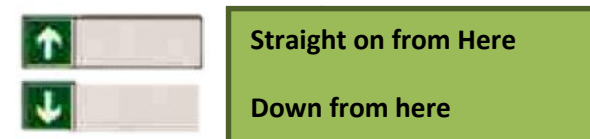
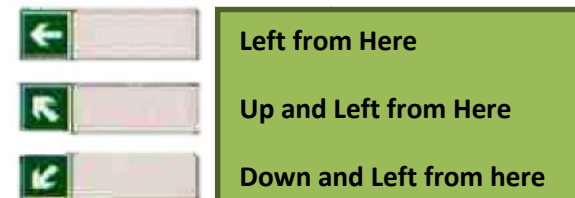


Life boat direction signs must be pasted in accommodation area and on each deck of the ship. All the signs must be **photo luminescent** and **IMO approved**.

## Direction Signs for Muster Station



Every Change in Direction should be provided with lifeboat and muster station signs



Muster Station Signs must be pasted in all decks of accommodation area. They must be photo luminescent and IMO approved.



## Direction Signs for Exit



It's an IMO requirement that every escape or exit route must be provided with Photo luminescent sign, which must include a pictogram of running man, direction of exit and text written in Bold- "EXIT".

The Sign for Exit is normally used for Primary Exit areas and they are positioned approximately 1700mm for deck level for normal direction marking and not more than 300 mm for low location lighting system.



At the Final exit point, only a running man pictogram along with EXIT text must be posted without any arrow, meaning the final exit point.

Where a door hinges to right, running man pictogram towards left must be used and vice versa.

## Direction Signs for Emergency Exit and Escape Route



**Escape window**

**Escape route**

**Escape to sea**

**Escape hatch**

**Escape door**

Secondary escape route must be provided with similar sign as described above but with additional text of – For emergency use only.

Escape Route signs in stairways and exits shall be marked by lighting or photo luminescent strip indicators placed not more than 300 mm above the deck at all points of the escape route, including angles and intersections.

The marking must enable passengers to identify the routes of escape and escape exits.

If electric illumination is used, it shall be supplied by the emergency source of power and shall be so arranged that the failure of any single light or cut in a lighting strip will not result in the marking being ineffective.

Additionally, escape route signs and fire equipment location markings shall be of photo luminescent material or marked by electric lighting.

The administration shall ensure that such lighting or photo luminescent equipment has been evaluated, tested and applied in accordance with the Fire Safety Systems Code.

## Direction Signs for Exit Doors



Escape routes shall be evaluated by an evacuation analysis early in the design process.

The analysis shall be used to identify and eliminate, as far as practicable, congestions, which may develop during abandonment, due to normal movement of passengers and crew along escape routes, including the possibility that crew may need to move along these routes in a direction opposite to the movement of passengers.

In addition, the analysis shall be used to demonstrate that escape arrangements are sufficiently flexible to provide for the possibility that certain escape routes, assembly stations, embarkation stations or survival craft may not be available as a result of any casualty.

