

Check Design Changes

To comply with the new Check 21 Act

The Act - On October 28, 2003 Congress and the President unanimously signed the Check 21 bill to become effective on October 28, 2004. Basically, the bill creates a new legal instrument, a substitute check (Item 4), that will be the legal equivalent of the original check. Although banks are not required to print substitute checks, they must accept substitute checks. See item 4 below.

There are many banking & legal requirements concerning Check 21. Additional information is available from your bank or on web site www.ftiforms.com. This sheet only addresses the changes to our checks to comply with the Check 21 Act as well as offer our users more security.

1. Basic Requirements for printing original checks to comply with Check 21

- a. **Critical areas of the check** - The Courtesy Amount, Date & Signature must meet minimum reflectance standards to truncate original checks by the banking industry.
- b. **Image** - The front and back of the check should be a minimum file size to comply with suggested banking requirements.

2. Changes to checks

- a. **Reverse colors for our rainbow prismatic checks** – The reflectance requirements for the courtesy amount on the right side of the check was too high so we changed the prismatic color to the left side of the check to be in compliance.
- b. **VOID Feature** – We reduced the number of hidden voids to reduce the file size to comply with suggested banking requirements.
- c. **Top Warning band** - Is changed from a reverse image to standard type to reduce the file size to comply with suggested banking requirements.
- d. **Inks** – Some of our ink colors may appear lighter or muted to assure that our reflectance's are below the maximum requirements.

3. New Security Features

- a. **Left & Right Borders** – We replaced our single line border with a new unique interwoven border with hidden covert features that are very difficult to copy or scan. On our Rainbow Checks that have a multi-color prismatic design, this border is two interwoven colors.
- b. **Fingerprint Security** - We added our Fingerprint Security identification to our Rainbow VIII checks (800 Series) in non-heat sensitive ink to further identify our checks. Fingerprint II (900 series) utilizes heat sensitive inks for additional security. Fingerprint Security Identification has been widely accepted by the banking industry.

4. The Substitute Check - Is a paper reproduction of the original check

- a. Contains an image of the front & back of the original check. The image is truncated.
- b. The MICR line conforms to industry standards for substitute checks.
- c. The physical specifications conform to industry standards for substitute checks.
- d. The substitute check is suitable for automated bank processing.