

# **American National Standard Radio Frequency Radiation Hazard Warning Symbol**

Sponsor  
**Co-Secretariats**

**Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
US Department Navy (Naval Electronic Systems Command)**

Approved August 5, 1981  
**American National Standards Institute**

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## Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of ANSI C95.2-1982, American National Standard Radio Frequency Radiation Hazard Warning Symbol.)

In 1960, the American Standards Association approved the initiation of the Radiation Hazards Standards project C95 under the cosponsorship of the Department of the Navy and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The scope was defined as follows:

Hazards to mankind, volatile materials and explosive devices which are created by man-made sources of electromagnetic radiation. The frequency range of interest extends presently from 10 kHz to 100 GHz. It is not intended to include infrared, X-rays, or other ionizing radiation.

Presently, the Co-Secretariats of the American National Standards Committee C95 are the Naval Electronic Systems Command of the Department of the Navy and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The committee has six subcommittees concerned with:

- I Techniques, Procedures, and Instrumentation
- II, III Terminology and Units of Measurements
- IV Safety Levels and/or Tolerances with Respect to Personnel
- V Safety Levels and/or Tolerances with Respect to Electro-Explosive Devices
- VI Safety Levels and/or Tolerances with Respect to Flammable Materials
- VII Medical Surveillance

To date, four publications of the C95 Committee have been issued. These are:

ANSI C95.1-1974, American National Standard Safety Level of Electromagnetic Radiation With Respect to Personnel

ANSI C95.3-1973, American National Standard Techniques and Instrumentation for the Measurement of Potentially Hazardous Electromagnetic Radiation at Microwave Frequencies

ANSI C95.4-1979, American National Standard Safety Guide for the Prevention of Radio Frequency Radiation Hazards in the Use of Electric Blasting Caps

ANSI C95.5-1981, American National Standard Recommended Practice for the Measurement of Hazardous Electromagnetic Fields — RF and Microwave

This standard defines the design and colors of a symbol which denotes the incidence of electromagnetic energy and application of the symbol in signs intended to warn workers or the public of the presence of potentially hazardous levels of nonionizing electromagnetic radiation.

The Standards Committee on Radio Frequency Radiation Hazards, C95, which reviewed and approved this recommended practice had the following membership at the time of approval:

**Saul Rosenthal**, *Chair*  
**Stephen Caine**, *Secretary*

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American Industrial Hygiene Association  
American Insurance Association  
  
American Petroleum Institute  
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology  
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
  
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Electronic Industries Association  
  
Environmental Protection Agency  
  
Health Physics Society  
  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
International Microwave Power Institute  
Mine Safety Appliance Company  
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Subcommittee II, III, Terminology and Units of Measurement, was directly responsible for this standard. A list of the members who contributed to this effort follows:

***Glenn Heimer, Chair***

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# American National Standard Radio Frequency Radiation Hazard Warning Symbol

## 1. Scope

### 1.1

This standard defines the design and colors of a symbol denoting the incidence of electromagnetic energy in the frequency range from 0.3 MHz to 100 GHz and the application of this symbol in signs intended to warn workers or the public of the presence of potentially hazardous levels of nonionizing electromagnetic radiation.

### 1.2

It is not the intent of this design to conflict with or supersede in any fashion the ionizing radiation symbol as defined in ANSI Z35.1-1972 [2].<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Definitions

**2.1 symbol:** The word symbol as used in this standard refers to the overall design, shape and coloring shown in Fig 1.

**2.2 sign:** The word sign is used in this standard as defined by ANSI Z35.1-1972 [2].

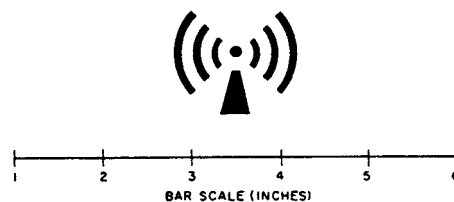


Figure 1—

<sup>1</sup>The numbers in brackets correspond to the references listed in Section 3 of this standard.

