Flagmakers

FLAG OF NETHERLANDS - A BRIEF HISTORY

Where In The World

Trivia

It is customary during national celebrations such as King's Day to fly a narrow orange streamer or pennant above the flag. This pays homage to the William Orange's original Dutch Republic flag which used the colour orange instead of red.

Technical Specification

Adopted:	1937
Proportion:	2:3
Design:	A tricolour with three equal horizontal stripes of red, white and blue, from top to bottom.
Colours:	PMS: Red: 484 C, Blue: 534 C
	CMYK: **Red:** 0% Cyan, 84% Magenta, 77% Yellow, 32% Black; **Blue:** 76% Cyan, 50% Magenta, 0% Yellow, 46% Black

Brief History

The first time all the Netherlands were united was in the time of the Holy Roman Empire. Philip the Handsome inherited all the lands of Burgundy in 1482, and as he was also a son of the Holy Roman Emperor, of the House of Habsburg. The Netherlands of today are a composition of Burgundy and Habsburg territories which were combined in that accession.

The Flag of the Burgundy Netherlands

The Flag of the Habsburg Netherlands

In 1556 the Spanish Empire inherited the territories of the Netherlands. William of Orange declared a rebellion in 1568. The rebellion chose a tricolour orange, white and blue flag taken from the Prince's Nassau Coat of Arms. This lead it to be called ''The Prince's Flag''.

After an Eighty Years' War Philip II of Spain defeated and with a newly independent Republic of the Seven United Netherlands, colloquially known as the Dutch Republic, was set up. In 1572 the red, white and blue flag was introduced as the state banner.

The Prince's Flag

The Flag of the Dutch Republic

The Republic endured until the invasion of Napoleon Bonaparte, who incited revolution against the autocratic William V and declared the Batavian Republic.

The French authorities changed the Dutch flag's colours to match the French tricolour, and a canton depicting a maiden reclining by a lion, both holding a staff with a hat balanced on the top. Napoleon's brother, Louis, was made King of the Netherlands and he removed the emblem of the maiden.
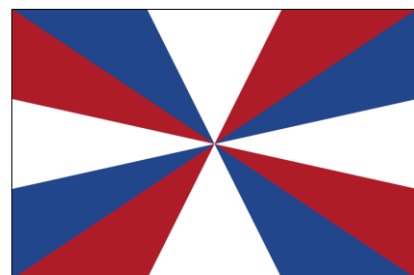
After Napoleon's downfall, the Prince of Orange was invited to return from exile in England and rule the new United Kingdom of the Netherlands. For many years the old tricolour of the Dutch Republic, and the tricolour of French rule, were both recognised as legitimate flags of the nation.

In 1937, the colours of the flag were passed into law, delegitimising the original Orange tricolour.

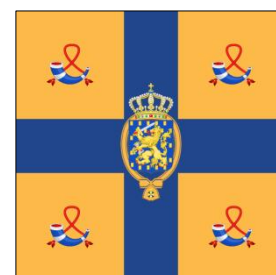**The Flag of the Batavian Republic**

The Flag of the Netherlands

Other Flags of Netherlands

The national flag of the Netherlands is also the state and civil ensign. The Netherlands' naval jack depicts the national colours in a radial design.

The Naval Jack of the Netherlands

In 1908 the Royal Standard of the Netherlands was created. This is a square orange flag with a blue cross that included a small Coat of Arms with Crown. Each quarter also included a bugle-horn that came from the Principality of Orange.

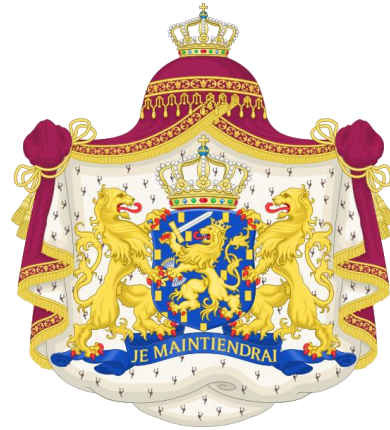Because it is non-person it does not change from reign to reign.

Variant flag of Netherlands

Flagmakers

A version of the Coat of Arms of the Netherlands has been used since 1815 and was adopted by the first king of The Kingdom of the Netherlands, Willam I. The current version has been in use since 1907.

It is the personal Coat of Arms of the monarch of the Netherlands.

The Coat of Arms features a golden lion with a coronet and sword inside a blue shield with golden blocks. The shield has the Dutch royal crown onto and features two gold lions armed with langued gules. The lions stand on a scroll with reads "I will maintain" in French.

Above the Coat of Arms is a pavilion gules topped with the royal crown.

The Coat of Arms of the Netherlands