The symbols in this directory are grouped into categories according to their nature: prohibition, hazards, public information, mandatory, highway and flags.

Each symbol has a code reference number that you should state on the order form (from the CD) when placing a sign order.
A prohibition symbol is a circle with a red outline and negation bar, and the symbol graphic should always be black.* A prohibition symbol should be used to tell people that specific behaviour is forbidden for safety reasons.

Red, Pantone 185 C
Black, Pantone Process black C
*P16 uses Pantone Process yellow C

Do not dive
Do not use inflatables
Do not jump
Do not kite surf

Do not sail
No towed activity
Do not climb on groynes
Do not climb on rocks

Do not use motorised craft
Do not parasail
Do not sand yacht
Do not surf

Do not climb on structures
Do not climb up cliffs
Do not dune jump
Do not launch

Fires are prohibited
No fishing
Do not swim around pier
Do not use watercraft around pier

Do not drink alcohol
Do not use manual watercraft
No dogs
Do not surf between red and yellow flags
A hazard symbol is a yellow equilateral triangle and the symbol graphic should always be black. A hazard symbol should be used to warn people of hazards or dangers that may cause harm.

All hazard supplementary text should be preceded with ‘Beware’.

Yellow, Pantone Process yellow C
Black, Pantone Process black C

Note: Symbols were still being tested when this document went to print. Please contact the Secretary to the BSI Technical Committee PH/8 ‘Graphical Symbols’ for up-to-date symbols.

*H.22 If a suitable symbol is not shown please use H.22 and add appropriate supplementary text.
Public information symbols give information to the general public. The understanding of public information symbols is independent of language or occupational training.
Public information

Seaside pier  
Snorkelling  
Swimming  
Telephone  
Navigation lights  
Fuel  
Slipway  
Recycle  
Tourist information  
Personal water craft  
Windsurfing  
Body boarding  
Lost children scheme  
Police Community Support Officer  
Escape route only  
Lifeboat/Coastguard  
Towed water activity  
Manual water craft  
Groynes  
Rowing  
Sun safety  

*1.43
Arrow can be orientated through 45° angles to represent direction of travel.
A public information symbol, with a negation bar should be used to tell people that specific behaviour is forbidden for comfort, rather than safety, reasons.

The negation bar should always be red.

- Do not feed the birds
- Do not remove materials from beach
- No fires
- No barbecues
- No camping
- No commercial activities
- No fouling
- No littering
- No parties

A mandatory symbol is a blue circle. The symbol graphic should always be white. A mandatory symbol should be used to instruct people.

Blue, Pantone 299 C

- Keep children under supervision
- Personal flotation device
- Secure tow hitch
- Navigation lights
- Keep clear
Traffic

A traffic symbol is a circle with a red outline. The symbol graphic should always be black. A traffic symbol should be used to inform people of an order relating to vehicles.

Red, Pantone 185 C
Black, Pantone Process black C

Flag symbols

Swim between flags
No motor vehicles
Surf board and other water craft zone
Do not swim
Do not use inflatables
If you require a symbol that you cannot see here, please contact the Secretary to the BSI Technical Committee PH/8 ‘Graphical Symbols’. Contact details can be found inside the back cover of The RNLI’s guide to beach safety signs, flags and symbols.