INTRODUCTION

Existing standards, such as American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z49.1, ANSI Z535.4, and National Electrical Manufacturer’s Association (NEMA) EW6, thoroughly present guidelines for the minimum required information, method of presentation, signal words, color use, and label format.

DEFINITION

Graphic symbols are pictures sometimes called pictographs, pictograms, or pictorials used in place of, or as a supplement to, written words. These symbols provide non-verbal communication about the possible hazard. They represent or symbolize the hazard.

RATIONALE FOR GRAPHIC SYMBOLS

Pictures may convey information better than words. Graphic symbols can show the major welding or cutting hazards. The use of symbols on precautionary labels is optional and is recommended for the following reasons:

- Symbols may show and help to explain the hazards quickly – fast concept transfer – and use visual (not verbal) recognition.
- Symbols address nonreaders as well as readers.
- Symbols may be multilingual and usually translate directly into all languages.

RATIONALE FOR STANDARDIZED SYMBOLS

The welding and cutting industry needs standardized symbols and uniform methods of use to avoid user confusion and to supplement and reinforce the written message.

NEMA EW6 standard provides a list of symbols and minimum symbol size for labels along with complete information regarding their use and application.

HOW TO USE THE SYMBOLS

- Use the symbols to show the associated hazard.
- Take standard symbols from NEMA EW6.
- Follow a building block approach.
- Select a primary hazard symbol, often it is used alone, such as the fire symbol.
• Choose additional symbol element(s) to fully show the hazard.

• Combine the chosen symbol element(s), such as the covered electrode symbol, with the base symbol, such as fumes and gases.

• Follow the design methods and standard way of incorporating symbols onto the safety label according to EW6.

INFORMATION SOURCES

National Electrical Manufacturer’s Association (NEMA). Guidelines For Precautionary Labeling For Arc Welding And Cutting Products, Arc Welding Section (NEMA EW6). Published by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, 1300 North 17th Street, Suite 1752, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209; telephone: (703) 841-3200; web site: www.nema.org.


### EXAMPLES FROM NEMA EW6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAZARD</th>
<th>SOURCE OF HAZARD</th>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric Shock</td>
<td>Welding Electrode</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Electric Shock Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Shock</td>
<td>Wiring</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Electric Shock Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Shock</td>
<td>Welding Electrode and Wiring</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Electric Shock Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumes and Gases</td>
<td>Any Source</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fumes and Gases Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fumes and Gases</td>
<td>Welding Fumes and Gases</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fumes and Gases Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arc Rays</td>
<td>Welding Arc</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Arc Rays Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>Engine Fuel</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Fire Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>