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Glossary

appliqué a method of attaching a coloured piece of fabric on the background by drawing a design on the appliqué fabric and sewing a row of zig-zag along the lines and cutting back the excess

armorial banner a banner displaying a coat of arms

arms the official heraldic symbols of a family, state etc; bear arms to have a coat of arms

artist craftsman a skilled artist who completes a product from design to finish, instead of doing only a part of the job

backing the piece of appliqué fabric which is placed at the back of the field and gets sewn at the same time as the front of the appliqué (also see lining)

badge an emblem signifying employment, membership, achievement etc., which can be used separately or appliquéd on a flag or a banner

ball point needle a needle used when sewing knitted fabrics

banner any kind of flag, especially one with coat of arms, or a flag hanging from a crossbar

banneret a small ceremonial flag

bucket loop at the end of halyard rope through which toggle (see) is pushed when attaching flag to halyard

bias (on the bias) the direction on a fabric 45° from the grain

bicolour two-coloured flag, usually in equal fields

breadth (width) the width of the flag measured along the hoist edge

bunting strong, light, loosely woven plain weave fabric used in flags, nowadays of polyester, traditionally wool; also a string of small decorative flags

burgee triangular or swallow-tailed yacht club flag

canton upper hoist quarter of a flag

charge an object, device or emblem on the field of a flag or a banner

cleat a device near the bottom of a flag pole consisting of two prongs projecting in opposite directions from a central base, used to secure the halyard rope

clip a device used to attach a flag to halyard; see Inglefield clip, looped clip, swivel clip, becket, toggle

cockade a bow of national colours fixed to the top of a flag staff

code flags flags representing numbers or letters of an alphabet, used on boats and ships

couped cross a cross whose arms do not extend to the edge of the flag

courtesy flag the civil ensign of a host country flown by a visiting ship

crest in heraldry a symbol of a family or office in addition to a coat of arms, placed on the top of the helmet

deface to add a badge or charge or text to an existing flag

dexter left side of a flag seen by a viewer

dimensions the actual width and length of a flag, expressed in this order

emblem a heraldic device representing a country, person or organization

embroidery a way of decorating fabric with series of closely sewn stitches with various lengths, forming a smooth surface

ensign a national flag flown by ships or government services

epidiascope (episcope, opaque projector, direct projector) a device for projecting enlarged images of printed artwork onto a wall or screen

eyelet (grommet) a strip of metal strengthening the edges of a hole in fabric

field background or predominant colour of flag

fimbriation a narrow strip of colour separating two other colours

finial the ornamental top of a flag staff

flag a piece of cloth, often attached to a pole or staff and used as a symbol or as a means of signalling

flag artist a person who designs or draws flags, or a skilled flagmaker who produces flags from design stage to finish

flagmaker a person who designs and makes flags

flag sewer a person who works under directions of a flagmaker, seaming and appliquing flags

flammule a flag edging shaped like a tongue or flame, often used in Oriental flags

flat felled seam a seam in which the edges of two pieces of fabric are folded and sewn together with two rows of stitching; single, double or triple felled seam are variations of this

fleur-de-lil lily

fly the vertical half of a flag furthest from the pole

French seam a seam sewn in two steps, used normally in bed linen, sometimes in banners and windsocks

gonfalon a flag, often with tails, hung from a crossbar

gonfanon a medieval flag with square tails and flown laterally from a staff

grain the direction of the threads (warp or weft) of a fabric

grommet (eyelet) round metal piece used to strengthen edges of a hole in fabric

guidon a small, swallow-tailed military flag

halyard rope used to attach a flag to the pole

heading a strip of heavy fabric, often canvas, to which rope is sewn or eyelets attached, sewn on the hoist edge of a flag

hem edge of fabric folded on the reverse twice and sewn along the first fold

heraldry the study of classification of armorial bearings

hoist to raise a flag; also the vertical half of a flag closest to the pole

house flag a flag of a commercial organisation or a personal flag

individual flag a flag showing the rank of the highest officer on board of a ship

