

Maritime signal flags

Alphabet flags: single-letter operational meanings
Pub. 102 single-flag set



A — Alfa
Diver down; keep well clear at slow speed.



B — Bravo
Dangerous goods work/cargo.



C — Charlie
Affirmative.



D — Delta
Keep clear; manoeuvring with difficulty.



E — Echo
Altering course to starboard.



F — Foxtrot
Disabled; communicate with me.



G — Golf
Require a pilot / hauling nets.



H — Hotel
Pilot on board.



I — India
Altering course to port.



J — Juliett
On fire/leaking dangerous cargo; keep clear.



K — Kilo
I wish to communicate.



L — Lima
Stop immediately.



M — Mike
Stopped; making no way.



N — November
Negative.



O — Oscar
Man overboard.



P — Papa
All aboard; vessel proceeding to sea.



Q — Quebec
Healthy; request free pratique.



R — Romeo
No standalone ICS meaning.



S — Sierra
Operating astern propulsion.



T — Tango
Keep clear; pair trawling.



U — Uniform
You are running into danger.



V — Victor
I require assistance.



W — Whiskey
I require medical assistance.



X — Xray
Stop intentions; watch for signals.



Y — Yankee
Dragging anchor.



Z — Zulu
I require a tug / shooting nets.

Numerals, substitutes, answering

Numerals supply complements; substitutes repeat earlier flags in the same hoist
Pub. 102 single-flag set



0 — Zero
Digit in code groups.



1 — One
Digit in code groups.



2 — Two
Digit in code groups.



3 — Three
Digit in code groups.



4 — Four
Digit in code groups.



5 — Five
Digit in code groups.



6 — Six
Digit in code groups.



7 — Seven
Digit in code groups.



8 — Eight
Digit in code groups.



9 — Nine
Digit in code groups.



S1 — First substitute
Repeat first flag in group.



S2 — Second substitute
Repeat second flag in group.



S3 — Third substitute
Repeat third flag in group.



ANS — Answering pennant
Acknowledge / decimal point.

Procedural hoists MAYDAY is spelled M-A-Y-D-A-Y; PAN-PAN is P-A-N P-A-N. Two- and three-flag combinations have separate code-book meanings.