

950 CMR 34.00: COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS FLAGS, ARMS AND SEAL SPECIFICATIONS

Section

- 34.01: General Requirements
- 34.02: Design
- 34.03: Proportions and Dimensions
- 34.04: Colors
- 34.05: Accessories
- 34.06: Figures
- 34.07: Authority
- 34.08: Scope and Purpose
- 34.09: Definitions
- 34.10: General Provisions
- 34.11: Appropriate Displays of the Flags, Coat of Arms and Seal
- 34.12: Prohibited Uses of the Flags, Coat of Arms and Seal
- 34.13: Advisory Opinions
- 34.14: Complaints, Investigations and Orders

34.01: General Requirements

(1) The legal descriptions of the state flag, Governor's flag, naval and maritime flag, and the coat of arms and seal of Massachusetts and the authority under which the present specifications for them are issued may be found in M.G.L. c. 2, §§ 1 through 6.

(a) The coat of arms of the commonwealth shall consist of a blue shield with an Indian thereon, dressed in a shirt, leggings, and moccasins, holding in his right hand a bow, and in his left hand an arrow, point downward, all of gold; and, in the upper right-hand corner of the field a silver star of five points. The crest shall be, on a wreath of gold and blue, a right arm, bent at the elbow, clothed and ruffled, and grasping a broad-sword, all of gold. The motto "Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem" shall appear in gold on a blue ribbon.

(b) The seal of the commonwealth shall be circular in form, bearing upon its face a representation of the arms of the commonwealth encircled with the inscription within a beaded border. "Sigillum Reipublicae Massachusettensis". The colors of the arms shall not be an essential part of said seal, and an impression from a seal engraved according to said design, on any commission, paper, or document shall be valid without such colors or the representation thereof by heraldic lines or marks.

(c) The flag of the commonwealth shall consist of a white rectangular field, bearing on either side a representation of the arms of the commonwealth, except that the star shall be white. The naval and maritime flag of the commonwealth shall consist of a white rectangular field bearing on either side a representation of a green pine tree.

(d) The flag of the governor shall conform to the design of the flag of the commonwealth, except that the field of the flag of the governor shall be triangular in shape.

(e) The state secretary shall be the custodian of the coat of arms, seal and flags of the commonwealth and all representations of said arms, seal and flags shall conform strictly to the specifications which shall be prepared under the direction of the state secretary in the year nineteen hundred and seventy-one and deposited in his office. The proper use and display of said arms, seal and flags of the commonwealth and their manufacture are hereby subject to such regulations relating thereto which the state secretary may from time to time issue, provided that such regulations shall be in conformity with flags shall be in conformity with all the relevant legislation of the United States and of the commonwealth.

(f) The flag of the United States and the flag of the commonwealth should be displayed on the main or administration building of each public institution of the commonwealth. The flags shall be of suitable dimensions and shall be flown every day when the weather permits.

34.01: continued

- (2) Manufacturers intending to sell the state and/or naval and maritime flags of Massachusetts to any branch of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or other government agency within Massachusetts are required to submit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth one sample flag in each size to be manufactured, in order that he may determine whether the flags in question meet the design and quality requirements of the present specifications.
- (3) Alterations in the designs, proportions, and colors of the arms, seal, and flag given in these specifications are not authorized.
- (4) Notwithstanding 950 CMR 51.01(3), the Secretary of the Commonwealth is authorized to issue revised specifications whenever changes in manufacturing techniques or flag usage make such changes necessary or advisable.
- (5) The apparent silence of these specifications as to any detail shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only materials and workmanship of the first quality are to be used. All interpretations of these specifications shall be made upon this basis.

34.02: Design

- (1) The drawing shown in Figure 1 in 950 CMR 34.06 shall be the only authentic representation of the arms of Massachusetts. As such it shall appear on the state and Governor's flags of Massachusetts, whether illustrated or manufactured, and regardless of the size of the flag.
- (2) The drawing shown in Figure 2 in 950 CMR 34.06 shall be the only authentic representation of the seal of Massachusetts for use in printed illustrations.
- (3) The drawing shown in Figure 3 in 950 CMR 34.06 shall be the only authentic representation of the pine tree for use in the naval and maritime flag of Massachusetts, whether illustrated or manufactured, and regardless of the size of the flag.
- (4) The reproduction of the arms on the reverse of the state and Governor's flags shall be equal in quality in all respects to that appearing on the obverse of those flags. Such reproduction may only appear in the form represented in Figure 1 in 950 CMR 34.06 or as an exact mirror-image of the same.
- (5) Illustrators and manufacturers of flags are authorized to reproduce Figures 1 and 3 in 950 CMR 34.06 in the proportions given in Figures 4 and 5 in 950 CMR 34.06 respectively, by photographic or other means.