Inglefield clip (sister clip) a rigid clip formed of two rings joined side by side, one of which is attached to halyard rope, and other, having a small opening, slides into another similar clip in a flag

inserting the method of sewing a piece of cloth on the field of the flag and cutting away the flag fabric underneath it

interfacing non woven fabric used to support stitching on stretchy fabrics; can be either iron-on (fusible) or sewn on

iron-on transfer a specialised inkjet printer paper on which you can print an image and then iron it on fabric

jack a small flag of nationality flown at the bow of a ship

Jolly Roger a black flag with white emblems, usually skull and bones or swords, originally hourglass, used by pirates

leather needle a strong sharp needle with a triangular cross-section

length the length of flag from hoist to fly

lining a piece of fabric, sewn behind the front of a double-sided flag or banner of similar size and usually of similar material

looped clip a flag clip which has a small lever that can be pulled open and which closes automatically by a spring

masthead pennant a long pennant used on a warship to show it is in active service

naval ensign a national flag flown at the stern of a warship

obverse the front of a flag, the side of flag seen when the staff is on the viewer's left, the text on a mirror-imaged flag reads correctly on this side

outrigger a small crossbar protruding outwards from a flag pole

over all if an emblem is sewn on a striped flag over two or more parts of the field, it is said to be over all

pennant a narrow tapering (triangular) flag

pipng a way of strengthening and stiffening a seam by sewing a fabric-covered piece of cord or vinyl pipe into the seam

plain seam a simple one-step seam which joins two pieces of fabric leaving raw edges on the reverse

PMS Pantone colour Matching System

pocket (sleeve) an edge of flag or banner folded back and sewn, for the rod to be inserted through it

proportions the relationship of a flag's width to its length, expressed in this order

pulley a wheel with a grooved rim in which rope can run with less resistance

ratio (proportions) the relationship of a flag's width to its length, expressed in this order

raw edge edge of fabric cut and not yet hemmed or seamed

reverse - the side of flag seen when the staff is on the viewer's right, the "less important" side or the back of the flag

saltire a diagonal cross

satin weft or warp dominant fabric with a shiny obverse side and dull reverse side

satin stitch zig-zag in which the stitches are placed so close to each other that no fabric shows through

Scandinavian cross an off-centre cross used in the flags of Scandinavian countries and some other countries

seam allowance extra fabric left for the seams when cutting; width varies depending on the type of seam, type of fabric and size of flag

seam a line along which two pieces of fabric are joined together by stitching

selvage the uncut edge of fabric

sinister the right hand side of the flag from the viewer

sister clip (Inglefield clip) a rigid clip formed of two rings joined side by side, one of which is attached to halyard rope, and other, having a small opening, slides into another similar clip

sleeve (pocket) an edge of flag or banner folded back and sewn, for the rod to be inserted through it

standard a flag of a sovereign or a nation, or colours of a cavalry regiment

state ensign the government flag flown by non-military ships

state flag the government flag flown on land on state property, or a flag of a state of a commonwealth

streamer a long, narrow flag or a ribbon

supporter in heraldry, a beast or a human figure supporting the shield

swallowtail a flag with a fly end from which a triangular section has been cut out

swivel clip a clip formed of two rings joined side by side, one of which is attached to halyard rope, and other, swivelling ring having a small opening, slides into another similar clip

tex a widely used thread numbering system in which the tex number gives the weight in grams of 1000 metre strand of the thread

thread count the number of threads per centimetre

toggle a short piece of wood or plastic sometimes used to attach flag to halyard (see becket)

triband two-coloured flag with three horizontal stripes

tricolour flag of three colours, often horizontal or vertical stripes

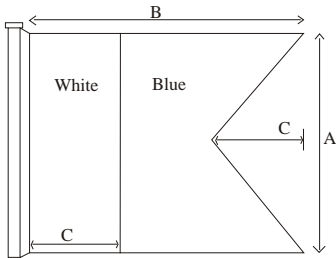
vexillologist a person who studies, collects or makes flags

vexillology the study of flags

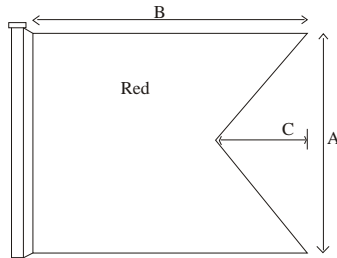
width (breadth) the vertical dimension or height of a flag

