



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

DATE: August 6, 2001

FROM: U.S. Secret Service – Financial Crimes Division

TO: The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) for immediate national dissemination to all member financial institutions

SUBJECT: UPDATED ALERT: FRAUD PREVENTION REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF THE TAX RELIEF TREASURY CHECKS

On July 25, 2001, the U.S. Secret Service issued a Tax Relief fraud prevention alert. In light of new information developed from the IRS, we are correcting and updating this alert regarding payment amounts.

Financial Institutions and others who negotiate U.S. Treasury Checks should note the following additional information:

- Tax Relief checks will usually not exceed \$600; so give extra scrutiny to those with larger amounts by double-checking the document and verifying the person's identity. (Note the IRS may combine the Tax Relief amount with another tax refund amount that is posting to the taxpayer's account the same week; therefore, these checks can exceed \$600)

All check cashing entities are encouraged to exercise increased vigilance and should review the U.S. Treasury's criteria and their own respective check cashing policy regarding proper acceptance/cashing of U.S. Treasury obligations and instruments.