34.03: Proportions and Dimensions

- (1) Except for the cases noted in 950 CMR 34.03(5), the Standard Proportions given in Figures 4 through 6 in 950 CMR 34.06 must be observed for all authentic Massachusetts flags, whether illustrated or manufactured in cloth, paper, or any other material, regardless of the size of the flags.
- (2) The ratios given in Figures 4 through 6 in 950 CMR 34.06 are expressed in terms of A, which corresponds in each case to the width of the flag.
- (3) All measurements in Figures 4 through 6 in 950 CMR 34.06 apply to both the obverse and the reverse of the flags in question. (NB: When the obverse of the Flag is seen, the hoist is on the left; when the reverse is seen, it is to the right and F and G should be measured accordingly.)
- (4) All measurements apply to the finish size of the flags, exclusive of any heading or sleeve at the hoist and of any fringe.

34.03: continued

(5) The Alternate Proportions given in Figures 4 and 5 in 950 CMR 34.06 of these specifications should be used only when it is necessary to manufacture a state or naval and maritime flag in proportions of 2x3 or 4 1/3 x 5 1/2 for the sake of uniformity with the other flags with which it will be flown. It is also permissible for the height of the arms in a flag of size 4' x 6' to be 31" (rather than 29" high) so that its manufacture may be based on screens and patterns used for flags of size 4'4"x5'6".

(6) Illustrators and manufacturers are authorized to reproduce the state and naval and maritime flags in any dimensions conforming to the proportions given in Figures 4 and 5 in 950 CMR 34.06. Exact measurements based on these proportions are also given in Figures 4 and 5 in 950 CMR 34.06 for common flag sizes.

(7) A maximum tolerance of plus or minus 2% is allowable on all dimensions given in these specifications.

34.04: Colors

(1) The colors to be employed in all authentic printed or manufactured reproductions of the flags, arms, and seal of Massachusetts shall be as follows:

- (a) The state flag has a white field displaying the coat of arms, which consists of a blue shield bearing a white star and a gold Indian with a gold bow and arrow. The outlines on the Indian's clothing and arrow are blue. Around the shield is a blue ribbon bearing the state motto in gold letters. Above the shield is a gold clothed arm grasping a gold sword. The arm is set on a heraldic torse of gold and blue alternating, that segment of the torse nearest the star in the shield being gold. The arm and sword and the gold segment of the torse are outlined in blue, or, for flags made by embroidery or applique, in gold. The shield and ribbon must *not* be outlined in gold. The outlines referred to in the present paragraph shall correspond to the stitching of a flag made by applique or the holding line in a printed or screened flag.
- (b) The Governor's flag has the same colors as the state flag.
- (c) The naval and maritime flag has a white field with a green pine tree.
- (d) The seal should be represented as line artwork only (exactly as it appears in Figure 2 in 950 CMR 34.06), normally in black or dark blue against a white background.

(2) Except as noted under 950 CMR 34.04(3), the color shades to be employed in all authentic printed or manufactured reproductions of the arms and flags of Massachusetts shall correspond to the colors with the following names and cable numbers found in the "Standard Color Card of America" (Ninth Edition, second issue):

white	=	70001	(White)
gold	=	70068	(Spanish Yellow)
blue	=	70087	(Royal Blue)
green	=	70168	(Irish Green)

(3) In any painted or printed reproduction of the Massachusetts coat of arms, other than on the state flag, metallic gold and metallic silver may be substituted for golden yellow and white, respectively.

34.05: Accessories

(1) State flags made for military or civil parade use or office display, or for use on an automobile, may be edged with gold fringe and the poles to which they are attached may be decorated with gold cords and tassels and/or topped with a gold finial of the spearhead, ball, or flat truck pattern only. Flags 12"x18" or smaller, permanently fixed to a staff, may have the same accessories. Flags made for daily outdoor display on permanent or removable poles, or for use on any vessel, and all naval and maritime flags should not be fringed and should not be accompanied by cords and tassels. The Governor's flag (except for use on a boat) must be edged with gold fringe and the pole to which it is attached (except for use on automobile or boat) must be decorated with gold cords and tassels and topped with a gold spearhead finial.

