

OFFICE OF THE GEOGRAPHER AND GLOBAL ISSUES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

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**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION OF  
ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS**

*Note.* This guidance pertains to the depiction of Bosnia and Herzegovina's two entities and the Brčko District. It does not apply to the depiction of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single independent state.

*Background.* The Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) is the border dividing the two principal political entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska. The Brčko District, comprising the former Brčko Municipality, has special status under the 1998 Brčko Final Award and in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, following a March 2009 constitutional amendment. It is held in joint condominium by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

Prior to the 1998 Brčko Final Award, the IEBL ran through Brčko District. In 2006, the Brčko Supervisor issued a Supervisory Order which, inter alia, declared that the IEBL no longer has legal significance within the District.

*Guidance:* The following guidance should be followed on any U.S. Government maps depicting these internal boundaries within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The IEBL should stop at the borders of Brčko District. Cartographically, this bisects the Republika Srpska.

Where scale permits and context requires, the following note should be referenced to the label for Brčko District:

Brčko District has a special status in which it is held in condominium  
by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska.

When depicting the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska with different colors, depict the Brčko District in alternate bands of the colors used for the two entities, where scale permits (see map below).

**ACTION:** Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.

Lee R. Schwartz

(signed)

The Geographer,  
U.S. Department of State



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

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