



October 2, 2009

Reserve Banks Announce Updated Procedures for Handling Retired Routing Transit (RT) Numbers And New Retired RT Number Return Service

We would like to call your attention to a change related to how the Reserve Banks will handle items drawn on retired RT numbers. Until recently, the Reserve Banks have removed retired or obsolete RT numbers from sort patterns when requested by the paying bank. If items were subsequently deposited drawn on RT numbers that were no longer in our sort patterns, the items would be sent back to the depositing institution.

The Reserve Banks recently determined it is not appropriate to fulfill the role of a returning bank without an agreement from the paying banks. Therefore, effective immediately, the Reserve Banks will no longer remove retired RT numbers from our sort patterns. Any items received by the Reserve Banks will be presented to the paying bank.

It is recognized that some paying banks do not have the capability to effectively handle retired RT numbers. Therefore, effective November 2, 2009, the Federal Reserve Banks will introduce a Retired RT Number Return Service. Under this optional service, a paying bank can request the Reserve Banks to return items drawn on specific retired RT numbers to the bank of first deposit on their behalf. These items will be stamped with the return reason code, Retired RT Not Eligible for Representation.

We also are reviewing deposit volume on retired RT numbers to determine which RT numbers, if any, should be added into our sort patterns. This review will take place over the next 90 days, and paying banks will be notified 45 days in advance before a RT number is added to our sort patterns.

For additional information on the Retired RT Number Return Service, please contact your account executive. For questions related to the Reserve Banks retired RT policy, please contact Check Customer Support at **(877) 372-2457** or the Check 21 Help Desk at **(800) 762-0713**.