


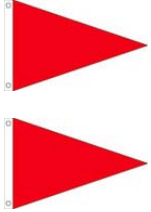
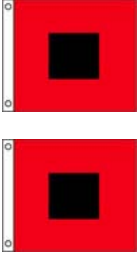




COURTESY FLAGS

Common Signals

“Q” Quarantine Flag				
Small Craft Warning			Storm Warning	
Gale Warning			Hurricane Warning	
Dive Flag (Rigid Alpha not less than 1 meter high)			Dive Flag (U.S. – Not official but commonly used)	

North, Central, and South America, Caribbean and Atlantic Islands

Anguilla			Galapagos Island (Must be displayed over Ecuadorian flag)	
Antigua / Barbuda			Grenada	
Argentina			Guatemala	
Aruba			Haiti	
Bahamas			Honduras	
Barbados			Jamaica	
Belize			Mexico	

COURTESY FLAGS

Bermuda			Nicaragua	
Brazil			Netherlands Antilles (For Dutch St. Maarten, Statia (St. Eustatius), Saba, and Bonaire)	
British "Red Duster"			Panama	
Canada			Puerto Rico	
Cayman Islands			St. Kitts / Nevis	
Chile (For Easter Island)			St. Lucia	
Columbia			St. Vincent / Grenadines (For St. Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, Carriacou, Canouan, the Tobago Cays, and Union)	
Costa Rica			Trinidad / Tobago	
Cuba			Turks and Caicos	
Curacao			United States	
Dominica			U.S. Yacht Ensign	
Dominican Republic			Venezuela	
El Salvador			British Virgin Islands	
Ecuador			U.S. Virgin Islands	
France (For French St. Martin, St. Barts, Guadeloupe, and Martinique)				

COURTESY FLAGS

European and Mediterranean

Azores (Must display over Portugal flag)			Italy	
Algeria			Madeira (Must display over Portugal flag)	
Belgium			Malta (with cross)	
British "Red Duster"			Monaco	
Canary Islands			Morocco	
Cape Verde Islands			Netherlands	
Croatia			Norway	
Cyprus			Poland	
Denmark			Portugal	
Egypt			Russia	
European Community			Scotland	
Finland			Spain (with seal)	
France			Sweden	





COURTESY FLAGS

Germany			Tunisia	
Gibraltar			Turkey	
Greece			Yugoslavia	
Ireland			Wales	
Israel				

African and Indian Ocean

Algeria			Mauritius	
Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory flag)			Morocco	
Djibouti			Oman	
Egypt			Seychelles	
India			Singapore	
Indonesia			South Africa	
Kenya			Sri Lanka	
Madagascar			St. Helena	

COURTESY FLAGS

Malaysia		Thailand	
Maldives		Tunisia	

Asian and Pacific Island

Australia (also used for Cocos Island (Keeling))		Papua New Guinea	
Cook Islands		Philippines	
Fiji		Pitcairn Island	
France (For French Society Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Noumèa)		American Samoa	
Guam		Western Samoa	
Hong Kong		Solomon Islands	
Japan		South Korea	
Kiribati		Tonga	
Marshall Islands		Thailand	
Micronesia		Tuvalu	
New Zealand		Vanuatu	

COURTESY FLAGS

U.S. State Flags

Alabama		Montana	
Alaska		Nebraska	
Arizona		Nevada	
Arkansas		New Hampshire	
California		New Jersey	
Colorado		New Mexico	
Connecticut		New York	
Delaware		North Carolina	
Florida		North Dakota	
Georgia		Ohio	
Hawaii		Oklahoma	
Idaho		Oregon	
Illinois		Pennsylvania	
Indiana		Rhode Island	
Iowa		South Carolina	
Kansas		South Dakota	

COURTESY FLAGS

Kentucky		Tennessee	
Louisiana		Texas	
Maine		Utah	
Maryland		Vermont	
Massachusetts		Virginia	
Michigan		Washington	
Minnesota		West Virginia	
Mississippi		Wisconsin	
Missouri		Wyoming	

Flag Etiquette

As a gesture of courtesy, cruisers should fly a foreign nation's flag when they enter and operate in its waters¹.

