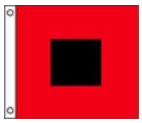
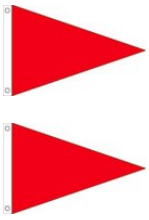
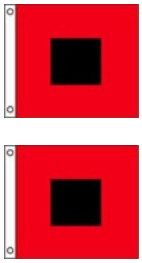
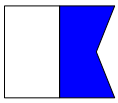
COURTESY FLAGS

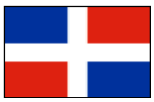
Common Signals

"Q" Quarantine Flag				
Small Craft Warning			**Storm Warning**	
Gale Warning			**Hurricane Warning**	
Dive Flag (Rigid Alpha not less than 1 meter high)			**Dive Flag** (U.S. – Not official but commonly used)	

North, Central, and South America, Caribbean and Atlantic Islands

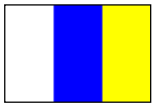
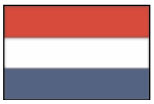
Anguilla			**Galapagos Island** (Must be displayed over Ecuadorian flag)	
Antigua / Barbuda			**Grenada**	
Argentina			**Guatemala**	
Aruba			**Haiti**	
Bahamas			**Honduras**	
Barbados			**Jamaica**	
Belize			**Mexico**	

COURTESY FLAGS

Bermuda			**Nicaragua**	
Brazil			**Netherlands Antilles** (For Dutch St. Maarten, Statia (St. Eustatius), Saba, and Bonaire)	
British "Red Duster"			**Panama**	
Canada			**Puerto Rico**	
Cayman Islands			**St. Kitts / Nevis**	
Chile (For Easter Island)			**St. Lucia**	
Columbia			**St. Vincent / Grenadines** (For St. Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, Carriacou, Canouan, the Tobago Cays, and Union)	
Costa Rica			**Trinidad / Tobago**	
Cuba			**Turks and Caicos**	
Curacao			**United States**	
Dominica			**U.S. Yacht Ensign**	
Dominican Republic			**Venezuela**	
El Salvador			**British Virgin Islands**	
Ecuador			**U.S. Virgin Islands**	
France (For French St. Martin, St. Barts, Guadeloupe, and				

Martinique)				

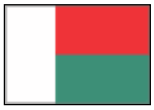
European and Mediterranean

Azores (Must display over Portugal flag)			**Italy**	
Algeria			**Madeira** (Must display over Portugal flag)	
Belgium			**Malta** (with cross)	
British "Red Duster"			**Monaco**	
Canary Islands			**Morocco**	
Cape Verde Islands			**Netherlands**	
Croatia			**Norway**	
Cyprus			**Poland**	
Denmark			**Portugal**	
Egypt			**Russia**	
European Community			**Scotland**	
Finland			**Spain** (with seal)	
France			**Sweden**	

COURTESY FLAGS

Germany			**Tunisia**	
Gibraltar			**Turkey**	
Greece			**Yugoslavia**	
Ireland			**Wales**	
Israel				

African and Indian Ocean

Algeria			**Mauritius**	
Chagos Archipelago (British Indian Ocean Territory flag)			**Morocco**	
Djibouti			**Oman**	
Egypt			**Seychelles**	
India			**Singapore**	
Indonesia			**South Africa**	
Kenya			**Sri Lanka**	
Madagascar			**St. Helena**	

Malaysia			**Thailand**	
Maldives			**Tunisia**	

Asian and Pacific Island

Australia (also used for Cocos Island (Keeling))			**Papua New Guinea**	
Cook Islands			**Philippines**	
Fiji			**Pitcairn Island**	
France (For French Society Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Noumèa)			**American Samoa**	
Guam			**Western Samoa**	
Hong Kong			**Solomon Islands**	
Japan			**South Korea**	
Kiribati			**Tonga**	
Marshall Islands			**Thailand**	
Micronesia			**Tuvalu**	
New Zealand			**Vanuatu**	

COURTESY FLAGS

U.S. State Flags

Alabama			Montana	
Alaska			Nebraska	
Arizona			Nevada	
Arkansas			New Hampshire	
California			New Jersey	
Colorado			New Mexico	
Connecticut			New York	
Delaware			North Carolina	
Florida			North Dakota	
Georgia			Ohio	
Hawaii			Oklahoma	
Idaho			Oregon	
Illinois			Pennsylvania	
Indiana			Rhode Island	
Iowa			South Carolina	
Kansas			South Dakota	

COURTESY FLAGS

Kentucky			**Tennessee**	
Louisiana			**Texas**	
Maine			**Utah**	
Maryland			**Vermont**	
Massachusetts			**Virginia**	
Michigan			**Washington**	
Minnesota			**West Virginia**	
Mississippi			**Wisconsin**	
Missouri			**Wyoming**	

Flag Etiquette

As a gesture of courtesy, cruisers should fly a foreign nation's flag when they enter and operate in its waters[1].

