= Flag of Lithuania =

The flag of Lithuania consists of a horizontal tricolor of yellow , green and red . It was re @-@ adopted on March 20 , 1989 , almost two years before the re @-@ establishment of Lithuania 's independence and more than three years before the collapse of the Soviet Union .
It was first used in Lithuania 's first period of independence (in the 20th century) from 1918 to 1940 , which ceased with the occupation first by Soviet Russia and Lithuania 's illegal annexation into the Soviet Union , and then by Nazi Germany (1941 ? 44) . During the post @-@ WW2 Soviet occupation , from 1945 until 1989 , the Soviet Lithuanian flag consisted first of a generic red Soviet flag with the name of the republic , then changed to the red flag with white and green bars at the bottom . The last alteration to the current flag occurred in 2004 when the aspect ratio changed from 1 : 2 to 3 : 5 .

= = History = =

= = = Historical state flag = = =

The earliest known flags with a Lithuanian identity were recorded in the 15th @-@ century Banderia Prutenorum , written by Jan D?ugosz . At the Battle of Grunwald in 1410 , two distinct flags were present . The majority of the 40 regiments carried a red banner depicting a mounted knight in pursuit . This flag , known as the Vytis , would eventually be used as the Lithuanian war flag , and again in 2004 as the state flag . The remainder of the regiments carried a red banner displaying the Columns of Gediminas . Those that bore the Vytis , also known as the Pahonia , were armies from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania , while those who bore the Columns of Gediminas were from noble families of Lithuania . Until the end of the 18th century , when it was annexed by the Russian Empire , the Grand Duchy of Lithuania used the Vytis as its flag .

= = = Creation of modern flag = = =

The birth of the yellow , green , and red tricolor occurred during a drive by other European republics to change their flags . One example that gave life to the idea of the tricolor was the French blue , white and red flag adopted after the French Revolution . The only tricolor that existed for Lithuania before the yellow , green and red flag was a green , white and red flag used to represent Lithuania Minor .
It is not known who originally suggested the yellow , green and red , but the idea is usually attributed to Lithuanian exiles living elsewhere in Europe or in the United States during the 19th century . These three colors were frequently used in folk weavings and traditional dress . At the Great Seimas of Vilnius of 1905 , this flag was favored over the Vytis banner as the flag of the Lithuanian nation . The Vytis , strongly advocated by Jonas Basanavi?ius , was not chosen for three reasons : the first was that as part of the drive for national identity , the Seimas wished to distance itself somewhat from the flag of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania , which also encompassed now @-@ distinct nations such as Belarus , and Ukraine . The second issue was the choice of the color red by revolutionaries who aligned themselves with Marxist or Communist causes . And finally , the flag with Vytis would be too complicated and could not be easily sewn .
Debates about the national flag occurred again in 1917 during the Vilnius Conference . Two colors , green and red , were chosen based on their prevalence in folk art . Artist Antanas ?muidzinavi?ius decorated the conference hall with small red and green flags . However , the delegates did not like the design as it was too dark and gloomy . Then Tadas Daugirdas suggested adding a narrow strip of yellow (to symbolize the rising sun) in between the red (clouds lit up by the morning sun) and green (fields and forests) . However , the delegates decided that the matter should be settled by a special commission , composed of Basanavi?ius , ?muidzinavi?ius , and Daugirdas . On April 19 , 1918 , they submitted their final protocol to the Council of Lithuania . The flag was supposed to be a

tri @-@ color (yellow at the top , green in the middle , and red at the bottom) with Vytis in the upper left corner or in the middle . The Council accepted the proposal , but the 1922 Constitution of Lithuania did not include any mention of the coat of arms . It adopted the national flag that is used today . Any of the debates failed to produce a historical flag . Discussions of the national flag continued ; its opponents considered gold an inappropriate color , since the combination of yellow , green and red did not follow the existing rules of heraldry . However , no changes were made during the inter @-@ war period .

