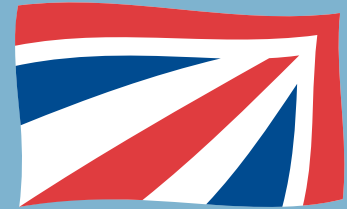




Flags &  
Heraldry  
Committee

An All Party Group of the UK Parliament

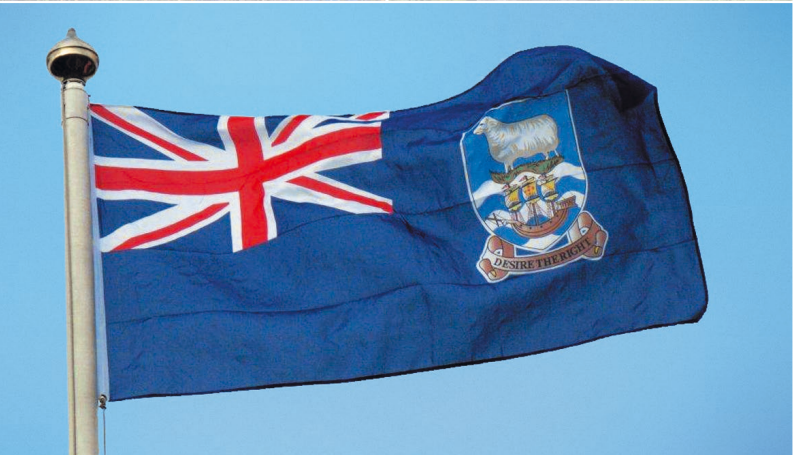


**FLAG INSTITUTE**

# FLYING FLAGS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



**A Guide to Britain's Flag Protocol**



## Introduction

The Union Flag is one of the best-known national symbols in the world. This is not surprising as it has been around for over 400 years with only minor changes. The Union Flag signifies the unity of the nations that make up the United Kingdom and dependencies, and demonstrates the bonds of citizenship which we all share. Whatever our differences may be, whatever our faith, culture, political views, ethnicity, first language or traditional customs, we can all stand beneath this flag united together in common purpose.

But for too long our flag has been taken for granted and largely ignored. Few children are taught about it in school, few people know its history or even the correct way to fly it. It is time that this changed and we became familiar with our flag, because all of us have the right to fly the flag and may use it on land wherever and whenever we wish. It is the people's flag as well as the state flag.

The Flag Institute, in association with the Flags & Heraldry Committee, an all party group of the United Kingdom Parliament, has produced this booklet to help and guide you when flying the flag in a variety of situations - it provides a few simple rules to ensure that the flag is flown correctly and is treated with dignity and respect.

We would like to pay tribute to Graham Bartram, Chief Vexillologist of the Flag Institute, for his outstanding graphics and detailed knowledge in the drafting of this booklet, and also to officials at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) who so kindly supported this venture.

Above all we hope this booklet will encourage you to fly your flag with affection and pride.



Malcolm Farrow OBE  
President of the Flag Institute

Andrew Rosindell MP  
Chairman of the Flags & Heraldry Committee

March 2010 (revised July 2024)



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**Flying Flags in the United Kingdom - A Guide to Britain's Flag Protocol**

First published in the United Kingdom in 2010 by the Flag Institute in association with the Flags and Heraldry Committee of the UK Parliament and with support from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

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† from iStockPhoto.com

## The Union Flag

The national flag of the United Kingdom, the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories is the Union Flag, which may also be called the Union Jack.<sup>1</sup> The first Union Flag was created in 1606 and combined the flags of England and Scotland. The present Union Flag dates from 1801 when St. Patrick's Cross was added to represent Ireland. It then became possible to display the flag upside down. There is no Flag Act in UK law and the Union Flag is the national flag by long established custom and practice, rather than by statute.



The First Union Flag

## The Flag Protocol of the United Kingdom

The national flags of the United Kingdom (ie. the Union Flag and the flags of England, Scotland and Wales) should be displayed only in a dignified manner befitting the national emblems. They should not be displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign.

It is improper to use the national flags as a table or seat cover or as a masking for boxes, barriers, or the intervening space between a dais or platform and the floor. The use of any of the national flags to cover a statue, monument or plaque for an unveiling ceremony is discouraged.

## Flying the Flag

Flags may be flown on every day of the year. Government and local authority buildings in England, Scotland and Wales are encouraged to fly national flags every day of the year (the flying of flags at certain locations in Northern Ireland is constrained by *The Flags Regulations [Northern Ireland] 2000* and *Police Emblems and Flag Regulations [Northern Ireland] 2002*).<sup>2</sup>

Flags are normally flown from sunrise to sunset but they may also be flown at night, when they should be illuminated.

No permission is needed to fly the national flags and they are excluded from most planning and advertising regulations (but flagpoles may not be).

National flags should never be flown in a worn or damaged condition, or when soiled. To do so is to show disrespect for the nations they represent.

**Important:** the Union Flag has a correct way up - in the half of the flag nearest the flagpole, the wider diagonal white stripe must be above the red diagonal stripe, as Scotland's St Andrew's Cross takes precedence over Ireland's St. Patrick's Cross. It is most improper to fly the flag upside down.

If a purely decorative effect is desired it is better to confine the display to flags of lesser status; for example, house flags, pennants or coloured bunting.

## Position of Honour

The order of precedence of flags in the UK is: Royal Standards, the Union Flag, the flag of the host country (England, Scotland, Wales, etc.), flags of other nations (in alphabetical order, see the list on page 15), the Commonwealth Flag, the European Union Flag, county flags, flags of cities or towns, banners of arms, and house flags. See Appendix B (page 13) for a detailed precedence list and special precedence orders for international organizations.

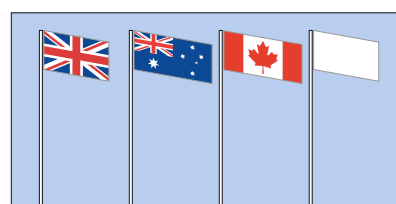
When British national flags are flown with the flags of other nations each flag should be the same size (or have the same width - the measure-



The Modern Union Flag

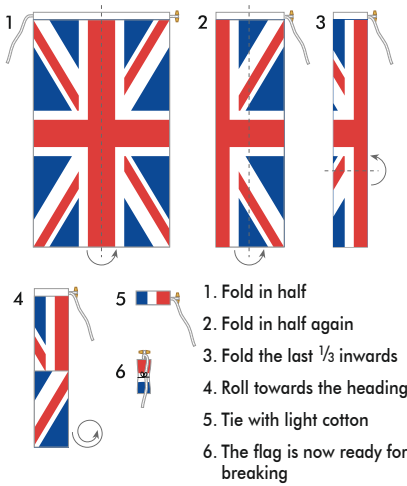


This flag is upside down!



