

**SRI LANKA STANDARD 1: 2020**  
**UDC 929.9**

**SPECIFICATION FOR  
THE NATIONAL FLAG OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA  
(First Revision)**

**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION**



**Sri Lanka Standard**  
**SPECIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL FLAG OF**  
**THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**  
**(First Revision)**

**SLS 1: 2020**  
**(Supersedes SLS 693: 1985)**

**Gr. 7**

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**SRI LANKA**

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**Sri Lanka Standard**  
**SPECIFICATION FOR THE NATIONAL FLAG OF**  
**THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**  
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## **FOREWORD**

This standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Textile and Garments was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 2020-01-24.

The original number of SLS 693: 1985 was changed to SLS 1: 2020 in terms of the decision taken by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution at the meeting held on 2019-11-27.

This Sri Lanka standard specification for the National Flag of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka SLS 1: 2020 supersedes the SLS 693: 1985.

**Authority:** When this standard was published in 1985, the Sri Lanka Standards Institution obtained a mandate from his Excellency the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, to lay down this standard. For this purpose the Sri Lanka Standards Institution nominated a Drafting Committee on Flags and emblems.

## **Historical background**

When the Kandyan Kingdom was ceded to the British on 02 March, 1815, it was the King's civil Standard which was lowered to make way for the Union Jack.

With the declaration of independence in 1948, it became necessary for Ceylon to design her own National Flag. Initially, the 1815 King's Civil Standard was used. In 1948, a National Flag Committee (NFC) of the House of Representatives was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Honourable S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, M.P, Minister of Health and Local Government by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable D.S. Senanayake, P.C, M.P. The report of that Committee was tabled in the House of Representatives on 27 February, 1951. After having a two day parliament debate, (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1951) the flag report was accepted on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1951.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1972, when Sri Lanka became a Republic, the four Bo-Leaves which were in the corners of the flag were made more prominent than in the National Flag design in 1951.

The recommendations made by the NFC resulted in two vertical stripes of saffron and green being added to the 1815 King's civil Standard. It was laid down that that widths of the stripes should be 1: 1: 5, but the proportions and internal dimensions of the overall flag were not detailed and the five colours were not technically specified.

## **Technical details**

The original standard specification had been prepared by, the Drafting Committee based on the report of the NFC of 1951. Colours referred to in this specification are based on those given

in Plate XV attached to the report. The Drafting Committee has not deviated from the principles followed by the NFC in their report.

All standard values in this specification are in SI units. For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this specification is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis shall be rounded off in accordance with **SLS 102**. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value shall be the same as that of the specified value in this specification.

## **1. SCOPE**

This specification prescribes the design, colours and the dimensions of different sizes of the National Flag of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

## **2. REFERENCES**

SLS 102	Rules for rounding off numerical values
SLS 428	Radom sampling method
SLS 1387	Method of test for colourfastness of textiles Part 28: General principle for measurement of surface colour

## **3. DESIGN**

**3.1** The shape of the flag shall be rectangular.

**3.2** The ratio of the width to the length of the flag shall be 1 : 2.

**3.3** The design has a yellow border and two vertical stripes. The left most stripe shall be green and the other saffron. To the right of the saffron stripe, separated from it by a yellow strip, shall be the lion in yellow on a red background, bearing an upright sword in its right fore-paw, and facing the saffron stripe. In the four corners of the red background shall have four yellow bo-leaves. The lion and bo-leaves shall be outlined in black as depicted in Plate 3. The width of each stripe shall be in the proportion of one is to seven of the length of the flag excluding the vertical yellow border on the outside of the green stripe (See Plate 3).

The design, characteristics and features of the lion, sword and Bo-Leaves shall be in accordance with the diagram of the Plate 3. The characteristics and features shall not be changed.

### **3.4 Colour requirements of the National Flag**

The colours of the national flag, shall correspond to the CIE Lab values in the Table 1.