1. Rule No. 1—There are no real rules. Customs observed in various foreign waters differ from each other. There are cases where not flying or flying a courtesy flag improperly causes some awkward moments; you may be regarded as impolite, but nothing more. In others, it's local law to fly the flag. Officials can – and do – impound passports or assess fines until the proper flag – which, of course, can only be purchased locally at great expense – is flying on board. If in doubt, inquire of other cruisers and observe other craft from your country for guidance.
2. Do not fly a courtesy flag until your vessel is properly cleared by customs and immigration. Until clearance is complete, fly the yellow Q (quarantine) flag.
3. On a mastless powerboat, the courtesy flag replaces any flag that is normally flown at the bow.
4. If a powerboat has a mast with spreaders, the courtesy flag is flown at the starboard spreader.
5. On a two-masted powerboat, the courtesy flag displaces any flag normally flown at the forward spreader.

[1] Pulled from the web. Ties back to Chapman's Piloting

6. On a sailboat, the courtesy flag is flown at the starboard spreader. If the sailboat has more than one mast, the courtesy flag is flown from the starboard spreader of the forward mast.
7. Courtesy flags are usually Civil Ensigns – not the national flag of the country. Not every country has a civil ensign. However, most former British colonies do; it is usually the red variant of the flag. It's considered a horrible breach of etiquette to fly the blue national flag.
8. Don't fly a foreign courtesy flag after you return to U. S. waters. It may show that you've been there, but its not proper etiquette.
9. Generally, the vessel's national flag is flown from the stern (or leach) when a courtesy flag displaces it.
10. It's better form for U. S. vessels to fly the U. S. flag (the "stars and stripes" with a full complement of 50 stars) at the stern or gaff or leech, rather than a Yacht Ensign. If you want to fly a Yacht or USPS Ensign, do so from the port spreader on a sailboat. If there are multiple flag halyards available on the starboard spreader, the Yacht or USPS Ensign is flown there, inboard from the courtesy ensign.
11. Any citizen of any state may fly the flag of that state unless doing so is specifically prohibited. It should be flown at the main masthead in place of any private, yacht club, or officer's flag. On a mastless boat, a state flag flies from either the bow or radio antenna.
12. No flag – state, heritage, Confederate, pirate, gag, or otherwise – except for the vessel's national flag, should EVER fly from the stern of your vessel. This is considered a place of honor, for the vessel's national flag and no other.

Sizing Flags

Chapman's recommends the following:

1. The flag at the stern of your boat—U. S. Ensign, Yacht Ensign, USPS Ensign, or vessel's national flag—should be one inch on the fly for every foot of overall vessel length (e. g. 48" flag for a 48' foot vessel).
2. Other flags—club burgees, private signals, or courtesy flags—should be ½" for every foot of overall vessel length.

COURTESY FLAGS

The Marine Alphabet – Phonetic, Flags, & Morse Code

A phonetic alphabet is a list of words used to identify letters in a message transmitted by radio or telephone. Spoken words from an approved list are substituted for letters. This practice helps to prevent confusion between similar sounding letters, such as "m" and "n", and to clarify communications that may be garbled during transmission.

An early version of the phonetic alphabet appeared in the U.S. Navy's 1913 edition of The Bluejackets' Manual. It was paired with the Alphabetical Code Flags defined in the International Code. Later Morse Code was added. During World War II, when it was necessary for the Navy to communicate with the Army or Allied forces, signalmen were directed to use standard words. These words changed again in 1957 when the current phonetic alphabet was introduced and adopted by international agreement. The current (1957) phonetic alphabet is:

Alpha		. –	**N**ovember		– .
Bravo		– . . .	**O**scar		– – –
Charlie		– . – .	**P**apa		. – – .
Delta		– . .	**Q**uebec		– – . –
Echo		.	**R**omeo		. – .
Foxtrot		. . – .	**S**ierra		. . .
Golf		– – .	**T**ango		–
Hotel		. . . .	**U**niform		. . –
India		. .	**V**ictor		. . . –
Juliette		. – – –	**W**hiskey		. – –
Kilo		– . –	**X**-Ray		– . . –
Lima		. – . .	**Y**ankee		– . – –
Mike		– –	**Z**ulu		– – . .

Digit Morse

0		– – – – –	**5**		. . . . .
1		. – – – –	**6**		– . . . .
2		. . – – –	**7**		– – . . .
3		. . . – –	**8**		– – – . .
4		. . . . –	**9**		– – – – .