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FLAG CODE AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION





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N O T E

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization concerning the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers.

THE FLAG CODE

The following is the text of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization:

WHEREAS the Fifth World Meteorological Congress on 21 April 1967 (see paragraph 3.8.4 of the General Summary of the Abridged Report) decided that the flag of the World Meteorological Organization should be the official emblem of the Organization centred on a United Nations blue background, the emblem appearing in white, and authorized the application, mutatis mutandis, of the United Nations Flag Code in the use of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization, having in mind the desirability of a regulated use of the flag and the protection of its dignity;

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL of the World Meteorological Organization adopts the following Flag Code:

1. Design of flag

The flag of the World Meteorological Organization shall be the official emblem of the World Meteorological Organization centred on a United Nations blue background. Such emblem shall appear in white on both sides of the flag except when otherwise prescribed by regulation. The flag shall be made in such sizes as may from time to time be prescribed by regulation.

2. Dignity of flag

The flag shall not be subjected to any indignity.

3. Flag protocol

(1) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization shall not be subordinated to any other flag;

(2) The manner in which the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be flown, in relation to any other flag, shall be prescribed by regulation.

4. Use of flag by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations and specialized agencies of the United Nations

(1) The flag shall be flown:

- (a) From all buildings, offices and other property occupied by the World Meteorological Organization;
- (b) From any official residence when such residence has been so designated by regulation.

(2) The flag shall be used by any unit acting on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization such as any Committee or Technical Commission or Regional Association or other entity established by the World Meteorological Organization in such circumstances not covered in this Code as may become necessary in the interests of the World Meteorological Organization.

(3) The flag may be flown from all buildings, offices and other property occupied by the United Nations or any specialized agency of the United Nations.

5. Use of flag generally

The flag may be used in accordance with this Flag Code by governments, organizations and individuals to demonstrate support of the World Meteorological Organization and to further its principles and purposes. The manner and circumstances of display shall conform, in so far as appropriate, to the laws and customs applicable to the display of the national flag of the country in which the display is made.

6. Prohibition

The flag shall not be used in any manner inconsistent with this Code or with any regulations made pursuant thereto. On no account shall the flag or a replica thereof be used for commercial purposes or in direct association with an article of merchandise.

7. Mourning

The Secretary-General will prescribe by regulation or otherwise the cases in which the flag shall be flown at half-mast as sign of mourning.

8. Manufacture and sale of flag

(1) The flag may be manufactured for sale only upon written consent of the Secretary-General;

(2) Such consent shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) The flag shall be sold at a price to be agreed upon with the Secretary-General;

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the manufacturer to ensure that every purchaser of the flag is furnished with a copy of this Code as well as a copy of any regulations issued pursuant thereto, and that each purchaser is informed that his use of the flag is subject to the conditions contained in this Code and in the regulations made pursuant thereto.

9. Violation

Any violation of this Flag Code may be punished in accordance with the law of the country in which such violation takes place.

10. Regulations

(1) The Secretary-General may delegate his authority under this Code;

(2) The Secretary-General or his duly authorized representative is the only person empowered to make regulations under this Code. Such regulations may be made for the purposes indicated in this Code and generally for the purpose of implementing or clarifying any provision of this Code whenever the Secretary-General or his duly authorized representative considers such implementation or clarification necessary.

The Secretary-General,
World Meteorological Organization

REGULATIONS

With effect from 1 January 1968 the following Regulations implement the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization.

I. DIMENSIONS OF FLAG

(1) In pursuance to article 1 of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization the proportions of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization shall be:

(a) Hoist (width) of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization - 2,

Fly (length) of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization - 3;

or

(b) Hoist (width) of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization - 3,

Fly (length) of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization - 5;

or

(c) The same proportions as those of the national flag of any country in which the flag of the World Meteorological Organization is flown.

(2) The emblem shall in all cases be one half of the hoist of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization and entirely centred.

II. FLAG PROTOCOL

In pursuance to article 3 (2) of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization the manner in which the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be displayed is as follows:

1.

