

ENQUIRY DRAFT

Specification for Accident prevention tags



Guyana National Bureau of Standards

Comments period: June 30, 2025 - August 29, 2025

© GNBS 2025

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from the GNBS at the address below.

Guyana National Bureau of Standards (GNBS)

Track MB, Block B

National Exhibition Centre, Sophia

Georgetown, Guyana

Telephone: 592-219-0064-66

Email: standards@gnbsgy.org

Website: www.gnbsgy.org

Standards Portal: www.gnbsguy.com

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iii
Members of the Technical Committee – Personal Safety	iv
1. Scope.....	1
2. Definitions	1
3. General requirements.....	1
4. Detailed requirements.....	1
5. Colour coding	2
6. Training	3
7. Tag specification	3
Appendix 1. Danger tags	5
Appendix 2. Caution tags	6
Appendix 3. Warning tags	7
Appendix 4. Biohazard tags.....	9
Appendix 5. Radiation tags	10
Appendix 6. Emergency Tags.....	11
Appendix 7: Notice Tags.....	12

Foreword

This Guyana Standard is the first revision of **GYS 208: 2002, “Specification for Accident prevention tags”**. This Standard was revised by the Guyana National Bureau of Standards through the **Technical Committee – Personal safety** and approved by the National Standards Council.

The first revision of this standard includes updated guidelines for the appropriate use of accident prevention tags including appropriate use of stock material, reinforcement means, and dimensions.

This Guyana standard is intended to establish specifications for tags used in industry, mercantile establishments, mercantile marine ships, port crafts and marine equipment or wherever tags can be utilised to help prevent accidental injury to personnel or damage to property, or both. Accident prevention tags are intended for use as a temporary means of warning of an existing hazard. It should not be in place of, or as substitute for, accident prevention signs.

Members of the Technical Committee – Personal Safety

Name	Affiliation
Mr. Courtney McDonald (Chairperson)	Maritime Administration Department
Mr. Darwin Bourne (Vice-Chairperson)	Ministry of Labour
Mr. Kulanand Persaud	Guyana Power and Light Incorporated
Mr. Abidin Mohamed	Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory
Ms. Rukmini Rooplall (Alternate)	Guyana Forensic Science Laboratory
Ms. Nishani Bissessar	Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation
Ms. Sileena Arjune (Technical Secretary)	Guyana National Bureau of Standards

Specification for Accident prevention tags

1 Scope

This standard specifies the requirements for accident prevention tags.

2 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard, the following shall apply:

2.1 biological hazard or biohazard

Infectious agents presenting a risk of injury, illness or death to persons exposed. .

2.2 major message

The portion of a tag's inscription that is more specific than the signal word and indicates the specific hazardous conditions or the instruction to be communicated to persons.

2.3 pictograph

pictorial representations used to identify a hazardous condition(s) or to convey safety instruction(s).

2.4 signal word

The portion of a tag's inscription that contains the word(s) which are intended to capture the person's immediate attention.

2.5 sign

A board or placard displayed with the intention to advertise, inform or warn.

2.6 tag

An item usually made of paper, cardboard, pasteboard, plastic or other material used to identify a hazardous condition and/or convey safety instruction(s).

3 General requirements

3.1 Accident prevention tags shall be used on a temporary basis to convey information with the aim of preventing accidental injury or illness to persons who are exposed to hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations which are, unexpected, not readily apparent, or defective.

3.2 Accident prevention tags shall not be used as a substitute for "accident prevention signs". Tags shall be used until the identified hazard is eliminated or the hazardous operation is completed.

3.3 The designs of accident prevention tags shall be the same as "accident prevention signs". Tags shall not be used where signs guarding or other positive means of protection are being used.

4 Detailed requirements

4.1 Tags shall contain a signal word and a major message.

NOTE 1 A pictograph may be incorporated when required, in addition to the signal word and major message.

