

Signal Code Flag Meaning

A - Diver below (when stationary); I am undergoing a speed trial
B - I am taking on or discharging explosives
C - Yes (affirmative)
D - Keep clear of me; I am manoeuvring with difficulty
E - I am altering my course to starboard
F - I am disabled; communicate with me
G - I require a pilot
H - I have a pilot on board
I - I am altering my course to port
J - I am going to send a message by semaphore
K - You should stop your vessel instantly
L - You should stop; I have something important to communicate
M - I have a doctor on board
N - No (negative)
O - Man overboard
P - The Blue Peter - all aboard, the vessel is about to proceed to sea. (At sea) your lights are out or burning badly
Q - My vessel is healthy, and I request free pratique
R - the way is off my ship. You may feel your way past me
S - My engines are going full speed astern
T - Do not pass ahead of me
U - You are standing into danger
V - I require assistance (not distress)
W - I require medical assistance
X - Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals
Y - I am carrying mail
Z - To be used to address or call shore stations

Signal Flags are also used for signaling to competitors during dinghy and yacht racing e.g.

B = protest
C = position of the next mark has been changed
D = don't launch/follow this rib
I - round the ends
L - change to SIs or another amendment
M = there is a mark missing
N - abandon
O = rule 42 is waived
P - preparatory
R = rule 42 is restored
S = shortened course
U = one step less stringent than a black flag, allows boats back in after a general recall or abandonment.
X = individual recall
Y - lifejackets must be worn
Z = 20% scoring penalty
Answer = Postponement
1st Substitute = General Recall