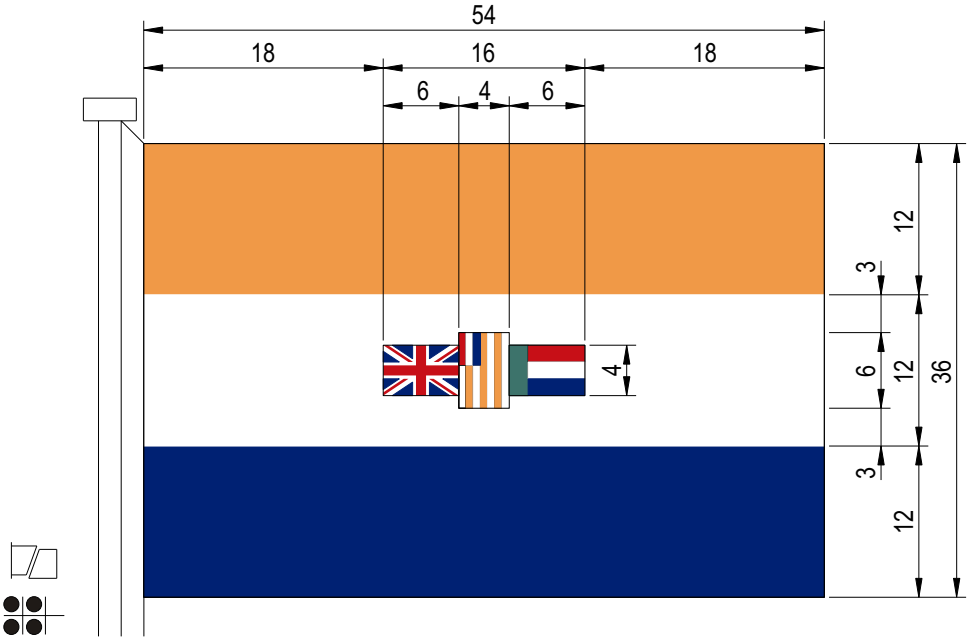
SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
FLAG SPECIFICATION SHEET

South Africa

National flag 1928 - 1994



DATA		COLOUR RECOMMENDATIONS					
		Colour	BCC	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National flag, Civil ensign and jack	Red	210	0	91	76	6
Ratio:	2 : 3	Green	24	60	0	40	40
Adopted:	31 May 1928	Orange	57	0	40	80	0
Abolished:	27 Apr 1994	Blue (Solway)	218	60	0	80	20
Designer:	-	Blue (Union flag)	150	100	72	0	18.5

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

Following a bitter parliamentary debate, the Union of South Africa adopted a new National flag on 31 May 1928. The colours chosen were those of the former flag of the Netherlands, the "*Prinzenvlag*", consisting of three equal stripes of orange (top),white and blue. In the centre of the white stripe appeared the following three smaller flags (from hoist to fly): The British Union Flag (or Jack), the Orange Free State flag and the Transvaal (or formerly the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek) flag. The flag of the Orange Free State was depicted vertically so that the present-day Dutch flag was in the canton onthe hoist side,whilst the British flag was shown with it's hoist adjacent to the left of this,which has led tomany (erroneous) comments over the years that it is upside-down.The reason for this unique arrangement was so that all the flags enjoyed equal status as in terms of vexillological protocol, the flag on the left is considered to be the most important and having the position of seniority.

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The Union Jack represents the two former British possessions, the Cape Colony and Natal, whilst the two most dominant Boer Republics are represented by the Transvaal and Orange Free State flags.

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(Continued overleaf)