

## FLAG INFORMATION CODE

The Flag Information Code was adopted on August 27, 1981. The code has been amended on July 5, 1995 and July 23, 2001. The current text of the code is set out below. It contains the exact text as adopted and amended.

### FLAG INFORMATION CODE

- Sec. 1 The Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV) adopts this Flag Information Code and encourages its use by FIAV Members, individual vexillologists, publishers, and others who study flags.
- Sec. 2 The purposes of the Code are:
- (a) to allow basic information about flags to be recorded and transmitted concisely, accurately, and in a manner which (1) insofar as possible eliminates misunderstandings and (2) is both easy to learn and comprehensible to persons knowing different languages;
  - (b) to standardize knowledge of flags in order to facilitate comparative studies of flag characteristics;
  - (c) to provide a convenient system for researchers, publishers, and others to record, exchange, and publish information; and
  - (d) to eliminate, insofar as possible, the confusion that exists in the terminology employed by governments and others to describe national flags and their use.
- Sec. 3 FLAG COLORS
- (a) The following abbreviations indicate flag colors:

R	(red)
O	(orange)
Y	(yellow)
V	(green)
B	(blue)
P	(purple)
N	(black)
W	(white)
G	(grey)
M	(brown)
Au	(gold)
Ag	(silver)
  - (b) Colors other than those listed above are not abbreviated.
  - (c) The following symbols indicate approximate color shades:

-	(light)
--	(very light)
+	(dark)
++	(very dark)
  - (d) The use of a color description without a symbol indicates a medium, normal, or unknown shade of the color.
- Sec. 4 FLAG PROPORTIONS
- Flag proportions are indicated by a ratio. The first figure corresponds to the width of the flag, which is defined as the side normally attached to the pole or staff. The second figure corresponds to the length of the flag. A flag with a width of 3 units and a length of 5 units is written either 3:5 or 3x5.

Sec. 5 NATIONAL FLAG USE

- (a) The following grid is used to describe the use or uses of a flag whose primary purpose is to identify nationality rather than some other characteristic (such as the rank of an individual, the existence of a specific government or military institution, or some other concept):



- (b) The six areas of the grid indicate the six basic uses of national flags: (1) use by private individuals and institutions on land; (2) use by nonmilitary governmental institutions on land; (3) use by military institutions on land; (4) use by private individuals and institutions at sea; (5) use by nonmilitary governmental institutions at sea; and (6) use by military institutions at sea. Private, nonmilitary governmental, and military use is indicated from left to right by the three vertical columns; use on land and at sea is indicated from top to bottom by the two horizontal rows.
- (c) The grid is written or printed in the line of identifying text near the flag illustration, together with the ratio indicating proportions. The use or uses of the flag are indicated by placing a point (•) or an × in the appropriate area or areas of the grid.

Sec. 6 The flag information summarized by the Code is not a substitute for a specific textual description of a flag and its use or uses.

Sec. 7 An amendment to the Code may be adopted only by the FIAV General Assembly. Before the General Assembly considers an amendment, the amendment should be discussed by individuals attending the International Congress of Vexillology during which the General Assembly session will be held. FIAV Members and individual vexillologists are encouraged to propose amendments based on their experience in using the Code.

Adopted August 27, 1981 by the Seventh Session of the General Assembly held during the Ninth International Congress of Vexillology at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Amended July 5, 1995 (III. A.) by the Fourteenth Session of the General Assembly held during the Sixteenth International Congress of Vexillology at Warszawa, Poland.

Amended July 23, 2001 (adding new section 1 and renumbering and amending remaining articles) by the Seventeenth Session of the General Assembly held during the Nineteenth International Congress of Vexillology at York, England, United Kingdom.