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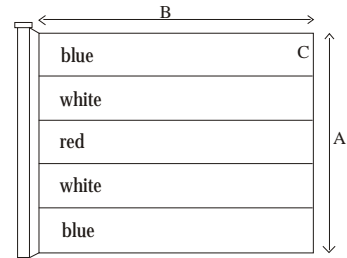
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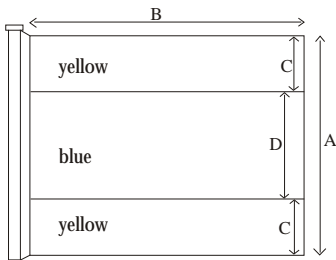
A (Alpha) - I have a diver down; keep clear at slow speed
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=253



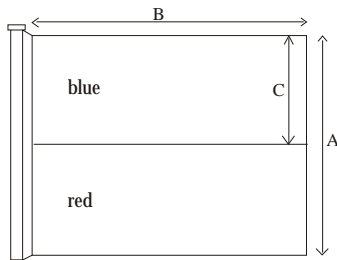
B (Bravo) - Dangerous goods
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=253



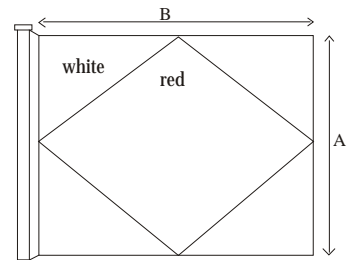
C (Charlie) - Yes, Affirmative
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=122



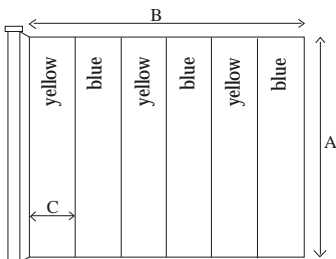
D (Delta) - Keep Clear
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=152 D=304



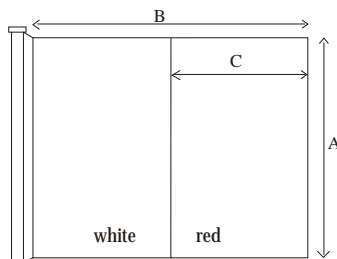
E (Echo) - Altering course to starboard
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=305



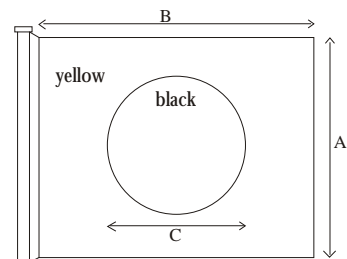
F (Foxtrot) - Disabled
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



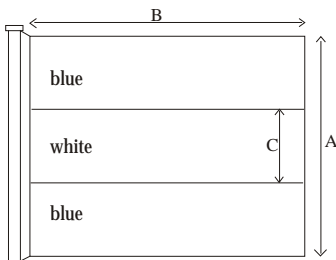
G (Golf) - Want a pilot or I am hauling nets
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=126



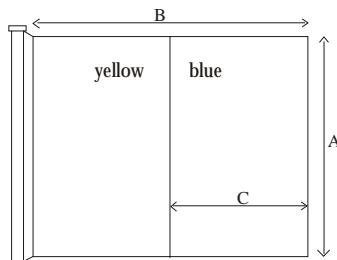
H (Hotel) - Pilot on board
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=380



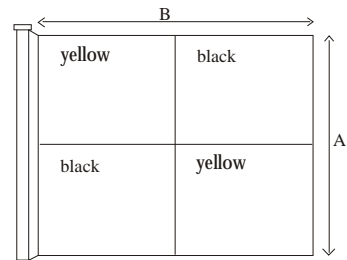
I (India) - Altering course to port
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=380



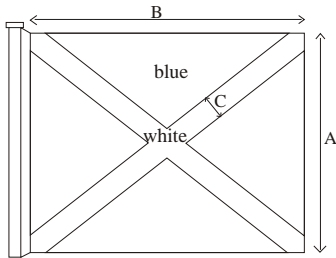
J (Juliet) - I am on fire and have dangerous cargo on board; keep well clear.
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=203



