

AS 2416—1995

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

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**Design and application of  
water safety signs**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/93, Water Safety Signs and Symbols. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 31 August 1995 and published on 5 December 1995.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/93:

Australian Beach Inspector/Lifeguard Association  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Local Government Association  
Department of Sport and Recreation, N.S.W.  
MSB Waterways Authority  
Queensland Department of Transport  
Royal Life Saving Society of Australia  
Surf Life Saving Association of Australia  
Swimming Pool and Spa Association of Australia  
University of N.S.W.

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*This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 94339.*

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Water Safety Signs and Symbols, to supersede AS 2416—1985.

This edition has been revised to include eleven new signs which have been tested for comprehension in accordance with AS 2342. All of the new signs met the test requirements except as noted in the Table in Appendix A. Also included are two new beach flags designed for optional use in conjunction with, and to enhance, certain regulatory signs. Sign 217, Beware Strong Undercurrent or Rip, has been deleted due to its poor performance in the comprehension test. No alternative which met the comprehension requirements for this referent could be devised.

The Standard has a greatly expanded section on the design and use of signs, including signs using text only where no symbolic sign is available or suitable for the purpose.

In the course of this revision, consideration was given to altering the specified usage of flags on beaches to control swimming and surfing. It was proposed that closure of a section of beach to supervised swimming or surfing would be indicated by the addition of crossed flags to the specified Swimming Prohibited signs. However, a research project and report\* by the University of NSW, Department of Psychology, commissioned by the NSW Inter-departmental Committee on Water Safety, found inter alia, that public comprehension of the meaning of the crossed flags was not reliable. The only change in this edition to the previously specified use of the Swimming Prohibited sign to indicate the closure of a beach to swimming, has therefore been a recommendation that an all-red flag be displayed in conjunction with the Swimming Prohibited sign to enhance its visual impact.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

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\* ADAMS, A. S. Water safety flags and signs: Report to the New South Wales Inter-departmental Committee on Water Safety, University of NSW, March 1994.

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