SAFETY & PIPING COLOR MARKING CODES

Pipe Identification Colors

DESCRIPTION

The use of color on piping provides easy identification for training of personnel. Good practice calls for lines inside buildings to be painted the same color as their adjacent surface, but to be identified by color bands and legends on areas adjacent to valves, couplings, and where pipes pass through walls. Legends should be brief, informative and simple. Direction of liquid flow should be identified with arrows.

Exterior lines or interior lines may, of course, also be painted with a solid color as suggested and using the legend on valves, etc. Valves, flanges or couplings should be painted to identify contents. Sprinkler heads should never be painted. The following color combinations are suggestions taken from the following:
Scheme, for Identification of Piping - American Standards Association Bulletin A-13-1947.

Identification of Piping Systems - Safe Practices Pamphlet No. 88 of National Safety Council, Inc.	Included in this scheme are fittings, valves, and pipe coverings, but supports, brackets, and other accessories are not included. Pipes are defined as conduits for the transport of gases, liquids, semi-liquids or plastics, but not solids carried in air or gas.
Water Lines - Fire Protection **Band: Safety Red** **Legend Letters: White**	Includes sprinkler systems and other fire and protection water lines.
Water Lines - Safe Materials **Band: Safety Green** **Legend Letters: Black**	Includes those materials involving little or no hazard to life or property in their handling. Also includes materials at low pressures and temperatures, which are neither toxic nor poisonous and will not produce fires or explosives.
Steam Lines **Band: Safety Orange** **Legend Letters: Black**	For lines carrying steam only.
Hazardous Gases & Liquids – Dangerous Material **Band – Safety Yellow** **Legend Letters - Black**	Includes materials, which are hazardous to life or property, because they are easily ignited, toxic, corrosive at high temperatures and pressures or are poisonous or produce poisonous gases.
Protective Materials - Other than Fire Protection **Band - Safety Blue** **Legend Letters -White**	Includes materials, which are piped through plants and are needed to prevent or minimize the hazard of dangerous materials. Includes certain special antidote gases to counteract poisonous fumes.
Radiation Hazards **Band - Safety Purple** **Legend Letters - Safety Yellow**	Includes piping for radioactive materials. Commonly used in the nuclear industry.
Electrical Conduits **Band - Black** **Legend Letters - Safety Yellow**	For electric conduits only.
RECOMMENDED SIZE OF COLOR BAND AND LEGEND	See table below.

Outside Pipe Diameter	Width of Color Band	Size of Legend Letters
Up to 2 1/2"	8”	3/4”
3” to 6”	12”	1 1/16”
7” to 10”	24”	2 1/2”
Over 10”	32”	3 1/2”

It is suggested that the colors and sizes of legend letters stenciled on the piping job for identification on material conveyed should conform to the above table of dimensions.

April 3, 2018