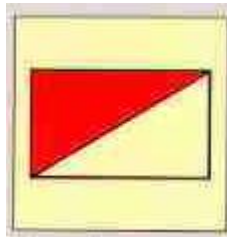
### Symbol for Station / Panel / Locker



Fire Plan



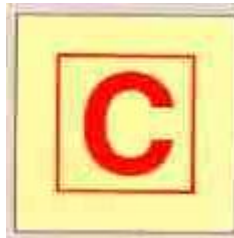
Fire Station



Fire Alarm Panel



Locker with  
Fire-fighter Outfit



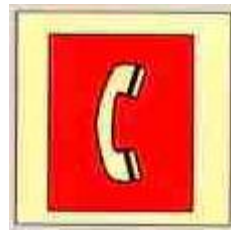
Control Station



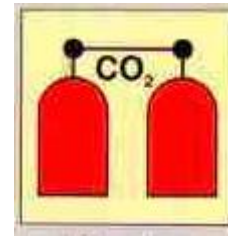
Additional  
Protective Clothing



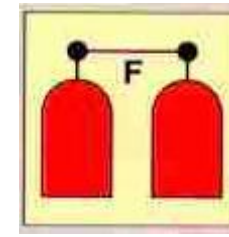
Additional BA  
Locker



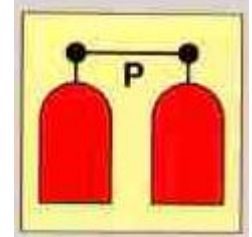
Emergency  
Telephone Station



CO2 Release  
Station

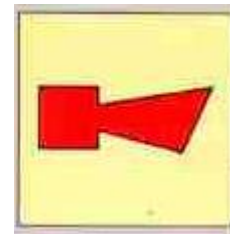


Foam Release  
Station

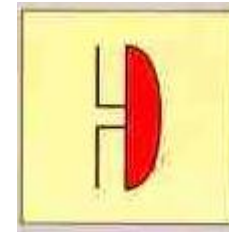


Powder Release  
Station

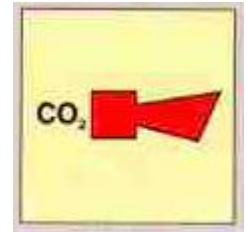
### Symbol for Alarm /Horn



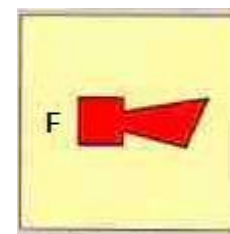
Horn-Fire Alarm



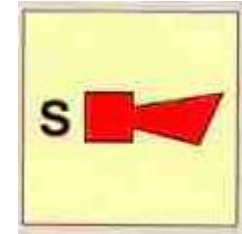
Bell- Fire Alarm



CO2 Horn Alarm



Foam Horn

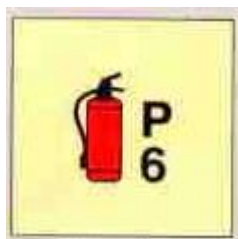


Sprinkler Horn

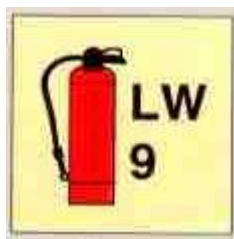


## Symbol for Portable Extinguishers

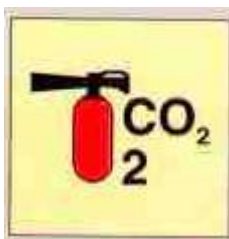
The numerical value in the sign may change depending upon the quantity of extinguishing media.



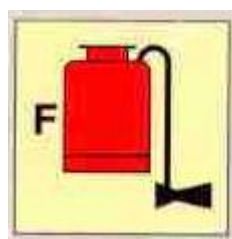
**Powder  
Extinguisher**



**Foam  
Extinguisher**



**CO2  
Extinguisher**



**Portable  
Foam Applicator**

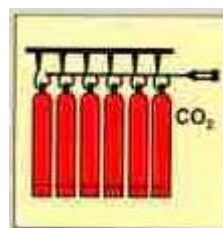


**Wheeled Powder  
Extinguisher**

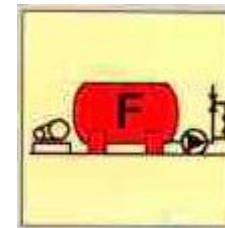


**Wheeled CO2  
Extinguisher**

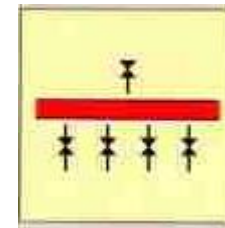
## Symbol for Fixed Extinguishers/Installation/Banks



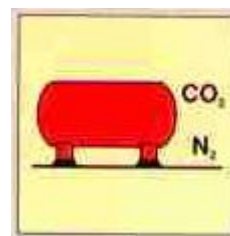
**CO2 Battery  
Bank**



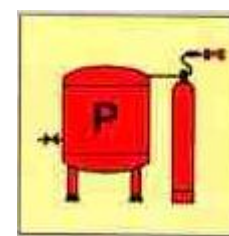
**Fixed Foam  
Installation**



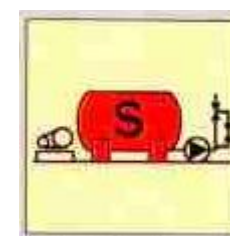
**Drenching  
Installation**



**CO2 /Nitrogen  
Bulk Installation**



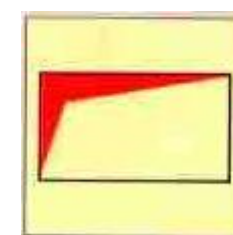
**Powder  
Installation**



**Sprinkler  
Installation**



**Inert Gas  
Installation**

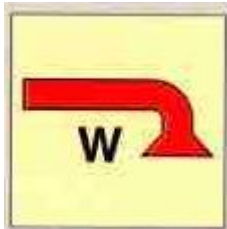


**High Exp. Foam  
Supply tank**

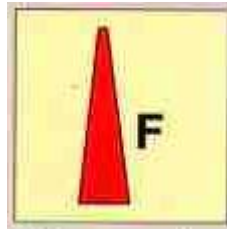
## Symbol for Additional Equipment/Attachment FF



