

Flying the flag:

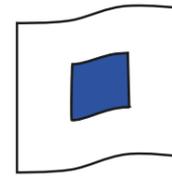
From the earliest days of ships, flags have been used to pass messages and some flags are still used today



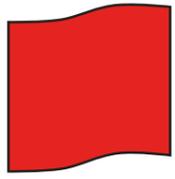
A, Alpha or "I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed."



J, Juliet or "I am on fire and have dangerous cargo on board: keep well clear of me." or "I am leaking dangerous cargo."



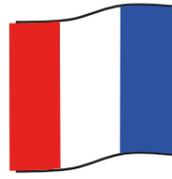
S, Sierra or "I am operating astern propulsion."



B, Bravo or "I am taking in or discharging or carrying dangerous goods."



K, Kilo or "I wish to communicate with you."



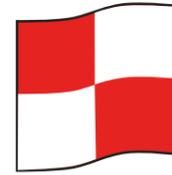
T, Tango or "Keep clear of me; I am engaged in pair trawling."



C, Charlie or "Affirmative."



L, Lima or In harbour: "The ship is quarantined." At sea: "You should stop your vessel instantly."



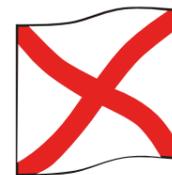
U, Uniform or "You are running into danger."



D, Delta or "Keep clear of me; I am maneuvering with difficulty."



M, Mike or "My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water."



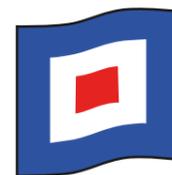
V, Victor or "I require assistance."



E, Echo or "I am altering my course to starboard."



N, November or "Negative."



W, Whiskey or "I require medical assistance."



F, Foxtrot or "I am disabled; communicate with me."



O, Oscar or "Man overboard." [b] (often attached to the man overboard pole on boats). With a sinister hoist, the semaphore flag.



X, Xray or "Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals."



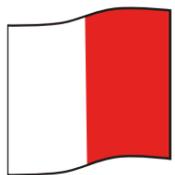
G, Golf or "I require a pilot."



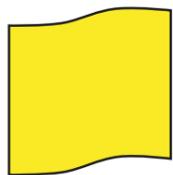
P, Papa or "The Blue Peter. In harbour: All persons should report on board as the vessel is about to proceed to sea. At sea: It may be used by fishing vessels to mean: "My nets have come fast upon an obstruction."



Y, Yankee or "I am dragging my anchor."



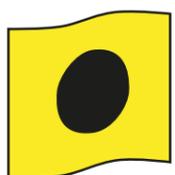
H, Hotel or "I have a pilot onboard."



Q, Quebec or "My vessel is 'healthy' and I request free pratique."



Z, Zulu or "I require a tug." By fishing vessels near fishing grounds: "I am shooting nets."



I, India or "I am altering my course to port."



R, Romeo (no ICS meaning as a single flag.)



Hidden on the map signs around the Maritime Trail are six flags: Can you work out which part of a ship they spell out?

