



PHILIPPINE CLEARING HOUSE CORPORATION

Memo Circular No. 3811

May 14, 2024

T O : All Clearing Banks/Institutions

R E : MORATORIUM ON NON-ACCEPTANCE OF CHECKS WITH INCORRECT DATE FORMAT

1. We have received numerous queries and concerns on the non-acceptance of Checks dated May 1, 2024 onwards where the issue date contains partition symbols other than the dash (" - ") mark.
2. As it appears that a significant number of clients/check issuers are still putting partition symbols (like "/" or "*" or any other mark) in between the numerical representations of the month, date, and the year in writing the date of issue, **the directive of PCHC in its MC No. 3808 dated May 9, 2024 against acceptance (for clearing) of checks with issue dates bearing partition symbols is put on hold until June 30, 2024.**
3. Therefore, checks where the dates of issue include partition symbols other than the dash (" - ") mark remain acceptable until June 30, 2024. This is to give ample time for participant banks to properly inform their respective clients of the **acceptable date format and the only allowed partition.**
4. It is to be noted that in its latest advisory (MC No. 3808), PCHC announced that effective May 16, 2024, all Checks dated May 1, 2024 onwards are covered by the following guideline:

"A.2.1. Partition symbols (such as "/" or "" or any other mark) should not appear between the numeric representation of the month and of the date and of the year in the issue date of a Check; otherwise, the Check is unacceptable. There is already a dash symbol '-' separating the MM DD YYYY boxes."*

5. It has been brought to PCHC's attention, however, that many check issuers are used to including partition symbols in the issue date because an older circular pertaining to the uniform interpretation of a check's issue date (*circularized sometime in 2018; the New Check Design was introduced in 2019*), which served as the basis of banks in issuing their advisories/instructions to clients in the writing of the date of issue, has shown the use of various types of partitions to separate the month, the date, and the year. As item A.2.1 of MC No. 3808 is at odds with said older circular, there is a need for some period of adjustment

on the part of the clients in writing the prescribed format of the date of issue; hence, the deferment of the application of item A.2.1 of MC No. 3808.

6. It is understood that implementation of Section 2.3 of MC No. 3808 (*for banks to return a new design or an old format Check where the issue date is printed/written in a numeric format not in conformity with the required MM-DD-YYYY date format or not in accordance with any of the acceptable numeric variants as indicated in section A.2 of MC No. 3808*) is likewise deferred.
7. Please be guided accordingly.


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