**Water Monitor  
Gun**



**Water Fog  
Applicator**



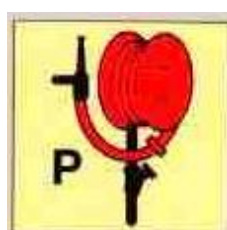
**Foam  
Nozzle**



**Foam Monitor  
Gun**



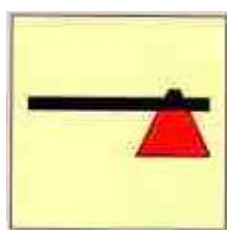
**Powder Monitor  
Gun**



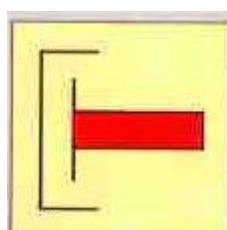
**Powder Hose  
Hand gun**



**Hose Box**

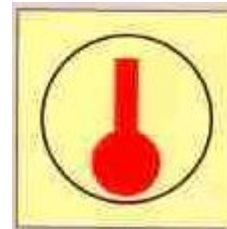


**Fire Axe**



**ISC**

## Symbol for Detectors



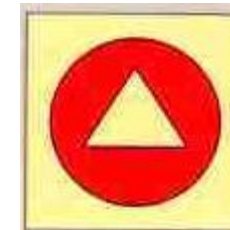
**Heat Detector**



**Smoke Detector**



**Flame Detector**



**Gas Detector**

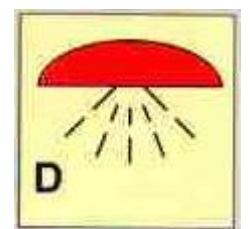
## Symbol for Space Protection



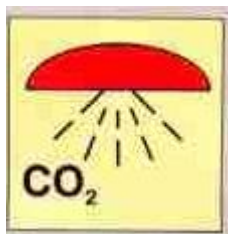
**Space Protection  
Auto. Fire Alarm**



**Space Protection  
Sprinkler Sys.**

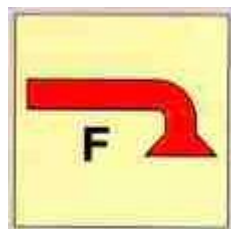


**Space Protection  
Drenching Sys.**



**Space Protection**

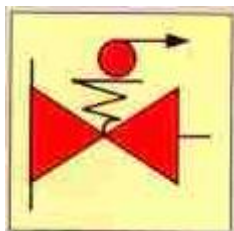
**CO2 System**



**Space Protection**

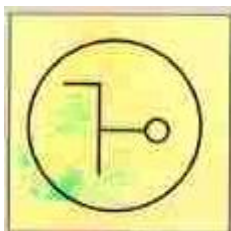
**Foam System**

### Symbol for Remote Control/ Shut-Off Arrangement



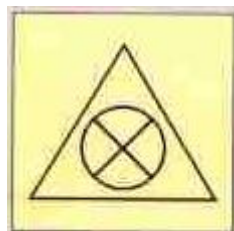
**Remote Control**

**Fuel/ L.O Valves**



**Remote Control**

**Skylight**



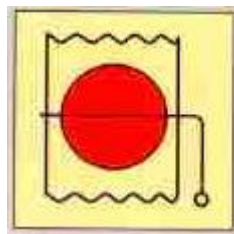
**Remote**

**Ventilation Shut**



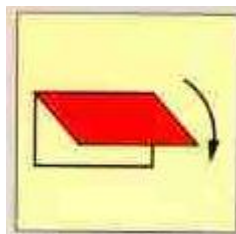
**Remote Control**

**Emergency Switches**



**Fire damper Control**

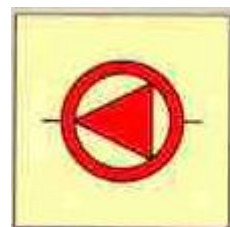
**in vent duct**



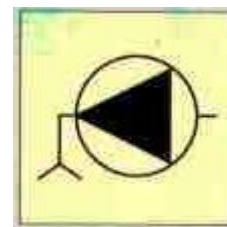
**Closing for**

**Ext. Ventilation**

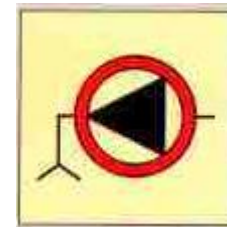
### Symbol for Emergency Machinery/Equipment/Valves



