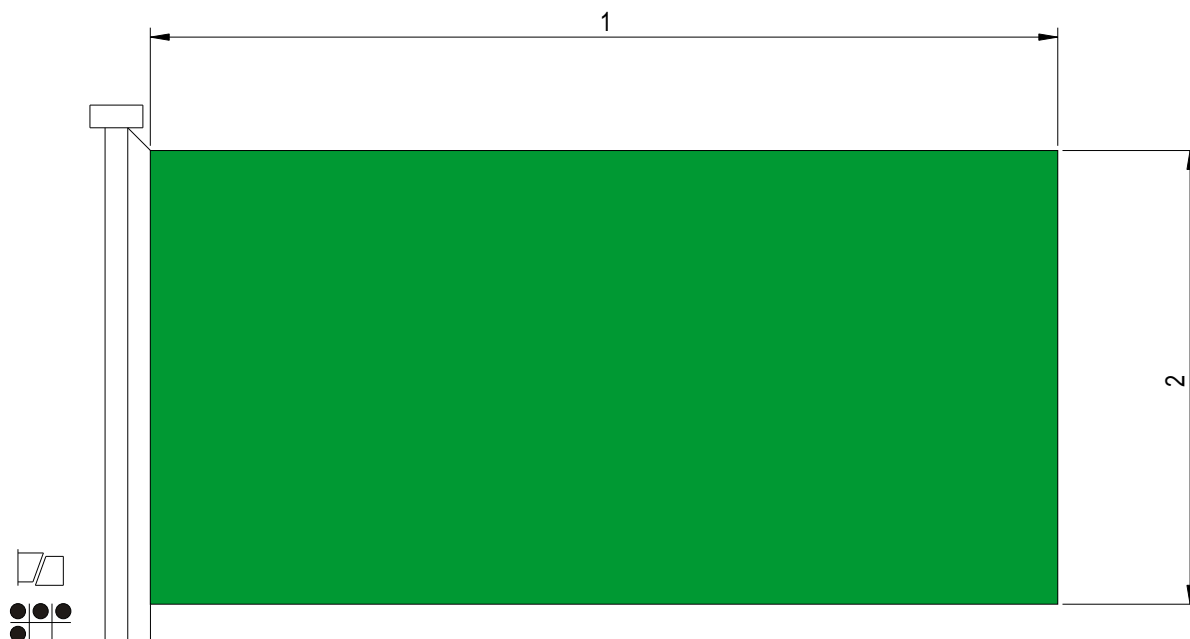


SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
FLAG SPECIFICATION SHEET

Libya

National flag 1977 - 2011



DATA		COLOUR RECOMMENDATIONS					
		Colour	Pantone	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National flag and Civil ensign	Green	355c	100	0	90	5
Ratio:	1 :2, 2 : 3						
Adopted:	11 Nov 1977						
Abolished:	23 Aug 2011						
Designer:	-						

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

The visit of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to Israel on 19 November 1977 resulted in a break in relations between Egypt and those Arab states supporting a hard line position against Israel. Libya subsequently resigned from the Federation of Arab Republics and abandoned the red, white and black tricolour charged with the gold hawk (see SV - LY - 01.4 - 1).

Libya subsequently adopted a plain green flag on what was originally intended to be a temporary basis. The *Flag Bulletin* observed at the time that the meaning of the flag was unclear but hypothesised that since red, white, black and green are the traditional Pan-Arab colours, it may have been that the new flag was chosen simply as the only acceptable one of the four. The adoption of a plain green flag was the world's first monochromatic national flag since Oman abandoned its plain red flag in 1970.

The flag continued to fly as Libya's official national flag until an uprising in 2011 ousted Gaddafi and his regime. The green was said to reflect Gaddafi's promise of a Green Revolution transforming Libya into a self-sufficient food producing country. Green is also said to have been the favourite colour of the Prophet Mohammed and is internationally associated with Islam.

Sources:

"*Flags and Arms through the World*" (1980) by Whitney Smith, *Flag Bulletin* 1977 (Vol. XVI:6)