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## General

Hong Kong, the former British Crown Colony now part of China, is located in Eastern Asia, bordering the South China Sea and China. It lies just within the tropics on the SE coast of China. The Colony consists of 236 islands and islets, many of them waterless and uninhabited.

The climate is tropical monsoon. It is cool and humid in the winter, hot and rainy from spring through summer, and warm and sunny in the fall.

The terrain is hilly to mountainous with steep slopes and lowlands are reported in the N.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Hong Kong dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

## Firing Areas

The following firing practice areas, which lie partially or wholly over water, are maintained by the authorities:

### Port Shelter Range

Small arms and Air Force weapons beginning at 22°24'18"N, 114°16'06"E, to 22°22'42"N, 114°15'42"E, to 22°21'48"N, 114°15'42"E, to 22°20'48"N, 114°15'06"E, then SE along Clear Water Bay Road to 22°18'00"N, 114°17'12"E, to 22°18'00"N, 114°17'54"E, to 22°20'24"N, 114°20'24"E, to 22°22'00"N, 114°19'30"E, and along the NE coastline of Tai Tau Chau to the point of beginning.

### Pak Kong Range

Artillery and Heavy Weapons Firing beginning at 22°20'24"N, 114°20'24"E, to 22°18'00"N, 114°17'54"E, to 22°16'36"N, 114°18'42"E, to 22°16'18"N, 114°20'48"E, to 22°15'54"N, 114°22'00"E, to 22°16'00"N, 114°24'00"E, to 22°19'54"N, 114°23'54"E, to 22°19'48"N, 114°21'54"E, to 22°22'18"N, 114°20'30"E, to the point of beginning.

## Government

A dependent territory of the UK until July 1, 1997, Hong Kong is now part of China. China has promised to respect the existing social and economic systems of Hong Kong.

The capital is Victoria.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

The first weekday in January, the 3 days of Chinese New Year occurring in January or February, Good Friday, day following Good Friday, Easter Monday, Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, first weekday in July, first Monday in August, last Monday in August, day following Chinese Mid-

Autumn Festival Day, day following Chung Yeung Festival; December 25, Christmas Day; first weekday after Christmas Day; and August 29, Liberation Day.

Public holidays in Hong Kong occur mainly on festivals, the dates of which are governed by the lunar calendar.

## Industries

The main industries are based on textiles, clothing, tourism, electronics, plastics, toys, watches, and clocks. Hong Kong has a bustling free market economy with few or no tariff barriers.

The colony has over 20,000 registered factories ranging from small cottage types to large highly complex modern establishments. Natural resources are limited, and food and raw material must be imported.

## Languages

The official languages of Hong Kong are Chinese and English.

## Regulations

### Navigation Regulations

China claims as its territorial sea the waters within 12 miles of all territories, including islands it controls. The Chinese claim encompasses generally the waters outside the Hong Kong boundary and the waters S and W of Hong Kong.

The S and SW approaches to Hong Kong lie wholly within the Chinese claimed territorial waters. Several incidents took place during 1968 which indicated that the Chinese Communists are sensitive to the use of these particular approaches. Accordingly, in order to minimize the possibility of challenge by Chinese Naval craft, ships approaching and departing Hong Kong are advised to do so only from and to the SE. Remain at all times E of both the Chia-p'eng Lich-tao and Tan-kan Tao Island groups, which are controlled by the Chinese Government, and to pass at least 5 miles to the E of the NE head of the Tan-kan Tao Islands.

Normally, ships should enter and leave Hong Kong berths via the Lam Tong Hoi Hap (Tathong) Channel; however, ships assigned berths in the vicinity of Green Island should proceed through Lema Channel to East Lamma Channel.

In passing through Lema Channel, ships should remain as far N as is feasible for safe navigation and never less than 5 miles N of the NE head of Tan Kan Tao.

### Traffic Regulations

Vessels shall adhere to the various traffic regulations that apply in the Tathong Channel and East Lamma Channel Traffic Separation Schemes.

A vessel using a traffic separation scheme shall proceed in the appropriate traffic lane in the general direction of traffic flow for that lane. So far as practicable keep clear of a traffic separation line or separation zone.

Normally, a vessel will join or leave a traffic lane at the termination of the lane, but when joining or leaving from either side do so at as small an angle to the general direction of traffic flow as practicable.

A vessel shall, so far as practicable, avoid crossing traffic lanes, but if obliged to do so, cross as nearly as practicable at right angles to the direction of traffic flow.

Inshore traffic zones shall not normally be used by through traffic which can safely use the appropriate traffic lane within the adjacent traffic separation scheme. Vessels of less than 20m in length and sailing vessels may under all circumstances use inshore traffic zones.

