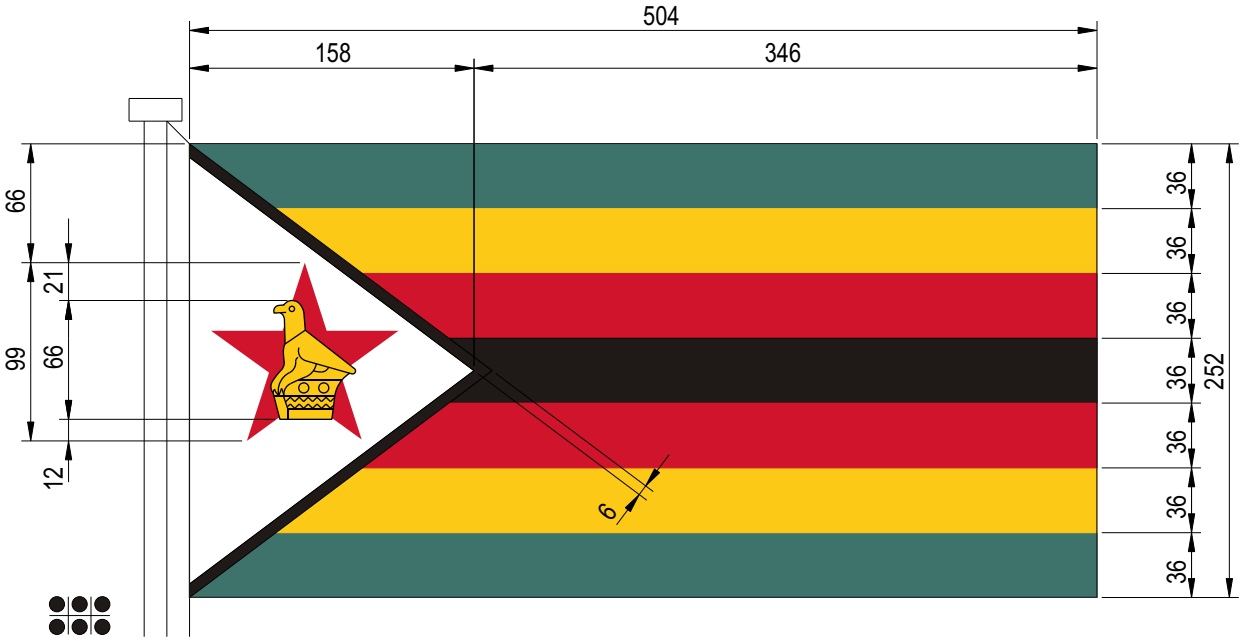
SOUTHERN AFRICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

FLAG SPECIFICATION SHEET

Zimbabwe

National flag



DATA		COLOUR RECOMMENDATIONS					
		Colour	Pantone	C	M	Y	K
Usage:	National Flag	Green	348c	100	0	80	5
Ratio:	1 : 2	Yellow	123c-	0	30	95	0
Adopted:	18 Apr 1980	Red	185c	50	0	0	20
Abolished:	In Use						
Designer:	-						

HISTORY AND SYMBOLISM

The Flag Bulletin (XX:1) states that the design of the new Zimbabwe flag "was submitted by a government independence celebrations committee headed by Mr Richard Hove, the Minister of Public Works". According to a letter sent to the Flag Research Center by Flight Lieutenant Cederic Herbert of the then Rhodesian Air Force (and a member of the Rhodesian Heraldry & Genealogy Society) the initial design did not include the Zimbabwe Bird, and that this "was added [to the design] after I had pointed out its uniqueness and history". So while Mr Herbert influenced the final design, it cannot be said that he is the actual designer of the flag. The same *Flag Bulletin* article reported that on 25 March 1980, the then Prime Minister-elect (later President) Robert Mugabe saw and approved the final design which was made public the following day.

Meaning of the colours:

Black stripe - for the black majority

Red stripe - blood spilled during the armed struggle

Yellow stripe - the country's mineral wealth

Green stripe - the vegitation and agriculture

White triangle - peace

Red star - the nation's aspirations

The official specification sheet displays the Zimbabwe Bird with a somewhat short neck as illustrated above. Flags manufactured in Zimbabwe have a Zimbabwe Bird with a longer neck as shown in the flag illustration.

Source: *Bruce Berry*