

## HELP SHEET FOR TEACHERS

### Napo's Best Signs for Safety: Lesson Two – Mandatory/Rescue signs

#### Best signs story

The first film in the Napo series provides a basic introduction to health and safety signs and symbols found in the workplace. It is designed to provide a useful guide for new employees and a valuable refresher for other workers. Different workplace situations are shown where safety signs are important. This film is suitable for all sectors and all levels of employees but especially for young people in training or work experience.

The film is designed to inform the audience about safety signs at work, to promote the importance of respecting the signs, and to learn and identify the meaning of the signs through their form and colour. There are several sketches. Each sketch concerns a work situation where Napo is confronted by the signs that come to life to teach him their meaning and the importance of safety. The sequences show what happens if the signs are disobeyed, and the technical and organisational obstacles against the efficient working of the signs.

#### EC Safety Signs Directive

The EC Safety Signs Directive (92/58/EEC) on the provision and use of safety signs at work was introduced to encourage the standardisation of safety signs throughout the EU Member States so that safety signs, wherever they are seen, have the same meaning.

The regulations require employers to provide specific safety signs whenever there is a risk that has not been avoided or controlled by other means, e.g. by engineering controls and safe systems of work. Where a safety sign would not help to reduce that risk, or where the risk is not significant, there is no need to provide a sign.

They require, where necessary, the use of road traffic signs within workplaces to regulate road traffic; require employers to maintain the safety signs which are provided by them; and to explain unfamiliar signs to their employees and tell them what they need to do when they see a safety sign.

The Regulations apply to all places and activities where people are employed.

#### Key terms of the Act

- Safety and health signs: information or instructions about safety and/or health at work by means of a signboard, a colour, an illuminated sign or acoustic or hand signal, or a verbal communication
- Verbal communication: a predetermined spoken message communicated by a human or artificial voice
- Hand signal: a movement or position of the arms or hands for guiding persons who are carrying out manoeuvres which constitute a hazard or danger



This lesson covers the following categories of signage:

#### Mandatory signs

Mandatory sign – a sign prescribing specific behaviour (e.g. eye protection must be worn).

#### Intrinsic features:

- Round shape
- White pictogram on a blue background
- The blue part to take up at least 50 % of the area of the sign



Eye protection  
must be worn



Safety helmet  
must be worn



Ear protection  
must be worn



Safety boots must  
be worn



Safety gloves  
must be worn



Safety overalls  
must be worn



Pedestrians must  
use this route



General  
mandatory



Face protection

#### Emergency signs

A sign indicating an emergency escape, emergency exit, emergency route or fire equipment.



Fire exit left



Fire exit right



First aids sign

#### Fire action notices

Provide essential, detailed information and should form part of a comprehensive fire exit and evacuation process.



Extinguisher sign

*The first lesson of Napo's Best Signs for Safety introduces warning signs and prohibition signs*

