SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
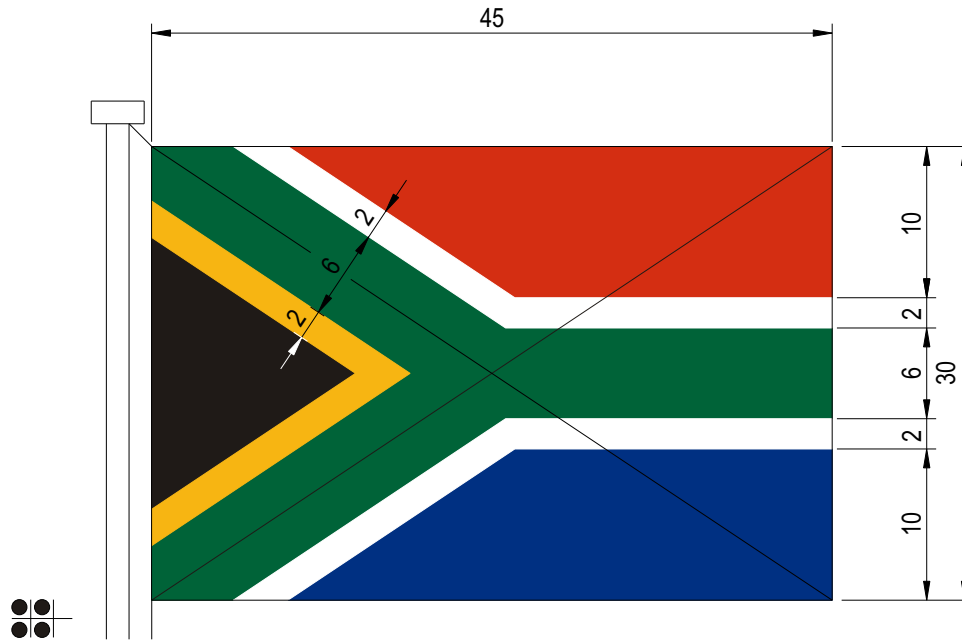## FLAG SPECIFICATION SHEET
South Africa
National flag

DATA		COLOUR SPECIFICATIONS					
		Colour	Pantone	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National Flag, Civil ensign and jack	National flag red	485c	0	100	90	0
Ratio:	2 : 3	Green	349c	100	0	85	40
Adopted:	27 Apr 1994	Yellow	1235c	0	25	80	0
Abolished:	In Use	Reflex Blue	288c	100	65	0	30
Designer:	FG Brownell						

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

The colours of the South African flag do not really have symbolic meaning in themselves. According to Mr. Frederick Brownell, the former State Herald who played a large role in the original design, while the colours of the flag do not have any official symbolism, they do represent a synopsis of the country's flag history. The design in turn, represents a converging of paths, the merging of both the past and the present.

Black, Gold and Green, which were first incorporated into South African National flags in the 19th century, also feature prominently in the flags of the liberation movements, particularly the African National Congress, the Pan-African Congress and Inkatha. These colours can thus be said to broadly represent the country's Black population.

Blue, White, Red and Green reflect the British and Dutch (later Boer) influence, as shown in the earliest flags flown in South Africa, and also featured prominently in the former South African National flag (1928-1994) and thus represents the White population of South Africa The Green pall (the Y-shape) is commonly interpreted to mean the unification of the various ethnic groups and the advancement into a new, united South Africa.

Source: The Story of our National Flag, SAVA (unpublished mimeo).   .