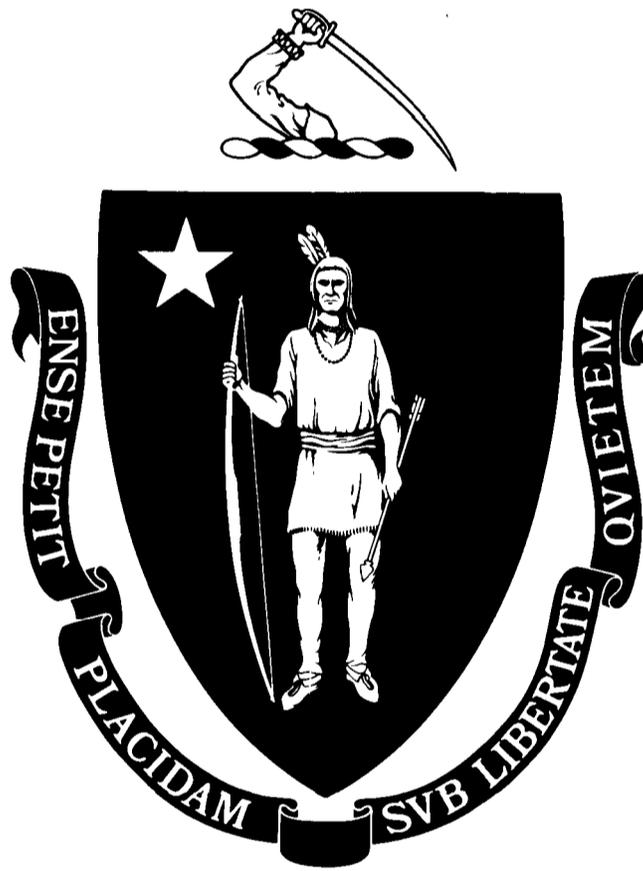
34.05: continued

(2) Each flag made in the size 2'x3' or larger should bear a permanent label, sewn to or stamped on the top end of the heading or sewn inside the sleeve where it may be easily seen. The label must bear in letters no greater than ½" in height the words MASSACHUSETTS STATE FLAG or MASSACHUSETTS NAVAL FLAG, as appropriate, as well as the name of the manufacturer and the dimensions of the flag in smaller letters.

(3) Each flag in the size 2'x3' or larger should be individually packaged in a cardboard box or plastic bag.

34.06: Figures

Figure 1



34.06: continued

Figure 2.

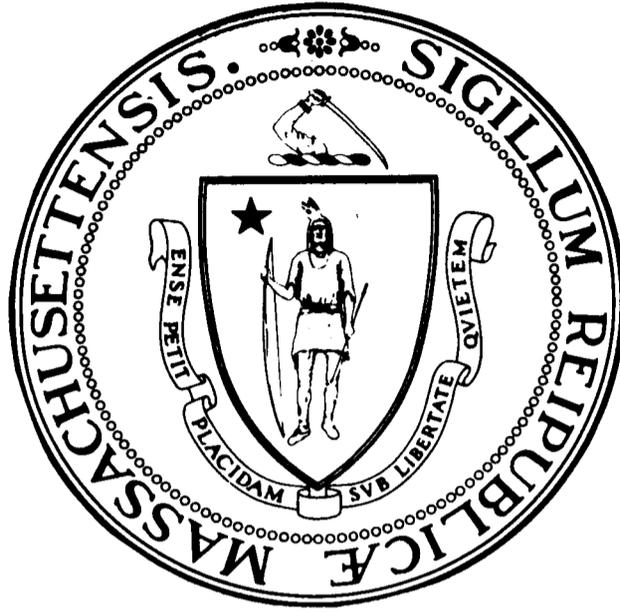


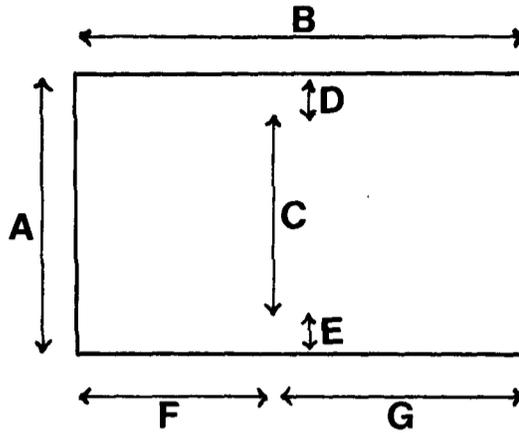
Figure 3.



