

Even if this flag consisted of nothing else than its 16 red-and-blue stripes, it would still be one of the most recognisable in the world, because no other national flag uses multiple stripes in these colours. With the simple additions of a silver fern frond to its hoist and the traditional New Zealand-style Southern Cross to its fly, it becomes a powerhouse of recognition. The stripes represent the official regions of New Zealand proper. The slant of the silver fern frond toward the upper hoist edge ensures that much or all of the fern will be visible when the flag is draped in windless conditions, and the stripes will be prominent in any wind.