

[Act on of the National Flag of Icelanders and the Coat of Arms]¹⁾
No 34/1944 of 17 June

¹⁾ *Act No 67/1998, Article 13*

Entered into force on 24 August 1944. Amended by Act No 67/1998 (entered into force on 24 June 1998), Act No 88/2008 (entered into force on 1 January 2008, except temporary provision VII which entered into force on 21 June 2008), Act No 126/2011 (entered into force on 30 September 2011) and Act No 28/2016 (entered into force on 3 May 2016).

ARTICLE 1

The regular National Flag of Icelanders shall be of sky-blue colour with a snow-white cross and a fiery-red cross within the white cross. The arms of the crosses extend to the edges of the flag and their width is 2/9 of the width of the flag and that of the red cross 1/9. The blue areas are rectangles; the blue hoist sections are square and the blue fly sections are the same width as the two squares, but twice as long. The proportion of the flag's width to its length is 18 to 25.

ARTICLE 2

The Government, Parliament and other official institutions, as well as representatives of the [Ministry responsible for foreign affairs]¹⁾ abroad, shall use a swallowtail flag.

The swallowtail flag differs from the regular National Flag in that its fly end sections are three times the length of the hoist sections, with the fly end cut along straight lines drawn from its corners towards its centre line to intersect the inside border between the fly end sections. These lines intersect the inner edges of the fly end sections at the point where 4/7 of their outer length and 3/7 of their inner length meet. The red cross is cut perpendicularly where these lines meet its arm.

[The customs flag is a swallowtail flag with a silver-coloured capital T in the centre of the canton.]²⁾

¹⁾ *Act No 126/2011, Article 20* ²⁾*Act No 67/1998, Article 1*

ARTICLE 3

[The flag of the President of Iceland is the Icelandic swallowtail flag, featuring the Icelandic coat of arms where the arms of the cross meet, with shield bearers on a white rectangular field.]¹⁾

¹⁾ *Act No 67/1998, Article 2*

ARTICLE 4

No markings other than those specified in Articles 2 and 3 may be used in the National Flag.

ARTICLE 5

The swallowtail flag may only be used on or by buildings wholly or mostly used by the Government or Government institutions, except in the cases of residences or chanceries of the representatives of the [Ministry responsible for embassies, permanent missions and consulates abroad].¹⁾ The swallowtail flag must not be used on buildings owned by the Government or Government institutions if such buildings are wholly or mostly leased to private persons or organizations. However, the swallowtail flag may be used on buildings owned by private persons or institutions if the Government or Government institutions have leased the building and use it mostly in their own service.

[The swallowtail flag may only be used on vessels owned by the Government or Government institutions and used in their service. If the Government hires a vessel for official purposes (coast guard, customs inspection, postal services, lighthouse inspection, pilot services etc.) the swallowtail flag may be used in accordance with Articles 2 and 3]²⁾

¹⁾ *Act No 126/2011, Article 20* ²⁾*Act No 67/1998, Article 3*

ARTICLE 6

The National Flag shall be raised on a flagpole. On buildings, the pole may rise directly up from the roof or from its side, provided that in either case the pole is tastefully placed. A pole erected from the ground may also be used. On vessels, the pole shall be placed on the stern of the vessel or on a crossbar from the aft most mast. In the case of small vessels or boats, the flag may be hoisted on the mast, or on the aft most mast if there are more than one.

ARTICLE 7

Flag days and the length of time the flag may be flown during the day shall be provided for in a [regulation] ¹⁾ ²⁾

¹⁾ Act 67/1998, Article 4 ²⁾ Presidential Decree 5/1991.

ARTICLE 8

[Should a dispute arise as to the correct use of the National Flag, the matter shall be investigated like a [criminal case], ¹⁾ while the [Ministry] ²⁾ shall rule on the dispute, [however, see Article 12(11) on monitoring by the Consumer Agency]. ³⁾ ⁴⁾

¹⁾ Act No 88/2008, Article 234 ²⁾ Act No 126/2011, Article 20 ³⁾ Act No 28/2016, Article 1 ⁴⁾ Act No 67/1998, Article 5

ARTICLE 9

Samples of the correct colours and proportions of the National Flag shall be available at places determined and publicized by the [Ministry]¹⁾, as well as with all commissioners of police. It is forbidden to offer for sale, sell or hire flags other than those made in the correct colours and correct proportions of rectangles and crosses.