34.06: continued

Figure 4.

STATE FLAG



STANDARD

ALTERNATE PROPORTIONS

PROPORTIONS

LETTER	PART OF FLAG	RATIO	LETTER	TYPE I	TYPE II
A	width of flag	1	A	1	1
B	length of flag	5:3	B	3/2	33/26
C	greatest height of arms	3:5	C	3/5	3/5
D	from top of arms to top edge of flag	1:6	D	1/6	1/6
E	from bottom of arms to lower edge of flag	7:30	E	7/30	7/30
F	from hoist to vertical bisector of arms	7:9	F	7/10	31/52
G	from fly to vertical bisector of arms	8:9	G	4/53	5/52

STANDARD DIMENSIONS

LETTER	4"x6"	12"x18"	2'x3'	3'x5'	4 1/3' x 5 1/2'
A	4"	12"	2'	3'	4'4"
B	6"	18"	3'	5'	5'6"
C	2 3/8"	7 1/4"	14.5"	21.5"	31 1/4"
D	3/4"	2"	4"	6"	8 3/4"
E	7/8"	2 3/4"	5.5"	8.5"	12"

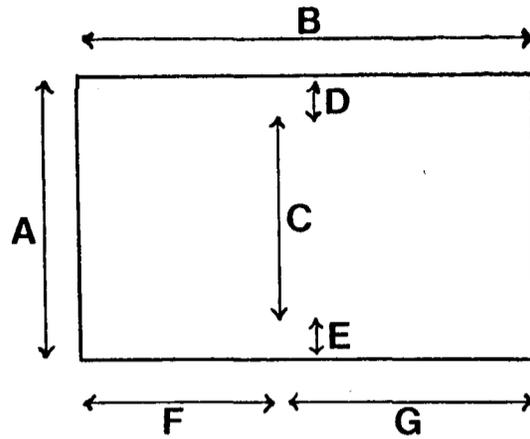
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F	2.75"	8½"	16.75"	28"	31"
G	3.25"	9½"	19.25"	32"	35"

34.06: continued

FIGURE 5.

NAVAL AND MARITIME FLAG

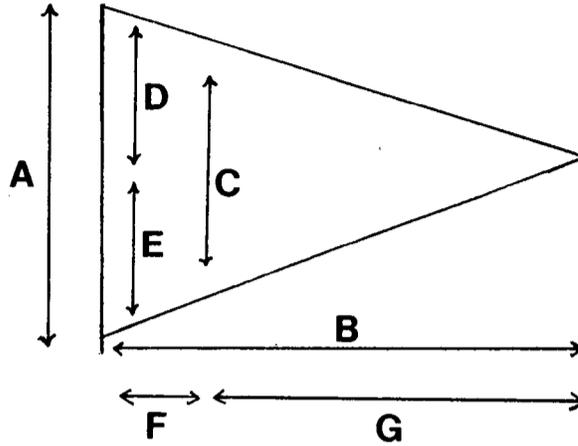


STANDARD PROPORTIONS		ALTERNATE PROPORTIONS		STANDARD DIMENSIONS			
LETTER	PART OF FLAG	RATIO	RATIO	4"x6"	12"x18"	2'x3'	3'x5'
A	width of hoist	1	1	4"	12"	2'	3'
B	length of fly	5:3	3:2	6"	18"	3'	5'
C	greatest height of tree	3:4	3:4	3"	9"	18"	27"
D	from top of tree to top edge of flag	1:8	1:8	½"	1½"	¾"	½"
E	from bottom of tree to lower edge of flag	1:8	1:8	½"	1½"	3"	4½"
F	from hoist to vertical bisector of tree	7:9	7:10	2¾"	8½"	17"	28"
G	from fly to vertical bisector of tree	8:9	4:53	¼"	9½"	19"	32"

34.06: continued

FIGURE 6.

GOVERNOR'S FLAG



STANDARD PROPORTIONS			STANDARD DIMENSIONS		
LETTER	PART OF FLAG	RATIO	LETTER	AUTOMOBILE FLAG	OFFICE AND PARADE FLAG
A	width of hoist	1	A	12"	43"
B	length of fly	3:2	B	18"	64.5"
C	greatest height of arms	1:2	C	6"	21.5"
D	from top of hoist to horizontal bisector of arms	1:2	D	6"	21.5"
E	from bottom of hoist to horizontal bisector of arms	1:2	E	6"	21.5"
F	from hoist to vertical bisector of arms	1:3	F	4"	14.25"
G	from point of fly to vertical bisector of arms	7:6	G	14"	50.25"

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34.07: Authority

950 CMR 34.07 through 34.14 is hereby issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 2, § 5 (1986 ed.).

34.08: Scope and Purpose

These regulatory provisions shall be construed to ensure the proper use and display of the flags, coat of arms and seal of the Commonwealth.