1 See Hansard - House of Lords Debate 14 July 1908 vol 192 cc 579 - 80.

2 See [www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2000/347/pdfs/nisr\\_20000347\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2000/347/pdfs/nisr_20000347_en.pdf) & [/nisr/2002/23/pdfs/nisr\\_20020023\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2002/23/pdfs/nisr_20020023_en.pdf)



Folding a Flag for Breaking

ment from top to bottom) and should fly from a separate flagpole of the same height.<sup>3</sup> The UK's flag shape of 3:5 works well with nearly all other nations' flags and it is recommended to use these proportions if a standard size is required for all the flags in a display.<sup>4</sup>

The senior British national flag (eg. the Union Flag or the flag of England, Scotland or Wales) should be raised first and lowered last, unless all the flags can be raised and lowered simultaneously. Flags should be raised and lowered in a dignified manner. An alternative British tradition for flag raising is to hoist the flag while rolled up and secured with a thin piece of cotton or a slip knot. A sharp tug of the halyard will break the cotton and release the flag to fly free. This is known as 'breaking' the flag, and is sometimes used to signal the beginning of an event, or the arrival of a VIP.

National flags should be displayed as follows:

### In Front of and On a Building

Where there are two or more flagpoles parallel to the building line, the senior national flag should be the first flag on the left of an observer facing the main entrance of the building. The remaining flags then appear in order of precedence from left to right.

Where there are two or more flagpoles on the forecourt of a building angled to the main entrance, the senior national flag should be flown on the outermost pole when the flagpoles are to the left of the main entrance and on the innermost pole when the flagpoles are to the right of the main entrance, as shown in the diagram.

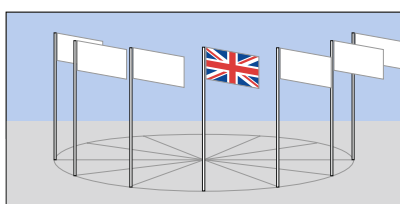
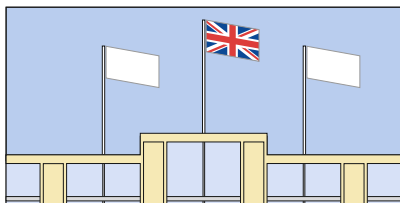
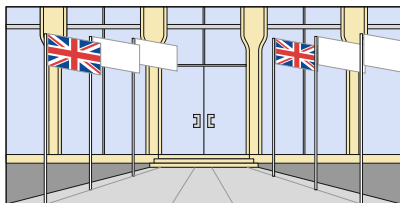
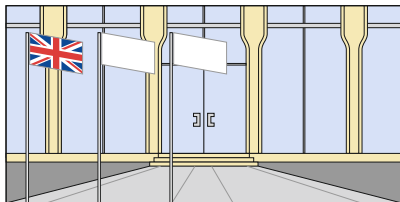
If only one flag is to be flown and there are two flagpoles, it should be flown on the flagpole to the observer's left. If there are more than two flagpoles, it should be flown as near as possible to the centre. This only applies when the other flagpoles remain empty. It is permissible to fly the same national flag on more than one flagpole by repeating the order of precedence.

If one flagpole is higher than the rest, then the senior national flag can fly from that flagpole; however no non-UK national flags can be flown on the other flagpoles. These can be used for more junior flags such as county and house flags. Alternatively the higher flagpole can be left empty and the remaining flagpoles used. In general when siting flagpoles it is preferable to keep them at the same level to avoid protocol restrictions.

The appropriate size of flag for any flagpole is a matter of aesthetics but, as a guide, a ground-level flagpole should have a flag whose length (its longer dimension) is no more than 1/3 of the pole's height. A flagpole on top of a building may need a larger flag because of the added height of the building.

### Within a Circle of Flags

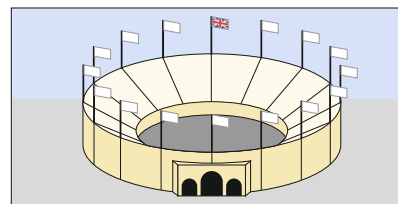
In a semi-circle of flags representing a number of nations, the senior national flag should be in the centre. The remaining flags should be placed with the next most senior flag (or first in alphabetical order if all the flags are of equal seniority) on the left of the central flag, the next on the right of the central flag, the next on the 2<sup>nd</sup> left from the central flag, and continuing to alternate left and right.



3 International protocol prohibits the flying of any nation's flag higher than another (apart from at medal ceremonies during sporting events).

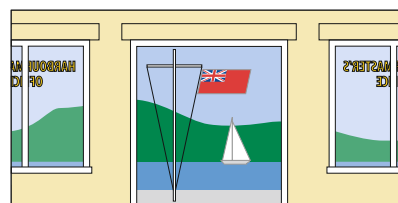
4 If each country's official dimensions are being used, any of the flags that are square or nearly square can have a slightly larger width (up to 25% more) to give a more equal area.

In an enclosed circle of flags representing a number of nations, the senior national flag should be flown on the flagpole immediately opposite the main entrance to the venue, or above the Royal Box if there is no main entrance. The remaining flags should be arranged as for the semi-circle of flags described above. Alternatively they can be arranged alphabetically, going clockwise.

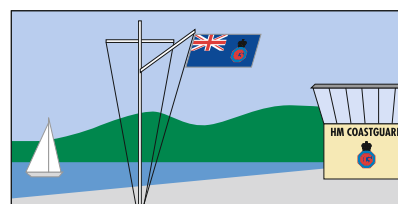


### From a Flagpole with Yardarm and Gaff

When displayed on a flagpole fitted with yardarms (horizontal cross-pieces), the senior national flag or ensign<sup>5</sup> should be flown from the starboard yardarm (the right as viewed from the rear, the left as viewed from the front).



If the flagpole is fitted with a gaff (a short pole attached to the flagpole at an angle - see diagram), the senior *ensign* should be flown from the gaff. If there is no ensign to be flown, the gaff should be left empty and the senior national flag flown from the starboard yardarm, as described above.

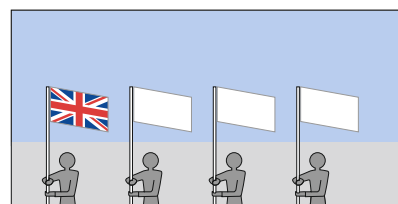


A yacht club burgee or distinguishing flag can be flown from the mast-head, the highest point of the flagpole.

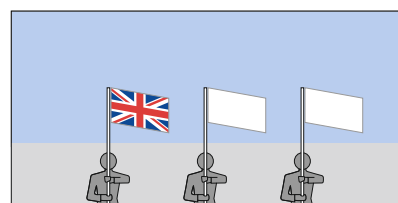
### In Processions

The senior national flag should always lead in a single file of flags.

