

## Color selection

### Color selection according to IEC 60204-1

IEC 60204-1 specifies coding principles for indicators and actuators and gives recommendation regarding the use of colors. An excerpt from the standard is given below. For detailed information, see the standard.

### Meaning of colors – General principles

Color	Meaning		
	Safety of persons or environment	Condition of process	State of equipment
RED	Danger	Emergency	Faulty
YELLOW	Warning/caution	Abnormal	Abnormal
GREEN	Safe	Normal	Normal
BLUE	Mandatory significance		
WHITE, GREY, BLACK	No specific meaning assigned		

### Non-illuminated actuators

#### Emergency actuators

EMERGENCY-STOP / OFF actuators shall be identified by the color **RED**

#### STOP / OFF actuators

**WHITE, GREY** and **BLACK** are the preferred colors for STOP / OFF actuators, with the main preference being for **BLACK**. **RED** is also permitted. **GREEN** shall not be used.

#### START / ON actuators

**WHITE, GREY** and **BLACK** are the preferred colors for START / ON actuators, which cause the closing of switching devices and the equipment to start, with the main preference being for **WHITE**. **GREEN** is also permitted. **RED** shall not be used.

#### Use of **WHITE** and **BLACK** for specific meanings

Where the colors **WHITE** and **BLACK** are used to distinguish between START / ON and STOP / OFF actuators, then the color **WHITE** shall be used for START / ON actuators and the color **BLACK** shall be used for STOP / OFF actuators.

#### The same actuators serving for **START** and **STOP** or **ON** and **OFF**

**WHITE, GREY** and **BLACK** are the preferred colors for actuators which, when actuated several times, act alternately as a START / ON and STOP / OFF actuator.

The colors **YELLOW** and **GREEN** shall not be used. The color **RED** shall be used only in cases where the same actuator, other than a push-button, is used for both EMERGENCY STOP / OFF and normal operation.

**WHITE, GREY** and **BLACK** are preferred colors for actuators which cause a movement while they are actuated and stop the movement when they are released (such as inching or jogging actuators). **GREEN** is also permitted. **RED** shall not be used.

#### RESET actuators

RESET actuators (used, for example, with protective relays) shall be **BLUE, WHITE, GREY** and **BLACK**, except RESET actuators which also act as STOP / OFF actuators. The color of such STOP / OFF actuators shall be in accordance with

**STOP / OFF actuators** above.