4.2 The signal word shall be either "danger", "caution", "warning", "notice" "emergency" or "biohazard".

- 4.3** The major message shall indicate the specific hazardous condition or the instruction to be communicated.
- 4.4** The signal word shall be readable at a minimum distance of 1.5 metre (152.4cm). or greater distance as warranted by the hazard.
- 4.5** The tag's major message shall be presented in either pictograph, written text or both.
- 4.6** Tags shall be affixed as safely and practicable to their respective hazard by a positive means, such as strings, wire or adhesive that prevents their loss or unintentional removal.
- 4.7** The signal word and major message for the identified hazard shall be understandable to all persons.
- 4.8** Danger tags shall be used in hazardous situations where an immediate hazard presents a threat of serious injury or death.
- 4.9** Caution tags shall be used in hazardous situations where a non-immediate or potentially hazard or unsafe practice presents a lesser threat of injury.
- 4.10** Warning tags shall be used to alert person(s) of potential hazard(s) that could cause harm but are not necessarily life-threatening. Warning tags denote a hazard level between 'danger' and 'caution'.
- 4.11** Biological hazard tags (biohazard) shall be used to identify the actual or potential presence of a biological hazard and to identify equipment, containers, rooms, or experimental specimens that contain or are contaminated with hazardous biological agents.
- 4.12** Notice tags shall be used to convey safety related information.
- 4.13** Emergency tags shall be used to convey directional instructions to a safe zone.
- 4.14** Other tags shall be used in addition to those mentioned provided that they do not detract from the impact or visibility of the signal word and major message of any required tags.
- 4.15** The replacement of tags shall only be considered, after the necessary controls have been implemented to reduce the risk to a reasonably practical level.
- 4.16** Tags may contain the name of person responsible and date of attachment.

5 Colour coding

5.1 "Danger" or "prohibition" tag

Red or predominantly red oval inset with contrasting white lettering or symbols set in a black background. (See Appendix 1).

5.2 "Caution" tag

Yellow or predominantly yellow with lettering or symbols in a contrasting colour, preferably black. This colour is usually recommended, because of its high visibility for marking hazards. Such hazards will

cause slips and striking against etc. These tag may contain black stripes on the margin. **(See Appendix 2)**

5.3 “Warning” tag

orange or predominantly orange with lettering or symbols in a contrasting colour, preferably black, shall be used. These tags may contain black stripes on the margin. **(See Appendix 3).**

5.4 Biological hazard (Biohazard)

Fluorescent orange or orange-red (crimson) with lettering or symbols in a contrasting colour preferably black. **(See Appendix 4).**

5.5 Radiation tag

Predominantly yellow background set in a reddish-purple (magenta) lettering or symbol. **(See Appendix 5).**

5.6 Emergency tags

Predominantly green background with lettering in a contrasting colour, preferably white. These tags may contain white stripes. **(See Appendix 6)**

5.7 Notice tags

Predominantly white background with lettering in a contrasting colour, preferably white, shall be used. These tag may contain white stripes on the margin. **(See Appendix 7)**

6 Training

Employees must be trained to recognize and understand the information conveyed on accident prevention tags. Training shall include but not be limited to:

- 6.1 The purpose of colour codes,
- 6.2 The purpose of accident prevention tags,
- 6.3 The types of accident prevention tags,
- 6.4 The use of accident prevention tags,
- 6.5 The meaning of messages on accident prevention tags,
- 6.6 The special precautions made necessary by messages on accident prevention tags, and
- 6.7 Special precautions to be taken.

7 Tag specification

7.1 Size

7.1.1 Tags shall not be too large, so as to lose the meaning as a tag instead of a sign.

7.1.2 Tags shall not be smaller than 12.5cm x 10cm and shall not exceed the acceptable minimum dimension of an accident prevention sign as per manufacturer’s specifications.

7.1.3 Lettering shall be 1.5 cm in length, 1 cm in width and 0.5 cm thickness.

7.2 Stock (tag material)

7.2.1 Tags shall be made of paper, paste board, plastic or any other suitable material that can properly convey the message intended.

7.2.2 The material of choice shall be sensible depending on the period of time the tag is expected to be in position, the frequency of use, the environmental conditions and the seriousness of the message to be conveyed.

7.3 Tag reinforcement

Wherever considered necessary, the tags may be reinforced:

7.3.1 The diameter of the hole may vary, but it shall be kept to a minimum of 5mm. As an additional reinforcement, metal eyelets, normally 5mm, may be inserted into the hole.