When two or more flags are carried side-by-side, the senior national flag takes the position of honour at the right-hand side of the line facing the direction of movement (the left of an observer watching the line approach).

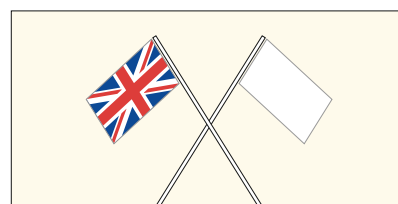


When passing the person taking the salute the flag should be lowered so that the staff is horizontal. This can be done by simply lowering the staff straight ahead, or by lowering the staff towards the person taking the salute and then swinging it round to straight ahead. All the movements should be slow and dignified. After the salute, the flag should be raised again.



### With Crossed Flags

Whenever crossed with the flag of another nation or organization, the senior national flag should be on the left of the observer facing the flag. Its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



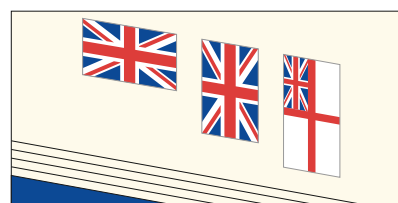
### Suspended Vertically Above a Street

Care should be taken to ensure that all flags suspended vertically across a street are hung to be seen from the same direction.

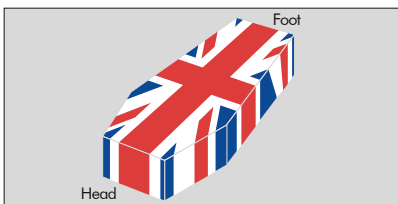
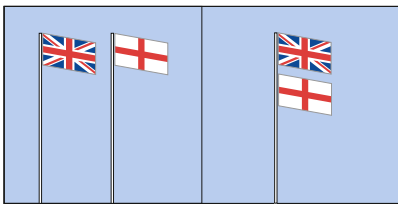
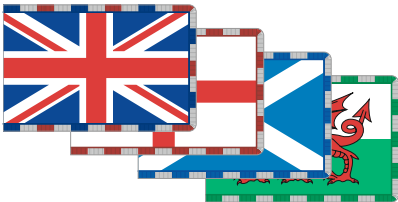
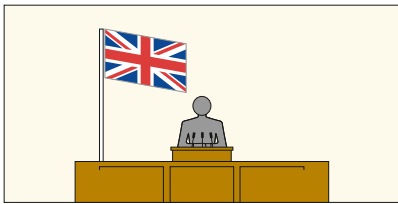
### Flat Against a Surface

Union Flag - If hung horizontally or vertically, the broad white diagonal should be uppermost in the top-left corner.

Other flags - If hung vertically, the edge that would normally be the top of the flag should be on the left, so, for example, ensigns have their Union Flag canton in the upper left corner. On ensigns that have an armorial badge, if possible the badge should be upright, and the correct way round.



<sup>5</sup> Ensigns are the national flags that identify a vessel's nationality and in the UK have the Union Flag in the top corner.



**A Coffin with a Fitted Cover**

(if a flag is used, 1:2 proportions fit the shape of the coffin better)

**On a Speaker's Platform**

When displayed from a staff, on a speaker's platform, the senior national flag should be placed on the right-hand side of the speaker, and therefore to the audience's left.

For interior or parade use a 'dress flag' may be used. This is sometimes made of silk or satin with a fringe around three sides. The fringe can be gold or red/white/blue for the Union Flag, red/white for St. George's Cross, blue/white for St. Andrew's Cross and green/white for the Red Dragon. The fringe is purely decorative.

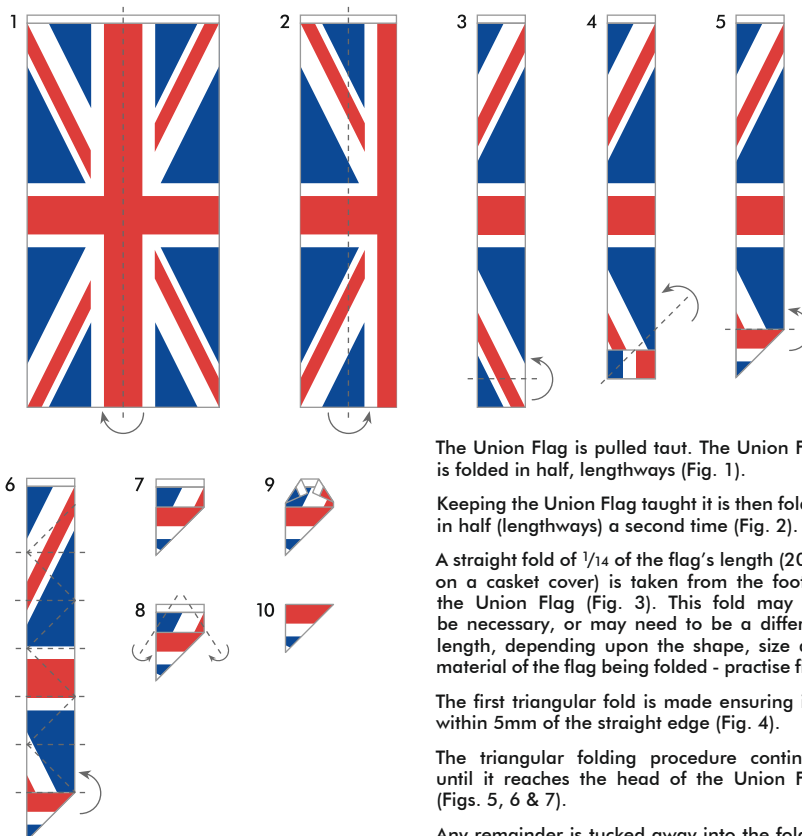
**Double-Flagging**

Sometimes it may be desired to display two flags when only one flagpole is available. As long as both flags are British this is possible. The senior flag should fly at the top, with a gap of about 30cm (12"), assuming there is enough vertical space on the pole. For example, the Union Flag can be flown over the flag of England, Scotland or Wales (as shown), or over a county, city or house flag. When flags are at half-mast the lower flag must be removed.

**As a Pall for a Coffin**

If a national flag is to be used on a coffin, it should be placed so that the top-left corner of the flag is over the deceased's left shoulder. The flag should be removed before interment or cremation and folded.

If the flag is to be retained by the next of kin it can be folded using the Royal Navy's method shown here, based on a 1:2 flag (138cm x 276cm) with no fittings (ie. ropes, toggles or clips), or using the method shown on page 4:



The Union Flag is pulled taut. The Union Flag is folded in half, lengthways (Fig. 1).

Keeping the Union Flag taut it is then folded in half (lengthways) a second time (Fig. 2).

