

New Hong Kong Banknotes

by the Banking Development Department

Hong Kong's three note-issuing banks¹ and the HKMA jointly announced the introduction of the new series banknotes on 3 September 2003. Two of the five denominations, the \$100 and \$500 notes, will be put into circulation in December 2003. The remaining three denominations, \$20, \$50 and \$1000, will be issued in the second half of 2004.

A working group comprising representatives of the HKMA and the three note-issuing banks was formed to redesign the existing Hong Kong dollar banknotes with the addition of new security features to help prevent counterfeiting. This exercise was completed in 2002.

The three note-issuing banks will issue the new series banknotes in all five denominations – \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1000 – over the course of 2003 and 2004.

A number of advanced security features are included in the new series banknotes:

Denomination Numeral in Optical Variable Ink

The colour of the denomination numeral shifts between gold and green when the banknote is viewed at different angles.

Fluorescent Machine Readable Barcode

Machine readable barcode visible under ultraviolet light.

Holographic Windowed Thread

A 4mm-wide metallic thread with holographic images woven in the paper.

Iridescent Images

Shimmering iridescent image showing bauhinia flowers when the banknote is tilted under a bright light.

Illustrations of the security features of the new \$100 and \$500 notes are found on the following pages.

As well as the new security features, the standard features used in the current series are also included in the new notes:

Concealed Image / Denomination

Visible when the banknote is tilted.

Intaglio Printing

Giving an embossed feel.

Invisible Fluorescent Fibres

Red, blue and green fibres (randomly embedded in the paper) visible under ultraviolet light.

Multitone and Highlight Watermarks

Can be seen when the note is held up to the light.

Security Thread

Visible from both sides.

See-through Feature

The patterns on the front and back fit perfectly when the banknote is held up to the light.

Serial Numbers

Novel vertical serial number on the left and horizontal serial number on the right.

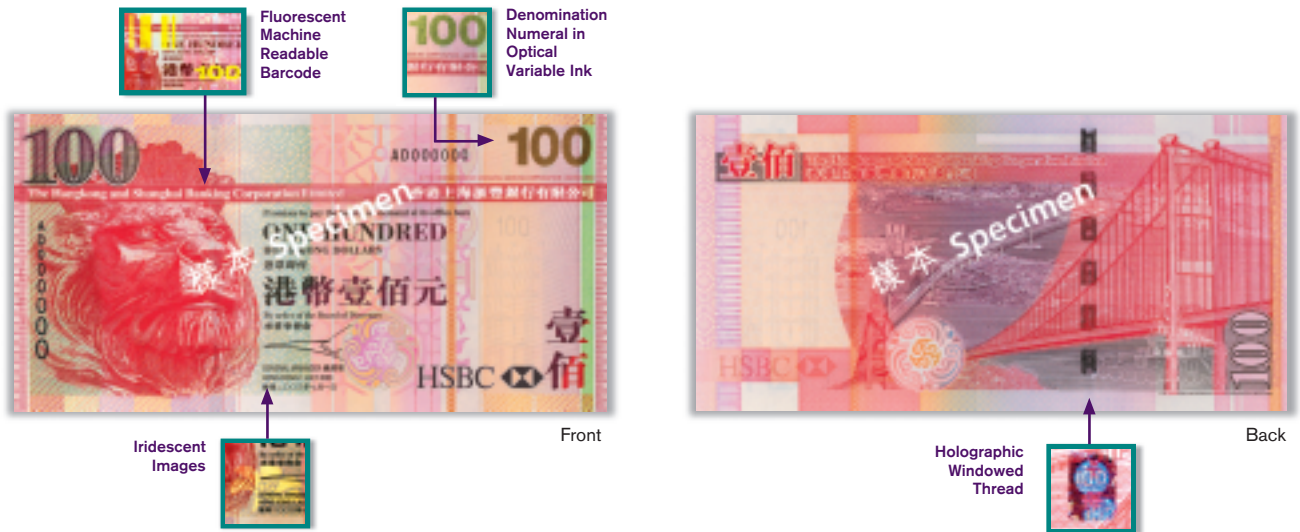
The security features for all denominations and colour scheme for each denomination have been standardised to aid recognition. The size of banknotes remains the same as for the existing series.

The existing series banknotes will remain legal tender and will circulate along with the new series. They will be gradually replaced by the new series through natural wastage.