7.3.2 When subjected to abnormal humidity conditions, the tags shall be attached to the reinforcing substrate with waterproof adhesive

7.4 Tag attachment

Tags shall be attached using twine (minimum No. 9) or wire (not less than 0.6 mm diameter) or any other material deemed suitable depending on the period of time the tag is expected to be in position, the frequency of use, the environmental conditions and the seriousness of the message to be conveyed.

Appendix 1 Danger tags

(Normative)

DANGER DO NOT OPERATE NAME: _____ DATE: _____	DANGER MAINTENANCE ON THIS EQUIPMENT IS IN PROGRESS DO NOT START NAME: _____ DATE: _____	DANGER FALLING MATERIALS NAME: _____ DATE: _____
DANGER HIGH VOLTAGE TURN POWER OFF BEFORE SERVICING NAME: _____ DATE: _____	DANGER POISONOUS GAS NAME: _____ DATE: _____	DANGER EQUIPMENT LOCKED OUT BY NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Appendix 2 Caution tags

((Normative))

CAUTION DEFECTIVE DO NOT USE NAME: _____ DATE: _____	CAUTION WATCH YOUR STEP NAME: _____ DATE: _____	CAUTION SLIPPERY WHEN WET NAME: _____ DATE: _____
CAUTION HOT SURFACE DO NOT TOUCH NAME: _____ DATE: _____	CAUTION PINCH POINT NAME: _____ DATE: _____	

Appendix 3 Warning tags
(Normative)



A vertical orange warning tag with a white circular hole at the top. It features a black rectangular box at the top containing the word "WARNING" in bold white capital letters. Below this, the text "RESTRICTED AREA" is centered in bold black capital letters. At the bottom, there are two lines for text: "NAME: _____" and "DATE: _____".

WARNING

**RESTRICTED
AREA**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____



A vertical orange warning tag with a white circular hole at the top. It features a black rectangular box at the top containing the word "WARNING" in bold white capital letters. Below this, the text "PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT NEEDED" is centered in bold black capital letters. At the bottom, there are two lines for text: "NAME: _____" and "DATE: _____".

WARNING

**PERSONAL
PROTECTIVE
EQUIPMENT
NEEDED**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____



A vertical orange warning tag with a white circular hole at the top. It features a black rectangular box at the top containing the word "WARNING" in bold white capital letters. Below this, the text "FLAMMABLE" is centered in bold black capital letters. At the bottom, there are two lines for text: "NAME: _____" and "DATE: _____".

WARNING

FLAMMABLE

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

WARNING

**WEAR SAFETY
GLASSES WHEN
USING
EQUIPMENT**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

WARNING

**KEEP HANDS
OUT OF
MACHINERY**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

WARNING

**WELDING ARC
WEAR PROPER
EYEWEAR**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

WARNING

**MEN WORKING
ABOVE**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

WARNING

**THIS EQUIPMENT
STARTS
AUTOMATICALLY**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

Appendix 4 Biohazard tags

((Normative))



Appendix 5 Radiation tags
((Normative))



Appendix 6 Emergency tags

((Normative))

The image shows three identical green emergency tags arranged horizontally. Each tag has a black header with the word "EMERGENCY" in white. Below the header, the tags are labeled "EYE WASH STATION", "SAFETY SHOWER", and "SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT". Each tag also includes the instruction "KEEP AREA CLEAR" and fields for "NAME:" and "DATE:".

EMERGENCY	EMERGENCY	EMERGENCY
EYE WASH STATION	SAFETY SHOWER	SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT
KEEP AREA CLEAR	KEEP AREA CLEAR	
NAME: _____	NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DATE: _____	DATE: _____	DATE: _____

Appendix 7 Notice tags
((Normative))

NOTICE

**AVOID
CONTAMINATION
WASH HANDS**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

NOTICE

**USE
HANDRAIL**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

NOTICE

NO EXIT

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

NOTICE

**HAS BEEN
INSTALLED**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

NOTICE

**OUT OF
ORDER**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

NOTICE

**DUE FOR
SERVICE**

NAME: _____
DATE: _____

END OF DOCUMENT