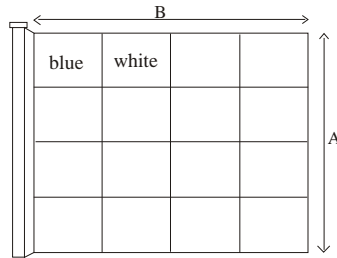
K (Kilo) - I wish to communicate
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=380



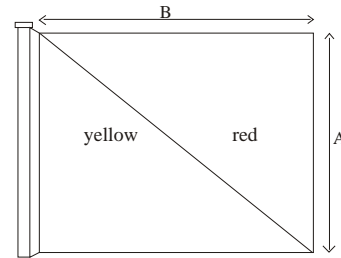
L (Lima) - Stop your vessel instantly
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



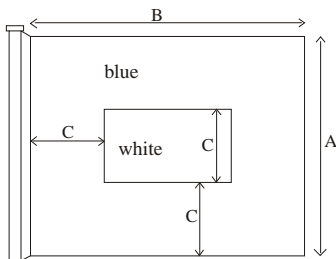
M (Mike) - My vessel is stopped and making no way through the water
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=63



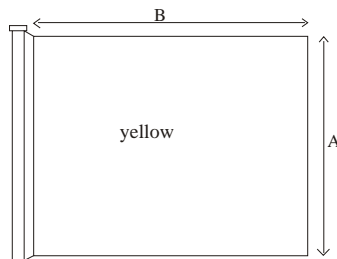
N (November) - No, negative
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



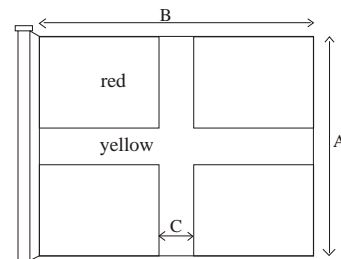
O (Oscar) - Man Overboard
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



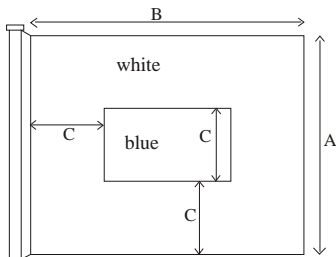
P (Papa) - About to sail, lights out; or My nets have come fast upon an obstruction
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=203



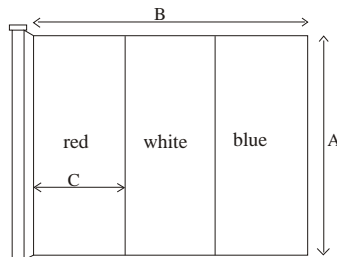
Q (Quebec) - Request pratique
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



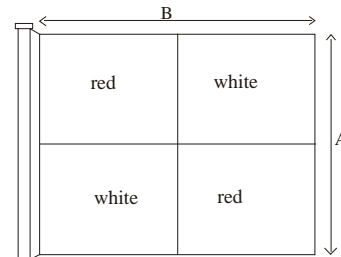
R (Romeo) - Way is off my ship
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=102



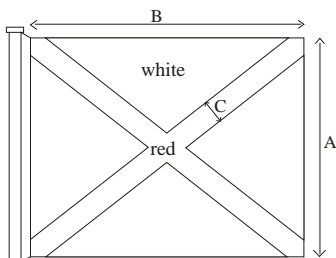
S (Sierra) - Going astern
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=203



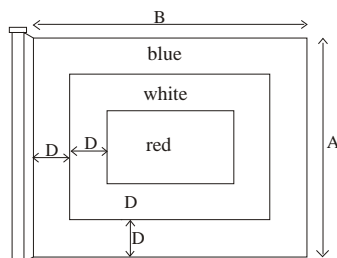
T (Tango) - Keep clear, I am engaged in pair trawling
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=253



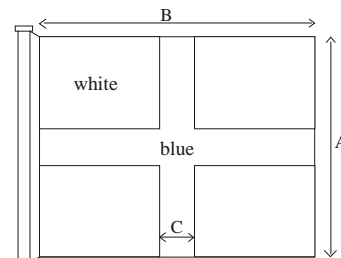
U (Uniform) - Running into Danger
 SIZE: A=610 B=760