A straight fold of 1/14 of the flag's length (20cm on a casket cover) is taken from the foot of the Union Flag (Fig. 3). This fold may not be necessary, or may need to be a different length, depending upon the shape, size and material of the flag being folded - practise first!

The first triangular fold is made ensuring it is within 5mm of the straight edge (Fig. 4).

The triangular folding procedure continues until it reaches the head of the Union Flag (Figs. 5, 6 & 7).

Any remainder is tucked away into the fold of the triangular shape (Fig. 8 & 9).

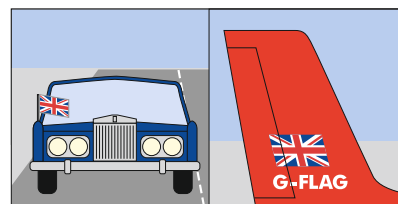
The Union Flag ready for presentation (Fig. 10).



## On Vehicles

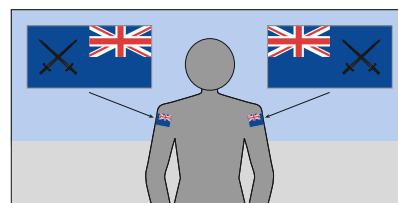
A car flag should be placed on a staff fitted to the front-right wing, in the centre of front edge of the bonnet, or in the centre of the front edge of the roof. If two flags are to be flown, the senior flag should be on the front-right wing and the junior flag on the front-left wing.

When flags are painted onto a vehicle, or on the tail fin of an aircraft, the flag on the port side should show the obverse of the flag (ie. the flagpole on the left), while that on the starboard side should show the reverse (ie. the flagpole on the right). On surfaces perpendicular to the direction of travel (eg. the back of the vehicle) the obverse of the flag should be shown.



## On Uniforms

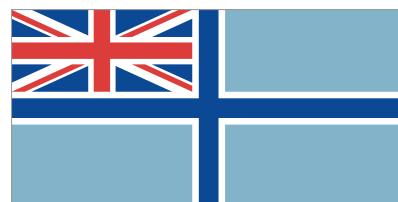
When flag shoulder patches are worn on uniforms the flag on the left shoulder or sleeve should show the obverse of the flag (ie. the flagpole at the wearer's front). If there is a patch on the right shoulder or sleeve it should show the reverse of the flag (ie. still with the flagpole at the wearer's front). If more than one flag is to be worn, the Union Flag should be at the top.



## At Civilian Transport Facilities

Civilian marine facilities should fly the Civil Ensign (the undefaced Red Ensign) as their national flag, unless they belong to an organization that holds a warrant for a special ensign, when that ensign should be used instead.

Civilian air facilities, such as airports and airfields, should fly the Civil Air Ensign as their national flag, rather than the Union Flag. They may additionally fly the flag of England, Scotland or Wales and the appropriate county flag.



The Civil Air Ensign

## Pennants

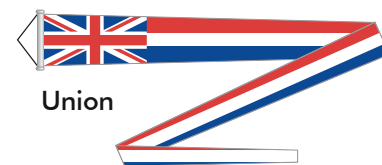
It is sometimes impractical to fly a full-size flag throughout the year - flags can wear out quickly, especially if they are flown in adverse conditions. Bare flagpoles are a sad sight. The pennant, or vimpel, is a solution to these problems. The long narrow streamer-like flags are designed to be left flying day and night. The optional single point attachment and the narrow tail reduce wear and their length means that they can be easily repaired.



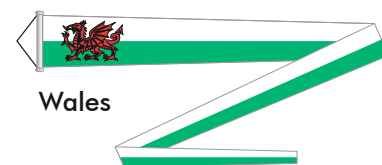
England



Scotland



Union



Wales

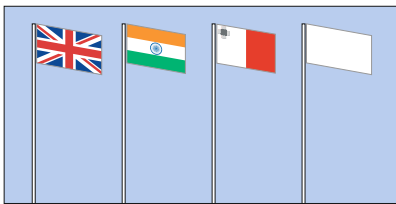
## The Royal Standard

The Royal Standard (actually the Royal Banner - a *standard* being an heraldic flag similar to the pennants above) should only be flown whilst the Royal person is on the premises, being hoisted (or broken) on their arrival and lowered following their departure. If the Royal person is to be present in a building, the Lord Chamberlain's Office or the Royal person's Private Secretary should be consulted. They will advise on the flag to be flown. The Royal Standard is never hoisted when the Royal person is passing in procession.

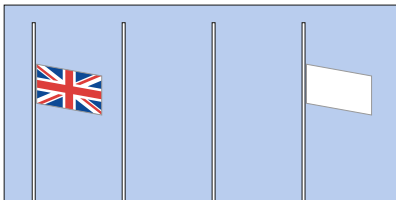
The Royal Standard takes precedence over all other flags in the United Kingdom, including the Union Flag.



The Royal Standard  
(in Scotland the design is different)



A Stand of Flags at Full-mast



The Same Stand at Half-mast

## Flags at Half-mast

Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole, with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole. Flags cannot be flown at half-mast on poles that are more than 45° from the vertical, but a mourning cravat can be used instead (see below).

When a flag is to be flown at half-mast, it should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, allowed to remain there for a second and then be lowered to the half-mast position. When it is being lowered from half-mast, it should again be raised to the top of the mast for a second before being fully lowered.

When a British national flag is at half-mast, other flags on the same stand of poles should also be at half-mast or should not be flown at all. Flags of foreign nations should not be flown, unless their country is also observing mourning.

The Royal Standard never flies at half-mast. It represents the Monarchy, which is continuous, and it would therefore be inappropriate for it to fly at half-mast.

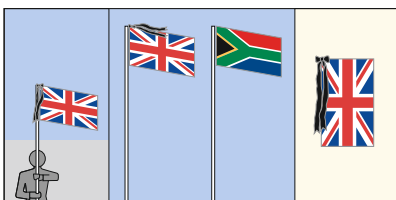
Flags should be flown at half-mast on the following occasions:

- a. From the announcement of the death until the funeral of the Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day when flags are flown at full-mast following the proclamation.
- b. From the announcement of the death until the funeral of a member of the Royal Family styled 'Majesty' or 'Royal Highness', subject to special commands from the Sovereign in each case.
- c. On the day of the announcement of the death and on the day of the funeral of other members of the Royal Family, subject to special commands from the Sovereign in each case.
- d. The funerals of foreign Rulers, subject to special commands from the Sovereign in each case.
- e. The funerals of Prime Ministers and ex-Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from the Sovereign in each case.
- f. The funerals of First Ministers and ex-First Ministers of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, subject to special commands from the Sovereign in each case. Unless otherwise commanded by the Sovereign, this only applies to flags in their respective countries.
- g. At British Embassies, High Commissions and Missions when flags in the host country are flown at half-mast, subject to the discretion of the *Chef de Mission*.
- h. Any other occasions where the Sovereign has given a special command.

