

# **FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

## **12 CFR Part 229**

**[Regulation CC; Docket No. R-1324]**

### **Availability of Funds and Collection of Checks**

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**ACTION:** Final rule; technical amendment.

**SUMMARY:** The Board of Governors (Board) is amending appendix A of Regulation CC to delete the reference to the Cincinnati branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and to reassign the Federal Reserve routing symbols currently listed under that office to the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. These amendments reflect the restructuring of check-processing operations within the Federal Reserve System.

**DATES:** The final rule will become effective on October 18, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffrey S. H. Yeganeh, Financial Services Manager (202/728-5801), or Joseph P. Baressi, Financial Services Project Leader (202/452-3959), Division of Reserve Bank Operations and Payment Systems; or Sophia H. Allison, Senior Counsel (202/452-3565), Legal Division. For users of Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) only, contact 202/263-4869.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Regulation CC establishes the maximum period a depository bank may wait between receiving a deposit and making the deposited funds available for withdrawal.<sup>1</sup> A depository bank generally must provide faster availability for funds deposited by a “local check” than by a “nonlocal check.” A check is considered local if it is payable by or at or through a bank located in the same Federal Reserve check-processing region as the depository bank.

Appendix A to Regulation CC contains a routing number guide that assists banks in identifying local and nonlocal banks and thereby determining the maximum permissible hold periods for most deposited checks. The appendix includes a list of each Federal Reserve check-processing office and the first four digits of the routing number, known as the Federal Reserve routing symbol, of each bank that is served by that office for check-processing purposes. Banks whose Federal Reserve routing symbols are grouped under the same office are in the same check-processing region and thus are local to one another.

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of Regulation CC, the term “bank” refers to any depository institution, including commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions.

On October 18, 2008, the Reserve Banks will transfer the check-processing operations of the Cincinnati branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland to the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. As a result of this change, some checks that are drawn on and deposited at banks located in the Cincinnati and Cleveland check-processing regions and that currently are nonlocal checks will become local checks subject to faster availability schedules. To assist banks in identifying local and nonlocal checks and making funds availability decisions, the Board is amending the list of routing symbols in appendix A associated with the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland to reflect the transfer of check-processing operations from the Cincinnati branch office to the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. To coincide with the effective date of the underlying check-processing changes, the amendments to appendix A are effective October 18, 2008. The Board is providing notice of the amendments at this time to give affected banks ample time to make any needed processing changes. Early notice also will enable affected banks to amend their availability schedules and related disclosures if necessary and provide their customers with notice of these changes.<sup>2</sup>

### **Administrative Procedure Act**

The Board has not followed the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(b) relating to notice and public participation in connection with the adoption of the final rule. The revisions to appendix A are technical in nature and are required by the statutory and regulatory definitions of “check-processing region.” Because there is no substantive change on which to seek public input, the Board has determined that the § 553(b) notice and comment procedures are unnecessary. In addition, the underlying consolidation of Federal Reserve Bank check-processing offices involves a matter relating to agency management, which is exempt from notice and comment procedures.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506; 5 CFR 1320 Appendix A.1), the Board has reviewed the final rule under authority delegated to the Board by the Office of Management and Budget. The technical amendment to appendix A of Regulation CC will delete the reference to the Cincinnati branch office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and reassign the routing symbols listed under that office to the head office of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. The depository institutions that are located in the affected check-processing regions and that include the routing numbers in their disclosure statements would be required to notify customers of the resulting change in availability under § 229.18(e). However, all paperwork collection procedures associated with Regulation CC already are in place, and the Board accordingly anticipates that no additional burden will be imposed as a result of this rulemaking.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 229.18(e) of Regulation CC requires that banks notify account holders who are consumers within 30 days after implementing a change that improves the availability of funds.

**List of Subjects in 12 CFR Part 229**

Banks, Banking, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

**Authority and Issuance**

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Board is amending 12 CFR part 229 to read as follows:

**PART 229 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND COLLECTION OF CHECKS  
(REGULATION CC)**

1. The authority citation for part 229 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 12 U.S.C. 4001-4010, 12 U.S.C. 5001-5018.

2. The Fourth District routing symbol list in appendix A is revised to read as follows:

**APPENDIX A TO PART 229 – ROUTING NUMBER GUIDE TO NEXT-DAY  
AVAILABILITY CHECKS AND LOCAL CHECKS**

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**FOURTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT**

[Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland]

Head Office

0220	2220
0223	2223
0410	2410
0412	2412
0420	2420
0421	2421
0422	2422
0423	2423
0430	2430
0432	2432
0433	2433
0434	2434
0440	2440
0441	2441
0442	2442
0515	2515

0519	2519
0720	2720
0724	2724
0740	2740
0749	2749
0813	2813
0830	2830
0839	2839
0863	2863

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By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, August 11,  
2008.

Robert deV. Frierson (signed)  
Robert deV. Frierson  
Deputy Secretary of the Board.