

At the edge of the hoist are representations of the international signal flags for the letters 'N' and 'Z', which in military-speak equate to November Zulu. In this combination the signal flags also send the message 'no assistance required', a fitting motto for independent New Zealanders. The N flag is a chequerboard of 16 squares, the number of official regions in New Zealand proper, and the Z flag has four triangles, the number of other major areas usually listed for the full Realm of New Zealand: the Ross Dependency, Tokelau, the Cook Islands, and Niue. A silver fern frond completes the hoist, adding yet another way in which this design is uniquely representative of New Zealand. The New Zealand Southern Cross appears in the fly, along with sixteen red-and-blue stripes, a further nod to the official regions of NZ.