

ANSI / ASME Pipe Labeling Standards

Hazardous materials flow through miles of pipes in most industrial, commercial and institutional facilities. As with hazardous materials in other environments, piping systems must be properly labeled for safety. The ANSI/ASME A13.1 program for identification of piping systems addresses this need by using common pipe labeling methodologies for use in any environment.

Pipe Labeling Color Schemes

ANSI / ASME A13.1 standards define the proper colors schemes for pipe labeling. The A13.1-1996 standards have recently been replaced by the updated A13.1-2007 standard, though both are still widely used. Both color schemes are referenced below - depending on your company policy, compliance update schedules and existing labeling, you may choose to use either standard.

ANSI / ASME A13.1-2007 Standard	
Fluid Service	Color Scheme
Fire Quenching Fluids	WHITE ON RED
Toxic and Corrosive Fluids	BLACK ON ORANGE
Flammable Fluids	BLACK ON YELLOW
Combustible Fluids	WHITE ON BROWN
Potable, Cooling, Boiler Feed and other water	WHITE ON GREEN
Compressed Air	WHITE ON BLUE

ANSI / ASME A13.1-1996 Standard		
Classification	Sub-Classification	Label Color
Materials Inherently Hazardous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable or Explosive • Chemically Active or Toxic • Extreme Temp or Pressure • Radioactive 	BLACK ON YELLOW
	Materials of Inherently Low Hazard	Liquid or Liquid Admixture
	Gas or Gaseous Admixture	WHITE ON BLUE
Fire Quenching Materials	Water, Foam, CO ₂ , Halon, etc.	WHITE ON RED

Pipe Labeling Positioning

Pipe labels should be positioned for effort-free reading. Properly placed labels are always visible from a standard approach, with line-of-site visibility from normal viewing angles. Labels should be located near valves, branches, where a change in direction occurs, on entry/re-entry points through walls or doors, and on straight segments with spacing between labels that allows for easy identification.