**Table 1- Colours of the National Flag**

Colour (1)	Pantone Number (2)	CIE Lab values (3)			Requirement (4)	Method of test (5)
		L	a	b		
Red	19-1863 TCX	33.16	44.22	17.87	$\Delta E \leq 1.5$	Spectrometer readings (see 5.1) $\Delta E$ shall be calculated in accordance with formula DE 2000.
Saffron	16-1164 TCX	59.16	37.52	66.50	$\Delta E \leq 1.5$	
Green	18-5322 TCX	37.53	-27.56	1.05	$\Delta E \leq 1.5$	
Yellow	14-0957 TCX	76.67	15.56	76.70	$\Delta E \leq 1.5$	
Black	na*	na*	na*	na*	na*	

na\* = not applicable

#### 4. DIMENSIONS

The finished sizes and dimensions of commonly used flag types are given in the Table 2. Flags of other sizes shall maintain the relevant respective ratios in reference to the size 3, as specified in the Table 2 and read in conjunction with the Plate 2.

**TABLE 2 –THE DIMENSIONS OF DESIGN**  
**(All the Dimensions are in millimetres)**

<b>Flag size number</b>	<b>Length x Width</b>	<b>Tolerance For the length and width</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>g</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>i</b>	<b>j</b>	<b>k</b>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>(12)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(14)</b>
1	150 X 75	± 2 mm	6	20	90	60	15	47	8	8	10	1	2
2	200 X 100		8	27	120	80	20	62	11	10	13	1	3
3	250 X 125	± 4 mm	10	34	150	95	27	77	14	13	17	1	3
4	300 X 150		12	40	180	120	30	95	16	16	20	1	4
5	1,200 X 600	± 6 mm	50	165	725	460	130	370	65	65	80	5	15
6	1,500 X 750		60	205	905	580	162	466	82	80	101	6	18
7	1,800 X 900	± 10 mm	72	245	1080	690	195	560	98	93	121	7	22
8	2,000 X 1,000		80	270	1200	770	215	620	110	104	136	8	24

Note:

*All the dimensions represent by “a” to “k” are indicated in the plate 2.*



## **5 METHODS OF TESTS**

- 5.1** Tests for the requirements specified in Clause **3.4** shall be carried out as per the SLS **1387** Part **28**.
- 5.2** Tests for the requirements specified in Clause **4** shall be carried out as per the Table **2**.

## **6 SAMPLING**

The sampling may be done according to the Appendix **A**.

## **7 CONFORMITY TO STANDARD**

The lot/ sample shall be declared as conforming to the requirements of this specification if each test results on the sample, tested as in Clause **5** satisfy the relevant requirement.

**APPENDIX A****A.1 LOT**

**A.1.1** In any consignment, all the flags of the same type and size shall be grouped together to constitute a lot.

**A.1.2** The conformity of the lot to the requirements of this specification shall be determined on the basis of tests carried out on the samples selected from it.

