

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
ON 5-DAY CLEARING WEEK (5DCW)

5-Day Clearing Week

In May 2006, The Hong Kong Association of Banks announced that the Hong Kong banking industry will implement a 5-Day Clearing Week (“5DCW”) from 4 September 2006 (Monday). This will be in line with the practices in the leading financial centres of the U.S.A., the U.K., Switzerland, Germany, Japan and Singapore.

5DCW means that on Saturdays, there will be no crediting or debiting of a customer’s accounts via cheques, autopays or inter-bank funds transfers. Therefore, fund clearings will take place from Mondays to Fridays only (excluding public holidays). This change will be effective from 4 September 2006.

Facts about 5DCW in Hong Kong

1. What is 5DCW?

5DCW means that there is no clearing and settlement for all currencies on Saturdays. In other words, clearing and settlement of funds through cheques, autopays or electronic fund transfers, etc. will take place from Mondays to Fridays only (excluding public holidays).

2. What is the scope of coverage under 5DCW?

5DCW will cover Clearing House Automated Transfer System (“CHATS”) operations in HK dollars, cheques (in HK dollars, US dollars and Renminbi) and electronic clearing in HK dollars and US dollars.

Impact of 5DCW

3. Will all cheques be affected by this new move?

Cheques in HK dollars, US dollars and Renminbi will be affected.

4. Will I still be able to deposit cheques on Saturday after 5DCW is introduced?

If a cheque is deposited on a Saturday, it would be treated as if it was deposited on the next clearing day, and this is when interest on interest-bearing accounts will accrue.

5. How will my auto payments (e.g. auto-debit and standing instruction) be affected?

Only auto payments that fall on a Saturday would be affected. For month-end auto payment instructions that fall on a Saturday, your account will be debited on the clearing day preceding the Saturday. For other auto payment instructions that fall on a Saturday, your account will be debited on the clearing day following the Saturday.

6. How will my loan drawdown/repayment and credit card repayment be affected?

Saturday will not be set as a due date for loan and credit card repayments nor for loan drawdowns. Settlements due on a Saturday will be treated as settlements due on a Sunday or a public holiday.

7. How will my electronic banking services (e.g. ATM, Internet banking and phone banking) be affected?

Bill payments, fund transfers involving other local bank accounts through “Nominated Account Transfer”, “CHATS”, “Payroll and Autopay Services” and “MPF Contribution” conducted on Saturdays will be treated as transactions conducted on Sundays and public holidays.

Enhanced Customer Services

8. Will the change cause any inconvenience to customers?

We recognize that some customers may need to change their banking habits as a result of the implementation of 5DCW. A main reason that 5DCW will not be implemented until 4 September 2006 is to give customers sufficient time to adjust to the change. Customers may have to do more careful planning to ensure their cash-flow is not affected. In order to cope with the implementation of 5DCW, we will extend our branch opening hours on Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to alleviate the inconvenience caused.

While customers who receive funds through cheque payments will experience a short delay in receiving their funds, customers who make the payments will benefit from the delay in the debiting of the funds from their accounts. We will not benefit from the change. Please find details as follows for your reference:

Impact on cheques drawn on banks in Hong Kong:

Cheque Deposited On (from 4 September 2006 onwards)	Funds Available On
Friday	Monday* (After 3:00 p.m.)
Saturday	Tuesday* (After 3:00 p.m.)

*or if that day is a public holiday, on the following clearing day.

9. How will the inconvenience be alleviated?

After 5DCW is implemented, funds from cheque deposits will be made available to customers earlier (after 3:00 p.m.) between Mondays and Fridays and we will extend our branch opening hours from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays so as to extend the cheque deposit cut-off time for customers.

10. Why extend the cheque deposit cut-off time only on Fridays? Why not do so for the whole week?

This extension will cater for the non-clearing of cheques on Saturdays. Given that the clearing of cheques on other days during the week remains the same, the industry does not see a need to extend the cheque deposit cut-off time for the other days at this stage.

11. What will happen if I make cheque payment to my Wing Hang Bank Visa Card / MasterCard / CASH Card / e-Money Loan Card / JCB Card account on a Saturday?

With effect from 4 September 2006, when you make payments by cheques on a Saturday, they will only be processed on the next business day.

12. Will there be any changes on the cut-off time of the existing payment methods for credit cards?

Yes. With effect from 4 September 2006, the cut-off time for PPS and JET PAYMENT will be revised as follows:

PPS	Mon – Fri	7:00 p.m.
JET PAYMENT	(except public holidays)	7:30 p.m.

If a PPS or JET PAYMENT transaction is conducted after the abovementioned cut-off time, payment will only be made to your credit card account on the next business day (excluding Saturdays).

13. What will happen to the payment due date for my loan account if it falls on Saturday, Sunday or public holiday?

The due dates of our loans* will not fall on a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday and the due dates for loan payments will be changed as follows:

i) Original due date falling on the last calendar day of the month

If any original due date falls on a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday which is the last calendar day of a month, we will adjust such original due date to the preceding business day other than a Saturday of that calendar month.

For example, if the original due date falls on:-

- 30 September 2006 (Saturday), such original due date will be adjusted to 29 September 2006 (being the preceding business day).
- 31 December 2006 (Sunday), such original due date will be adjusted to 29 December 2006 (being the preceding business day other than a Saturday).

ii) Original due date not falling on the last calendar day of the month

If any original due date falls on a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday which is *not* the last calendar day of a month, we will adjust such original due date to the next business day other than a Saturday in the same calendar month or to the preceding non-Saturday business day (if there is no other succeeding non-Saturday business day in the same calendar month).

For example, if the original due date falls on:-

- 16 September 2006 (Saturday), such original due date will be adjusted to 18 September 2006 (being the next business day).
- 17 September 2006 (Sunday), such original due date will be adjusted to 18 September 2006 (being the next business day).
- 2 October 2006 (public holiday), such original due date will be adjusted to 3 October 2006 (being the next business day other than a Saturday).
- 30 December 2006 (Saturday), such original due date will be adjusted to 29 December 2006 (being the preceding business day, as there is no other succeeding non-Saturday business day in the same month).

* Any trade loan due on a Saturday will be treated as due on a Sunday or a public holiday.

14. What are the impacts to eBanking transactions?

Provision of 24-hour eBanking services including Internet Banking, Phone Banking and ATM will remain unchanged. However, any instruction for bill payments through Internet Banking and ATM card, CHATS, fund transfers involving other bank accounts by using “Nominated Account Transfer”, “Payroll and AutoPay”, “MPF Contribution” through Phone Banking service placed with us on a Saturday will be treated as an instruction placed with us on a Sunday or a public holiday.

Relevant cut-off time will be adjusted as follows:		
Internet Banking Service	Cut-off Time	Remarks
ePayment	5:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)	Instruction submitted after the cut-off time will be executed on the next business day but excluding Saturdays.
Payroll and Autopay		
Nominated Account Transfer involving other bank account	8:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)	
CHATS (Clearing House Automated Transfer System)	3:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)	
Phone Banking Service		
Nominated Account Transfer involving other bank account	8:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday)	Instruction submitted after the cut-off time will be executed on the next business day but excluding Saturdays.
MPF Contribution		
ATM Payment		
Jet Payment	7:30 p.m. (Monday - Friday)	Instruction submitted after the cut-off time will be executed on the next business day but excluding Saturdays.
MPF Contribution		

15. If I have further queries regarding 5DCW, who should I contact?

Please feel free to call our customer service hotline at 3199 9188 or your account opening branch for further information.