If the body of a very distinguished citizen is lying in a building, the flag should fly at half-mast on that building until the body has left.

An alternative mark of mourning, used when half-masting is unsuitable, is to add a black cravat or ribbon to the top of the flag, at the hoist.

*The above cover Royal and National Mourning, but flags may be flown at half-mast on private or non-Government buildings on other relevant occasions. Flags fly at full-mast on Remembrance Sunday.*



Mourning Cravats

## The Proper Disposal of Flags

When a flag becomes tattered or faded and is no longer in a suitable condition for use, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, for example by burning, tearing or cutting into strips that no longer resemble the original flag.

## Appendix A - British Flags

A selection of the principal flags of the United Kingdom, British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies:



Union Flag



England



Scotland



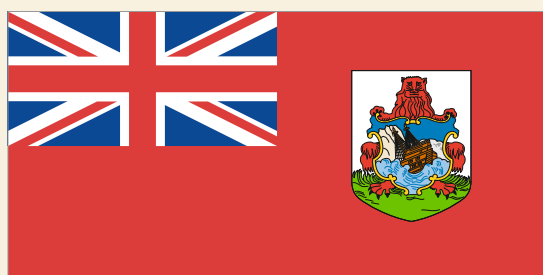
Wales



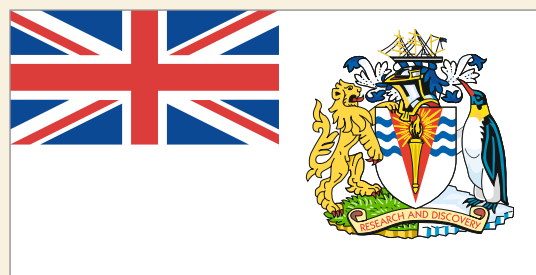
Alderney



Anguilla



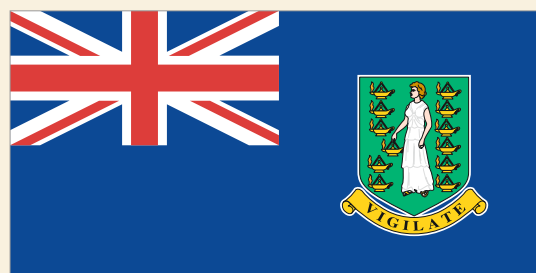
Bermuda



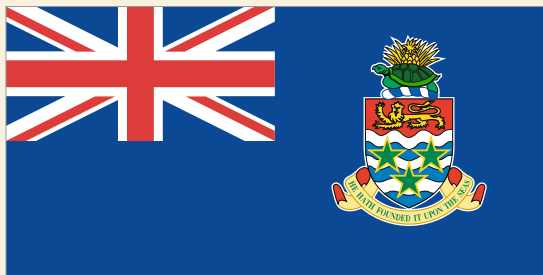
British Antarctic Territory



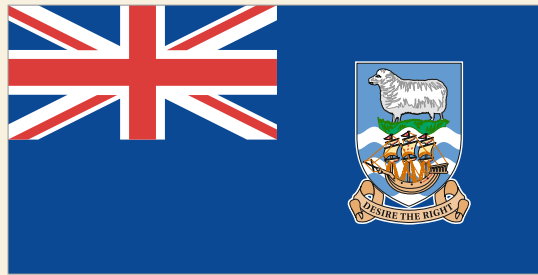
British Indian Ocean Territory



British Virgin Islands



Cayman Islands



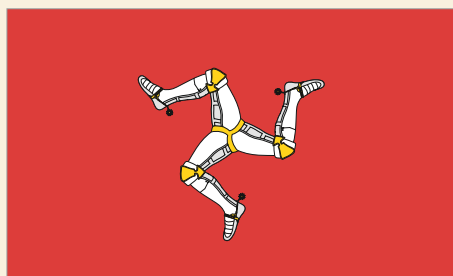
Falkland Islands



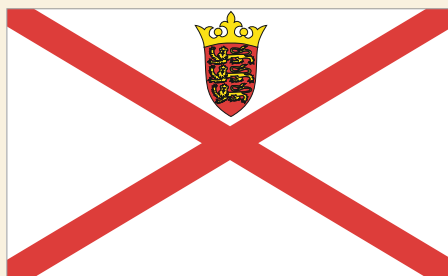
Gibraltar



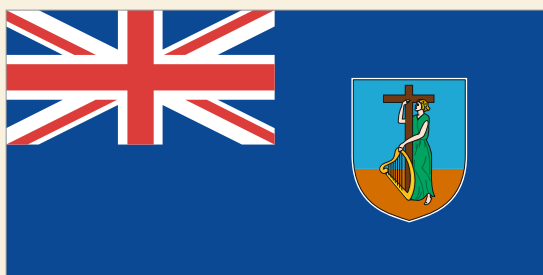
Guernsey



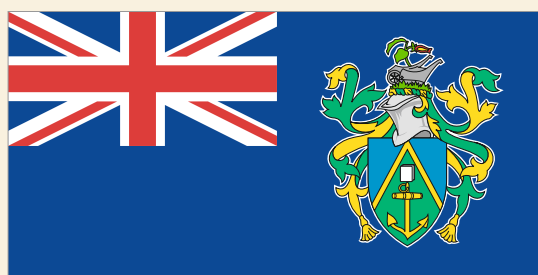
Isle of Man



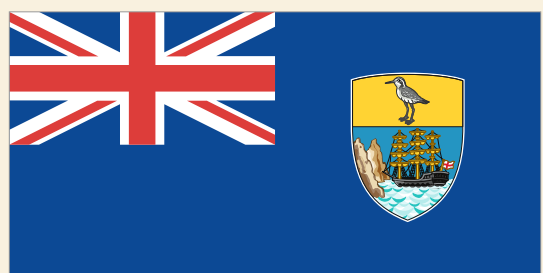
Jersey



Montserrat



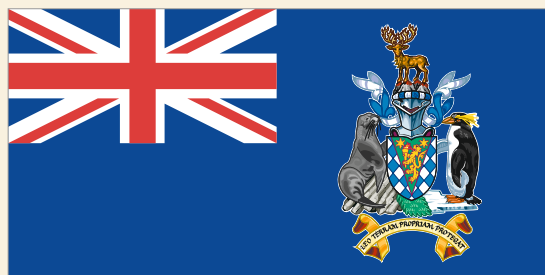
Pitcairn Islands



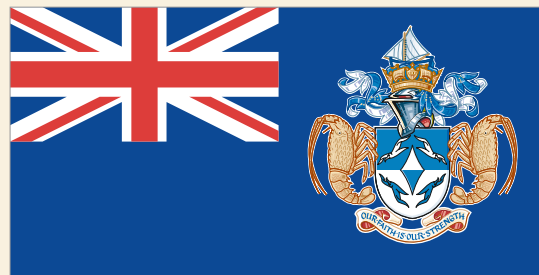
Saint Helena



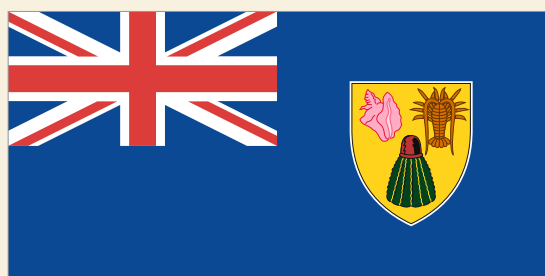
Sark



South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands



Tristan da Cunha



Turks and Caicos Islands



White Ensign (Royal Navy)