¹⁾ Act No 126/2011, Article 20

ARTICLE 10

The police shall ensure that no National Flag be used which is not in accordance with the [provisions of this Act, including] ¹⁾ the samples specified in Article 9, nor a flag the colours of which are so faded or which is so worn as to be substantially different from the correct flag with respect to colour and proportions of the rectangles. Such flags may be seized if flown or displayed outdoors or indoors where they can be seen by the public.

¹⁾ Act 67/1998, Article 7

ARTICLE 11

This Act applies to all National Flags used in the customary manner in such a way as to be seen by the public, inside or outside, but does not apply to decorative flags, table flags or other such flags which, however, shall as a rule be made in accordance with the correct colours and proportions of rectangles and crosses.

[This Act also applies, as appropriate, to any reference to or replica of the National Flag, such as printed copies and projections.] ¹⁾

¹⁾ Act No 67/1998, Article 8

ARTICLE 12

It is forbidden to show disrespect to the National Flag in words or deed.

It is forbidden to use the National Flag as a private emblem for persons, companies or institutions or as a symbol on admission tickets, fund-raising tokens or other such slips. [The use of the flag in company logos is forbidden.] ¹⁾

[However, the ordinary flag may be used on signs, cf. however para. 2, or on goods, packaging or services if the goods or services are Icelandic and no disrespect is shown to the flag.

Goods are considered Icelandic if they are:

- a. Produced in Iceland from local raw materials,
- b. produced in Iceland, partially or wholly using imported raw materials, provided those have been sufficiently processed locally.

Irrespective of para. 4 (b), goods are not considered to be Icelandic if they are produced from imported raw material that is considered to give the goods their specific characteristics and is materially similar to:

- a. Agricultural goods, including farmed fish products, that are produced locally,
- b. goods that are produced locally at a horticulture farm, plant nursery or horticultural centre,
- c. exploitable marine stock fished by Icelandic ships within the Icelandic exclusive fishing zone.

Designer goods are considered to be Icelandic if they are designed by an Icelandic person under an Icelandic trade mark, even though they are produced abroad from foreign raw materials, the raw materials in question not being materially similar to Icelandic raw materials that are considered to have specifically Icelandic origins, characteristics or properties. If designer goods are produced abroad, the goods' production country shall also be stated.

Intellectual property is considered to be Icelandic if it is composed or created by an Icelandic person.

The Consumer Agency issues permits use of the National Flag in trademarks that shall be registered with the Patent Office.] ¹⁾

If a trademark, in which the National Flag is featured without permission, has been registered by mistake, it shall be removed from the trademark register at the request of the [Ministry]. ²⁾

[It is forbidden to sell goods originating abroad or to offer them for sale if they or their packaging include an image of the Icelandic flag.] ³⁾

[The Consumer Agency monitors the use of the general National Flag in accordance with paras. 2–10. The Consumer Agency's procedures, resources and penalties due for the infringement of specified provisions, and the right to appeal to the Consumer Appeals Committee, are covered by the provisions of the Act on the Surveillance of Unfair Business Practices and Market Transparency.

The Minister in charge of consumer matters is permitted to provide, in a regulation⁴⁾, in more detail for the use of the flag in accordance with this provision, such as what can be considered to be sufficient processing, on the evaluation of what should be considered specific characteristics and material similarity of goods, and on the definition of a country of production.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act No 28/2016, Article 2 ²⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 20 ³⁾Act No 67/1998, Article 9 ⁴⁾Regulation 618/2017.

[Article 12a

The Icelandic Coat of Arms is the identification mark of state authorities. They are the only ones permitted to use the coat of arms.] ¹⁾

¹⁾ Act No 67/1998, Article 10

ARTICLE 13

[[The Ministry] ¹⁾ shall set out provisions, in a regulation ²⁾, to clarify the provisions of this Act.] ³⁾

¹⁾ Act No 126/2011, Article 20 ²⁾ Instructions No 222/1966. Notice A 32/2016. ³⁾Act No 67/1998, Article 11

ARTICLE 14

Infringements of Articles 4 and 5 and Article 12(1) are punishable by fines ...¹⁾ or imprisonment for up to one year.

Infringements of other provisions of this Act and against presidential decrees or regulations enacted hereunder are punishable by fines.

...²⁾

¹⁾ Act No 67/1998, Article 12 ²⁾Act No 88/2008, Article 234