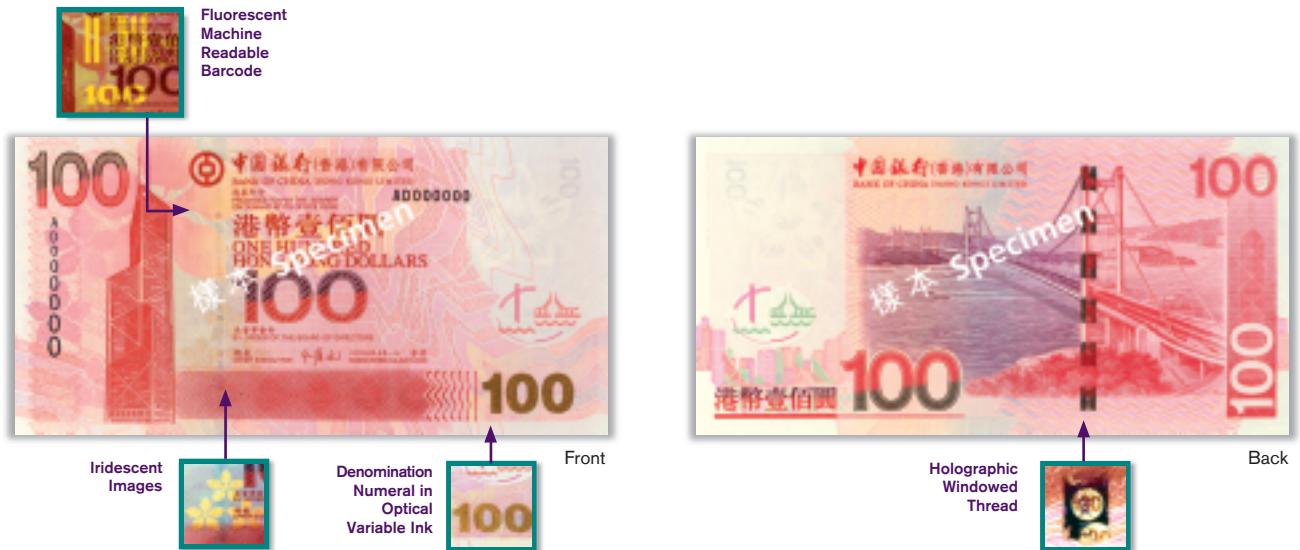
¹ The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited and Standard Chartered Bank.

New Security Features for the \$100 Note

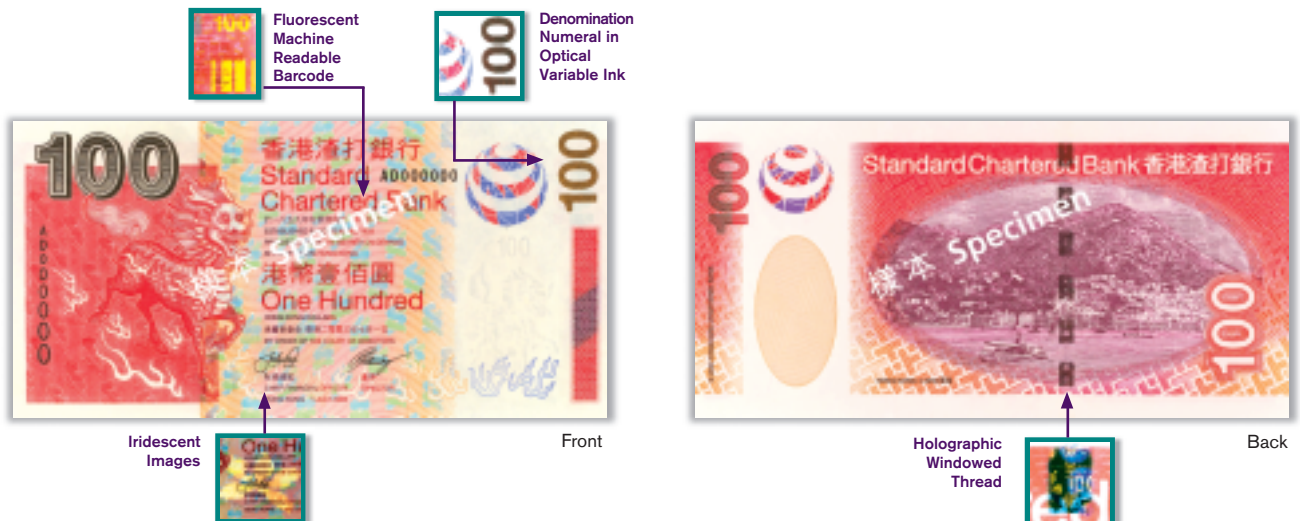
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