**2.3 electromagnetic radiation:** The term electromagnetic radiation is restricted to that part of the spectrum commonly defined as the radio frequency region, which for the purpose of this standard includes microwave frequencies.

**2.4 hazardous levels of nonionizing electromagnetic radiation:** The term hazardous levels of nonionizing electromagnetic radiation is used in this standard to describe incident electromagnetic energy that may be biologically detrimental or may directly or indirectly cause ignition of explosive materials or vapors.

### 3. References

When the following American National Standards referred to in this standard are superseded by a revision approved by the American National Standards Institute, the revision shall apply. The safety level of electromagnetic radiation with respect to personnel is contained in ANSI C95.1-1974[1].

[1] ANSI C95.1-1974, American National Standard Safety Level of Electromagnetic Radiation with Respect to Personnel<sup>2</sup>.

[2] ANSI Z35.1-1972, American National Standard Specifications for Accident Prevention Signs.

[3] ANSI Z53.1-1979, American National Standard Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards.

### 4. Warning Symbol

The warning symbol for identifying incident electromagnetic energy consists of black wavefronts radiating from a stylized point source antenna on a white background as shown in Fig 1. This symbol may be used as a part of safety signs that conform with Class I (Danger) and Class II (Caution) as specified in ANSI Z35.1-1972 [2]. When used separately the symbol shall be enclosed in a yellow triangle. The triangle may be either equilateral or isosceles. When the equilateral form is used it shall be placed as shown in Fig 2 on a rectangular white background. Figure 3 shows the isosceles form. In this form an inverted similarly shaped white isosceles triangle is provided for warning information. The use of descriptive wording or warning information on either form is at the user's option. Typical application of warning information is shown in Fig 4.

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<sup>2</sup>ANSI documents are available from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

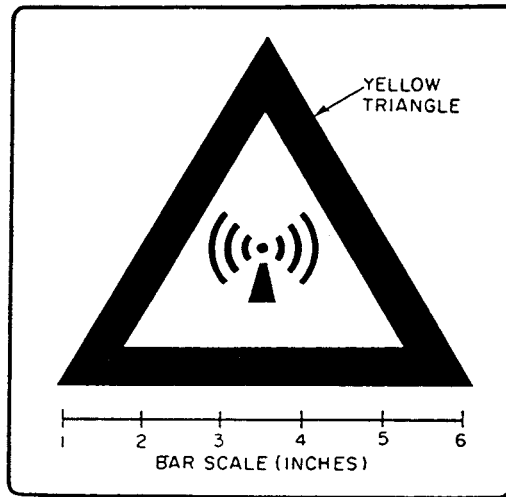


Figure 2—

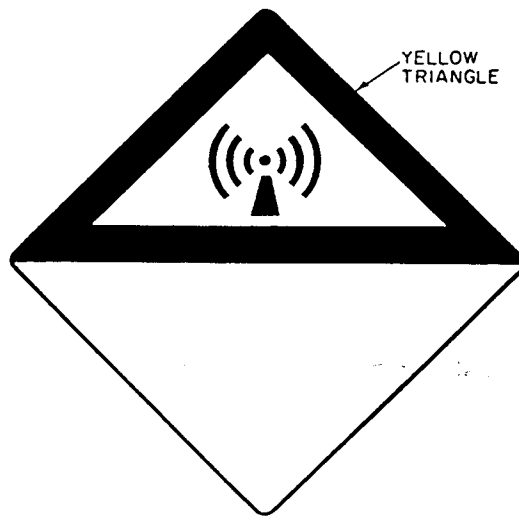


Figure 3—



Figure 4—

## 5. Symbol Dimensions and Lettering Size

### 5.1 Symbol Dimensions

No overall standard size is dictated. Overall size should be determined by use requirements and the degree of prominence desired.

### 5.2 Lettering

It is recommended that lettering dimensions conform with ANSI Z35.1-1972 [2].

## 6. Color

ANSI Z53.1-1979 [3] shall be used for color specification.

## 7. Sign Construction and Location

It is recommended that ANSI Z35.1-1972 [2] be consulted for guidance in the selection of finishes, illumination and placement for signs using this symbol.