

BLUE FLAG INFORMATION BOARD

Blue Flag information board is an imperative requirement of the Blue Flag programme with the aim to provide sufficient environmental information at Blue Flag beaches/marinas observed by beach users and control visit controllers.

There is no standard Blue Flag information board design provided by Blue Flag International, and the Blue Flag operators are encouraged to design the Blue Flag board in accordance with the **Criteria 1 to 6** in the Blue Flag Beach Criteria and explanatory notes 2015 and **Criteria 1 to 5** for marinas in the Blue Flag Marina Criteria and explanatory notes 2015.

The national operator is responsible to produce the suggestions for common information board on the national level following the decided overall frames. The suggestion from each country must be approved by the FEE Executive Board. After approval by FEE, each country must within a certain timeframe ensure the implementation of the national common Blue Flag information board.

Blue Flag operators are required to have the following frames for the common information board. The Blue Flag information board, once designed, must be shared with ECAT before the Blue Flag operator proceeds with the supplier. This is necessary to avoid any additional cost that could arise from corrections and changes suggested by ECAT during the control visits.

All the information must be gathered in one information board (in one place). The information board should be located at a prominent place by the beach/marina entrance or by the Blue Flag. If the beach/marina is large, it might be necessary that more information boards with same information are found on the beach/marina.

Dispensation from the demand can be given, if the candidate beach/marina can document that it complies with the information alternatively and with a time for the common information board to be in place.

In areas of international tourism, it is recommended that the information be provided in relevant languages.

For new application, Blue Flag common information board must be erected by **15th of December**.

Existing operators, must ensure to maintain their common information board. In case, of faded contents due to hard weather conditions and unclear text, the Blue Flag operator must replace the existing board with a new one.

OVERALL FRAMES FOR THE COMMON INFORMATION BOARD

S.No	Elements	Details	Required by
1	Blue Flag Logo	Correct format and colour in accordance with FEE branding guidelines.	ALL
2	FEE logo	Correct format and colour in accordance with FEE branding guidelines.	
2	Name of the beach/marina	Correct name of the Beach must be displayed	ALL
3	Information about the Blue Flag Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essence of the 4 categories and the most important criteria must be explained (alternatively the whole set of Criteria) Information about the length of the Blue Flag season (i.e one year from October to October in UAE. APPENBIX B in beach explanatory notes provides an example of how Blue Flag information can be presented. 	ALL
4	Contact information	Contact Information for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local responsible: Beach/Marina operators must include their contact details here. National Responsible: Environmental Center for Arab Towns . Email: blueflaguae@gmail.com International responsible: Foundation for Environment education (FEE). Website: www.blueflag.org. 	ALL
5	Information about bathing water quality	Easily understood format (as tables/figures with easily comprehensible symbols), so that everyone must be able to understand the information. Appendix D provides an example of how this information could be presented. Please note the UAE Blue Flag operators must ensure twelve boxes in the water quality table to present water quality reports for 12 months (i.e from October to October). Table 1 below was designed for UAE Blue Flag operators.	Beaches
6	Code of conduct for the beach/marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaches: see beach explanatory notes, criterion 6. Marinas: see marina explanatory notes, criterion 2. 	ALL
7	Information about nearby sensitive areas	Where appropriate, information about the coastal zone ecosystems, wetland areas, unique habitats or any sensitive natural areas must be displayed at or close to the Blue Flag beach. The information must include information on how to behave in these areas (see beach explanatory notes, Criterion 1 and marina explanatory notes Criteria 1). If there are no sensitive areas nearby, general information on environmentally important places must be posted on the information board.	

8	Map	<p>Map must indicate the Blue Flag related facilities at the beach/marina.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beach map must include the facilities/issues (if available/present) as indicated in the beach explanatory notes, Criterion 5. • The marina map must include the facilities/issues (if available/present) as indicated in the marina explanatory notes, Criterion 24. 	ALL
9	Information about the Individual Blue Flag for Boat owners	See marina explanatory notes, criterion 5 .	Marina
10	Safety precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches: see explanatory notes, criterion 27 & 31. • Marinas: See explanatory notes, criterion 21. 	ALL
11	Promotion of Green-Key Programme	Blue Flag beaches/marinas must promote the Green Key programme as another eco-label FEE programme with a message such as: "along with the Blue Flag, the foundation for Environmental Education also develops another eco-label for accommodations: Green Key. Find more information at: www.green-key.org "	
12	Information about Environmental Education activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about 5 environmental education activities for beaches and 3 environmental education activities for marinas must be posted on the information board. • The board should also indicate from where more details on the environmental education activities can be obtained within the facility. 	ALL
13	Other environmental information	If applicable	
14	In the event that the flag is temporarily withdrawn	Information must be posted at the beach informing the public as to the reason when the flag has to be withdrawn. Please include the sentence: <i>"Blue Flag accreditation is only given for one season at a time and the award is only valid as long as the criteria are fulfilled. When this is not the case, the local authority is obligated to take the Blue Flag down."</i>	ALL
15	Time for the first aid and Lifeguard on duty		ALL

GUIDELINES FOR MAP DESIGN

The aim of this guideline is to ensure that maps are informative, accurate and functional. A good map should allow users to locate facilities quickly and easily.

