

Welcome to the 36th edition of Cheque Mate, which is our publication for the Cheque Printer Accreditation Scheme.



Cheque and Credit turns 30

The Cheque and Credit Clearing Company (C&CCC) marked its 30th anniversary on 23rd November 2015 with a celebration at the Marriott County Hall Hotel in London. Over 100 guests attended the event, where they heard a speech from the new chair of the C&CCC, Jane Bevis, as well as having the opportunity to meet senior staff from the organisation.

It's hard to believe that we are now 30 years old, but we would love to hear from any members who may have their own memories from when we began way back in 1985. If you have any anecdotes or stories, please share them with us by emailing gina.casey@chequeandcredit.co.uk

Certification Body Workshop

On 1st December we hosted a workshop for the C&CCC-approved Certification Bodies. There were representatives from three organisations, some with experience of auditing cheque printers and some who were new to the process. It was a very useful session for both the C&CCC and also for the auditors that attended. The workshop provided an opportunity for those attending to discuss any areas of concern or areas that needed clarification.

Helpdesk changes

Gina Casey returned from maternity leave in September and is now answering your queries via the CPAS Helpdesk at CPAShelpdesk@chequeandcredit.co.uk.

In addition, David Louis remains part of the operations team, and can be contacted with any queries at david.louis@chequeandcredit.co.uk or on 020 3217 8489.

Remember the CPAS Rules and Operating Regulations!

Some cheques are still being received by processors that do not have the customer's name printed at the top of the cheque. Whilst there are occasions where this could be appropriate, we would like to remind all printers of the requirements of section 3.4.3 of the rules as shown below –

"All cheque stock sold direct to bank customers for overprinting by them must, as a minimum, be over-printed at the top with the customer's name (and logo if appropriate) before being despatched by the Accredited Printer."



Fraud update

Cheque fraud continues to decrease, falling for the 42nd consecutive month and reaching its lowest-ever recorded level at £14.5m in the 12 months to September 2015. This represents a decrease of 28% when compared with the equivalent period to September 2014.

In spite of the overall decrease, there has been an increase in counterfeit cheque fraud where losses have increased by 4% to £6.0m. The two other cheque fraud categories - 'forgery' and 'fraudulent alteration' - have fallen by 34% to £4.9m and 49% to £3.6m respectively in the 12 months to September 2015.

Total cheque fraud losses



Agency Bank workshops

Numerous Agency Bank workshops have been held since the start of the year focusing on cheque imaging with the most recent taking place in London on 14th October 2015. More than 70 delegates were in attendance, representing 39 Agency Banks, building societies, challenger banks and sponsor banks.

One of the key objectives was to provide the context, reassurance and confidence around the fraud operational framework and where the liability model fits within the Future Clearing Model. Attendees also heard the rationale for the recommended approach and had the opportunity to ask questions.

The questions and concerns highlighted on the day were captured as part of the output, and copies are available by contacting the CPAS Helpdesk.

Vendor Forum

The first Future Clearing Model Vendor Forum was held on 15th July 2015 at the Tower Hotel in London, with 63 delegates attending from over 40 different organisations.

The objective of the Forum was to increase awareness of the Future Clearing Model Programme that will introduce cheque imaging into the UK. The C&CCC is keen to promote the opportunities for innovation in the market via the implementation of our enabling central infrastructure for cheque imaging. The opportunity to listen to the views of vendors at a time when the company was in the process of planning the infrastructure was welcomed, as it enabled aspirations, concerns and queries for the new system to be taken into consideration.

For further specification information about the Future Clearing Model contact info@chequeandcredit.co.uk.

2016 CPAS fees

Invoices for 2016 have now been produced and will be sent out in December. Please note that the annual fee payable for CPAS has been frozen at this year's level of £440.00 +VAT.

Any queries relating to the payment of fees should be referred to Gina Casey at CPAShelpdesk@chequeandcredit.co.uk or 020 3217 8279.

Vastly improved cheque clearance times are on the horizon and new technology is set to bring the cheque clearing process firmly into the 21st century.

Over the past year the banking industry has made huge strides towards introducing a new and quicker way of clearing cheques. Known as cheque imaging, the proposed new method will mean that all cheques will be cleared using the 'image' of the cheque, rather than the current paper-based clearing system.

Currently cheques take six weekdays to clear but, under the new image system, cheques will be cleared by the next weekday or quicker – a vast improvement on the current process. However, these changes will not happen overnight – there is still a great deal of work to do before cheque imaging can become a reality. New legislation included within the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act received Royal Assent in March 2015, and this will allow banks to scan cheques and send the images electronically along with the data files to other banks. The Government is currently putting in place the regulatory changes – these will be completed by the end of July 2016. Due to the complex nature of the planned changes, it is likely to be sometime in 2017 before all of the industry will

be fully using the new image technology.

There is still a lot to do to ensure the transition to cheque imaging is a smooth one. Over the coming months, individual banks and building societies will start to contact their customers to let them know about planned changes and how it might impact them. In addition, a major industry-wide communications programme is planned during the run-up to implementation, so that customers are fully aware of what is happening.

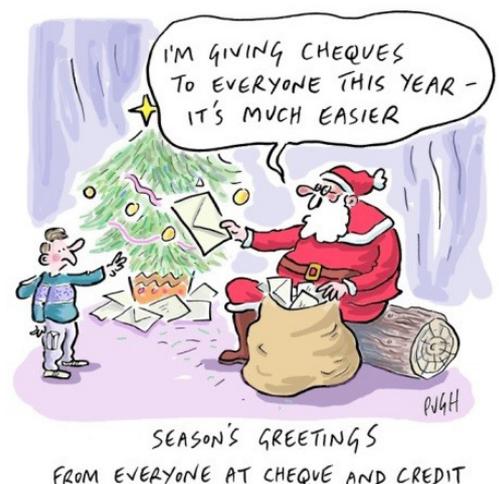
As part of the communication process, the C&CCC is planning to host regional Cheque User Forums in spring 2016 in a number of major cities right across the UK (Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester). More details of the venues and dates will be available on the C&CCC website in due course (www.chequeandcredit.co.uk).

The Cheque Printers Forum was held on 8th June, with the objective of providing CPAS printers with an update on the Future Clearing Model, as well as providing attendees with information regarding the scheme, such as fraud levels and clearing statistics.

For a copy of the output, or any further information, contact the CPAS Helpdesk.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of everyone at C&CCC, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



ChequeMate

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Contacts

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