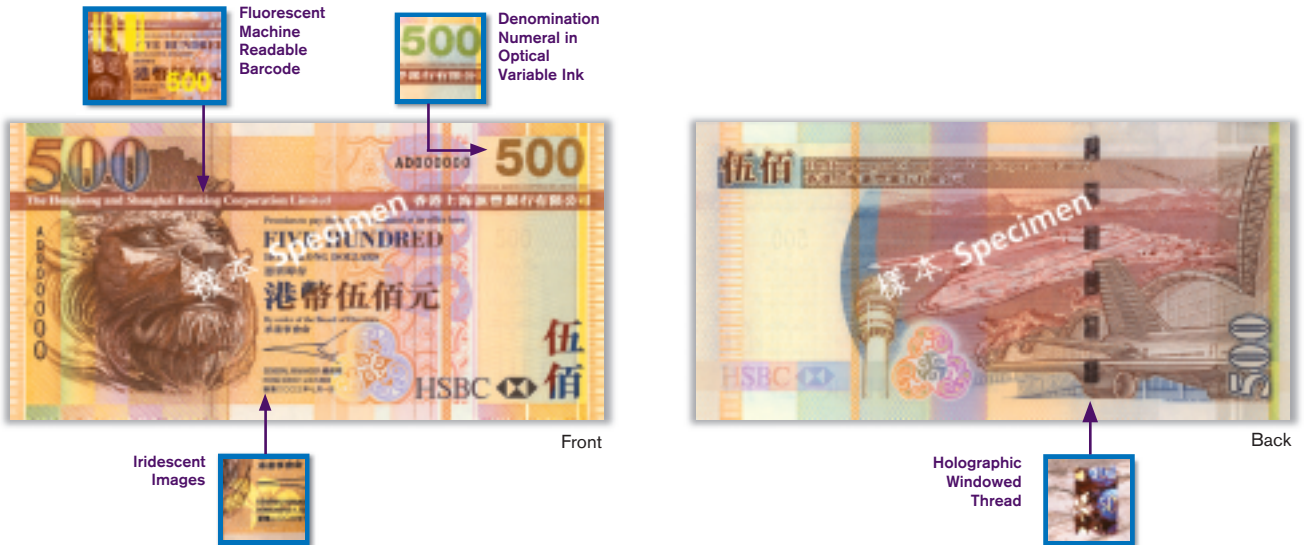


Standard Chartered Bank

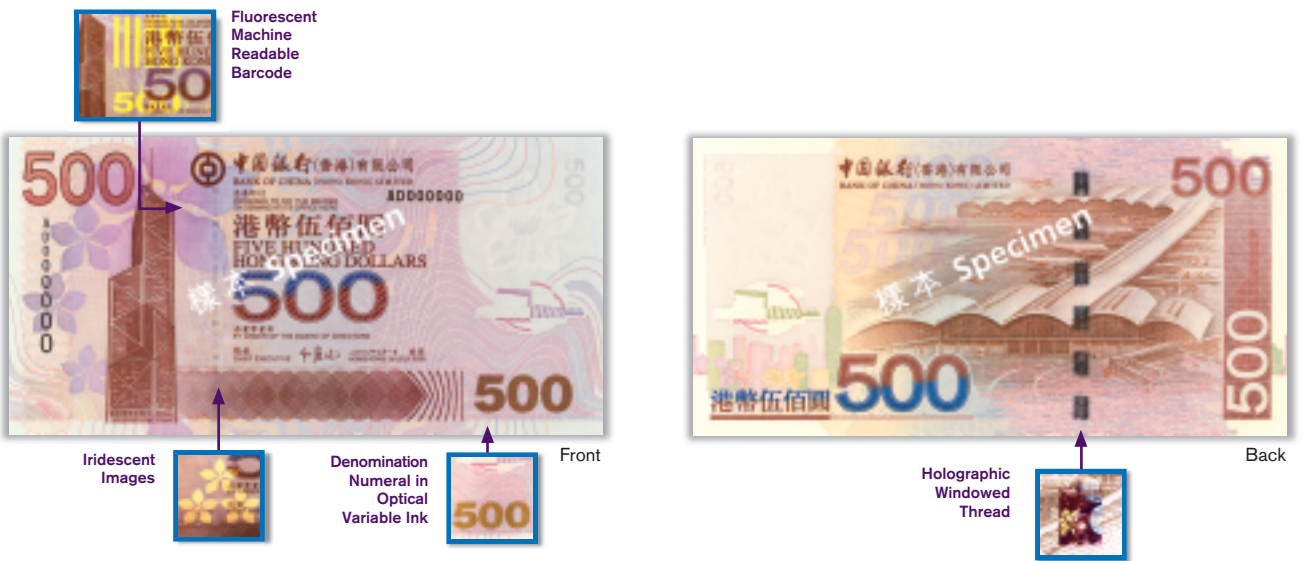


New Security Features for the \$500 Note

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited



Standard Chartered Bank

