



Fire Protection Piping Pipe Colour Codes

IS 2379 : 1990 (India) · ASME A13.1-2020 · GCC & NFPA practice compared
www.fireandsmokesystems.com

1 India: Ground Colours · IS 2379 : 1990 Table 1 & Table 2

Fire water

Fire red ground + crimson red band

Water

Sea green

Air

Sky blue

Gases

Canary yellow

Steam

Aluminium (IS 2339)

Oils / combustible liquids

Light brown

Acids

Dark violet

Alkalis

Smoke grey

Hydrocarbons / organics

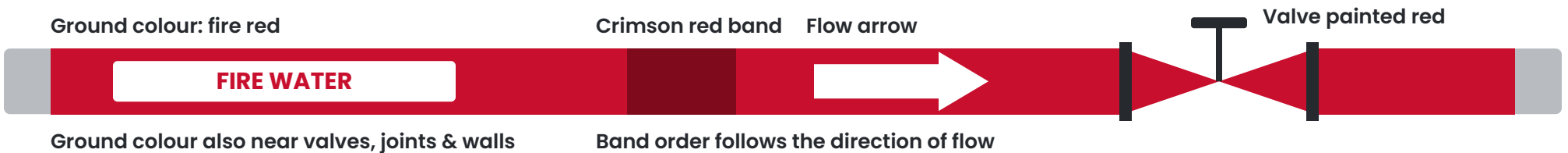
Dark admiralty grey

Other liquids / gases

Black (where no identification is needed)

Table 2 also lists "sprinkler and hydrant water" as sea-green ground with white + signal-red bands. Agree which scheme to use with the client and AHJ.
Valves on fire lines: red (cl. 7.4). IS 13039 recommends fire red, IS 5 shade 536 for hydrant stand posts.

2 How to Apply Bands · IS 2379 cl. 7



- Ground colour runs the **full length**, or as a section of at least **300 mm** (≥ 2 m on clad, stainless or plastic pipe)
- Place bands at battery limits, junctions, changes of direction, valves, walls, both sides of culverts, start/end points, and every **50 m** on long yard runs
- Width of first band to later bands = **4 : 1**. Band order follows the **direction of flow**
- Hazard panels at least **100 mm** wide. The standard does not cover buried pipelines

Nominal pipe size	Min. band width
80 NB and below	25 mm
Over 100 NB up to 150 NB	50 mm
Over 200 NB up to 300 NB	75 mm
Over 350 NB	100 mm

As tabulated in cl. 7.3.3

3 Pipe Marking Basics · ASME A13.1-2020

FIRE-QUENCHING

white on safety red

TOXIC & CORROSIVE

black on safety orange

FLAMMABLE / OXIDIZING

black on safety yellow

COMBUSTIBLE

white on safety brown

WATER (potable, cooling, boiler)

white on safety green

COMPRESSED AIR

white on safety blue

USER-DEFINED

white on purple

USER-DEFINED

black on white

USER-DEFINED

white on grey

USER-DEFINED

white on black

Pipe OD	Min. colour-field length	Min. letter height
0.7–1.3 in (18–33 mm)	8 in (200 mm)	0.5 in (13 mm)
1.4–2.4 in (34–61 mm)	8 in (200 mm)	0.7 in (19 mm)
2.5–6.7 in (62–170 mm)	12 in (300 mm)	1.3 in (32 mm)
6.8–10 in (171–254 mm)	24 in (600 mm)	2.5 in (64 mm)
Over 10 in (254 mm)	32 in (800 mm)	3.5 in (89 mm)

- Label = **contents name + flow arrow(s)** in the standard colour pair
- Fix labels next to **valves & flanges** and **changes of direction**, on **both sides** of wall/floor penetrations, and at intervals on straight runs
- Position them where they can be read from the **normal angle of approach**

INDIA · IS 2379 / IS 13039

- Fire water: **fire red** ground + crimson band
- Fire-fighting valves red; hydrant posts fire red (IS 5 shade 536); hose reels shade 536/538

GCC EXAMPLE · UAE FIRE CODE

- All steel fire-fighting pipes & fittings **painted red**
- Where interiors need another colour: **red bands every 3 m** plus flow arrows

USA · NFPA 13 PRACTICE

- No mandated** pipe paint colour; pipe carries the **manufacturer's marking**
- Never paint sprinklers. Labels usually follow ASME A13.1 (white on red)