Check Brainteasers



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Agenda

- Holder in Due Course
- RDC Indemnity
- Electronically Created Item (ECI)
- Remotely Created Check (RCC)
- Claim of Damage Due to Under-encoding
- Stop Payments



Holder and Holder in Due Course



What are the benefits to being a HIDC?

- Can enforce item against Drawer
- Can make a claim to the person who signed the check and ordered payment (Drawer)
 - Even if that check was returned unpaid by the Drawer's bank (Paying Bank)
 - Financial intermediary, such as Depositary Bank (BOFD) or Collecting Bank should not be affected by disputes between the Drawer and Payee of check regarding the underlying transaction



Holder in Due Course Scenario

Guy's Grocery Store issued a check to one of their employees and the employee deposited the check via mobile RDC on 2/20/24. The employee (payee) then took the check to Cash Checks 4 Less and received cash for it. Cash Checks 4 Less presented the check and it was flagged as a duplicate and returned on 2/21/24. Cash Checks 4 Less is now claiming they are the HIDC and claiming that Guy's Grocery Store owes them the funds for the check. Guy's Grocery Store has now reached out to Paying Bank because they don't feel they should have to pay the same check twice.

What's the best course of action?



Holder in Due Course





Remote Deposit Capture Indemnity

- Indemnity to protect second depositary bank that received deposit of paper check that was returned unpaid because the check was previously deposited at another depositary bank using RDC service
- Indemnity provided by first depositary bank that
 - Is truncating bank because it accepts the deposit of electronic image or electronic information related to the original check;
 - Does not receive original check;
 - Receives settlement or other consideration for electronic check or substitute check related to the original check; and
 - Does not receive return of check unpaid



RDC Indemnity

Depositary bank indemnifies second depositary bank that accepts original check for deposit, for losses incurred by second depositary bank if loss is due to check having already been paid

Scope of damages limited to consideration received plus expenses/attorney's fees

Comparative negligence defense available

Depositary bank does not make indemnity if original check bore restrictive indorsement inconsistent with means of deposit

Example: "for mobile deposit at [name of first depositary bank] only"

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Regulation CC Remote Deposit Capture Indemnity



RDC Indemnity Claim Processing

RDC Indemnity claim may be made against any RDC depositary bank that meets the required conditions for providing the indemnity

 Claim can be made to any one RDC bank, even if multiple RDC banks are subject to the conditions of the indemnity For Fed exchanges, use Warranty/Indemnity Claim (WIC) Associated with Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) Items

- Within 90 calendar days of the PAID adjustment or return letter date (after 90 calendar days deal direct)
- Both PAID items must have been processed by Fed
- Check with Fed to ensure conforming with all requirements

For ECCHO exchanges, use Warranty/Indemnity Claim (WIC) for RDC Indemnity Claims within 1 year according to ECCHO Adjustment Matrix

- Use Sample RDC Indemnity Claim letter to provide necessary information



Remotely Created Check (RCC)

Created by a payee under the authority of the account holder

- Not created by Paying Bank
- Check not created by Paying Bank and that does not bear a signature applied by person on whose account the check is drawn

Reg CC 229.34 (b): Warranty from Depositary Bank (BOFD)

• Bank that transfers/presents remotely created check and receives settlement or other consideration warrants to Transferee Bank, any subsequent Collecting Bank, and Paying Bank that:

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- Person on whose account remotely created check is drawn authorized issuance of the check;
- \circ In the amount stated on the check and to the payee stated on the check

Claim process for unauthorized RCC

- Not provided in Reg CC claims are covered by rules and agreements
 - ECCHO Rules (Rule 8 or adjustments)
 - FRB OC3 (adjustments)

Remotely Created Checks

- Just in time payments
- Internet payments

**Federal Reserve Retail Payments Study stated 2.3% of checks written are RCCs

Valid RCC must have existed in paper (physical) form prior to imaging

RCCs are vulnerable to fraud because:

Do not bear drawer's signature – no readily verifiable indication of authorization

 Consumer complaints of alleged fraud with RCCs
 Unauthorized RCCs can create risk and cost



Business-size Check



Electronically Created Item (ECI)

Definition

• Electronic image that has all attributes of an electronic check or electronic returned check but was created electronically and not derived from a paper check

Purpose: to protect ECI transferee bank(s) from certain losses which might include:

- Receiving an unauthorized item
- Receiving a duplicate item

ECI indemnity provided by any bank that transfers ECI to another bank

• Applies to BOFD, collecting and presenting banks

Electronically Created Item Indemnity

Indemnity overview

- Each bank that transfers an ECI indemnifies each transferee bank from losses arising from fact that:
 - Electronic image/electronic information not derived from paper check;
 - Person on whose account ECI is drawn did not authorize item in amount stated or to the payee stated
 - Person that receives or is otherwise charged for electronically-created item is not asked to make payment on an item or check it has already paid (*no duplicates*)



Scope of ECI Indemnity



Examples of ECIs

- From Reg CC Commentary:
 - Corporate customer electronically creates an image that looks like an image of corporate customer's paper checks and emails the image to the payee
 - Consumer uses a smart-phone application to electronically create and send check image to payee
 - Consumer provides his/her account information to utility which then uses information to create and deposit ECI with its bank to obtain consumer payment



Damage Due to Underencoding

Linus wrote a check to Sally for \$500. When the check was encoded at Sally's bank, it was only encoded as \$50. Linus failed to notice the incorrect amount processing on his account because he never logs into his online banking. Two weeks later, Sally calls her bank to report that she was only credited for \$50 instead of \$500.

What should Sally's bank do?



FRB Adjustment: Encoding Error (ENC)

- Item was clearly encoded for amount different than legal (written) amount or differs from the stated cash letter/return letter amount
- Timing: Within 6 calendar months of cash letter/return letter date for same day entry
- ECCHO: Amount Error 180 calendar days



However...

When the Encoding Error Adjustment was received by Linus's Financial Institution, the balance in his account was only \$39.74. Because he wasn't checking his account balance, Linus continued to spend his available funds. Linus's account does not have the money for the \$450 adjustment.

What can Linus's FI do?





FRB Adjustment: Entry in Error (ERR)

Claim of damage due to under-encoding adjustment Request for credit for an under-encoded item charged and for which you are unable to collect the funds

BOFD warrants the encoding after issue under Reg CC warranties

Paying Bank can disclaim item that was underencoded by the BOFD to protect themselves from a loss.

Timing: Within 20 business days of the encoding error charge



Stop Payments

Charlie wrote a check to ComMedia for his cable bill. ComMedia claims to never have received the check. Charlie calls his FI and puts a stop payment on the check, and makes a payment instead with his debit card. In the meantime, ComMedia finds the check, and converts it to an ARC entry.

What can Charlie's FI do?





A few things...

R38 – Stop Payment on a Source Document

• 60 day return time frame

*What if we are outside the 60 day return time frame? *What if the check processed as a check instead of an ARC? *What if both the check AND the ARC entry posted to the account? *Can we do anything about the debit card payment?



