

Special Stamp Issue - "Government Vessels"



Mint Stamp

Hong Kong is a thriving port, renowned as one of the busiest in the world. To maintain the efficient operation of the port and other marine services, various government departments in Hong Kong maintain their own vessels. These are designed to perform a diverse range of duties, including patrolling, inspection and quarantine, water quality control, firefighting and hydrographic works, amongst others. In view of their significant contribution to upholding law and order and safeguarding public safety, Hongkong Post issues a set of six special stamps on "Government Vessels" featuring craft from six government departments, to deepen the public's understanding of government vessels and their services.

Customs and Excise Department — Sector Patrol Launch

The \$1.70 stamp depicts the sector patrol launch "Sea Reliance" of the Customs and Excise Department. Commissioned in 2000, it has been conducting round-the-clock sea patrols in Hong Kong waters and intercepting smuggling of contraband by sea. With the aid of "Sea Reliance", Customs officers cracked the largest case of agilawood smuggling by sea in 2014.

Department of Health — Port Quarantine Launch

The \$2.20 stamp shows a port quarantine launch, "Port Health", from the Department of Health. It commenced service in 2003 and mainly takes personnel including doctors, nurses and health inspectors, to vessels within Hong Kong waters to perform port health services. "Port Health" took Port Health Officers to board a cross-boundary vessel in order to examine and assess the condition of a crew member suspected of contracting Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003.

Environmental Protection Department — Marine Monitoring Vessel

The \$2.90 stamp portrays the marine monitoring vessel “Dr. Catherine Lam” of the Environmental Protection Department. First put into service in 1993, its main function is to collect seawater and sediment samples for analyses of physico-chemical and biological parameters, so as to monitor Hong Kong’s marine water quality. It is named after Dr. Catherine Lam in memory of the important role she played in the initial planning of the marine monitoring programme of the Environmental Protection Department, as well as her significant contribution to phytoplankton and red tide research in Hong Kong.

Fire Services Department — Fireboat

The \$3.10 stamp shows the fireboat “Elite” of the Fire Services Department. Fireboat “Elite” is mainly responsible for marine firefighting, search and rescue operations and diving logistics support in the Hong Kong waters. It was engaged in fighting a No. 3 Alarm ship fire at Yau Ma Tei Anchorage in 2010, searching and rescuing operation of sinking incident of a river-trade sand barge at sea north of Tung Lung Chau in 2010 and a bulk cargo vessel at sea west of Beaufort Island in 2013.

Hong Kong Police Force — Training Launch

The \$3.70 stamp features the training launch “Sea Panther” belonging to the Hong Kong Police Force. Commissioned in 1988, it was first deployed as the Divisional Command Launch in Marine East Division, responsible for law enforcement at sea in the region. It later became the Marine Region Training Launch, a training platform for Marine Police officers, in 2001. “Sea Panther” assisted in rescuing the capsized Taiwanese cargo vessel in 1990.

Marine Department — Hydrographic Survey Launch

The \$5 stamp presents the hydrographic survey launch “Hydro 1” operated by the Marine Department. In service since 2003, it is mainly deployed to carry out hydrographic surveys in Hong Kong waters, monitor changes in the water depths of major waterways and provide mariners with the most up-to-date nautical information necessary for safe navigation. “Hydro 1” assisted in locating a container that had fallen overboard from a cargo ship during a typhoon in 2012.

Hongkong Post introduces for the first time, a vessel-shaped stamp sheetlet to highlight the theme of this set of stamps. The stamp sheetlet features six government vessels assembled in a line and ready to perform their duties.

Acknowledgments:

Customs and Excise Department

Department of Health
 Environmental Protection Department
 Fire Services Department
 Hong Kong Police Force
 Marine Department

Sales Arrangements

Official First Day Covers will be put on sale at \$1.20 each at all post offices from **7 May 2015**. The stamps and the associated philatelic products will be displayed at General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office from the same day. Advance orders for servicing self-provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from **7 to 13 May 2015**.