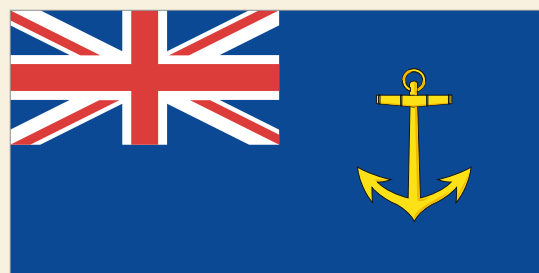
Royal Air Force Ensign



Red Ensign (Merchant Navy)



Civil Jack



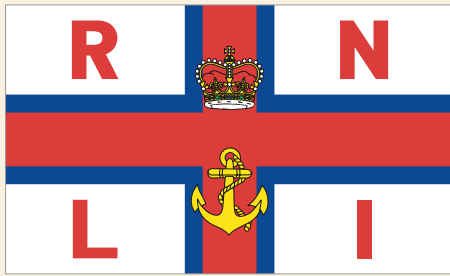
Blue Ensign (Royal Fleet Auxiliary)



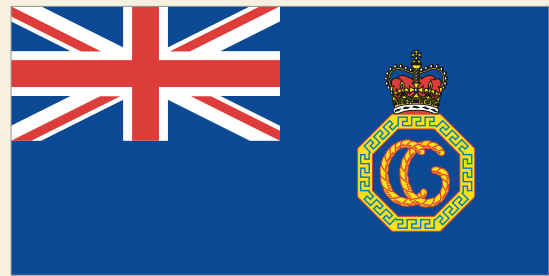
British Army (Non-Ceremonial)



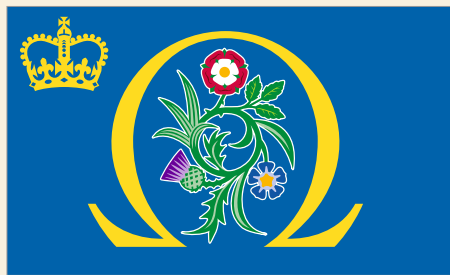
Diplomatic Service Flag (eg. British Embassy)



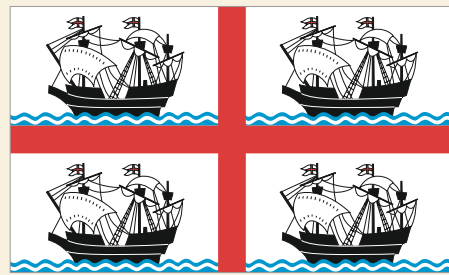
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)



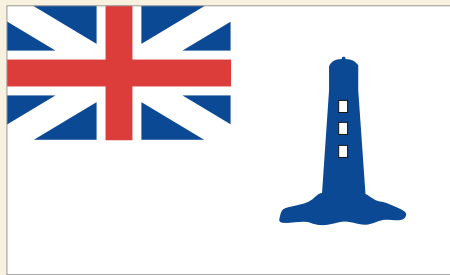
HM Coastguard



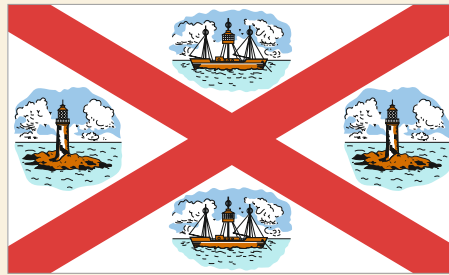
United Kingdom Supreme Court



Trinity House (English and Welsh Lighthouses)



Northern Lights (Scottish Lighthouses)



Irish Lights (All Irish Lighthouses)



Metropolitan Police



Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)



Ministry of Defence



King's Award for Enterprise

## Appendix B - Precedence of Flags

There are three main orders of precedence for flags in the United Kingdom, depending upon the occasion:

### General Precedence

The Royal Standards<sup>6</sup>

The Union Flag

The national flag of England, Scotland, Wales, a Crown Dependency or a British Overseas Territory (within those countries, dependencies or territories)

The White Ensign of the Royal Navy<sup>7</sup>

The Ensign of the Royal Air Force<sup>7</sup>

The Blue and Red Ensigns<sup>7</sup>

The Civil Air Ensign<sup>7</sup>

The national flags of England, Scotland, Wales, the Crown Dependencies and the British Overseas Territories (when displayed elsewhere)

The national flags of other nations (in English alphabetical order as shown on page 15)

The United Nations Flag

The Commonwealth Flag

The Council of Europe Flag

The British Army Flag (Non-Ceremonial)

Flags of counties and metropolitan cities

Flags of other cities and towns

Banners of Arms (both personal and corporate)

House flags

### Order for Commonwealth Events Held in the UK (but not the Commonwealth Games)

The Royal Standards<sup>6</sup>

The Commonwealth Flag

The Union Flag

The national flag of England, Scotland or Wales (whichever is hosting the event)

The national flags of the Commonwealth in order of original accession to the Commonwealth (date shown in brackets):

Canada (11 Dec 1931, dominion status 1867), Australia (11 Dec 1931, dominion status 1901), New Zealand (11 Dec 1931, dominion status 1907), South Africa (11 Dec 1931, dominion status 1910), India (14/15 Aug 1947), Pakistan (14/15 Aug 1947), Sri Lanka (4 Feb 1948), Ghana (6 Mar 1957), Malaysia (31 Aug 1957), Nigeria (1 Oct 1960), Cyprus (13 Mar 1961), Sierra Leone (27 Apr 1961), Tanzania (9 Dec 1961), Jamaica (6 Aug 1962), Trinidad and Tobago (31 Aug 1962), Uganda (9 Oct 1962), Kenya (12 Dec 1963), Malawi (6 Jul 1964), Malta (21 Sep 1964), Zambia (24 Oct 1964), The Gambia (18 Feb 1965), Singapore (15 Oct 1965),



The Commonwealth Flag

<sup>6</sup> Only one Royal Standard is normally flown, and the order of precedence is: The Royal Standard of HM The King, The Personal Flags of HM The Queen, HRH The Prince of Wales and Duke of Rothesay, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Princess Royal, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, HRH The Duke of Kent, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, HRH Princess Alexandra, The Other Members' Standard.

