

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
GUIDANCE BULLETIN

No. 18

July 1, 1997

GUIDANCE ON DEPICTION OF HONG KONG S.A.R.

1. Hong Kong is to be depicted as a special administrative region.
2. The line formerly used as the international boundary shall be retained as an administrative boundary, under the boundary classification "other line of separation."
3. The line symbol for the "other line of separation" should be distinct (i.e. a dashed line) from the symbol for an international boundary.
4. The entity should be labeled "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region," "Hong Kong S.A.R." or "Hong Kong" depending on scale of map.
5. The name "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region," "Hong Kong S.A.R." or "Hong Kong" is to be depicted in a typeface other than that used for independent states, or internal administrative divisions.
6. This guidance reflects the special status of the Hong Kong S.A.R. as a semi-autonomous entity that exists pursuant to international agreement and that maintains its own government apart from the PRC.
7. The FIPS PUB 10-4 (Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 10-4) code for Hong Kong S.A.R. will remain HK.

Background. The United Kingdom, on December 19, 1984, signed an agreement with China to return Hong Kong on July 1, 1997. Hong Kong reverted to Chinese control at midnight, June 30, 1997.

Action. Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production, international boundaries and sovereignty, or editing.

William B. Wood



The Geographer
Department of State

Hong Kong: Special Administrative Region

