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Nationality and registration marks: key figures

13 figures in 6 groups. Read the cue, say the figure, then check. Each group ends with a recap.
Rules change: check the regulation in force.

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Minimum character height of marks on the wings of a heavier-than-air aircraft

50 cm

On the wings, the largest of the minimum heights

Minimum character height on the fuselage (or equivalent structure) and vertical tail surfaces

30 cm

The minimum for fuselage and tail marks, not the wing minimum

Minimum character height of marks on lighter-than-air aircraft

50 cm

Except unmanned free balloons

Mark sizes: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Minimum character height of marks on the wings of a heavier-than-air aircraft	**50 cm**	On the wings, the largest of the minimum heights
Minimum character height on the fuselage (or equivalent structure) and vertical tail surfaces	**30 cm**	The minimum for fuselage and tail marks, not the wing minimum
Minimum character height of marks on lighter-than-air aircraft	**50 cm**	Except unmanned free balloons

> **Wings 50 cm. Fuselage and tail 30 cm. Lighter-than-air 50 cm.**

How many times the marks appear on a heavier-than-air aircraft wing

Once

On the lower surface of the wing, left half

Location: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
How many times the marks appear on a heavier-than-air aircraft wing	**Once**	On the lower surface of the wing, left half

Width of each character, except I and 1

2/3 of h

h is the character height

Length of a hyphen

2/3 of h

The same proportion as the character width

Line thickness of characters and hyphens

1/6 of h

Solid lines in a contrasting colour

Minimum space between adjacent characters

1/4 of a width

The hyphen counts as a character

Character geometry: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Width of each character, except I and 1	**2/3 of h**	h is the character height
Length of a hyphen	**2/3 of h**	The same proportion as the character width
Line thickness of characters and hyphens	**1/6 of h**	Solid lines in a contrasting colour
Minimum space between adjacent characters	**1/4 of a width**	The hyphen counts as a character

> **Width and hyphen 2/3 of h. Line 1/6 of h. Gap 1/4 of a width.**

Length of Code of Signals groups a registration must not resemble

5 letters

Groups of the International Code of Signals

Length of Q-code groups a registration must not resemble

3 letters, beginning with Q

Also avoid SOS and similar urgent signals

Combinations to avoid: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Length of Code of Signals groups a registration must not resemble	**5 letters**	Groups of the International Code of Signals
Length of Q-code groups a registration must not resemble	**3 letters, beginning with Q**	Also avoid SOS and similar urgent signals

Number of States in which an aircraft can be validly registered at one time

1 State

The registration can still be transferred

Nationality: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
Number of States in which an aircraft can be validly registered at one time	**1 State**	The registration can still be transferred

First Annex 7 standards take effect

1 July 1949

The first ICAO standards for aircraft marks become effective

New certificate of registration model applies

26 November 2026

Names a certificate holder and the basis of registration

Key dates: recap

CUE	FIGURE	DETAIL
First Annex 7 standards take effect	**1 July 1949**	The first ICAO standards for aircraft marks become effective
New certificate of registration model applies	**26 November 2026**	Names a certificate holder and the basis of registration

> **Effective 1 July 1949. New certificate model 26 November 2026.**