

Department of the Interior

Departmental Manual

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Part 310: General

Chapter 5: Flags

Originating Office: Office of Facilities and Administrative Services

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5.1 **Purpose.** This chapter provides the Department's policy for displaying and flying the United States Flag and authorized flags representing the Department.

5.2 **Responsibilities.**

A. The Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS) is responsible for establishing and disseminating Departmental policy and guidance regarding flags.

B. Bureaus and offices are responsible for flying flags in accordance with Departmental policy.

5.3 **Flag of the United States of America.**

A. Policy.

(1) Bureaus and offices will display and use the flag of the United States of America (U.S. flag) as required by the Joint Resolution of June 22, 1942, as amended; Presidential Proclamation 3044 dated March 1, 1954; Public Law 94-344; 36 U.S.C. §173-178; and Proclamation 4064, dated July 6, 1971. Departmental policy for displaying and using flags of the U.S. is supplemented by General Services Administration (GSA) regulations which govern the display or flying of the U.S. flag at GSA controlled installations.

(2) The U.S. flag should be flown in accordance with 36 U.S.C. §174. The U.S. flag should be displayed in the Offices of the Secretary, Solicitor, Assistant Secretaries, Inspector General, and the headquarters and regional headquarters offices of bureaus and offices. It should also be displayed or flown at official functions and special occasions, such as dedications, ceremonies, press conferences, etc.

B. Flying and Displaying the U.S. Flag. The position and manner of display of the U.S. flag will be in accordance with 36 U.S.C. §175 which outlines common use requirements. Generally, when the U.S. flag is displayed with other flags on separate staffs, it will be on the right, i.e., the flags own right (viewers left). No other flag may be placed higher than the U.S. flag.

C. Specifications. The height of a flagpole and whether it is a ground pole or a roof pole determines the size of the flag to be flown. The following serves as a guide:

FLAGPOLE SPECIFICATIONS	
Ground Flagpoles	
Height (in feet)	Flag Size*
30	3' 6" hoist x 6' 7 3/4" fly
40	5' hoist x 9' 6" fly
50	5' hoist x 9' 6" fly
60	8' 11 3/8" hoist x 17' fly**
Roof Flagpoles	
20	3'6" hoist x 6'7 3/4" fly
30	5' hoist x 9' 6" fly
40	5' hoist x 9' 6" fly
50	8' 11 3/8" hoist x 17' fly**
60	8' 11 3/8" hoist x 17' fly**

* Sizes as listed in GSA Catalog.

** When more than one flag is flown the same pole, it may be advisable to fly a smaller size flag. Other flags, however, may not exceed the size of the U.S. flag.

D. Half-Staffing. The U.S. flag will be flown at half-staff on occasions specified in Presidential Proclamation 3044, and when so directed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(1) OFAS will notify bureau headquarters of occasions when half-staffing is required.

(2) Bureaus should disseminate the information contained in Presidential Proclamation 3044 to all field activities which have flag flying responsibility and establish internal notification procedures to ensure compliance with half-staffing requirements. Bureau headquarters will notify affected field activities on these occasions.

E. Unserviceable Flags. Torn, frayed, soiled, or otherwise damaged flags are unserviceable and will not be flown. Flags should be inspected daily before being raised for the day. Unserviceable flags may not be discarded in the trash, but will be disposed of by burning, out of public view, and in a way which does not constitute a fire hazard.

F. Procurement. The U.S. flag may be purchased through GSA Federal Supply Sources.

5.4 **Flags of the Department of The Interior**

A. The Interior Department Flag (Department Flag). The Department flag will be displayed or flown only in conjunction with the flag of the United States of America and only as specified in this Chapter.

(1) **Displaying and Flying the Department Flag**

(a) Interior-controlled Installations. The Department flag will be flown in conjunction with the U.S. flag at the entrance to, near, or over the main administration and headquarters buildings at all Department of the Interior-controlled installations. The flag should be displayed in the Offices of the Secretary, Solicitor, Assistant Secretaries, Inspector General, and the headquarters and regional headquarters of bureaus and offices. It may also be displayed or flown at official functions and special occasions, such as dedications, ceremonies, press conference, etc.

(b) GSA-controlled Installations. GSA's Public Building Service is responsible for displaying and flying flags at GSA-controlled buildings. For special occasions, approval may be obtained from the appropriate GSA Regional Office to fly the Department flag at the entrance to, near, or over Interior-occupied buildings under GSA control.

(c) Leased Facilities. The Department flag will be flown at leased facilities which are solely occupied by the Department, where leasing arrangements (and GSA policy) permit.

(2) Description. The official flag of the Department of the Interior is 4 feet 5 inches on the hoist by 5 feet 6 inches on the fly. As shown in Illustration I, the color is light blue and white, arranged in four alternate triangles. The four quadrants represent these original major activities of the Department: Fish and Wildlife, Mineral Resources, Water and Power, and Public Land Management. In the center of the flag is depicted the Departmental seal, 26 inches in diameter.

