

= Red Ensign of Singapore =

The Red Ensign of Singapore is a civil ensign used by privately owned , non @-@ military ships that are registered in Singapore . The overall design of the ensign is a modification of the national flag , with the ratio of the width to the length extended to 1 : 2 . The ensign was created by law in 1966 . The use of this ensign is regulated by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) . According to the MPA , the Red Ensign is the only ensign to be used on Singaporean civilian ships , and the national flag is not an acceptable substitute . The ensign must be hoisted on all Singaporean ships on entering or leaving port .

= = History = =

In 1966 , a year after Singapore 's independence from Malaysia , a document entitled Singapore Merchant Marine Ensign and numbered Misc . 5 of 1966 , was laid before Parliament on 6 September 1966 by the Deputy Prime Minister . The document created a civil ensign that was to be used on ships registered in Singapore . The Red Ensign has been in use since then .

= = Design = =

According to the Parliamentary paper Misc . 5 of 1966 , the background of the ensign is red with the ratio of its width to its length being one by two . In contrast , the ratio of the national flag of Singapore is two by three . In the centre of the ensign is a white ring , which surrounds a crescent and five stars also coloured white . The five stars are arranged such that they form a pentagon in the middle . The crescent and stars are taken from the national flag , although in the ensign the crescent appears underneath rather than to the left of the stars . According to a 1999 circular National Colours for Singapore Ships issued by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) , the red colour of the civil ensign is the same as that of the national flag . The shade of red has been defined by the Ministry of Information , Communications and the Arts as Pantone 032 .

= = = Construction sheet = = =

The MPA 's 1999 circular includes a construction sheet with detailed dimensions for the manufacture of the flag . The sheet is in inches and centimetres . The overall dimensions of the flag are 36 inches (91 @.@ 44 cm) by 72 inches (182 @.@ 88 cm) . The space between the top of the ensign to the top of the ring , and the bottom of the ring to the bottom of the ensign , is 9 @.@ 7 inches (24 @.@ 64 cm) . The outer diameter of the ring is 16 @.@ 6 inches (42 @.@ 16 cm) , and the ring itself is 0 @.@ 95 inches (2 @.@ 41 cm) in thickness . The outer curve of the crescent has a radius of 5 @.@ 45 inches (13 @.@ 84 cm) . Each star fits within a circle with a diameter of 3 @.@ 2 inches (8 @.@ 13 cm) , and the centres of the five stars are positioned 72 ° from each other along the circumference of an imaginary circle with a radius of 3 @.@ 25 inches (8 @.@ 26 cm) . The centre of the imaginary circle is 6 @.@ 4 inches (16 @.@ 26 cm) from the lowest point of the inner curve of the crescent .

= = Regulations = =

Section 36 (1) of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1995 empowers the relevant Minister to prescribe an ensign for Singaporean ships , which shall then be the " proper colours for a Singapore ship . " Section 36 (2) goes on to state that the master of a ship , the ship 's owner if he is on board , and any other person hoisting colours may be fined up to S \$ 1 @,@ 000 if , instead of the Red Ensign , any other " distinctive national colours " are hoisted on board any Singapore ship without the Minister 's consent . Under section 37 of the Act , if a Singapore ship fails to hoist the Red Ensign on entering or leaving any port , the ship master may be fined up to \$ 1 @,@ 000 .

The MPA 's 1999 circular calls the attention of owners , masters and officers of Singapore ships to

sections 36 and 37 of the Merchant Shipping Act . In particular , paragraph 3 of the circular points out that " the Singapore national flag does not [substitute] the Red Ensign " .