34.09: Definitions

Coat of Arms means the coat of arms of the Commonwealth as described in M.G.L. c. 2, § 1 (1986 ed.) and 950 CMR. 34.01(1)(a).

Flags means the flag of the Commonwealth as described in M.G.L. c. 2, § 3 (1986 ed.) and 950 CMR. 34.01(1)(c), the naval and maritime flag of the Commonwealth as described in M.G.L. c. 2, § 3 (1986 ed.) and 950 CMR 34.01(1)(c), and the flag of the governor of the Commonwealth as described in M.G.L. c. 2, § 4 (1986 ed.) and 950 CMR 34.01(1)(d).

Governmental Entity means the Judiciary, the General Court, any authority established by the General Court to serve a public purpose and any department, office, commission, committee, council, board, division, bureau or other agency within the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions.

Seal means the seal of the Commonwealth as described in M.G.L. c. 2, § 2 (1986 ed.) and 950 CMR 34.01(1)(b).

Secretary means the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who is custodian of the flags, coat of arms and seal by the authority of M.G.L. c. 2, § 5 (1986 ed.), or his designated representative.

34.10: General Provisions

(1) All communications regarding the appropriate display or uses of the flags, coat of arms or seal shall be addressed or delivered to:

Secretary of the Commonwealth
Division of Public Records
One Ashburton Place, 17th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(2) The office will be open from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each weekday except Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

34.11: Appropriate Displays of the Flags, Coat of Arms and Seal

(1) The following displays of the flags, coat of arms and seal are appropriate:

- (a) Display of the flags by any person so long as the display is not for a prohibited use listed in 950 CMR 34.12(1)(a) through (c), and provided that the display allows the flags to fall freely. Additionally, in a vertical display, the flags must be displayed in a position which is beneath the flag of the United States of America and above all other flags or pennants. In a horizontal display, the flags must be displayed to the left (an observer's right) of the flag of the United States of America.
- (b) Display of the coat of arms on any official document, building, monument, equipment or structure of any governmental entity. The coat of arms may also be displayed on the stationery, business card or badge of any regular employee of a governmental entity.

34.11: continued

(c) The Secretary, and any other official of a governmental entity who is specifically authorized by statute, may use the seal to authenticate official documents. The seal may also be displayed on any building, monument, equipment or structure of any governmental entity, and may be displayed during an event sponsored by a governmental entity.

34.12: Prohibited Use of the Flags, Coat of Arms and Seal

- (1) The following uses of the flags, coat of arms and seal are prohibited:
 - (a) Commercial: which shall include any display on any product which is offered for sale or as an inducement for the purchase of goods or services.
 - (b) Advertising: which shall include any display which is intended to induce the purchase of goods or services.
 - (c) Misrepresenting the Law Enforcement Authority of a Governmental Entity: which shall include the display in a manner which incorrectly suggests that a person is acting on behalf of a law enforcement component of a governmental entity.

34.13: Advisory Opinions

The Secretary shall receive requests for advisory opinions regarding the appropriateness of an intended use or display of the flags, coat of arms or seal. All requests shall be made in writing and may be submitted in person or by mail. All requests shall provide a reasonable description of the intended use or display of the flags, coat of arms or seal in sufficient detail to allow the Secretary to consider the appropriateness of such intended use or display. Advisory opinions shall be issued by the Secretary in a timely fashion.

34.14: Complaints, Investigations and Orders

- (1) The Secretary shall receive signed, written complaints which allege improper uses or displays of the flags, coat of arms or seal. The Secretary shall, upon request, keep the identity of the complainant confidential.
- (2) The Secretary shall conduct an investigation to determine the validity of all complaints received. The Secretary may call a conference at any time during the investigation to allow the complainant or alleged offender to present evidence. Upon completion of the investigation, the Secretary shall issue written findings to the complainant and alleged offender.
- (3) Where the Secretary finds the complaint to be valid, he shall order the offender to discontinue the prohibited use or display immediately and to provide a written statement indicating that the improper use or display has been discontinued. The Secretary may request the Attorney General to take any appropriate measures to secure enforcement of the order.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 34.00: M.G.L. c. 2, §§ 1 through 6.