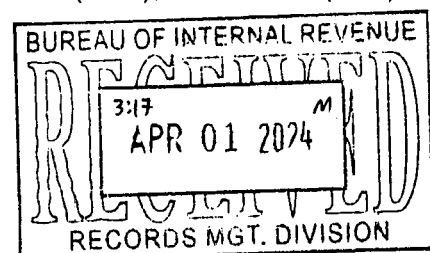


Summary of Section 51 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 8491 (the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines)

- Symbols and Colors to be incorporated in the design should be relevant to the name, history and culture of the town/city/province in the case of Local Government Units or the function and mandate of the agency (in case of National Government Agencies).
- Symbols, which are indigenous to the Philippines and/or are symbolic of Filipino culture, values, history and traditions, are preferred over western heraldic charges.
- Simple designs over elaborate ones are preferred and parsimony on detail is encouraged; as symbols and charges should remain recognizable whenever the seal is rendered or reproduced in smaller sizes.
- The names and images of living persons cannot be incorporated in the design. Images of deceased persons are to be depicted in profile (sideways).
- Personal Heraldry is prohibited; and with the sole exception of Catholic and Episcopalian Bishops, personal arms are only assumed in pretence and have no official recognition. The President and the Vice-President of the Philippines may use the seals of their respective offices in a personal capacity, but only for the duration of their terms of office.
- Seals, unlike emblems and coats of arms, should prominently feature the names of their bearer offices, and, by discretion of the bearer agency, may (or may not) also include the foundation year of the institution and a motto relevant to its mandate, aims and objectives.
- The Coat of Arms of the Republic can only be used by National Government Agencies, and the National Flag can only be used in the seals by Local Government Units which has a historical association with it.

Traditional Rules of Heraldry

1. **Division of the Field (and Precedence of Charges):** In order to avoid a cluttered design, charges (i.e., symbols) should be evenly distributed in the field in delineated compartments. Said symbols should also follow a natural progression -- the most important symbols should be larger in size and in a more prominent position, and lesser symbols should be of a smaller size relative to that of the principal symbols.
2. **The Rule of Tincture:** Heraldic tradition limits the colors which may be used in coats of arms and emblems to seven, namely: Yellow, White, Red, Green, Blue, Purple and Black, each referred to with special names and classified into two types - Metals and Tinctures:
 - **Metals:** *Or* (Yellow) and *Argent* (White), colors which are considered equivalent to the precious metals of Gold and Silver.
 - **Tinctures:** *Azure* (Blue) *Gules* (Red) *Vert* (Green) *Purpure* (Purple) and *Sable* (Black), colors equivalent to dyes derived from the following naturally-occurring substances: Lapis Lazuli and later the Indigo plant. (Blue), Cinnabar (Red),



chlorophyll from leaves (Green), the secretion from Tyrian sea snails (Purple) and soot from charcoal (Black).

- The rule of Tincture is simple: Metals should not be used with Metals, and Tinctures should not be used alongside Tinctures, as to provide a nice contrast and make the charges visible against their respective backgrounds. This rule is not hard and fast, as there are instances where the rule is disregarded especially in the case of metal-to-metal (e.g. the Coat of Arms of the Republic of the Philippines with a golden-yellow sun and stars on a white background), but it remains worth observing, considering that yellow and white contrasts well with the otherwise strong hues of other colors.

