

Principles for the Inclusion of Characters in the Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set

1. The Hong Kong Supplementary Character Set (HKSCS) comprises only characters required by members of the public and government departments in electronic communication. Only the following categories of characters will be considered for inclusion in the HKSCS:-

1.1 Characters used in the Hong Kong community, including:

- (a) characters used in the Cantonese dialect (with supporting material);
- (b) characters appearing in proper nouns that can be proved to have been in common use (with pronunciation given); and
- (c) characters that appear in proper nouns and that can be found in major dictionaries including *Kangxi Dictionary* (《康熙字典》), *Hanyu Dazidian* (《漢語大字典》), etc.

1.2 New Chinese characters that are used in Chinese communities and that are not confined to any specific geographical area (e.g. new characters appearing in scientific terms).

For characters that do not fall into the above categories, consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis if the inclusion of such characters will facilitate electronic communication.

2. No characters will be accepted for inclusion in the HKSCS if they are considered unifiable with existing characters in the HKSCS. A set of unification criteria will therefore be applied in screening the applications. All characters that meet the unification criteria stipulated in Annex S - Procedure for the unification and arrangement of CJK Ideographs of the ISO/IEC 10646 are considered unified characters (e.g. 青 — 青, 俞 — 俞, 直 — 直, 并 — 并, 植 — 植, 餅 — 餅).
3. Characters which are not unifiable with the existing characters in the HKSCS, but are unifiable with existing characters in the ISO/IEC 10646 will be considered for accepted by considering the following factors:
 - (a) whether the character is widely accepted in Hong Kong; and
 - (b) whether the character is easily to be confused with HKSCS characters.

After the character is accepted for inclusion in the HSCS, the glyph of the character commonly used in Hong Kong will be added in the ISO/IEC 10646.

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