General provisions

- (a) Under article 5 of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be displayed or otherwise used in accordance with the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization by governments, organizations and individuals to demonstrate support of the World Meteorological Organization and to further its principles and purposes.
- (b) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be displayed alone or with one or more other flags to demonstrate support of the World Meteorological Organization and to further its principles and purposes. The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization may, however, limit such display to special occasions either generally or in particular areas. In special circumstances he may restrict the display of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization to official use by organs of the World Meteorological Organization or by the United Nations and specialized agencies.
- (c) When the flag of the World Meteorological Organization is displayed with one or more other flags, all flags so displayed should be displayed on the same level and should be of approximately equal size.
- (d) On no account may any flag displayed with the flag of the World Meteorological Organization be displayed on a higher level than the flag of the World Meteorological Organization and on no account may any flag so displayed with the flag of the World Meteorological Organization be larger than the flag of the World Meteorological Organization.
- (e) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be displayed on either side of any other flag without being deemed to be subordinated to any such flag within the meaning of article 3 (1) of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization.

- (f) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization should normally only be displayed on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs from sunrise to sunset. The flag of the World Meteorological Organization may also be so displayed at night upon special occasions.
- (g) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization should never be used as drapery of any sort, never festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free.

2. Closed circle of flags

Except in a circle consisting of flags of the United Nations and of the other specialized agencies, the flag of the World Meteorological Organization should in no case be made a part of a circle of flags. In such a circle of flags, flags other than the flag of the World Meteorological Organization should be displayed in the alphabetical order of the countries represented, reading clockwise, in French or in the language of the country where the ceremony takes place if that language is an official language of the World Meteorological Organization. The flag of the World Meteorological Organization itself should always be displayed on the flagpole in the centre of the circle of flags or in an appropriate adjoining area.

3. Line, cluster or semi-circle of flags

Except in cases where the flag of the World Meteorological Organization is displayed together with the flag of the United Nations and/or its other specialized agencies, all flags other than the flag of the World Meteorological Organization when displayed in line, cluster or semi-circle groupings, shall be displayed in the English alphabetical order of the countries represented starting from the left. The flag of the World Meteorological Organization, in such cases should either be displayed separately in an appropriate area or in the centre of the line, cluster or semi-circle, or, in cases where two flags of the World Meteorological Organization are available, at both ends of the line, cluster or semi-circle.

4. National flag of the country in which the display takes place

- (a) The national flag of the country in which the display takes place should appear in its normal position according to the English alphabetical order.
- (b) When the country in which the display takes place wishes to make a special display of its national flag, such a special display can only be made where the arrangement of the flags takes the form of a line, cluster or semi-circle grouping, in which case the national flag of the country in which the display is taking place should be displayed at each end of the line of flags separated from the grouping by an interval of not less than one fifth of the total length of the line.

III. USE OF FLAG GENERALLY

(1) In accordance with article 5 of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization, the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be used to demonstrate the support of the World Meteorological Organization and to further its principles and purposes.

(2) It is deemed especially appropriate that the Flag of the World Meteorological Organization should be displayed on the following occasions:

- (a) On all national and official holidays;
- (b) On World Meteorological Day, 23 March;
- (c) On the occasion of any official event, particularly in honour of the World Meteorological Organization;
- (d) On the occasion of any official event which might be or desired to be related in some way to the World Meteorological Organization.

IV. PROHIBITIONS

(1) In accordance with article 6 of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization on no account shall the flag of the World Meteorological Organization or a replica thereof be used for commercial purposes or in direct association with an article of merchandise.

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in paragraph (1) of this section, neither the flag of the World Meteorological Organization nor any replica thereof shall be stamped, printed, engraved or otherwise affixed on any stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications of any nature whatsoever in a manner such as could imply that any such stationery, books, magazines, periodicals or other publications were published by or on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization unless such is in fact the case or in a manner such as has the effect of advertising a commercial product.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) and (4) of this section neither the flag of the World Meteorological Organization nor any replica thereof should be affixed in any manner on any article of any kind which is not strictly necessary to the display of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization itself. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing sentence the flag of the World Meteorological Organization should not be reproduced on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs and the like, nor printed nor otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes, nor used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform or other clothing of any kind, nor used on jewellery.

(4) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this section, a replica of the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be manufactured in the form of a lapel button.

(5) No mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature shall ever be placed upon or attached to the flag of the World Meteorological Organization or placed upon any replica thereof.

V. MOURNING

(1) Upon the death of a Head of State or Head of Government of a Member State or Territory, the flag of the World Meteorological Organization will be flown at half-mast at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization at Geneva and at offices of the World Meteorological Organization located in that Member State or Territory.

