

ALERT 96-3

DATE: February 8, 1996
TYPE: Suspicious Transactions
SUBJECT: Certified Bankers Checks, Certified Money Orders, and
Comptroller Warrants

TO: Chief Executive Officers of all National Banks; all State
Banking Authorities; Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal
Reserve System; Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
Conference of State Bank Supervisors; Deputy Comptrollers
(Districts); District Administrators; District Counsel and
Examining Personnel.

RE: Certified Bankers Checks, Certified Money Orders, and
Comptroller Warrants

It has been brought to my attention that certain individuals have
been making and executing various paper documents entitled
"Certified Bankers Checks," "Certified Money Orders," and
"Comptroller Warrants" (copies attached). Some of these items
state that they are drawn on, are to be presented to, or are
payable through the United States Treasury or Treasurer, the
United States Postmaster or Postal Service, and/or the Office of
the Comptroller of the Currency. These instruments are being
presented for payment at banks and other businesses throughout
the United States.

These instruments have been the subject of two previous OCC
Alerts (95-33, dated September 8, 1995, and 95-44, dated November
20, 1995). As indicated in those alerts, they have no financial
value and no legal validity.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is a bank
regulatory agency and has no authority to draw on funds of the
United States or to control any bank accounts of private
individuals or corporations. Any of these instruments that are
presented to this Office for payment will be returned to the
sender and copies will be provided to the appropriate law
enforcement agencies.

If one of these instruments is presented to your institution for
payment, or you have any information concerning this matter, your
institution should immediately bring it to the attention of:

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
Enforcement & Compliance Division
250 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20219
Fax (202) 874-5301□

Your institution should prepare a criminal referral form, in
accordance with 12 CFR 21.11. Under no circumstances should your
institution honor one of these instruments or submit it for
payment.

Eugene A. Ludwig
Comptroller of the Currency

Attachment