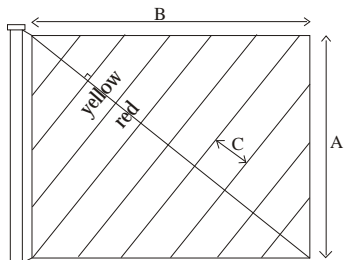
V (Victor) - Require Assistance
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=63



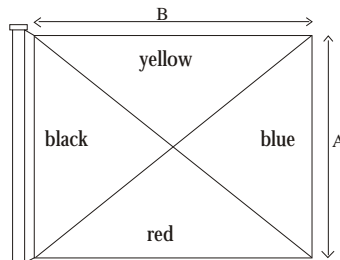
W (Whiskey) - Require Medical Assistance
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=203 D=102



X (Xray) - Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=102



Y (Yankee) - I am dragging my anchor
 SIZE: A=610 B=760 C=1/10 of diagonal



Z (Zulu) - I require a tug, or, used by vessels close to fishing grounds; I am shooting nets
 SIZE: A=610 B=760

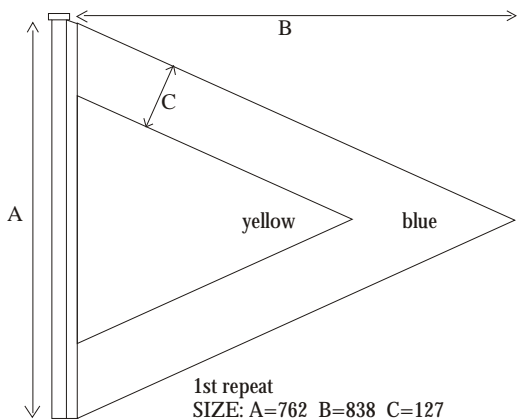
Some flagmakers make the code flags in 1:1 proportions (square). However, as flags look shorter when flying, they are usually made rectangular, to compensate for this.

French Navy standard sizes (mm):

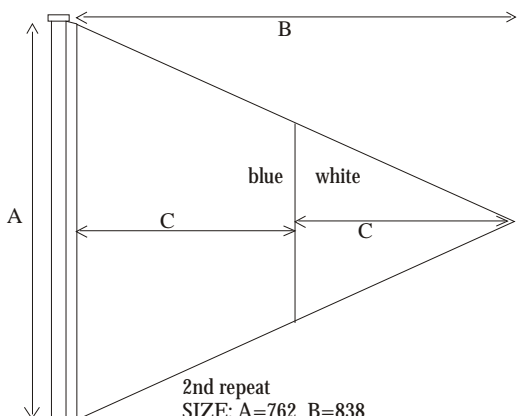
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 760:910

British Navy standard sizes (mm):

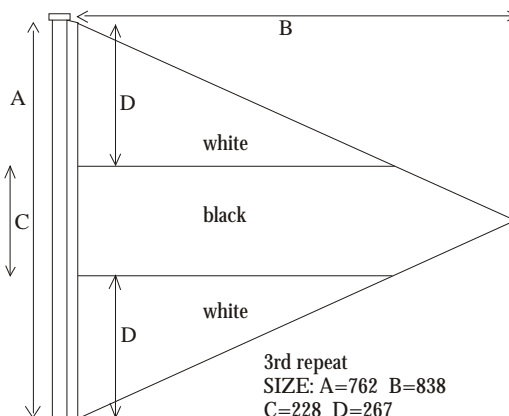
1830:2290 610:760 (used in this book)
 1140:1520 460:530
 1020:1220 300:380



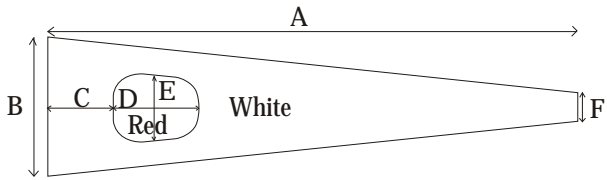
1st repeat
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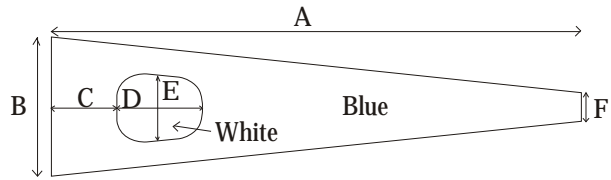
2nd repeat
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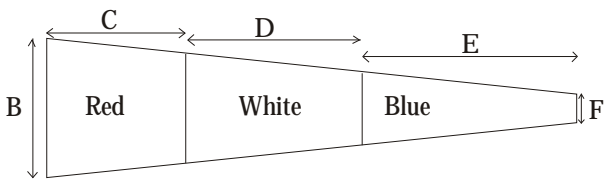
3rd repeat
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 C=228 D=267