<sup>7</sup> When these ensigns are flown in place of the Union Flag they take the same precedence as the Union Flag.

Guyana (26 May 1966), Botswana (30 Sep 1966), Lesotho (4 Oct 1966), Barbados (30 Nov 1966), Mauritius (12 Mar 1968), Eswatini - previously Swaziland (6 Sep 1968), Nauru (1 Nov 1968), Tonga (4 Jun 1970), Samoa (28 Aug 1970), Fiji Islands (10 Oct 1970), Bangladesh (18 Apr 1972), The Bahamas (10 Jul 1973), Grenada (7 Feb 1974), Papua New Guinea (16 Sep 1975), Seychelles (29 Jun 1976), Solomon Islands (7 Jul 1978), Tuvalu (1 Oct 1978), Dominica (3 Nov 1978), Saint Lucia (22 Feb 1979), Kiribati (12 Jul 1979), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (27 Oct 1979), Vanuatu (30 Jul 1980), Belize (21 Sep 1981), Antigua and Barbuda (1 Nov 1981), Maldives (9 Jul 1982), Saint Christopher and Nevis (19 Sep 1983), Brunei Darussalam (1 Jan 1984), Namibia (21 Mar 1990), Cameroon (13 Nov 1995), Mozambique (13 Nov 1995), Rwanda (29 Nov 2009), Gabon (29 June 2022), Togo (29 June 2022)



The United Nations Flag

### Order for United Nations Events

The United Nations Flag

The national flags of the United Nations members in order of their name as used at the UN. The exceptions to the normal alphabetical order are (with the sorting letter underlined):

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Myanmar (Burma), Republic of Korea (South Korea), Republic of Moldova (Moldova), The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Macedonia), Timor Leste (East Timor), United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania)

### Possible Contentions

When flying flags of other countries, bear in mind that some countries do not get on well with some other countries, and flying flags of the countries they do not get on with can cause offence to representatives of those countries. A couple of examples: the Taiwan flag may cause offence to representatives of the People's Republic of China; and the North Cyprus flag may cause offence to representatives of Cyprus and Greece. If you are planning to fly either of these flags it is worth checking who will be attending.

### English Alphabetical Order

To help with international flag displays the nations of the world are listed here in the normal English alphabetical order. The order uses the short name of the country rather than its formal name (ie. 'Australia' rather than 'Commonwealth of Australia') and ignores 'The'. Some of the names that might not be familiar are: Congo-Brazzaville - the former French colony of Congo; Congo-Kinshasa - the former Belgian Congo, now formally called the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Côte d'Ivoire - the Ivory Coast.

The countries marked with an asterix (\*) are British (the constituent countries of the UK, the Crown Dependencies and the British Overseas Territories); for displays of flags within these countries, dependencies or territories, the local national flag takes precedence immediately after the Union Flag and before any British ensigns (White, RAF, Red, Blue and Civil Air). The remainder should be displayed in alphabetical order as shown, with the countries that make up the United Kingdom taking precedence.

Countries marked with a dagger symbol (†) are dependencies of other nations.