A vessel, other than a crossing vessel or a vessel joining or leaving a lane, shall not normally enter a separation zone or cross a separation line except in case of emergency to avoid immediate danger or when engaging in fishing within a separation zone.

A vessel navigating in areas near the terminations of traffic separation schemes shall do so with particular caution.

A vessel shall, so far as practicable, avoid anchoring in a traffic separation scheme or in areas near its terminations.

A vessel not using a traffic separation scheme shall avoid it by as wide a margin as is practicable.

A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any vessel following a traffic lane.

A vessel of less than 20m in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the safe passage of a power-driven vessel following a traffic lane.

A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver, when engaged in an operation for the maintenance of safety of navigation in a traffic separation scheme, is exempted from complying with these rules to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.

A vessel restricted in her ability to maneuver when engaged in an operation for the laying, servicing, or picking up of a submarine cable, within a traffic separation scheme, is exempted from complying with these rules to the extent necessary to carry out the operation.

### Typhoon Regulations

Every person in charge of a vessel shall comply with the requirements of the Director of Marine, who may order such vessel to anchor or secure in any place he may direct, or prohibit anchoring or securing in any place, and who may order the vessels to be removed to another place within the Colony.

Anchoring without the permission of the Director is prohibited in the approaches to Kai Tak Airport in Kowloon Bay, except when a typhoon signal other than Nos. 1 and 3 is hoisted.

Except with the prior permission of the Director, no dead ship shall be anchored, moored, or secured at any place within the waters of the Colony nor, except with such permission, shall any repairs be undertaken upon any ship which is so anchored, moored, or secured which will result in such ship becoming a dead ship.

The expression "dead ship" means any ship exceeding 50m in length, other than a laid-up ship, which is unable to proceed under its own power, unable to maneuver with its own steering gear, unable to work its own anchors, or unable to maintain the watertight integrity of the ship.

Upon a local storm warning signal, government mooring buoys shall clear away anchors and cables and raise all possible steam on the main engines.

Vessels shall, if so directed, be ready to leave their mooring, at any time.

Upon a local storm signal other than No. 1 being hoisted, vessels at government buoys not being special typhoon moorings shall within 2 hours move to a typhoon anchorage or to special typhoon moorings.

The Director may at his discretion order a vessel at a special typhoon mooring to leave that mooring.

Any ship within the waters of the Colony shall have on board at all times such number of crew as, in the opinion of the director of marine, is qualified and is capable of carrying out all duties which may reasonably be required to ensure the safety of the ship having regard to the circumstances pertaining thereto. Masters or their agents requesting a buoy are advised to ascertain whether it is considered safe for use under typhoon conditions.

Nothing in these regulations shall prevent any vessel which is already at a typhoon mooring buoy from shifting to an anchorage if such is preferred.

### Harbor Regulations

Any vessel proceeding along, as opposed to crossing, any of the principal harbor fairways shall have right of way over any vessel proceeding across such fairway. Subject to the above rule, every vessel shall observe the provisions of the International Collision Regulations.

Any vessel to which the international code signal "K" is made locally by flag or sound, or by flashing lamp from a Marine Department, Police or Revenue Department launch or a Government signal station, shall stop until authorized to proceed.

Radio communication apparatus on board a merchant vessel is not permitted to be used while the vessel is within Hong Kong territorial waters except under certain circumstances.

When a vessel is proceeding through Hong Kong territorial waters such apparatus may be used to communicate on minimum power with the nearest coast station or, if communication with the nearest coast station is impracticable and the safe navigation of the vessel so requires, with a more distant coast station or another vessel.

For the purpose of summoning assistance on an occasion of danger to the life of any person or to the vessel.

For the purpose of carrying out experimental tests for which permission in writing must first be obtained.

All vessels entering Hong Kong are required to show the following flags and signals:

1. Courtesy Flag (Red Ensign).
2. Quarantine and Immigration signals.
3. Call sign.
4. Flag indication for designated buoy or berth.

The pilot will answer any questions with regard to the correct flags to fly. Ships must identify themselves to the signal stations on Wang Lang (Waglan) Island and Green Island.

All vessels shall identify themselves when challenged by a signal station, harbor patrol craft, or police launch.

No waste is to be disposed of by any vessel within the waters of the harbor.

No vessel shall sound its siren or whistle within the harbor area except for the use of necessary sound signals.

All vessels securing to the harbor mooring buoys shall do so with chain.

No vessel shall in any part of the Colony emit smoke (including soot, ash, gritty particles or oil) in such quantity as to be a nuisance.

