

ANNEX 91B

THE BLUE AND RED ENSIGNS OF HER MAJESTY'S FLEET

PART 1. BLUE ENSIGN

1. United Kingdom – Defaced Blue Ensigns Authorised for Use Afloat, and also Ashore.

There are more than one hundred differently defaced Blue Ensigns currently in use throughout the Commonwealth, but the greatest number will be found in the United Kingdom. Many of them are authorised for privileged yacht clubs, but several are used within the wider public service and some by privatised utilities. In several cases the name of the department or organisation has changed since the issue of the original warrant. The majority may be encountered at sea but some are mainly used on inland waters or ashore. The most significant are listed below and the year of authorisation is given in brackets where known.

a. Ministry of Defence

Combined Cadet Force Naval Sections (about 1940)
 Army Department vessels (badge without crown – about 1900)
 Government Service Ensign (1974) ([Note 1](#))
 HMAVs (badge with crown – 1996)
 Ministry of Defence Police (1971)
 Royal Engineers Diving Training Wing (1871) ([Note 2](#))
 Royal Fleet Auxiliary (1968)
 Sea Cadet Corps (1942)

Notes:

1. *This ensign is used by miscellaneous naval owned auxiliaries, certain chartered vessels, joint service sail training establishments and their craft, and vessels in the service of naval training establishments.*
2. *Now only flown ashore on corps ceremonial occasions.*

b. Government Departments, Non-Departmental Public Bodies and other Organisations

Aberdeen Harbour Board (1974)
 British Antarctic Survey (1963)
 Cable and Wireless Marine (1877)
 Department of Trade and Industry (before 1875)
 HM Coastguard (1822)
 HM Customs and Excise (1948)
 Irish Lights (1867) ([Note 1](#))
 Lloyds of London (1882)
 Marine Society (1876)
 Mersey Docks and Harbour Company (1912)
 Metropolitan Police (1952)
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ([Note 2](#))
 Northern Lighthouse Board (1855)
 Ocean Weather Service (1947)
 Port of London Authority (1911)

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Royal Gibraltar Police
Royal Hospital School (about 1950)
Royal Ulster Constabulary (1948)
Scottish Office Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries Department (1885)

Notes:

1. *The Republic of Ireland's Irish Lights Organisation maintains lighthouses in Northern Ireland also, where this is the proper ensign for display at facilities.*

2. *Date unknown, records lost.*

c. **United Kingdom Yacht Clubs and Sailing Associations.** The many privileged yacht clubs

2. **Crown Dependencies.** Defaced Blue Ensigns are authorised for vessels in the service of the States of Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney under Admiralty warrants dated 1992 and 2000.

3. **United Kingdom Overseas Territories.** Each United Kingdom Overseas territory with indigenous inhabitants is authorised to use a Blue Ensign defaced with the badge or seal of the territory as its land flag, and as the ensign for local government vessels. However, by long standing custom and practice, Bermuda uniquely uses its defaced Red Ensign as the land flag. Dates of authorisation of the latest designs are given in brackets.

Anguilla (1990)
Bermuda (1910)
British Virgin Islands (1960)
Cayman Islands (1959)
Falkland Islands (1948)
Gibraltar (1875)
Montserrat (1960)
Pitcairn Island and Dependencies (1984)
St Helena and Dependencies (1994) (see [Note](#))
Turks and Caicos Islands (1958)

Note. *Tristan da Cunha is presently seeking approval for its own unique land flag*

4. **Commonwealth and Foreign Countries.** A significant number of defaced Blue Ensigns are in use throughout the Commonwealth and in certain foreign countries also. The majority of those belong to yacht clubs and are authorised by Admiralty warrant. However in Australia several also belong to public service departments and are recognised by the Australian Flags Act.

PART 2. RED ENSIGN

1. **United Kingdom – Defaced Red Ensigns Authorised for Use Afloat.** Of more than thirty different Red Ensigns currently in use the greatest number will be found in the United Kingdom. Some are authorised for privileged yacht clubs, but some are used within the public service. The most significant are listed below and the year of authorisation is given in brackets where known.

a. **Crown Dependencies**

Isle of Man (1971)
Guernsey (1985) (see [Note](#))

Note. *The bailiwick of Jersey has no special Red Ensign*

b. **Non-Departmental Public Bodies and Associated Organisations**

Corporation of Trinity House (1771)
Eastern Sea Fisheries (1900)
Maritime Volunteer Force (1998)
North Wales and North West Sea Fisheries (1901)
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (1964)
Scout Association (between 1954 and 1971) (see [Note](#))
South Wales Sea Fisheries (1979)

Note. *Records lost*

c. **United Kingdom Overseas Territories**

Bermuda (1910) (*see note*)
Cayman Islands (1998)
Falkland Islands (1999)
Gibraltar (1996)

Note. *Uniquely for a United Kingdom Overseas Territory this is the recognised land flag also*

2. **The Commonwealth.** A small number of defaced Red Ensigns are authorised for use both afloat and ashore within the Commonwealth.