

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Author: | Paul Roberts | Revision #: | 2 |
| Approved By: | Chris Peoples | Date Revised: | January 2023 |

SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURE

Safety Color Markings for Hazards SPP# 1910.144

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1.0 Purpose | 2 |
| 2.0 Scope and Applicability | 2 |
| 3.0 Reference | 2 |
| 4.0 Policy | 2 |
| 5.0 General Responsibilities | 2 |
| 6.0 Procedure | 3 |
| 6.1 Definitions..... | 3 |
| 6.2 General Provisions | 3 |
| 6.2.1 Use of OSHA Color Code for Marking Hazards..... | 3 |
| 6.3 Specific Responsibilities..... | 4 |
| 6.3.1 Managers/Unit Heads | 4 |
| 6.3.2 Supervisors..... | 4 |
| 6.3.3 Employees | 4 |
| 6.3.4 Safety and Risk Management..... | 4 |

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this safety policy and procedure is to establish guidelines for the use of safety color code for marking hazards.

2.0 Scope and Applicability

Color coding is a standard way of quickly transmitting information. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has adopted color code based on for marking hazards.

This safety policy and procedure provides guidelines for identifying hazards through safety color markings. It includes provisions for the use of color requirements to identify hazards.

This document also details the areas of responsibility for managers/unit heads, supervisors, and employees within NCDOT.

This safety policy and procedure affects all DOT operations using color codes to identify 1 hazards.

3.0 Reference

This safety policy and procedure is established in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry (29 CFR 1910.144).

4.0 Policy

It is the policy of NCDOT to provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious harm to employees or the public. Therefore, standard color coding will be used throughout NCDOT to minimize these hazards. When hazards exist that cannot be eliminated, then engineering practices, administrative practices, safe work practices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proper training regarding Safety Color Markings will be implemented. These measures will be implemented to minimize those hazards to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

5.0 General Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of each manager/unit head, supervisor, and employee to ensure implementation of NCDOT's policy on Safety Color Markings for Hazards. It is also the responsibility of each NCDOT employee to report immediately any unsafe act or condition that is not safety color marked to his or her supervisor. Specific responsibilities are found in Section 6.3.

6.0 Procedure

This section provides applicable definitions, establishes general provisions, and identifies specific responsibilities required by NCDOT's safety policy and procedure on Safety Color Markings for Hazards.

6.1 Definitions

Color Codes

Coloring scheme that associates colors with different types of hazards.

6.2 General Provisions

This section details the provisions of this safety policy and procedure with each provision discussed in a separate subsection. These provisions are:

- Use of OSHA Color Code for Marking Hazards

6.2.1 Use of OSHA Color Code for Marking Hazards

Safety color marking for identifying hazards shall be uniform throughout NCDOT. Hazards within NCDOT shall be marked according to the following:

- **Red** shall be used for identifying fire protection equipment, danger signs designating immediate risk of life and health of employees, ~~and~~ emergency stops buttons on machines and portable containers for flammable liquids.
- **Yellow** because of its high visibility is the standard color designating caution for marking hazards that may result in accidents from slipping, falling, striking against, etc.
- **Orange** is the standard color designating warning to highlight hazardous parts of machines or electrical equipment, such as exposed edges of cutting devices, the inside of removed guards, and the doors and covers of switch boxes. Also, fluorescent orange or orange-red with lettering or symbols in contrasting color is used for biological hazards.
- **Reddish-Purple (magenta)** identifies radiation hazards, such as radioactive materials in rooms and containers.
- **Green** in combination with white, such as the green cross on a white background, designates the location of first aid equipment.
- **Black and White** and combinations of the two in strips or checks are used for housekeeping and traffic markings.

For lettering, text, and background colors on equipment and materials, other colors are used but not limited to the following:

- White
- Black
- Yellow

For details and guidelines for marking accident prevention signs and tags, see [SPP# 1910.145, Accident Prevention Signs and Tags](#).

Some examples of equipment with safety color markings include:

- Containers of flammable liquids having a flash point at or below 800F painted

SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURE

red with either a yellow band around the can or the name of the contents painted on the can in yellow

- Red lights at barricades
- Emergency stop bars (stop buttons) on hazardous machines painted red

6.3 Specific Responsibilities

6.3.1 Managers/Unit Heads

Managers/Unit Heads are responsible for ensuring that funding is available to effectively implement this safety policy and procedure. They will also ensure that the appropriate employees are identified for training and that training is made available.

Manager/Unit Heads will also be responsible for identifying the employees affected by this safety policy and procedure. They will obtain and coordinate the required training for the affected employees and will ensure compliance with this safety policy and procedure through their auditing process.

6.3.2 Supervisors

Supervisors will ensure that hazardous conditions and locations are safety color marked. Additionally, supervisors will ensure that the appropriate employees receive training in recognizing safety color markings and hazards associated with these colors.

6.3.3 Employees

Employees are to report any unmarked hazardous conditions or locations to their supervisors. Employees shall recognize safety color markings and hazards associated with these colors.

6.3.4 Safety and Risk Management

Safety and Risk Management will provide prompt assistance to managers/unit heads, supervisors, or others as necessary on any matter concerning this safety policy and procedure.