

# FLAGHOIST SIGNALLING

Learning Outcome:

After the class discussion, the students are expected to:

- Be able to know what is flaghoist signaling and its advantages
- Know the procedures in flaghoist signalling
- Know the different meanings of flags as hoisted aboard ship

## A. ADVANTAGES

1. Provides a rapid and accurate system of handling tactical and international signals of reasonable length during daytime between ships in proximity.
2. Ensures a more uniform execution of a maneuver than any other system.
3. The navy uses the international alphabet flags, numeral flags and pennants, special flags and pennants and Navy flags.

## B. PARTS OF A FLAG

1. Flag - the length of the flag measured from the staff to the outside edge.
2. Hoist - is the vertical width of the flag when flying free.
3. Tabling - the double thickness of bunting type, bound and switch which is at the hoist of the flag.
4. Tail line - a short length of halyard attached to the lower part of the tabling and carrying the snap book, it serves as the spacer separating the flags of a hoist for clearness.

### C. TERMS

1. Flag bag - a bag of flame metal covered with canvass where signal bags are stowed.
2. Halyards - light lines used in bending flags - numbered from out board to in board.  
*\*Uphaul - part of halyard that is made fast to the last flag in a hoist.*
3. Retriever - a separate line attached with a metal ring to each halyard used to recover a lost flag.
4. Point of hoist - the block attached to the yardarm through which the halyard carrying the hoist is rove.
5. At the dip - when the hoist is three fourth of the way up toward the point of hoist.
6. Closed-up - when the top flag is touching the point of hoist.
7. Dipped - one a signal is closed up and is lowered a fourth of the way down from the point of hoist.
8. Hoist - a signal consisting of one or more flags in a single halyard.
9. Display - a complete signal, whether on one hoist or on one hoist or on two or more adjacent hoist.
10. Tack line - a 6 feet length of halyard having a ring at one end and a snap hook at the other used to separate flags or groups of flag.

### D. PROCEDURES IN READING FLAGHOIST

1. Single hoist - from top to down
2. Two or more hoist - from top to down, from outboard
3. Triatic stay - from top to down, from forward to
4. Yardarm of different heights - from higher to lower yardarm.

## MEANING OF ALPHABET FLAGS (A-Z)

1. Flag A
  - a. Divers of friendly underwater demolition personnel down.
  - b. Displayed where best seen
  - c. Position indicator - precede numerals latitude and longitude



2. Flag B
  - a. Weapons practices
  - b. Fueling or transferring of explosives
  - c. Displayed on appropriate side or where best seen



3. Flag C
  - a. Affirmative
  - b. Displayed where best seen



4. Flag D
  - a. Degaussing
  - b. Displayed where best seen



5. Flag E – I am altering my course to starboard



6. Flag F  
a. Flight operations  
b. Displayed where best seen



7. Flag G  
a. Guide flag  
b. Displayed where best seen



8. Flag H  
a. Helicopter operations  
b. Displayed where best seen



9. Flag I  
a. Going alongside (In port or at anchor)  
b. Displayed on side rigged



11. Flag J  
a. Semaphore message  
b. Where best seen  
c. Answered by addressee(s)



12. Flag K  
a. Personnel working aloft  
b. Displayed where best seen  
c. In port only



13. Flag L  
a. RADRAZ ZERO WARMING  
b. Displayed where best seen



- Flag M  
a. Medical duty ship (Not underway)  
b. Displayed where best seen  
c. Movements (Underway)-disregard my movements  
d. Displayed where best seen, repeated by addressee(s)



Flag N

- a. Your movements not understood
- b. Displayed where best seen, repeated by addressee(s)
- c. Visual watch--not keeping visual watch
- d. In port- displayed where best seen



Flag O

- a. Man overboard
- b. Displayed where best seen



Flag P

- a. General recall - all personnel belonging to this unit return to ship immediately.
- b. In port



Flag Q

- a. Boat recall
- b. Displayed where best seen



Flag R

- a. Replenishing or transferring alongside method
- b. Fueling astern method
- c. Displayed on side rigged/ on side hose is rigged
- d. Ready duty ship (Roger ship)
- e. Displayed where best seen



Flag S

- a. Drill signal - signal flying is for flaghoist drill only
- b. Displayed where best seen



Flag T

- a. Time indicator - precede numerals
- b. Displayed where best seen



Flag U

- a. Anchoring, mooring, weighing anchor
- b. Displayed where best seen or on appropriate side



Flag V

- a. Streaming/recovering towed sonic devices not including mine sweeping equipment.
- b. Displayed on appropriate side or where best seen



Flag W

- a. Information addressee- info addressee follow
- b. At yardarm



Flag X

- a. Exercise - evolution/exercise completed
- b. Displayed at fore yardarm repeated by addressee(s)



Flag Y

- a. Acknowledge - repeated by addressee
- b. Displayed at yardarm
- c. Location of OTC
- d. Displayed where best seen
- e. Visual communication duty ship - A visual communication duty ship
- f. Displayed where best seen



Flag Z

- a. I require a tug.
- b. When made by fishing vessels operating in close proximity on the fishing grounds, it means "I am shooting nets".

