

## ***New Symbol Launched to Warn Public About Radiation Dangers***

With radiating waves, a skull and crossbones and a running person, a new ionizing radiation warning symbol (upper image) is being introduced to supplement the traditional international symbol for radiation, the three cornered trefoil (bottom images). The new symbol is being launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to help reduce needless deaths and serious injuries from accidental exposure to large radioactive sources. It will serve as a supplementary warning to the trefoil, which has no intuitive meaning and little recognition beyond those educated in its significance.

The new symbol is aimed at alerting anyone, anywhere to the potential dangers of being close to a large source of ionizing radiation, the result of a five-year project conducted in 11 countries around the world. The symbol was tested with different population groups - mixed ages, varying educational backgrounds, male and female - to ensure that its message of "danger - stay away" was crystal clear and understood by all.

**Source:** <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2007/radiationsymbol.html>