**Emergency Fire Pump**



**Bilge Pump**

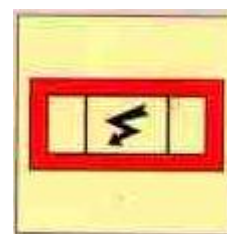


**Emergency Bilge**



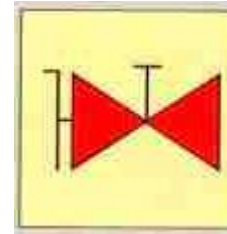
**Emergency**

**Generator**



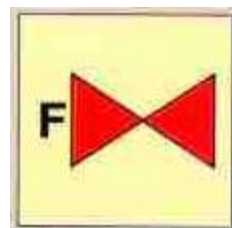
**Emergency**

**Switchboard**

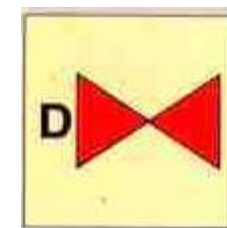


**Fire Main**

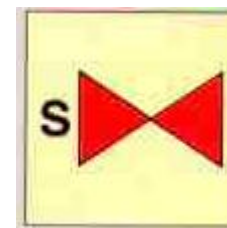
**With Valve**



**Foam Valve**



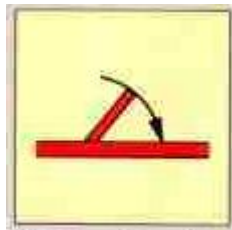
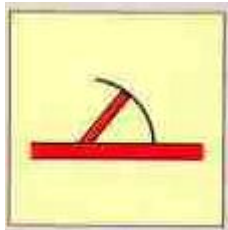
**Drenching Valve**



**Sprinkler Valve**



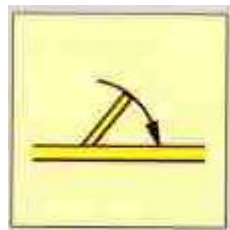
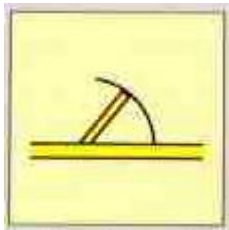
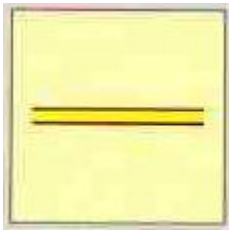
### Symbol for Division/ Doors / Zone



**A-class Division**

**A-class Fire door**

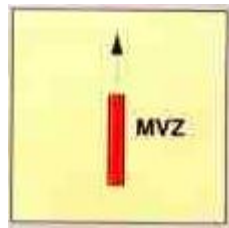
**A-class Self closing  
Fire door**



**B-class Division**

**B-class Fire door**

**B-class Self closing  
Fire door**

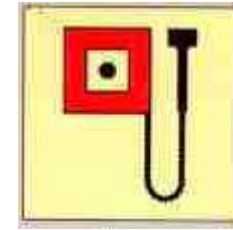


**Main Vertical Zone**

### Symbol for Alarm Activation point



**Push Button  
Fire Alarm**



**Manual Operated  
Call Point**

### Symbol for Restriction



**No Smoking**



**No Naked Flame**



**Do Not Extinguish  
With Water**



**No Entry**



**Authorized Person only**



**Don't Touch**





**Do Not Operate**



**Do not Clean or  
Oil while running**



**No Maintenance  
while running**

### Symbol for On board Hazard



**Hazard**



**Mind Your Head**



**Slip Hazard**



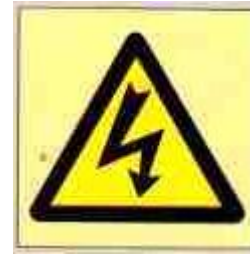
**Explosion Risk**



**Acid Hazard**



**Toxic Hazard**



**Electric shock Risk**



**Fire Hazard**



**Noise Hazard**



**Radiation Hazard**



**Bio - Hazard**



**Marine Pollutant**

Same Hazard Sign/ Symbol can be used for different purposes.

For e.g. Acid hazard symbol



can be used both for  
battery locker and chemical  
locker.

