

UNION FLAG OR UNION JACK?

Now over 400 years old, the Union Jack is a recognised throughout the world as being British. So it appropriate that taxi owners can now buy a TX4 with an iconic Union Flag on its radiator grille and a vinyl roof will also be available shortly. Peter Rigden, General Manager at M&O London told Taxi Globe: “We recently had several of the grilles on display in the showroom and fitted to our demonstrator TX4s. They have certainly so far met with a lot of favourable driver reaction. Now we have received PCO clearance for licensing. Either or both options are available on new or used TX4 (no other models) and are PCO approved only when supplied and fitted by an LTI dealer. The grilles will not therefore be available for separate purchase.”

So if you want to fly the flag and show your British-ness you can - simply add one to your iconic taxi order when buying a TX4 at M&O London.

HISTORY OF THE UNION FLAG

Back in 1194 Richard I introduced the Cross of St. George, a red cross on a white background, as the national flag of England. When James I succeeded to the throne in 1603, he was also King James VI of Scotland. So in 1606 the Scottish flag of St. Andrew, a diagonal white cross on a blue background, was combined with the Cross of St. George.

This flag became known as “The Union” and was flown from the Royal Navy’s mastheads. The name Union Jack is thought to have come about because the flag was flown from a jackstaff, a small flag pole at the bow of a ship. Once Northern Ireland became part of the United Kingdom in 1801, the St. Patrick’s flag, a red diagonal cross on a white background, was added. At this point you may be wondering about Wales. When the first Union Flag

was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England, having been conquered by England in the 13th Century. Under the reign Henry VIII, the Act of Union officially joined England and Wales. This is why Wales is represented by the English flag and not the Welsh dragon or the yellow cross on a black background of St. David.

Today there is sometimes a question as to whether the flag is the Union Flag, as described by Peter Rigden or a Union Jack. The Flag Institute says: “It is often stated that the Union Flag should only be described as the Union Jack when flown in the bows of a warship, but this is a relatively recent idea. From early in its life the Admiralty itself frequently referred to the flag as the Union Jack, whatever its use, and in 1902 an Admiralty Circular announced that Their Lordships had decided that either name could be used officially. Such use was given Parliamentary approval in 1908 when it was stated that “the Union Jack should be regarded as the National flag.” Another opinion from the Royal Navy says: “The national flag of the United Kingdom is worn as a Jack at the bow by all HM ships in commission when alongside or when ‘dressed overall’. This is the only occasion when it is correctly called the Union Jack, although it is generally known by this name through common usage. It is also flown during Courts Martial and is the Distinguishing Flag of an Admiral of the Fleet.”



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select either the aroma of fresh water or the embracing scent of freshly cut wood whilst Asian Cruise allows you to switch between the fragrances of fresh wet grass and exotic ginger.

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CARD FRAUD PHONE SCAM

APACS, the UK payments association, is warning consumers about fraudsters duping unsuspecting cardholders into revealing their card details by pretending to be from either their bank, card company or one of the international card schemes – Visa and MasterCard. The scam begins with the fraudster phoning up, typically claiming to be from the security or fraud department and saying that their records have flagged up a fraudulent transaction on the victim’s card. The fraudster may

already have some details about the person they are phoning - such as their address and card number – but is really trying to find out the three-digit security code on the back of their victim’s card. The conman will claim that the amount of the fraudulent purchase can be credited back if the individual divulges the three-digit number. However, if the security code is revealed, the fraudster will use it to try and make fraudulent purchases over the telephone or internet using the victim’s card details.

“You should never disclose any personal financial information to someone who has cold-called you over the phone – wherever they claim to be from,” said Mark Bowerman, PR manager at APACS. “If you have any doubts when approached in this way you should hang up and call the organisation back on a number that you know is correct. If you think you have already been a victim of this scam, you should speak to your card company as soon as possible.”