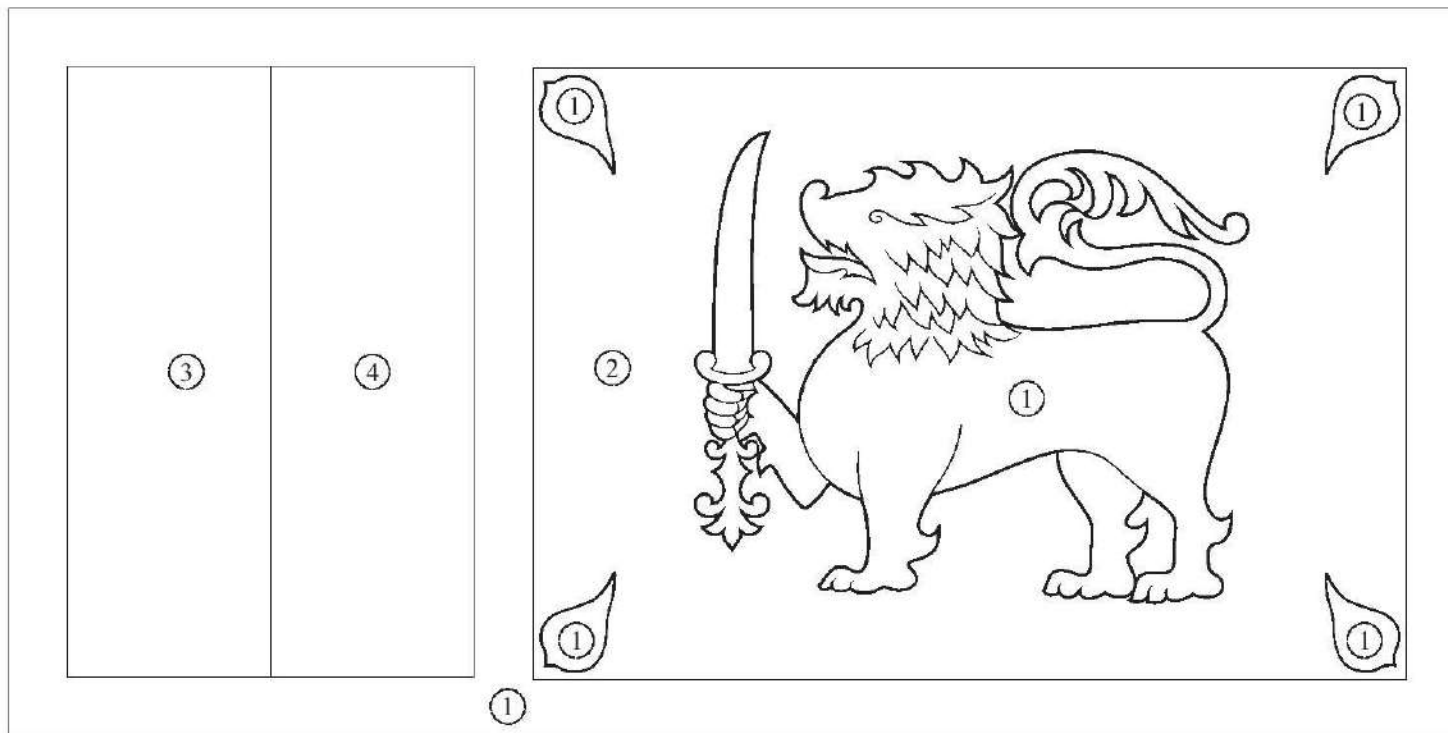
**A.1.3** Unless otherwise agreed to between the supplier and the purchaser the number of flags, to be selected depends on the size of the lot, shall be selected at random in accordance with Column 2 of Table 3.

**TABLE 3 – Number of flags to be selected from a lot**

<b>Number of flags in the lot (1)</b>	<b>Number of flags To be selected (2)</b>	<b>Acceptance Number in accordance with sample (3)</b>
Up to 90	13	1
91 to 150	20	2
151 to 280	32	3
281 to 500	50	5
501 to 1 200	80	7
1 201 to 3 200	125	10
3 201 to 10 000	200	14
10 001 to 35 000	315	21
35 001 and above	500	21

**A.2** The packages shall be selected at random in order to ensure randomness of selection. If necessary, tables of random numbers as given in **SLS 428** may be used.

Plate 1



	Colour	pantone number
①	Yellow	14-0957 TCX
②	Maroon	19-1863 TCX
③	Green	18-5322 TCX
④	Saffron	16-1164 TCX

The lion and four bo-lives shall be outlined in black colour  
 The other components of the flag shall not be outlined.