The map of the beach/marina is a component of the Blue Flag Information board and must comply with the following guidelines:

- 1) The beach/marina map should be the main focus of the map and not the surrounding areas.
- 2) The map should have a framed boundary.
- 3) An accurate scale bar should be present (ideally at the bottom of the map).
- 4) A simple north arrow should appear on the map to assist with orientation.
- 5) A **YOU ARE HERE** pointer must be clearly marked on the map using the information pictogram and written as **YOU ARE HERE**.
- 6) Location of key facilities and services must be shown.
- 7) The map should be preferably be of an A3 size (420mm x 297mm) or bigger, but no smaller than A4 (297mm x 210mm).
- 8) International Pictograms must be used to represent each facility marked on the map. The pictograms can be found at <http://www.blueflag.org/menu/awarded-sites/tools-for-beaches>. The pictogram should be a minimum of 10mm x10 for A3 size map and 5mm x 5mm for A4 map.
- 9) The name of the beach must be included in the map. The font used should be no smaller than size 14, and preferably should be larger.
- 10) The general font size should be minimum of size 12, preferably larger.
- 11) The map must have a legend which should appear in the local language and in English where possible.
- 12) Details of who produced the map may be included.
- 13) The map should be orientated to relate to its actual position on the beach. In other words it should be easily understood from the point you are standing at.
- 14) If the Blue Flag beach/marina area is smaller than the beach/marina a symbol should indicate the boundaries of the Blue Flag. The Blue Flag symbol should be used at each end of the area.

The List of components for Beach maps:

S.no	Component	Display requirement
1	YOU ARE HERE pointer	Written and represented with a pictogram
2	Lifeguard/lifesaving equipment	Represented with a pictogram
3	First aid equipment	Represented with a pictogram
4	Telephones	Represented with a pictogram
5	Toilets (including toilets for disabled people)	Represented with a pictogram
6	Drinking water	Represented with a pictogram
7	Car and bicycle parking areas	Represented with a pictogram
8	Recycling facilities	Represented with a pictogram
9	Water sampling points	Represented with a pictogram
10	Access point and access for the disabled	Represented with a pictogram
11	Swimming zone (where applicable)	Represented with a pictogram along with demarcation of the swimming area on the map.
12	Surfing zone (where applicable)	Represented with a pictogram along with demarcation of the surfing zone area on the map.
13	Sunbathing zone (where applicable)	Represented with a pictogram along with demarcation of the sunbathing area on the map.
14	Boating zone (where applicable)	Represented with a pictogram along with demarcation of the boating area on the map.
15	Security patrolled area	Represented with a pictogram along with demarcation of the security patrolled area on the map.
16	Authorized camping sites at/near the beach (if relevant)	Currently no pictogram available.
17	Footpath	Marked with the right symbol
18	Zoned areas	Marked with the right symbol
19	Demarcation of the Blue Flag area	Marked with the right symbol
20	Rivers and inflows (potential pollution sources)	Marked with the right symbol
21	Nearby natural sensitive areas	Marked with the right symbol
22	Local landmarks	Marked with the right symbol
23	Buildings	Marked with the right symbol
24	North Arrow	Simple north arrow
25	Scale bar	Accurate scale bar placed at the bottom of the map.
26	Legend/keys	Legends/keys for the pictograms must appear in English and local language.

List of components for marina maps:

S.No	Component	Display requirements
1	Reception facilities for hazardous waste and oil waste	Represented with a pictogram
2	Recycling facilities	Represented with a pictogram
3	Toilet tank pumping/reception facilities	Represented with a pictogram
4	Bilge water pumping/reception facilities (if present)	Represented with a pictogram
5	Lifesaving equipment	Represented with a pictogram
6	Fire-fighting equipment	Represented with a pictogram
7	First aid equipment	Represented with a pictogram
8	Public telephone	Represented with a pictogram
9	Sanitary facilities (Toilets, showers, washing facilities & disabled)	Represented with a pictogram
10	Drinking water	Represented with a pictogram
11	Fuelling station	Represented with a pictogram
12	Boat repairing and washing areas (if present)	Represented with a pictogram
13	Marina office/club house	Represented with a pictogram
14	Facilities for disabled people (if present)	Represented with a pictogram
15	Designated parking areas (if present)	Represented with a pictogram
16	Nearby public transportation (if very close to the marina)	Represented with a pictogram
17	Water/power	Represented with a pictogram
18	YOU ARE HERE pointers	Written and represented with a pictogram
19	North Arrow	Simple north arrow
20	Scale bar	Accurate scale bar placed at the bottom of the map.
21	Legend/keys	Legends/keys for the pictograms must appear in English and local language.