(2) On such occasions, at headquarters, the flag of the World Meteorological Organization will be flown at half-mast for one day immediately upon learning of the death. If,

however, the flag has already been flying on that day it will not normally be lowered, but will instead be flown at half-mast on the day following the death.

(3) Should the procedure in paragraph (2) above not be practicable due to weather conditions or other reasons, the flag of the World Meteorological Organization may be flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral. Under exceptional circumstances it may be flown at half-mast on both the day of the death and the day of the funeral.

(4) Offices other than those covered by paragraph (1) above, in the case of the death of a national figure or a Head of State or Head of Government of a Member State or Territory, will use their discretion, taking into account the local practice, in consultation with the protocol office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other appropriate government office and/or the dean of the locally accredited diplomatic corps.

(5) The head of a specialized agency of the United Nations is authorized by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to lower the flag of the World Meteorological Organization flown by the agency to half-mast in cases where he wishes to follow the official mourning of the country in which the office of the agency is located. He may also lower the flag of the World Meteorological Organization to half-mast on any occasion when the specialized agency is in official mourning.

(6) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization may also be flown at half-mast on special instructions of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization on the death of a world figure who has had a significant connexion with the World Meteorological Organization.

(7) The Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization may in special circumstances decide that the flag of the World Meteorological Organization, wherever displayed, shall be flown at half-mast during a period of official United Nations mourning.

(8) The flag of the World Meteorological Organization when displayed at half-mast should first be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-mast position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

(9) When the flag of the World Meteorological Organization is flown at half-mast no other flag will be displayed.

(10) Crêpe streamers may be affixed to flagstaffs flying the flag of the World Meteorological Organization in a funeral procession only by order of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization.

(11) When the flag of the World Meteorological Organization is used to cover a casket, it should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

VI. MANUFACTURE OF THE FLAG OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

In accordance with article 8 (2) (a) of the Flag Code of the World Meteorological Organization, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization hereby grants permission to sell the flag of the World Meteorological Organization without reference to him as to the price to be charged.

VII. ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Attached is a schedule setting out the English alphabetical order of the Members of the World Meteorological Organization.

The Secretary-General,
World Meteorological Organization

MEMBERS OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION *

STATES

Afghanistan	Ghana	Pakistan
Albania	Greece	Panama
Algeria	Guatemala	Paraguay
Argentina	Guinea	Peru
Australia	Guyana	Philippines
Austria	Haiti	Poland
Barbados	Honduras	Portugal
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Bolivia	Iceland	Rwanda
Botswana	India	Saudi Arabia
Brazil	Indonesia	Senegal
Bulgaria	Iran	Sierra Leone
Burma	Iraq	Singapore
Burundi	Ireland	Somalia
Byelorussian S.S.R.	Israel	South Africa
Cambodia	Italy	Spain
Cameroon	Ivory Coast	Sudan
Canada	Jamaica	Sweden
Central African Republic	Japan	Switzerland
Ceylon	Jordan	Syria
Chad	Kenya	Tanzania, United Republic of
Chile	Korea, Republic of	Thailand
China	Kuwait	Togo
Colombia	Laos	Trinidad and Tobago
Congo, Republic of	Lebanon	Tunisia
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Libya	Turkey
Costa Rica	Luxembourg	Uganda
Cuba	Madagascar	Ukrainian S.S.R.
Cyprus	Malawi	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Czechoslovakia	Malaysia	United Arab Republic
Dahomey	Mali	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Denmark	Mauritania	United States of America
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Upper Volta
Ecuador	Mongolia	Uruguay
El Salvador	Morocco	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Nepal	Viet-Nam
Finland	Netherlands	Yugoslavia
France	New Zealand	Zambia
Gabon	Nicaragua	
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Niger	
	Nigeria	
	Norway	

* On 1 April 1968

Note: The form used for the names of States is that prescribed by the United Nations for all ordinary purposes (see instruction N° 35/Rev.3 of the European Office).

TERRITORIES

British Caribbean Territories	New Caledonia
French Polynesia	Portuguese East Africa
French Territory of the Afars and Issa	Portuguese West Africa
Hong Kong	Southern Rhodesia
Mauritius	Spanish Territories of Guinea
Netherlands Antilles	Surinam

Note: In the event of any provision contained in this code or in any regulation made under this code being in conflict with the laws of any State or Territory governing the use of its national or territorial flag, the said laws of any such State or Territory shall prevail.