

In the hoist, a silver fern frond is framed by 16 red-white-and-blue emblems, representing the official regions of New Zealand proper. Each emblem is an abstract fusion of the letters N and Z, their 'diamond' orientations making them equally valid from both the obverse and reverse sides of the flag. The silver fern frond is angled toward the upper hoist edge to provide maximum recognisability when the flag hangs slack. In the fly, sixteen red-and-blue stripes further represent New Zealand's official regions, and they greatly increase the recognisability of the flag for windless conditions. The Southern Cross completes the design.