

Aerodrome Signs 101

Pilots need a working knowledge of all aeronautical signs at aerodromes. When used with up-to-date aerodrome charts, they help you taxi to the right place and can reduce the risk of a runway incursion.

Signs tend to be more complex at major aerodromes such as Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, but most aerodromes have some signs accompanying airfield markings.

Signs are divided into two categories: mandatory, and information.

Mandatory signs

Mandatory instruction signs include:

- » Runway designation signs
- » Category I, II, or III holding position signs
- » Runway-holding position signs
- » Road-holding position signs
- » No Entry signs.

They are identifiable by having white characters on a red background.

A taxiing aircraft or vehicle should not proceed beyond a mandatory sign without obtaining ATC clearance, and visually confirming that it is safe to proceed.

Profiled here are runway-holding position signs and no entry signs.

Runway-holding position signs

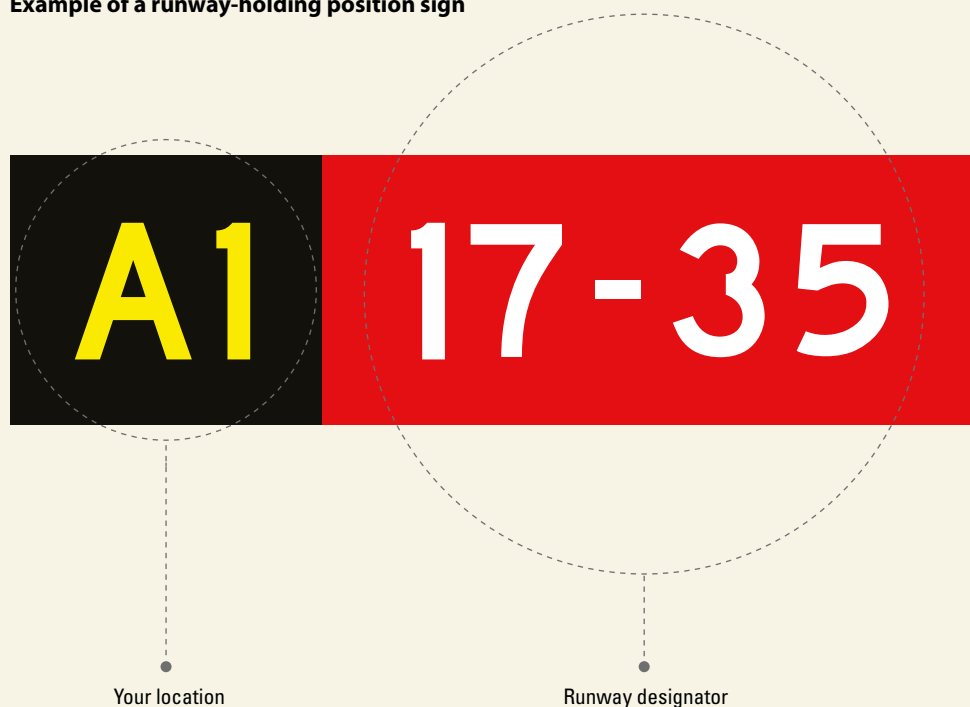
Runway-holding position signs are located alongside the appropriate ground marking. These signs identify the holding position as well as indicate the direction in which the holding instruction applies.

Where runway designators are shown on a sign, the first two digits of the runway magnetic heading rounded to the nearest whole 10 degrees will be used.

At airports with Category I, II, or III runways, signage to indicate the runway-holding position will display similar to the sign below.



Example of a runway-holding position sign



No Entry signs

No Entry signs indicate an area of an aerodrome that has been withdrawn from use or is not suitable for aircraft operations.



Information signs

Information signs are provided at an aerodrome where there is an operational need to identify a specific location or routing (direction or destination) information. They are often located at intersections and help pilots maintain situational awareness.

Location signs

Location signs identify taxiways and, where necessary, runways. Location signs have yellow lettering on a black background. Taxiways are normally designated by a single letter of the alphabet (for example A, B, C). On some of the larger aerodromes in New Zealand with many taxiways, alphanumeric designators may be used to identify minor taxiways which join a main route (for example A1, B6).

Remember: Black square, you are there.



Direction signs

Direction signs consist of a route or destination label accompanied by an arrow pointing in the appropriate direction. They have black characters on a yellow background and are normally accompanied by a location sign.



Direction signs inform pilots of an exit from a runway. In this situation they are called a runway exit sign and will not be accompanied by a location sign.

Remember: Yellow array points the way.



Destination signs are also used to indicate the direction to a specific location on the aerodrome, such as an apron or cargo area.



Intersection take-off sign

An intersection take-off sign (more commonly known as inset take-off position) indicates the remaining take-off run available from that point. It has black characters on a yellow background and is located opposite an intermediate taxiway.



While taxiing

Signage used together with current charts and aerodrome markings will help pilots improve their situational awareness. If you are in any doubt about a taxi clearance that you have received from ATC, ask for clarification.

Further information

For more information on aerodromes and aerodrome signs, including Advisory Circular AC139-6 *Aerodrome Design Requirements*, visit www.caa.govt.nz/aerodromes. ■