Soviet period

During World War II , Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union (1940 ? 1941 , 1944 ? 1990) and Nazi Germany (1941 ? 1944) . The use of the national flag during this period was prohibited and prosecuted . Two flags were used during the period of Soviet occupation (1944 ? 1989) : immediately after the war , the flag consisted of a red field , golden hammer and sickle with the Latin characters LIETUVOS TSR (Lithuanian SSR in the Lithuanian language) above them in gold sans @-@ serif lettering . That flag was replaced in 1953 by the last flag used by the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic ? a red flag , with the hammer and sickle and star in the hoist . At the bottom of the flag , a white and green horizontal bar was placed . The red portion of the flag took 8 / 12 of the flag 's width , the white 1 / 12 and the green 3 / 12

Restoration of modern flag

During 1988 , when the Lithuanian movement towards independence was gaining strength , the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet again recognized the tricolor as the national flag , by amending article 168 of the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Lithuanian SSR . The flag was defined as rectangular tricolor which consists of three equally sized horizontal stripes : the upper is yellow , the middle is green , the lower is red ; the flag ratio was to be 1 : 2 (as that of Soviet flags) . This flag was confirmed by the Provisional Constitution of 11 March 1990 ? I @-@ 10 .
After independence from the Soviet Union , the tricolor flag was written into the new Constitution of Lithuania , which was adopted by a referendum in 1992 . This constitution has not specified the flag aspect ratio and therefore it has remained 1 : 2 until 2004 , when 1991 law " On the national flag and other flags " was revised by 8 July 2004 law ? IX @-@ 2331 , making flag ratio 3 : 5 .

Design and symbolism

Passed on June 26 , 1991 , the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the Lithuanian State Flag governs the design , sizes and use of the state flag . The law was last amended on July 8 , 2004 , with the most notable changes including the switching of the national flag ratio from 1 : 2 to 3 : 5 and the official adoption of a historical flag as the state (government) flag . The amendment came into force on September 1 , 2004 , after it was approved by President Valdas Adamkus .
The yellow in the flag is meant to symbolize the sun and prosperity , the green is for the forests , the countryside , liberty , and hope , and the red represents the blood and bravery of those who have died for Lithuania . The proper colors of both the national and state flag are made according to the Pantone Matching System , specifically Pantone textile @-@ paper (TP) . The ratio of both the national and state flag must be 3 : 5 , with the standard flag size to be 1 meter by 1 @.@ 7 meters . Different sizes of the flag can be created , but they must conform to the color codes and ratio requirements set in the law . The official Pantone colors have been published since 2004 ; the list below shows the official colors and their suggested equivalents :

State (historical) flag

In 2004 , along with the law authorizing the change of the flag ratio , a state flag was adopted . This flag displays the national emblem in a banner form . The ratio of the flag is the same as that of the

national flag , i.e. 3 : 5 . The state flag , called the historical flag in law , was proposed by ?eslovas Jur??nas , the vice @-@ speaker of the Seimas , and by Edmundas Rim?a , the chairman of the Commission of Heraldry . This flag was also proposed at the same time as the grand coat of arms ; both were meant to honor the 750th anniversary of the coronation of Mindaugas in 1253 . The designer of the State (historic) flag and coat of arms was Arvydas Ka?dailis . Historically , this flag was used during the Battle of Grunwald , and has served as the government flag for Central Lithuania from 1922 until 1939 . This was one of the few flags considered to become the national flag during the drive for national independence . Several other countries , including Finland , Spain , Venezuela , Germany and Thailand , have an official national flag for civilian use and a state flag for government use .