Information about the sales arrangements is set out below:

Products Available From 7 May 2015	Unit Selling Price (HKD)	Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer
"Government Vessels" special stamps		
First Day Cover (available at all post offices until 21 May 2015)	\$1.20	No restriction

Products Available From 21 May 2015	Unit Selling Price (HKD)	Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer
"Government Vessels" special stamps		
Mint Stamps a set of 6 designs of stamps (available at all post offices from 21 May 2015)	\$18.60	5 sheets of each denomination (viz. 125 stamps of each denomination)

Stamp Sheetlet (containing a \$10 stamp) (available at all post offices from 21 May 2015)	\$10	10 sheets
Mini-pane (containing 3 sets of stamps) (available at all post offices from 21 May 2015)	\$55.80	5 panes
Presentation Pack (containing a set of 6 stamps and a \$10 stamp sheetlet) (available at all post offices from 21 May 2015)	\$43	5 packs
Prestige Stamp Booklet (containing 3 stamp sheetlets with 2 stamps on each stamp sheetlet) (available at all post offices from 21 May 2015)	\$50	5 books
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark (available at all philatelic offices only on 21 May 2015)	\$22.30	5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a \$10 stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark (available at all philatelic offices only on 21 May 2015)	\$13.70	5 covers
A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark (available at all philatelic offices only on 21 May 2015)	\$29.70	5 sets

on 21 May 2015)		
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Remarks:

1. The above philatelic products **are included** in the “2015 Local Standing Order Service” and “2015 Overseas Mail Order Service”. Ordered philatelic products will be available for collection by the customers of “2015 Local Standing Order Service” during business hours of the post offices.
2. For overseas customers, please ensure there is sufficient balance in your account to pay your advance order. Otherwise, your order will be processed only when the stock is still available after all orders have been fulfilled.
3. The supply of the above philatelic products are limited and available for sale for three months while stock lasts.

Hand-back Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service using the office steel date-stamp and the special postmark will be provided on **21 May 2015** at all post offices for official/private-made covers bearing the first day of issue indication and a local address. All philatelic offices will also provide hand-back date-stamping service using the “Philatelic Bureau” pictorial postmark and the philatelic office pictorial postmark concurrently, but the GPO-1 date-stamp will only be available at General Post Office.

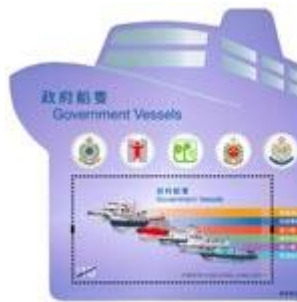
No Hand-back date-stamping service will be provided at Philatelic Bureau Counter.

Stamp Printing Details

Design:	WONG Chun-hong	Stamp Sheetlet Size (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet):	145 mm x 110 mm
Printer:	Joh. Enschedé B.V., the Netherlands	Stamp Sheetlet Size (a set of 3 sheetlets):	150 mm x 90 mm
Process:	Lithography	Mini-pane Size:	186 mm x 220 mm
Stamp Size:	45 mm x 28 mm	Perforation:	13.25 x 14.25 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)

Stamp Size (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet):	75 mm x 40 mm	Perforation (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet):	13.75 x 14 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)
Stamp Layout:	Pane of 25 stamps	Date of Issue:	21 May 2015
Paper:	Paper with security fibres		


政府船隻
 Government Vessels
 香港 HONG KONG
 21.5.2015
 Special Postmark



Stamp Sheetlet



Mini-pane



Presentation Pack (Cover)



Presentation Pack (Inside)



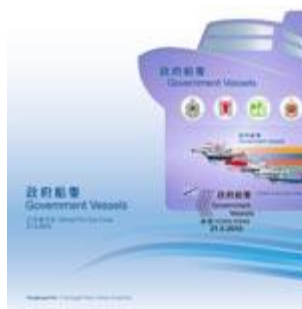
Prestige Stamp Booklet (Cover)



3 Stamp Sheetlets in Prestige Stamp Booklet



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with the special postmark



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a \$10 stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with the special postmark



A set of 3 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark