

# Proper use of the Saltire



## THE NATIONAL FLAG OF SCOTLAND

The national flag of Scotland is a white saltire (diagonal cross) on a blue background. The technical description is - *azure, a saltire argent*.

In Scots Heraldry, 1956, the then Lord Lyon – Sir Thomas Innes of Learney - stated: “*The Cross of St Andrew is the flag which any Scotsman (or woman) is entitled to fly or wear as evidence of his (or her) national identity or patriotism. This is also the proper flag to fly on a Scottish church*”.

## COLOUR AND DIMENSIONS

The blue field of the Saltire should be bright azure in harmony with the legend, but not pale or weak. The dark blue used in the Union Flag is too dark. Although there is no definitive colour codification, the Flag Trust advises that a proper lighter blue should be close to Pantone 300. The proportions are not fixed, but the ratio 5:4 (length to height) is suitable.

## DEFACEMENT

The Saltire should never be overprinted with slogans. Such a defacement would be both illegal and a piece of heraldic bad taste.

## THE LION RAMPANT

This is not a national flag and its use by citizens and corporate bodies is entirely wrong. It was

confirmed by Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1672 as the exclusive property of the Sovereign. Its correct use is restricted to only a few Great Officers who officially represent Scotland, including the Secretary of State for Scotland. Its use by unauthorised persons is an offence.

## THE LYON COURT

The ultimate authority on Scottish Flags and Heraldry is the Lyon Court, an ancient institution going back centuries before the Act of Union.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

The Saltire should be flown on the following Scottish Anniversaries:

JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day

JANUARY 25 - Burns Day

APRIL 6 - Declaration of Arbroath Day

JUNE 24 - Bannockburn Day

AUGUST 23 - Wallace Day

NOVEMBER 30 - St Andrew's Day

## SUPPLY OF FLAGS

For use on a flagpole, a 2-yard Saltire (ie 6 feet x 3 feet) should suffice. The Trust buys roped and toggled flags in woven polyester from Stevenson Flags Ltd, Glasgow.

## SALTIRE STICKIES

Sheets of adhesive Saltire lapel stickies (36 to a sheet) can be obtained from the Flag Trust.