Under the National Flag Law , the state flag is permanently hoisted at three locations : the Royal Palace of Lithuania , Trakai Island Castle , and the grounds of the Vytautas the Great War Museum in Kaunas . In addition , the flag is hoisted at the following locations on these days :

February 16 ? next to the House of the Signatories , on Pilies Street in Vilnius

March 11 ? next to Seimas Palace

July 6 ? next to the Presidential Palace , Vilnius

July 15 ? next to the Ministry of Defense

October 25 ? next to the Seimas Palace , the Presidential Palace , and the Gedimino 11 building that houses the Government of Lithuania

= = Flag protocol = =

The flag can be flown vertically or horizontally from public buildings , private homes , businesses , ships , town squares , or during official ceremonies . If the flag is flown horizontally , the yellow stripe must be at top ; when flown vertically , the yellow stripe must be facing Left with the red stripe facing Right . While the flag should be flown from sunrise to sunset , government offices in Lithuania and abroad must fly the flag on a 24 @-@ hour basis . The flags must conform to the legal standards , and cannot be soiled or damaged in any way .

For mourning activities , the flag can be flown in either of the following ways . The first method , commonly known as half @-@ staffing , is performed when the flag is hoisted to the top of the flagpole , then lowered to the pole 's one @-@ third position . The other method is to attach a black ribbon to a flag that is permanently affixed to a staff . The ribbon itself is ten centimetres wide and it is attached to the mast so that the ends of the ribbon reach the bottom of the flag . During a funeral ceremony , the flag may be used to cover the coffins of government officials , soldiers , signatories of the Act of the Re @-@ Establishment of the State of Lithuania , and persons designated by an act of the President ; these flags are later folded and presented to the next of kin before interment .

When flying the Lithuanian flag with other flags , the following is the correct order of precedence : The national flag , the historical (state) flag , flags of foreign states , the flag of the European Union , international NGOs , the presidential standard , military and government standards , county flags , city flags and any others . When foreign flags are used alongside the Lithuanian flag , the flags are sorted according to their countries ' names in the Lithuanian language . The only exception is when the congress or meeting held in Lithuanian dictates a different language to be used for sorting . The European Union flag has been hoisted since Lithuania became a member of the organization . While not mentioned by name in the law , the flag of NATO can be used in Lithuania , since it belongs to that organization as well . It is also common to fly the flags of Estonia and Latvia during certain occasions , mainly the celebration of independence of the three Baltic states . The Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the National Flag and Other Flags governs the rules , use , protocol and manufacturing of the national and other flags used inside the country .

= = = National flag days = = =

As part of the flag protocol , the daily display of the Lithuanian flag is encouraged , but is strongly encouraged or legally required on the following days :

Apart from these days , the flag is flown at election polling sites . The national government , under Article 4 , Section 7 of the flag law , is given the authority to call for the display of the national flag and to determine special conditions , such as marking for mourning .

= = Other Lithuanian flags = =

A naval ensign has been used by Lithuania starting in 1992 . The ensign has a white background charged with a blue cross , with the national flag in the canton . The width of each cross is 1 / 7th of the total width of the ensign , with the ratio being 1 : 2 . Historically , this flag was used as the ensign of the Kaunas Yacht Club , but with a different ratio of 2 : 3 . The naval jack consists of a white field , charged with a blue anchor covered by the naval badge of Lithuania . The badge consists of the Columns of Gediminas in yellow on a red disc . A masthead pennant have been adopted by the Lithuanian Navy to use on their ships .
The President of Lithuania was officially given a standard by the Seimas in 1993 . The standard is the State Emblem of Lithuania charged in the center on a single @-@ color background . Under state law , the background color is stated as purple , but the color used in practice is dark red . The ratio of the standard is 1 : 1 @.@ 2 .
Each county of Lithuania has adopted a flag , each of them conforming to a pattern : a blue rectangle , with ten instances of the Cross of Vytis (double cross or) appearing in gold , acts as a fringe to the central feature of the flag , which is chosen by the county itself . Most of the central designs were adapted from the counties ' coat of arms .

= = Similar flags = =

Save for the exact color shades and aspect ratio , the flag is identical to the flag of the Danish island Ærø , also located by the Baltic Sea , and to that of the Colombian department of Bolívar . It is also similar to the flag of Myanmar , which is defaced with a large white star .

= = = Countries = = =

= = = Administrative divisions = = =

= = = Cities = = =

= = = Historical = = =

= = = Other = = =