

# FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS

DALLAS, TEXAS 75222

Circular No. 81-129  
July 1, 1981

## ROUTING NUMBER POLICY

TO ALL DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS  
AND OTHERS CONCERNED IN THE  
ELEVENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT:

The Federal Reserve System undertook an additional review of its routing number policies because of continuing controversy over the assignment of routing numbers. That review is now complete and the following action will be taken in all Federal Reserve Districts to resolve the routing number issue:

- . Reaffirm the principle that the routing number is for the benefit of the collecting institution, not for the paying institution. The routing number is not to be used by a paying institution in order to identify a certain class of item or customer, nor is it to be used to offer a specific financial service.
- . Reaffirm the intent of the current routing number policy which states that an institution with branches may be assigned up to three routing numbers based on the location of its branches within Reserve availability classes (city, country, and RCPC). This reaffirmation is not intended as a change in the general direction of the routing number issue which is toward the minimization of numbers, leading to one number per presentment point.
- . Advise Rand McNally that the Federal Reserve has completed its review of the rules and procedures for the assignment of routing numbers and has voted to deny the requests for additional numbers specifically for identifying classes of items (e.g., controlled disbursement). The Federal Reserve will, however, approve the requests of branching institutions which qualify for an additional routing number under the routing number guidelines, but all institutions should be informed that checks bearing the additional routing numbers will be presented in a commingled cash letter when presented to a single presentment point irrespective of availability class.

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Banks and others are encouraged to use the following incoming WATS numbers in contacting this Bank: 1-800-442-7140 (intrastate) and 1-800-527-9200 (interstate). For calls placed locally, please use 651 plus the extension referred to above.

- . In the case of a city institution which has been assigned an RCPC number, ask the institution to certify that it is using its RCPC number to identify all accounts at the branch or branches in the RCPC area, so that it may be in conformance with ABA/FRS routing number policy.
- . Include in the Reserve Bank's published city fine sort program any RCPC routing numbers which are presented to city points. This option would allow for the deposit of all availability classes of items at the latest possible deadline in order to effect timely delivery.

In summary, the rules for eligibility for routing numbers remain unchanged. A branching institution may receive a routing number for each availability zone within which it has offices. If the institution chooses less than the maximum number of numbers, it must choose the most immediate availability class. In order to qualify for additional numbers in excess of the one per availability class, an institution must certify that it operates under a decentralized accounting system. An additional number will be granted for each presentment point which represents an accounting office. The routing number must be utilized to identify all accounts of the branch designated by the number and cannot be used to identify customers or classes of items.

We hope you will agree that nationwide equity in the assignment of routing numbers is very important. In addition, an efficient payments mechanism requires that we do as much as possible to facilitate the clearing of checks as quickly as possible.

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to Larry J. Reck, Vice President at this Bank, (214) 651-6337; Robert W. Schultz, Assistant Vice President, El Paso Branch, (915) 544-4730; Vernon L. Bartee, Assistant Vice President, Houston Branch, (713) 659-4433; or John A. Bullock, Assistant Vice President, San Antonio Branch, (512) 224-2141.

Sincerely yours,



William H. Wallace  
First Vice President