

Surface Safe® Signs for Industrial Spaces





Damage-Free Sign Labels for Industrial Use

Sign labels that can be printed in minutes from laser or inkjet printers and removed cleanly from most surfaces serve to notify, instruct and even protect personnel in just about every area in a facility

Throughout industrial plants and warehouses, signs are posted virtually everywhere—from the production floor and inside the warehouse, to staff offices, conference rooms and even the break room. In most facilities, there is virtually no room or area spared from these notifications, instructions or warnings, whether informal or mandated by law.

Signs everywhere

Signs are used in multiple ways throughout industrial facilities. In lean manufacturing, signs are often used to communicate operating instructions, procedures, processes, checklists and scheduling. In HR, signs give notice, rules and reminders to personnel. In offices, signs are used to identify locations, prohibit smoking and request visitor sign-in. In break rooms, signs spell out refrigerator rules and remind staff to keep the premises clean.

Because many of these signs are located in industrial environments and not in pristine commercial offices, the sheets of paper, cardstock, sheet protectors, laminated sheets and posters

used must stand up to a harsher environment.

This is where the problem lies. Since many of the options used for ad hoc signs are not designed specifically for industrial spaces, they are not resistant to the moisture, chemicals, greases, etc. often found in such environments. As a result, they are damaged easily and must be replaced frequently.

Many signs can also cause considerable damage to the underlying surfaces when taped, tacked, nailed or screwed to walls, glass or equipment. Sign removal can also leave behind unsightly residual tape or adhesive. The

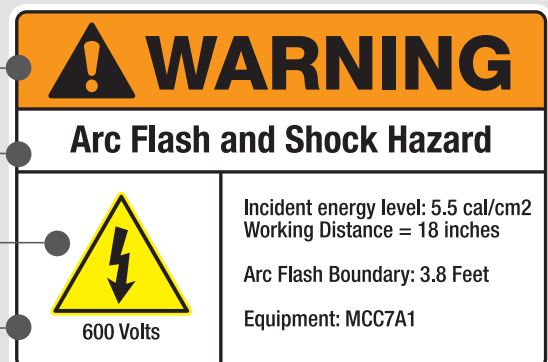
Key Elements of a Compliant Sign

Use of standard words and color

Sans serif font with short and clear direction

Use of safety symbols for quick communication

Good color stability and legible print



problem is exacerbated when signs need to be regularly updated or changed.

The ideal solution would be signage that is easy to install, durable enough to endure harsh conditions, yet comes off easily when necessary, and without leaving a trace.

“Industrial labels used as signage must be more durable than those used in an office, but also should remove cleanly when they need to come down,” says Tina Huff, group product manager at Avery Products Corporation. “For us, the key to accomplishing this was developing an adhesive that holds well but can be removed when needed. Achieving that balance is harder than it sounds.”

As the result of this effort, Avery Surface Safe® Sign Labels have an exclusive and proprietary construction specially engineered to stick securely yet remove cleanly without damage or residue to painted walls, doors, windows and other interior surfaces.

These “labels used as signs” are made of durable, industrial-grade material that resists water, chemicals and even abrasion. Available



in a variety of sizes, they print easily on standard laser or inkjet printers, opening a world of possibilities for custom, do-it-yourself signs.

Unlike standard office labels with a paper substrate, the topcoat of the industrial sign labels is waterproof and chemical resistant, while its polyester substrate is a durable, scuff- and tear-resistant film.

These qualities are ideal for safety-related signage mandated by regulation or required by company policy.



For instance, facility managers and safety officers or engineers will want signs compliant with OSHA 1910.145 (Specifications for accident prevention signs and tags) and ANSI Z535.4 (Product Safety Signs and Labels).

Although standardized safety signs can be purchased out of catalogs, there is often a need to modify or customize mandated signage as conditions or formats change.

On-demand printing solutions have traditionally required a large upfront investment of thousands of dollars, including a specialized sign and label printer, software, labels, and ribbons.

In response, industry innovators such as Avery Products Corporation have developed

a simplified, flexible approach using standard laser and inkjet printers. The company's free online Avery® Design & Print software at avery.com/templates enables customizable printing utilizing OSHA/ANSI compliant templates.

Employees can create and print their own informal, official or compliant labels from predesigned templates or create them step-by-step on demand at their desk. Most employees find the process intuitive, since it resembles creating an office document from predesigned templates.

With all the signage used throughout an industrial setting, the ability to conveniently print new sign labels in minutes and cleanly remove the old will go a long way toward keeping the whole facility safely up to date without the hassle, mess or cost.



Learn more at: avery.com/industrial

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