Similarly



This symbol can be used to describe hazard  
from explosive gases, vapours, compressed  
oxygen etc. The main aim is to identify the common hazard  
from various substances.

## Symbol for Personal Protection



**Wear Helmet**



**Eye Protection**



**Face Protection**



**Wear Mask**



**Wear Respirator**



**Ear Protection**



**Wear Gloves**



**Wear**



**Wear Safety shoe**

**Protective clothing**



**Wear Safety**

**Harness**



**Use Machine**

**Protective Guard**



**Lift Correctly**

Identification and understanding of safety signs and symbols is one of the several steps towards ensuring personal safety on ships.

It is important that mariners understand the importance of these signs and make conscious efforts towards recognizing and remembering them.

These internationally recognized symbols are used on all ships around the world, irrespective of the type, size, or class of the ship.

Ensuring personal safety of seafarers using safety signs is extremely important to guarantee overall safety of the ship and its property.

To enhance personal safety on ships in all aspects, read our FREE ebook – [The Ultimate Guide to Personal Safety on Ships](#).

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## Ship Safety Resources

### Basics

[Basics of fire prevention on board ships](#)

[Classification of Dangerous Goods](#)

[Hypothermia and its effects on seafarers](#)

[Avoiding Carcinogens on Ships](#)

[Why STCW course is important for seafarers?](#)

[Different types of maritime crimes that can land seafarers in trouble](#)

[Harmful effects of drinking sea water](#)

[12 types of maritime accidents every seafarer should know](#)

[The ultimate guide to life jackets](#)

[Important features of muster list on ships](#)

[10 main personal protective equipment \(PPEs\) used on ships](#)

[Search and rescue transponder \(SART\) – A general overview](#)

[Emergency position indicating radio beacon \(EPIRB\)](#)

[10 professional mistakes seafarers should never make](#)

[8 Issues every seafarer going to the sea should know](#)

[What is safety management system on ships?](#)

[What is sick bay on ships?](#)

## Definition/ Explanation

[What is safety committee on ships?](#)

[Understanding Neil Robertson Stretcher on ships](#)

[What is material safety data sheet \(MSDS\)?](#)

[Understanding International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code](#)

[What is Basic Safety Induction and Emergency Training?](#)

[What is inflatable survival rescue stick?](#)

[A brief overview of ship's fire control plan](#)

[Understanding fire safety system \(FSS\) code on ships](#)

[A brief introduction to survival radios](#)

[SOLAS requirements for Global Maritime Distress Safety System \(GMDSS\)](#)

[Different types of alarms used on ships](#)

[Different types of Immersion suits](#)

[Dangers of Asbestos on ships](#)

[Understanding life rafts on ships](#)

[Safe container lashing for personal safety](#)

[Different periodic safety routines on ships](#)

[Important requirements for fireman's outfit](#)

[Understanding different parts of SCABA](#)

[Safety features on engine room crane one should be aware of](#)

[Types of lifeboat release mechanisms](#)

[Types of lifeboats used on ships](#)

[Understanding oil spill kit on ships](#)

[What does IMO say about Stowaway?](#)

[Understanding sprinkler system on ship](#)

[Understanding fire fighting CO2 system for cargo holds](#)

[Importance of fire drills on ships](#)

[Duties of ship safety officer](#)

[Duties of ship security officer](#)

[How is ISM Code implemented on ships?](#)

[Duties of Company Security Officer](#)



## Procedures/ How-to

[How shipping companies can benefit from strict safety policies on ships?](#)

[How to avoid fire in the accommodation area?](#)

[Ensuring personal safety during mooring operation](#)

[What makes Ro-Ro Ships unsafe?](#)

[Measures taken to ensure safety of ship's crew, cargo, and marine environment](#)

[Different types of non-pyrotechnic distress signals](#)

[16 fire fighting appliances and preventive measures](#)

[How to rescue a person from a confined space on ships?](#)

[How to lift loads properly and avoid back injury?](#)

[How to ensure personal safety in rough weather?](#)

[How to prepare container ship for loading cargo?](#)

[How to tackle man overboard situation on ships?](#)

[Procedure for entering enclosed space on ships](#)

## Health/ Wellbeing

[15 ways to keep mind and body fit on board ships](#)

[Everything you ever wanted to know about sea sickness](#)

[How to avoid politics on ships?](#)

[How to fight stress on ships?](#)

[How to break monotony on board ships?](#)

## Safety on Ships – Case Studies

[Can bacteria cause fire on ships?](#)

[Oily rags catches fire](#)

[Falling off engine room staircase](#)