1. Rule No. 1—There are no real rules. Customs observed in various foreign waters differ from each other. There are cases where not flying or flying a courtesy flag improperly causes some awkward moments; you may be regarded as impolite, but nothing more. In others, it's local law to fly the flag. Officials can – and do – impound passports or assess fines until the proper flag – which, of course, can only be purchased locally at great expense – is flying on board. If in doubt, inquire of other cruisers and observe other craft from your country for guidance.
2. Do not fly a courtesy flag until your vessel is properly cleared by customs and immigration. Until clearance is complete, fly the yellow Q (quarantine) flag.
3. On a mastless powerboat, the courtesy flag replaces any flag that is normally flown at the bow.
4. If a powerboat has a mast with spreaders, the courtesy flag is flown at the starboard spreader.
5. On a two-masted powerboat, the courtesy flag displaces any flag normally flown at the forward spreader.

¹ Pulled from the web. Ties back to Chapman's Piloting courtesyFlags.pdf

COURTESY FLAGS

6. On a sailboat, the courtesy flag is flown at the starboard spreader. If the sailboat has more than one mast, the courtesy flag is flown from the starboard spreader of the forward mast.
7. Courtesy flags are usually Civil Ensigns – not the national flag of the country. Not every country has a civil ensign. However, most former British colonies do; it is usually the red variant of the flag. It's considered a horrible breach of etiquette to fly the blue national flag.
8. Don't fly a foreign courtesy flag after you return to U. S. waters. It may show that you've been there, but it's not proper etiquette.
9. Generally, the vessel's national flag is flown from the stern (or leach) when a courtesy flag displaces it.
10. It's better form for U. S. vessels to fly the U. S. flag (the "stars and stripes" with a full complement of 50 stars) at the stern or gaff or leech, rather than a Yacht Ensign. If you want to fly a Yacht or USPS Ensign, do so from the port spreader on a sailboat. If there are multiple flag halyards available on the starboard spreader, the Yacht or USPS Ensign is flown there, inboard from the courtesy ensign.
11. Any citizen of any state may fly the flag of that state unless doing so is specifically prohibited. It should be flown at the main masthead in place of any private, yacht club, or officer's flag. On a mastless boat, a state flag flies from either the bow or radio antenna.
12. No flag – state, heritage, Confederate, pirate, gag, or otherwise – except for the vessel's national flag, should EVER fly from the stern of your vessel. This is considered a place of honor, for the vessel's national flag and no other.

Sizing Flags

Chapman's recommends the following:

1. The flag at the stern of your boat—U. S. Ensign, Yacht Ensign, USPS Ensign, or vessel's national flag—should be one inch on the fly for every foot of overall vessel length (e. g. 48" flag for a 48' foot vessel).
2. Other flags—club burgees, private signals, or courtesy flags—should be ½" for every foot of overall vessel length.

COURTESY FLAGS

The Marine Alphabet – Phonetic, Flags, & Morse Code

A phonetic alphabet is a list of words used to identify letters in a message transmitted by radio or telephone. Spoken words from an approved list are substituted for letters. This practice helps to prevent confusion between similar sounding letters, such as "m" and "n", and to clarify communications that may be garbled during transmission.

An early version of the phonetic alphabet appeared in the U.S. Navy's 1913 edition of The Bluejackets' Manual. It was paired with the Alphabetical Code Flags defined in the International Code. Later Morse Code was added. During World War II, when it was necessary for the Navy to communicate with the Army or Allied forces, signalmen were directed to use standard words. These words changed again in 1957 when the current phonetic alphabet was introduced and adopted by international agreement. The current (1957) phonetic alphabet is:

Alpha		.-	November		-.
Bravo		-. . . .	Oscar		---
Charlie		-. -. .	Papa		.-.-.
Delta		-. . .	Quebec		---. -
Echo		.	Romeo		.- . .
Foxtrot		. . - . .	Sierra	
Golf		-. -. .	Tango		-
Hotel		Uniform		. . - -
India		. . .	Victor		. . . -
Juliette		. - - - -	Whiskey		. - - -
Kilo		-. . -	X-Ray		- . . . -
Lima		. - . . .	Yankee		- . - - -
Mike		- - . .	Zulu		- - . . .

Digit Morse

0		--- --	5	
1		. - - - -	6		-
2		. . - - -	7		- - . . .
3		. . . - -	8		- - - . .
4	 -	9		- - - - .