

Federal Law no. (2)
Issued on 21/12/1971
Corresponding to 4th 4th Dhu Al-Qedah 1391 A.H

Concerning the Union Flag

I, Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
the President of the United Arab Emirates

After perusal to the articles 5, 47 (2), 54 (4) and 110 (4) of the provisional constitution (1) of the United Arab Emirates;

After perusal to the Federal Decree no. (4) of 1971 concerning the Flag;

Acting upon the approval of the Federal Cabinet and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

Hereby issue the following law:

Article (1)

The United Arab Emirates Flag shall be in accordance with the following shape, measurements and colours:

The UAE flag shall be a rectangular shape, the length of which is twice the width. It shall be divided into 4 rectangular parts; the first part is red, equal to the width of the flag and located right next to the mast. The other parts displays three equal horizontal bands, the top of which is green, the middle is white and the bottom is black.

Article (2)

The rules and principles of flag hoisting shall be identified subject to a regulation to be issued by the Cabinet (2).



Article (3)

Any person who, publicly or at any public place or a location opened for people, drops, damages or in any way insults the Union flag, the flag of any member emirate in the Union or the flag of any other country as a result of disgust or contempt of the powers of the Union, the emirates or the relevant countries, shall be punished by prison for a period of no more than six (6) months and fine of no more than one thousand (1000.00) Qtari Riyal, Dubai or one hundred (100.00) Bahraini Dinar.

Article (4)

This law shall be published in the official gazette and shall have effect from the date of the issue thereof.

Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued in the Presidential Palace
On 4th of Dhu Al-Qedah 1391 A.H
Corresponding to December 21, 1971

This law was published in the official gazette, issue no. (1), page (49).

- (1). The term "Provisional" was deleted from the UAE constitution, wherever stated, subject to the Article (1) of the constitutional amendment no. 1/1996 dated 2/12/1996 where the provisional constitution turned into permanent one for the UAE country.
- (2). With regard to the rules of hoisting the Union flag, please refer to the Cabinet decree no (5/1996) dated 14/03/1996 issued immediately after the Federal Law herein.



The UAE Cabinet Decree no 5 of 1996 concerning the Country hoisting regulation

The Cabinet

After perusal to:

The provisional constitution;

The Federal Supreme Council no. 4 of 1971 concerning the Union Flag;

The Federal Law no 2 of 1971 concerning the Union Flag;

The UAE cabinet decree no. (9/202) of 1998 concerning the development of the country flag regulation;

And Subject to what has been submitted by the State Minister of the Cabinet Affairs and the approval of the Cabinet,

The cabinet as decided the following:

Article (1)

The Country flag shall be raised to all ministerial and governmental buildings, departments, establishments throughout the days of the week including Fridays and public holidays. Further, it may be raised to the private buildings in feasts and public and private celebrations.

Article (2)

The Country flag shall be raised permanently over the day and night to the governmental authorities located at the borders including police stations, customs, border guard corps, airports and sea ports.



Article (3)

Subject to the international customary rules and international courtesy, the Country flag shall be daily raised overseas, including Fridays, the public holidays and public occasions of the country, to the country embassies and consulates, the ambassador and consul accommodation, the domiciles of the permanent delegations of the country to the international and regional authorities and agencies overseas. However, the flag may be put at half-mast subject to the international customary rules and international courtesy.

Article (4)

The Country flag shall be raised over day and night to all ships including commercial ships and warships during its existence in the regional water of the country.

The internal navigation ships shall be raised at the astern of the ship from the sunrise to sunset including Fridays, public holidays and public occasions.

Article (5)

The Country flag shall be raised to the ships or naval vessels in the high seas according to the following rules:

- 1). During their existence at any port from sunrise to sunset.
- 2). Upon accessing or exiting any port.
- 3). Upon visually passing by any other ship, port, military base, fort, castle, artillery center or minaret or subject to the demand of any warship.
- 4). If the vessel or the warship raises any distinguished mark or sign. However, the flag shall be raised to astern of the vessel or the warship at the inclined arm of the astern mast.



Article (6)

The Country flag shall be raised over day and night to the domicile and headquarter of His Highness the President of the State, their Highnesses the members of the supreme council; rules of the emirates. The flag shall be raised to their permanent headquarter and domicile. However, there is no need to raise the flag to their accidental domicile or headquarter.

The flag of H.H. the President of the State shall be raised to the domicile and headquarter of the H.H. the President of the State.

The Country flag shall be raised to the car of H.H. the President of the State. The Country flag shall be placed at right front side of the car while the flag of H.H. shall be raised to the left front of the car.

In case of accompanying any guests of the presidents of other countries, the flag of H.H. shall be raised to the left front of the car while the flag of the foreign guest shall be raised to the right front. In addition, in case of delegating another person to accompany the foreign guest, the Country flag shall be raised to the left front of the car while the flag of the foreign guest shall be raised to the right front.

Article (7)

The Country flag shall be raised during conferences and celebrations. It shall be located at the meeting hall, auditorium or celebration halls...etc. It shall be hoisted horizontally or to a mast provided that the flag level shall be higher than the speakers and participants. If other flags are to be raised with the Country flag pursuant to the rules of the regulations hereof, the flags shall be raised to masts.



Article (8)

Subject to the provision provided in the regulation hereof, the order of the flags shall be prioritized according to the following rules:

- 1). For the countries of Arab League, precedence shall be made according to the alphabetical order applicable in the Arab League.
- 2). For the GCC countries, precedence shall be made according to the system applicable in the GCC.
- 3). For the foreign countries, or in case of their meeting with the countries of the Arab League or the GCC countries, precedence shall be made according to the alphabetical order applicable in the United Nations Entity.

Article (9)

In case of flag passing, parades, taking its position in the parade, or raising or lowering it to the masts, military saluting shall be made to the Country flag by the military personnel.

Article (10)

in case the official mourning is announced in the country, the flag may be hanged by putting it at half-mast. This may include the country embassies and consulates, the ambassador and consul accommodation, the domiciles of the permanent delegations of the country to the international and regional authorities and agencies overseas.



Article (11)

This law shall be published in the official gazette and shall have effect from the date of the issue thereof.

**Prime Minister
President of the United Arab Emirates**

Issued in Abu Dhabi
On 25th of Shawwal 1416 A.H
Corresponding to March 14th, 1996