(a) Indoor Flag. The flag for inside use is made of nylon cloth, with a pole hem and leather tabs, and trimmed on three sides with a gold-colored fringe 2-1/2 inches wide. The flag will be mounted on a staff surmounted by a gold spread eagle.

(b) Outdoor Flag. The flag for outside use is made of nylon without the gold-colored fringe. This flag is complete with a canvas heading and metal grommets.

(c) Department Vessel Flag. The vessel flag is 22 inches on the hoist by 32 inches on the fly and is fabricated from nylon cloth.

(3) Procurement. Department flags may be purchased from the OFAS for authorized use only.

B. Secretary of the Interior Flag. The Secretary's flag is significant of the rank or office of the Secretary of the Interior. It may be displayed only in his/her office or in his/her immediate presence, such as on an automobile in which he/she is a passenger, or at functions at which he/she is present. At the Secretary's direction, it may be flown over Interior-controlled buildings in which he/she is present. At the written request of the Secretary and with the written concurrence of the appropriate GSA Regional Administrator, the Secretary's flag may be flown over GSA-controlled buildings when the Secretary is present.

C. Secretary's Ceremonial Flag. The ceremonial flag of the Secretary of the Interior is 4 feet 5 inches on the hoist by 5 feet 6 inches on the fly, made of oriental blue nylon cloth. It is made with a pole hem and leather tabs, and trimmed on three sides by gold-colored fringe 2-1/2 inches wide. In the center of the flag is depicted the official seal of the Department 26 inches in diameter. Extending across from the left are seven stars, three above and four below the seal. Each star has 5 points and is 5 inches in diameter with one point upward. The stars represent the seven principal activities of the Department at the time the flag was adopted. These seven activities are: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Mines, Geological Survey, and Fish and Wildlife Service. The flag is mounted on a staff surmounted by a gold spread eagle and decorated by a gold-colored cord with tassel at each end.

D. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Flag. The ceremonial flag of the Deputy Secretary of the Interior is identical to that of the Secretary, except that the flag background is white and the stars are blue. It is made with police hem and leather tabs, and trimmed on three sides by gold-colored fringe 2 1/2 inches wide. The flag is for indoor display only, at his/her immediate office and at official functions and ceremonies at which the Deputy Secretary is the principal speaker.

E. Assistant Secretary Flag. The flag of the Assistant Secretaries is identical to the flag of the Deputy Secretary except that the flag is trimmed on three sides by blue-colored fringe 2 1/2 inches wide. The flag is for indoor display only in the offices of the Assistant Secretaries and at official functions and ceremonies at which an Assistant Secretary is the principal speaker.

F. Bureau Flags. Bureaus having authorized flags will issue directives governing the policy, custody, and use of such flags in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Bureaus will submit design modifications of existing bureau flags and proposed designs for new flags authorized by statute to the Director of OFAS for Departmental review and coordination.

(1) Bureau flags may be displayed in conjunction with the U.S. and Departmental flags in headquarters and regional headquarters offices occupied by officials at the level of Regional Director or above and at official ceremonies and functions of the bureau presented to the general public.

(2) Bureau flags may not be displayed higher than the U.S. or Department flag.

(3) Bureau flags may be flown at facilities which are solely occupied by the bureau, provided the U.S. and Department flags are also flown on separate flagpoles, if an additional flagpole is available for this purpose.

5.5 Protocol for United States and Department of the Interior Flags.

A. Display of the U.S. flag with various flags of the Department of the Interior will be in the following order:

- (1) United States flag.
- (2) Department of the Interior flag.
- (3) Secretary of the Interior flag (when Secretary is present).
- (4) Deputy Secretary flag (when the Deputy Secretary is present).
- (5) Assistant Secretary flag
- (6) Bureau flag(s)

B. When displaying flags of the various agencies or equivalent, the protocol is established by the Department of State.

5.6 **Other Flags and Pennants.** The Director of the OFAS (for Interior-operated and leased space) and the Regional Administrator or other appropriate GSA official (for space operated by GSA or leased by GSA and operated by the building owner) may authorize the flying of flags and pennants, other than those described in this chapter, as appropriate, provided flags and flagpole space are available for this purpose.

A. Foreign Flags. Foreign flags are flown on individual staffs at the same height as and to the right of the U.S. flag, as shown in Illustration II.

B. State Flags. State flags may be flown on the anniversary of statehood, on state holidays and on other special occasions, at the request of the State government or with permission from the National Business Center.

C. City Flags. On the anniversary of the founding of the city and on special occasions, at the request of the City government or with permission from OFAS

D. Bureau Flags. The order of protocol for bureau flags not covered in this chapter is (1) U.S. flag; (2) Department flag; and (3) Bureau flag. Bureau flags may not be larger than or flown higher than the U.S. or Department flags.