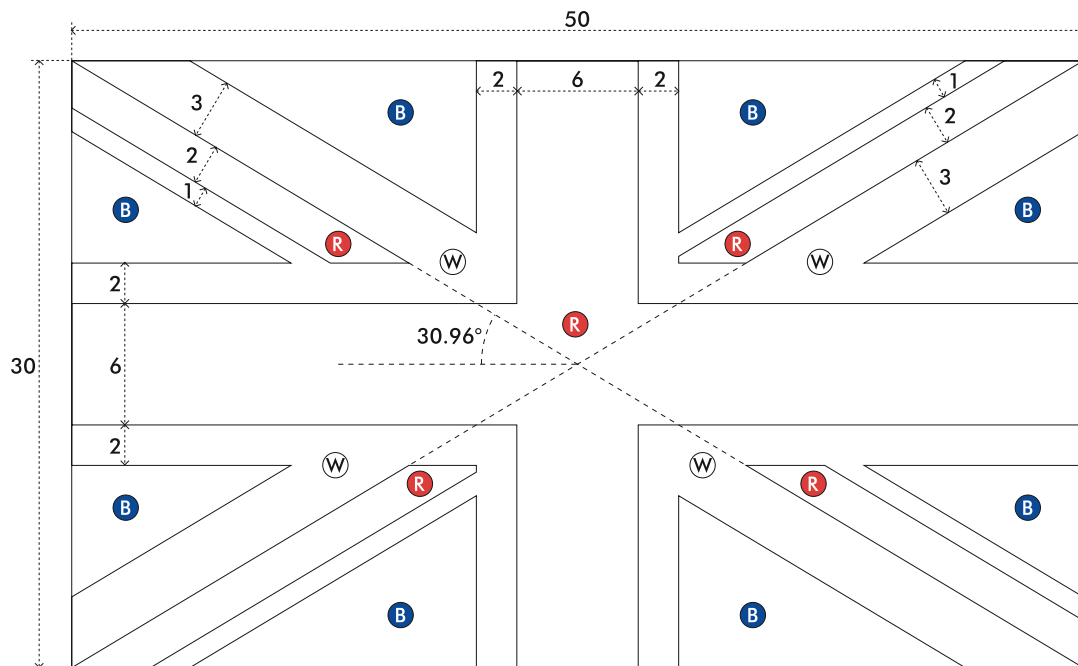


United Kingdom	Cape Verde	Japan	Qatar
England*	Central African Republic	Jordan	România
Scotland*	Chad	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation
Wales*	Chile	Kenya	Rwanda
Alderney*	China	Kiribati	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Anguilla*	Christmas Island†	Kosovo	Saint Lucia
Ascension Island*	Colombia	Kuwait	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bermuda*	Comoros	Kyrgyzstan	Samoa
British Antarctic Territory*	Congo-Brazzaville (ROC)	Laos	San Marino
British Indian Ocean Territory*	Congo-Kinshasa (DROC)	Latvia	São Tomé and Príncipe
British Virgin Islands*	Cook Islands†	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia
Cayman Islands*	Costa Rica	Lesotho	Senegal
Falkland Islands*	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Serbia
Gibraltar*	Croatia	Libya	Seychelles
Guernsey*	Cuba	Liechtenstein	Sierra Leone
Isle of Man*	Curaçao†	Lithuania	Singapore
Jersey*	Cyprus	Luxembourg	Sint Maarten†
Montserrat*	Czech Republic	Macau SAR†	Slovakia
Pitcairn Islands*	Denmark	Madagascar	Slovenia
Saint Helena*	Djibouti	Malawi	Solomon Islands
Sark*	Dominica	Malaysia	Somalia
South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands*	Dominican Republic	Maldives	South Africa
Tristan da Cunha*	Ecuador	Mali	South Korea
Turks and Caicos Islands*	Egypt	Malta	South Sudan
Afghanistan	El Salvador	Marshall Islands	Spain
Albania	Equatorial Guinea	Mauritania	Sri Lanka
Algeria	Eritrea	Mauritius	Sudan
American Samoa†	Estonia	México	Suriname
Andorra	Eswatini	Micronesia	Sweden
Angola	Ethiopia	Moldova	Switzerland
Antigua and Barbuda	Faroe Islands†	Monaco	Syria
Argentina	Fiji	Mongolia	Taiwan
Armenia	Finland	Montenegro	Tajikistan
Aruba†	France	Morocco	Tanzania
Australia	French Polynesia†	Mozambique	Thailand
Austria	Gabon	Namibia	Timor Leste
Azerbaijan	Gambia, The	Nauru	Togo
Bahamas, The	Georgia	Nepal	Tokelau†
Bahrain	Germany	Netherlands, The	Tonga
Bangladesh	Ghana	New Zealand	Trinidad and Tobago
Barbados	Greece	Nicaragua	Tunisia
Belarus	Greenland†	Niger	Turkey
Belgium	Grenada	Nigeria	Turkmenistan
Belize	Guam†	Niue†	Tuvalu
Benin	Guatemala	Norfolk Island†	Uganda
Bhután	Guinea	North Cyprus	Ukraine
Bolivia	Guinea-Bissau	North Korea	United Arab Emirates
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guyana	North Macedonia	United States of America
Botswana	Haiti	Northern Marianas†	Uruguay
Brazil	Honduras	Norway	Uzbekistan
Brunei Darusalam	Hong Kong SAR†	Oman	Vanuatu
Bulgaria	Hungary	Pakistan	Vatican City
Burkina Faso	Iceland	Palau	Venezuela
Burma	India	Panamá	Viêt Nam
Burundi	Indonesia	Papua New Guinea	Virgin Islands†
Cambodia	Irân	Paraguay	Yemen
Cameroon	Iraq	Perú	Zambia
Canada	Ireland	Poland	Zimbabwe
	Israel	Portugal	
	Italy	Puerto Rico†	
	Jamaica		



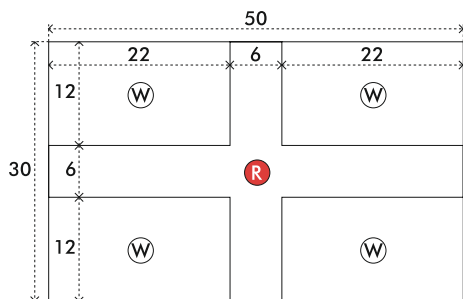
# Appendix C - United Kingdom Flag Specifications

The normal proportions for the national flags of the United Kingdom are 3:5 on land, but ensigns are customarily made in proportion 1:2.

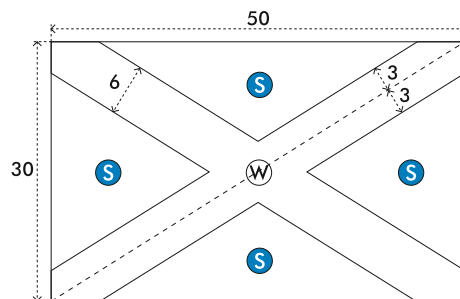


Union Flag

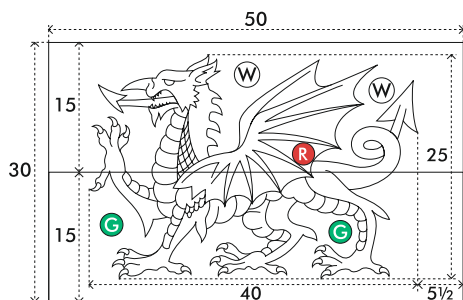
This is the 3:5 version for use on land. The specification for the 1:2 version replaces the length of 50 with 60 and the angle of 30.96° with 26.57°.



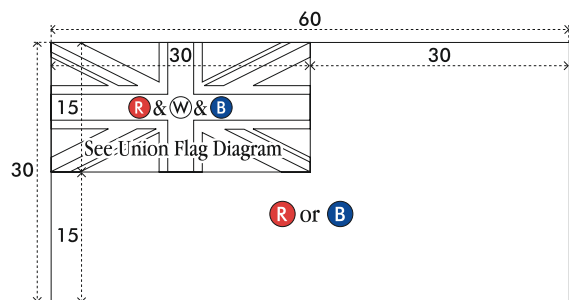
England



Scotland



Wales



Red and Blue Ensigns

Colour	Pantone Colour	CMYK Process Colour				Computer RGB		
		C	M	Y	K	R	G	B
<b>B</b> Royal Blue	280 C	100%	72%	0%	18.5%	0	36	125
<b>R</b> Red	186 C	0%	91%	76%	6%	207	20	43
<b>W</b> White	-	0%	0%	0%	0%	255	255	255
<b>S</b> Saltire Blue	300 C	100%	43%	0%	0%	0	110	199
<b>G</b> Green	354 C	91%	0%	83%	0%	0	176	82





## The Flag Institute

The Flag Institute is the British centre of excellence for everything connected with flags, past, present and future. It advises government departments, public bodies, commercial companies and individuals alike on all issues concerning flags, including ceremonial, constitutional as well as design, use and practical matters of flying flags. It is responsible for maintaining the Register of County Flags.

There are flag organisations in many countries and the Flag Institute is an active member of the *Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillogiques*, the international flag organisation.

The Institute publishes a twice-yearly illustrated journal, *Flagmaster*, which includes articles on wide and varied flag related subjects and in which details and pictures of new national and inter-national flags are presented.

Membership of the Flag Institute is open to everyone interested in flags, whether individuals, organisations or companies.

To find out more, or to request further copies of this booklet, please visit the Institute's website at:

[www.flaginstitute.org](http://www.flaginstitute.org)



## The Flags & Heraldry Committee

The Flags & Heraldry Committee is an All-Party Parliamentary Group of the United Kingdom parliament. It was formally established on 5th February 2008 as the All-Party Parliamentary Flag Group. It is comprised of MPs and Peers from across the political spectrum who wish to promote the flying of the national flag and all flags associated with the United Kingdom, the British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

The Committee is based within the Palace of Westminster and has become a vibrant and active body which has successfully lobbied the House authorities to fly the national flag on all the flag poles on the Parliamentary Estate at all times throughout the year. As a result of this long running campaign, led by Andrew Rosindell MP, the Committee's Chairman, and with the unwavering support of the Flag Institute, the national flag is now flown from the Victoria Tower of Parliament and all other flag poles, three hundred and sixty five days a year. A Private Members Bill was also tabled on the floor of the House of Commons defining the current design as the official flag of the United Kingdom.



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