



U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

2/2/73

REGULATORY GUIDE

DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY STANDARDS

REGULATORY GUIDE 8.1

RADIATION SYMBOL

A. INTRODUCTION

Section 20.203 of 10 CFR Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," sets forth requirements for caution signs, labels, signals, and controls, including a radiation symbol, to be used in conjunction with specified wording in posting areas where radioactive material or radiation is or may be present and in labeling containers of radioactive material. This guide defines the characteristics of an acceptable radiation symbol in terms of shape, proportion, color of symbol and background, and usage.

B. DISCUSSION

Committee N12 of the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI), Nuclear Terminology, Units, Symbols, Identifications, and Signals, prepared the standard on the radiation symbol, ANSI N2.1-1969¹,

¹Copies may be obtained from the American National Standards Institute, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018

which was approved by ANSI on October 27, 1969. A unique radiation symbol is essential in order to assure recognition of radioactive materials and items or areas in which radioactive material or radiation is or may be present.

C. REGULATORY POSITION

The characteristics of the radiation symbol described in ANSI N2.1-1969, "Radiation Symbol," are consistent with the provisions of §20.203, "Caution signs, labels, signals, and controls," of 10 CFR Part 20 and are generally acceptable for use wherever such a symbol may be needed. In some cases, such as applications involving high temperatures which destroy paints of the prescribed colors, exceptions to the standards may be necessary. Determination of such exceptions will be made by the Regulatory staff on an individual case basis.

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