EVOLUTION OF THE CANADIAN NAVAL "SUIT OF COLOURS"

This table outlines the various flags flown by Canadian warships to indicate their Canadian nationality since 1910.

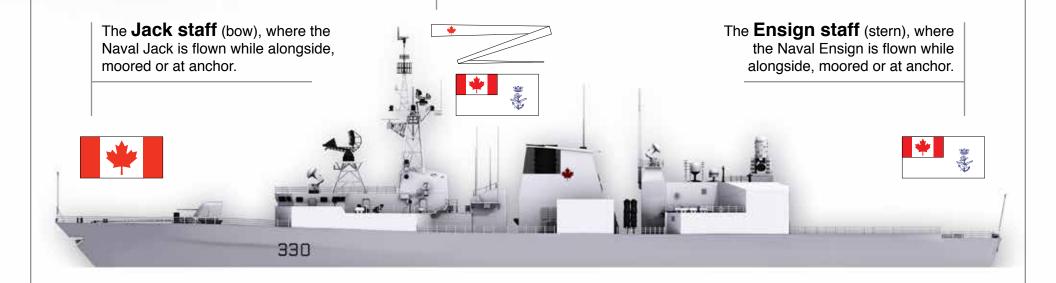
	Canadian Naval Ensign The Naval Ensign is flown at the masthead while at sea, or at the stern when alongside, moored or at anchor.	Canadian Naval Jack The Naval Jack is flown at the bow when alongside, moored or at anchor.	Commissioning Pennant Flown from the masthead, the Commissioning Pennant is hoisted on the day a warship is commissioned and is displaced only by the personal flag of the Sovereign or senior officer when embarked.
1910 – 1911 The Naval Service of Canada, later known as the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), flew the Canadian Government Blue Ensign and the Union Jack. The Royal Navy (RN) Commissioning Pennant (cross of St. George) was also adopted. *			
1911 – 1922 In December 1911, the RCN adopted the RN White Ensign as the Canadian Naval Ensign and the Canadian Government Blue Ensign as the Canadian Naval Jack.			
1922 – 1957 A new Blue Ensign with a shield of the new Coat of Arms was introduced by the Government of Canada, and adopted by the RCN as the Canadian Naval Jack.			
1957 – 1965 A new Blue Ensign with red maple leaves at the base of the shield was adopted by the Government of Canada, and adopted by the RCN as the Canadian Naval Jack.			
1965 – 1968 With the adoption of the Maple Leaf Flag as the Canadian National Flag in 1965, the RCN adopted the new National Flag as an Ensign and a Jack.	*	*	
1968 until early 1990s In 1968, a new distinctive Canadian Naval Jack was adopted which incorporated the Maple Leaf flag in its canton.	*		
Early 1990s to 2013 In the early 1990s, the RN style Commissioning Pennant was phased out in favour of a new Canadian designed Commissioning Pennant (Maple Leaf).	*	*	•
2013 On May 5, 2013, the RCN restored a standard Commonwealth naval practice and adopted a distinctive Canadian Naval Ensign. The National Flag was also adopted as the Naval Jack.		*	*

^{*} Canada's first warship, HMCS Niobe, flew the White Ensign vice the Blue Ensign as her Naval Ensign on arrival in Halifax on October 21, 1910 as the formal transfer to Canada did not occur until November 12, 1910.

DISPLAY OF NAVAL FLAGS ON HER MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIPS AS OF MAY 5, 2013

The three main positions for flags on a Canadian warship are:

The **Masthead** (top centre of ship), where the Commissioning Pennant is flown, and where the Naval Ensign is flown while at sea.





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