Why Safety Signs are Important at a Workstation

Safety signs and symbols are graphic labels used as communication tools to help send clear and easy-to-understand messages, instructions and warnings so as to prevent accidents and injuries from occurring. These may be as a result of hazards, dangers or risks associated with certain items or places.

There are different types of safety signs:

➢ Warning signs
➢ Fire safety signs
➢ Emergency signs
➢ Danger signs
➢ Prohibition signs
➢ GHS pictograms

The signs and symbols are standardized according to ISO 3864-1:2011 and are characterized by images, shapes, words, phrases or sentences. Each shape conveys a different meaning and each color represents the precaution it is characterized with.

Warning safety signs:
These signs are mostly characterized by a yellow background with a black triangle banding and symbol and a text written in black. They are used to notify individuals of potential danger and harm that may occur in that area and warn of hazards or conditions that are not likely to be life threatening.
Examples include: toxic hazard, high voltage, highly flammable

![High voltage sign](image)

**High voltage sign**

**Fire safety signs**

These signs are characterized by a red background and/or white texts. They are used to symbolize areas of the location of fire alarms and fire equipment.

![Fire extinguisher sign](image)

**Fire extinguisher sign**

**Emergency signs**

These signs are used to indicate emergency exits and doors, escape routes and signs that direct to first aid and safety equipment. These signs feature a white symbol and/or text on a green background.
Danger signs
These signs warn of a particular hazard or situation that is likely to be life threatening. The sign hovers the word Danger on a red oval over a black rectangle, and text is written in black on a white background.

Prohibition signs
Prohibition signs indicate a behavior that is not permitted. The sign is shown as a red circle with a red slash over a black icon of the action while the text is in black on a white background. Examples: no smoking signs, no naked flames, no diving etc.
GHS pictograms

These are part of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals - an internationally recognized standard of labeling scheme and hazard classification in relation to hazardous chemicals.

GHS pictograms are illustrative labels that communicate the potential risk associated with a specific chemical and unprotected exposure to its elements. GHS pictograms are characterized by a symbol on a white background, framed with red borders and an image illustration that presents the classification or type of potential hazard it is related to.

From the above discussions its evident that facilities are required to have appropriate safety signs and symbols in their various workstations such as at the LPG storage area, the generator room, the power station room, chemical room, fuel station, workshop and/or garage. This ensures that workers are able to approach different work stations with caution, while protecting themselves against potential harm and accidents.