
International Standard



2412

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Shipbuilding — Colours of indicator lights

Construction navale — Couleurs des lampes témoins

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Foreword

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 2412 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 8, *Shipbuilding and marine structures*, and was circulated to the member bodies in May 1981.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Austria	Germany, F.R.	Portugal
Belgium	India	Romania
Brazil	Italy	Spain
Bulgaria	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	Sweden
China	Korea, Rep. of	Thailand
Cuba	Mexico	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Netherlands	USSR
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Norway	
France	Poland	

The member body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Japan

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (i.e. ISO 2412-1972).

Shipbuilding — Colours of indicator lights

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard specifies the colours of indicator lights for installations on board ships and on control panels and instruments.

It does not apply to colours for navigation lamps.

The significance of a lamp shall not depend on the interpretation of its colour only.

Name plates/engraved text shall be used as supplementary information.

2 References

ISO 3864, *Safety colours and safety signs*.¹⁾

IEC Publication 73, *Colours of indicator lights and push-buttons*.

The choice of the number of colours and the use of flashing and steady lights depends on the extent and nature of the alarm and signalling system. Generally, flashing lights shall be used to indicate situations requiring immediate action.

The meaning of these colours is in conformity with ISO 3864. The colours chosen should be distinct from each other.

3 Colours and their meaning

Signal lamp colours shall be used with the meanings shown in the table; examples of application are also given in this table.

The choice of indicator colour shall depend upon which information is most important to the person(s) operating the equipment.

Table — Signal lamp colours

Colour	Meaning	Explanation	Typical applications
Red	Danger or alarm	Warning of danger or a situation which requires immediate action	Stop of essential machine, for example, steering gear engine, lubricating oil pump for the propulsion engine or motor. Failure of pressure in the lubrication system for the propulsion machine, hydraulic system, etc. Temperature and pressure values (water, oil, etc.) at critical levels. Loss of essential circuit.
Yellow	Caution	Change or impending change of conditions	Temperature and pressure values which differ from the normal levels, but not critical.
Green	Safety (normal operating and normal working condition)	Indication of a safe situation	Machine running normal. Liquid circulating. Pressure, temperature, current, etc., within limit.
Blue	Instruction/information (specific meaning assigned according to the need in the case considered)	Blue may be given specific meaning which is not covered by the three above colours : red, yellow and green	Motor ready to start. No-load generator ready to be connected. Electrical heating circuit for idle electrical machines.
White	No specific meaning assigned (neutral)	Any meaning, may be used whenever doubt exists about the application of the three colours red, yellow and green and, for example, for confirmation	Earth insulation indicators. Synchronizing lamps. Telephone calls. Appliances, automatically controlled.

1) At present at the stage of draft. (Revision of ISO/R 408-1964 and ISO/R 557-1967.)