Additional information on harbor regulations pertaining to pilots, speed, mast heights, restricted areas, etc. will be found in Pub. 161, Sailing Directions (Enroute) for the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

### Hong Kong Port Operations Service

The purpose of the Hong Kong Port Operations Service is intended as a communication aid to navigation, berthing and general port control. This service does not relieve the master or person in charge of any vessel of any of his normal responsibility for safe navigation.

The control station maintains a continuous watch on VHF channel 12, which is the calling and control channel of the network. Vessels entering and within the waters of Hong Kong as well as all other vessels and stations operating in the network shall maintain a listening watch on this channel unless released from this obligation by the Port Communications Center. Information on tropical cyclones may be broadcast from time to time by the Marine Department Port Control Center; weather information is also broadcasted by local radio stations.

### Quarantine Regulations

In these regulations, the term "Health Officer" means any medical officer appointed by the Governor as a health officer and any officer for the time being performing the duties of a health officer; the term "vessel" includes any ship, boat, or other description of vessel used in navigation; the term "infected place" or "infected port" means any place or port, which has been certified by the Director of the Medical and Health Services and published in the Gazette to be an infected place or port from the date of the certification until the date of the cancellation thereof.

The term "Quarantine disease" means any of the following type diseases to include plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus, smallpox and relapsing fever. The incubation period of the quarantine diseases shall be 6 days in the case of plague and yellow fever, 14 days in the case of smallpox and typhus, 5 days in the case of cholera, and 8 days in the case of relapsing fever.

The term "infected vessel" shall mean any vessel which has a case of quarantine disease on board, during the voyage or within the incubation period of the disease prior to arrival in the water of the Colony.

The term "suspected vessel" shall mean any vessel on which any case of any of the above-mentioned diseases has occurred at the time of departure or during the voyage; but when no fresh case has occurred within the incubation period of the disease previous to arrival.

The term "healthy vessel" shall mean any vessel which, even having come from an infected place or port, has had no death from and no case of such disease onboard while at such port or place or during the voyage therefrom, or on arrival and there is no indication of any infection onboard.

Every "infected," "suspected," and "healthy" vessel on entering the waters of the Colony shall fly and keep flying the appropriate signals and shall not communicate with the shore until granted pratique by the Health Officer who shall board

every such vessel and may examine all the passengers and crew thereof. Provided nevertheless, that any vessel, which is on a voyage to any other place and which has held no communication with the shore except as permitted by these regulations, may, with the written consent of the Health Officer, proceed on such voyage or transship her passengers for the purpose of completing such voyage.

Every "infected," "suspected," and "healthy" vessel shall, unless previously granted pratique, proceed at once to the quarantine anchorage and shall not remove therefrom, except from the stress of weather, until released by order of the Health Officer.

No vessel, which is compelled to leave the quarantine anchorage from stress of weather shall communicate except by signals with the shore or with any other vessel, and such vessels shall return to the quarantine anchorage immediately until such stress of weather has subsided.

In case of stress of weather involving probable danger to the vessel, the vessel may remove for a time, but shall be deemed, nevertheless, for all purposes to be subject to all other regulations applicable to such vessels.

### Special Regulations

Any vessel conveying, loading, or discharging shall exercise the following special regulations:

1. Explosives shall by day fly the International Code flag "B" at the foretruck and shall by night show a red light at a height of not less than 6m above the uppermost deck.
2. Petroleum having a flash point of less than 65.5°C shall by day fly a red flag of not less than 0.9m square with a white circular center 1.5cm in diameter at the foretruck and shall also fly the International Code signal SU7, and shall by

night show a red light at a height of not less than 6m above the uppermost deck.

3. Explosives shall not anchor, without the permission of the Director of Marine, within 457m of any Government Explosives Depot or within 457m of any other vessel.

4. Case oil, from licensed premises, shall hoist a red flag of not less than 1 square meter with a white circular center 1.5 cm in diameter at her foretruck, and the flags SU7 of the International Code of Signals at her main truck, and shall keep such flags flying during the hours of daylight while any case oil is onboard, and thereafter until the Director of Marine is satisfied that the holds are clean and ventilated.

During the same period every such vessel shall by night display a red light, where best seen, and at a height of not less than 6m above the uppermost deck.

Every vessel having on board case oil shall anchor in one of the prescribed Dangerous Goods Anchorages, and shall obtain permission from the Director of Marine before going alongside any oil wharf, or shifting berth.

If no berth is available such case oil must be discharged or loaded in one of the Dangerous Goods Anchorages.

### Time Zone

The Time Zone description is HOTEL (-8).

### U.S. Embassy

The Chief of Mission, Consul-General is situated at 26 Garden Road, Hong Kong.

The mailing address is PSC 464, Box 30, FPO AP 96522-0002.