



Treasury Financial Manual

Bulletin No. 2003-03

Volume I

Retention: December 31, 2004

To: Heads of Government Departments, Agencies, and Others Concerned

Subject: Removal of Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) From U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) Checks

1. Purpose

This Treasury Financial Manual (TFM) bulletin notifies agencies that, after January 1, 2004, the Financial Management Service (FMS) will no longer print PINs on Treasury checks.

2. Background

For many years, FMS has printed PINs on Treasury checks to facilitate post-payment operations and to assist agencies in serving their customers. Such numbers include the following:

- Social Security Numbers (SSNs);
- Veterans Affairs claim numbers;
- Employee Identification Numbers (EINs);

AND

- Other individual identifiers assigned by Federal agencies.

In compliance with Public Law 106-433 of November 6, 2000, FMS moved PINs printed on Treasury checks so they would not appear through the unopened mailings of the checks. FMS fully implemented this modification for all Treasury checks dated after January 1, 2001.

3. Policy

Due to increasing concern about identity theft, FMS has concluded that printing PINs on Treasury checks is no longer advisable. Accordingly, FMS will stop printing all PINs on Treasury checks issued after January 1, 2004.

Agencies are not to insert identification numbers on Payment ID Lines 1 and 2 as referenced in the Tape Record Layout for Vendor/Miscellaneous Check payment files. See the FMS Web site at <http://fms.treas.gov/bulktransfers> for Vendor/Miscellaneous Check formats.

There is no requirement that other Federal organizations stop printing PINs on checks that they issue.

4. Effective Date

Immediately.

5. Inquiries

Direct questions concerning this bulletin to:

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Richard L. Gregg
Commissioner

Date: December 2, 2002