

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

What colors should be used for the distribution box numbering



Overview

Color Coding and Labeling Best Practices for Industrial Learn best practices for industrial panel color coding & labeling to improve safety, speed Breaker.

Key Takeaways

Distribution box numbering should use clear, contrasting colors such as black or white on a colored background, following IEC and local labeling standards for visibility and safety.

Recommended Color Practices

1. Standard Labeling Colors: Numbering on distribution boxes should be high-contrast to ensure readability. Common practice is to use black or white text on a yellow, gray, or white background depending on the panel color and visibility requirements . This ensures that numbers are easily distinguishable in low-light or crowded panel environments.
2. Compliance with IEC 60446: IEC 60446 emphasizes consistent identification of terminals and conductors. While it primarily defines wire colors for line, neutral, and protective earth, the principle extends to labeling: numbering should be distinct from wire colors to avoid confusion . For example, do not use green-and-yellow (reserved for protective earth) for numbering. Neutral wires are typically light blue, and live wires may vary by phase, so numbering should contrast with these colors .

3. **Label Materials and Durability:** Use heat-shrink labels, self-laminating markers, or durable printed tags that resist fading, moisture, and heat. Labels should be placed close to terminals or connectors without obstructing access . This ensures long-term readability and reduces maintenance errors.

4. **Sequential or Alphanumeric Numbering:** Numbering should follow a logical sequence corresponding to the circuit layout or one-line diagram. Colors can be uniform for all numbers, but some facilities use color-coded backgrounds to indicate voltage levels, phases, or critical circuits, while keeping the text color consistent for clarity .

5. **Practical Example:** For a gray metal distribution box, use white numbering on a black or yellow background. For a white panel, black numbering on a white or colored background works well. Avoid colors that match wire insulation to prevent misidentification.

By following these guidelines, distribution box numbering will be safe, compliant, and easily readable, reducing the risk of miswiring and improving maintenance efficiency .

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