Plate 2

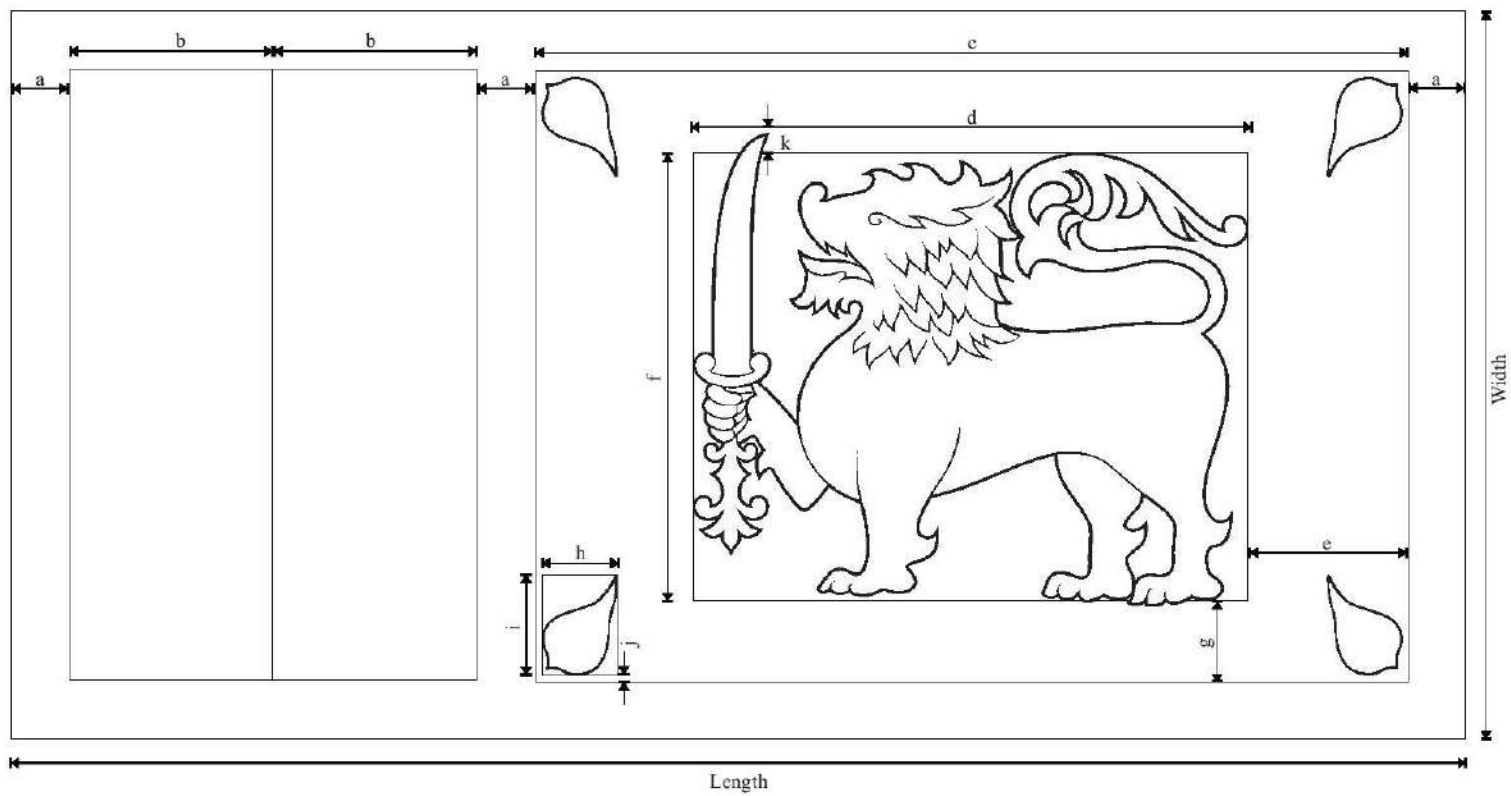
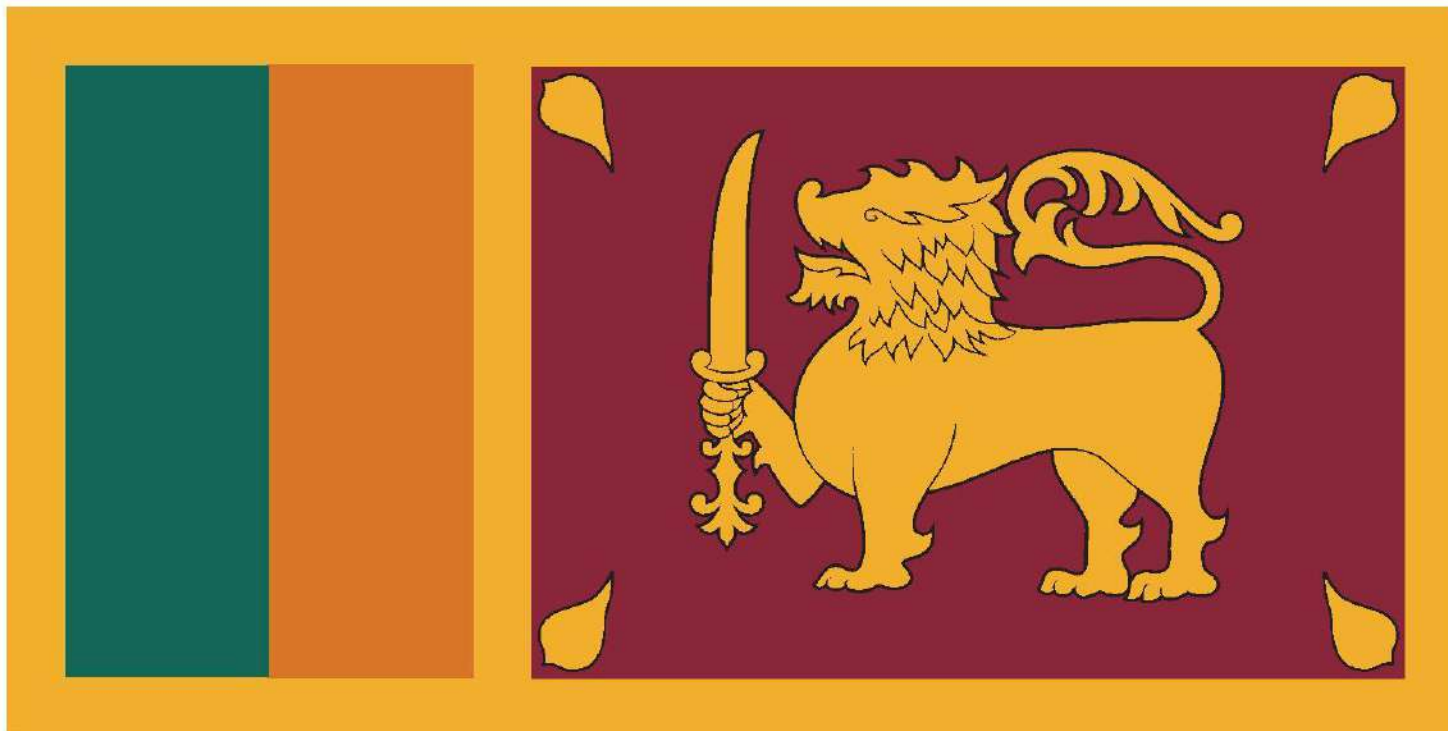




Plate 3



This diagram is not for colour matching

  
Red - 19-1863 TCX

  
Saffron - 16-1164 TCX

  
Green 18-5322 TCX

  
Yellow 14-0957 TCX

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*Further particulars of the terms and conditions of the permit may be obtained from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.*



## SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

The development and formulation of National Standards is carried out by Technical Experts and representatives of other interest groups, assisted by the permanent officers of the Institution. These Technical Committees are appointed under the purview of the Sectoral Committees which in turn are appointed by the Council. The Sectoral Committees give the final Technical approval for the Draft National Standards prior to the approval by the Council of the SLSI.

All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

In the International field the Institution represents Sri Lanka in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and participates in such fields of standardization as are of special interest to Sri Lanka.