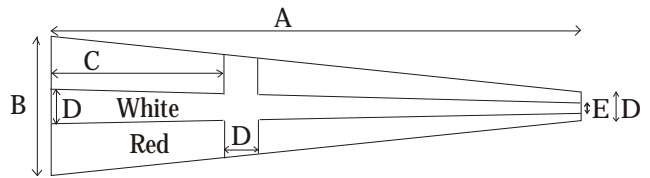
Pennant 1 SIZE: A=1525 B=407
C=190 D=228 e=178 f=102



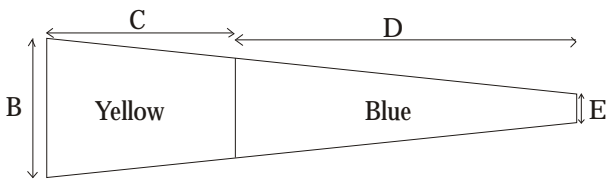
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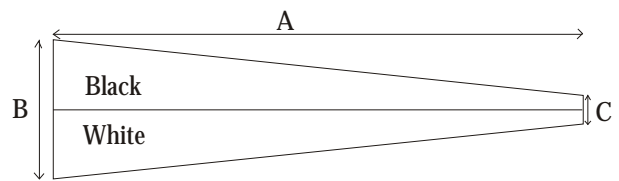
Pennant 3 SIZE: B=407 C=380
D=483 E=660 F=102



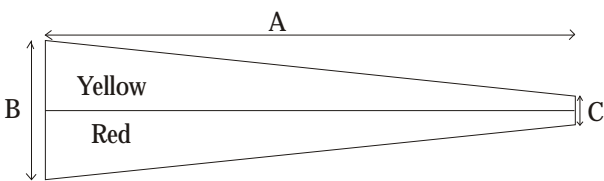
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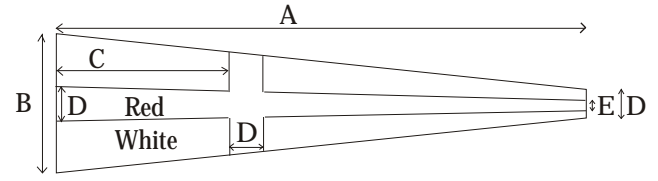
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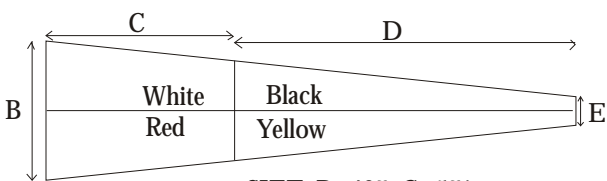
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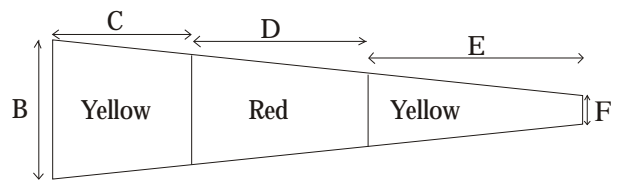
Pennant 7 SIZE: A=1525 B=407
C=102



Pennant 8 SIZE: A=1525 B=407
C=571 D=102 E=38



Pennant 9 SIZE: B=407 C=571
D=953 E=102



Pennant 0 SIZE: B=407 C=380
D=483 E=660 F=102

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CONVERSION TABLE

1 in (inch) = 2.54 cm
1 ft (foot) = 30.5 cm
1 yd (yard) = 91.5 m
1 yd² (square yard) = 0.8 m²
1 ft² (square foot) = 930 cm²

1 cm = 0.4 in
1 m = 3.3 ft
1 m = 1.1 yd
1 m² = 10.8 ft²
1 m² = 1.2 yd²

1 ft = 12 in
1 yd = 36 in
1 yd = 3 ft