

ABS SUNSETTING CORPORATE CHEQUES FAQ

LAST UPDATED 5 DECEMBER 2024

No	Question	Answer
About EDP/EDP+		
1	What are the EDP and EDP+?	<p>The Electronic Deferred Payment (EDP) is a new e-payment solution complementing the current suite of e-payment solutions, such as PayNow, FAST, GIRO and MEPS+.</p> <p>EDP can be used to make a post-dated payment and is a digital alternative to post-dated cheques. EDP+ is a digital alternative to cashier's orders.</p>
2	Which banks will offer the EDP and EDP+ at launch?	At launch, the Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), namely Citibank, DBS, HSBC, OCBC, Maybank, Standard Chartered and UOB, will offer both the EDP and EDP+.
3	Who can use EDP and EDP+?	Both retail and corporate banking customers with digital banking access can use EDP and EDP+ via their banks' digital banking platforms. To sign up for digital banking access, please contact your bank.
4	Do I need to sign up for EDP and EDP+?	There is no need to sign up for EDP and EDP+ as both services will be available via the banks' digital banking platforms at launch.
5	When can I start using EDP or EDP+?	The industry will be launching the EDP and EDP+ in mid-2025. More details will be announced in 2025.
6	Are there any fees associated with using EDP or EDP+?	More information will be made available in 2025. Fees may vary from bank to bank; banks will communicate with their customers any fees closer to launch date.
7	I am a USD Cheque user. Can I issue USD EDP or EDP+?	At the outset, EDP and EDP+ will only be available for domestic payments in SGD. For payments in USD, USD cheques will remain available for both retail and corporate banking customers.

For corporate cheque users		
1	Why is there a need to transition away from corporate cheques?	<p>As set out in the consultation paper published in November 2022¹, MAS is facilitating Singapore's transition into an innovative e-payments society. Phasing out corporate cheques could accelerate businesses' transition to more efficient e-payment methods and provide gains to the economy.</p> <p>Cheque usage has steadily declined as businesses and individuals increasingly adopt faster, more efficient digital payment methods. As a result, cheque clearing and processing costs have risen, making cheque-based transactions costly for financial institutions to maintain.</p>
2	As a corporate cheque user, what key dates should I be aware of regarding the phasing out of corporate cheques?	<p>By 31 December 2025, banks will stop issuing new cheque books to corporates. Corporates may continue to issue cheques for an additional year in 2026.</p> <p>By 31 December 2026, the processing of corporate cheques will be ceased. Corporate cheque payees should present their cheques for clearing well before 31 December 2026, to ensure that their cheques can be processed before the deadline.</p>
3	What happens if a corporate cheque payer issues a cheque in 2026, but the payee deposits the cheque in 2027?	<p>Banks will not be able to process any corporate cheques deposited after 31 December 2026. Corporate cheque payees must deposit all corporate cheques by 31 December 2026.</p> <p>Should corporate cheque payees miss the deadline to deposit their cheques or have their cheques rejected, they will need to make alternative payment arrangements with the cheque payer.</p>
4	What alternative payment methods are currently available for cheque users?	<p>Currently, corporates and individuals have access to a broad range of payment alternatives, including GIRO, FAST, PayNow, MEPS+. From mid-2025, the suite of options will be further enhanced with the launch of the new EDP and EDP+.</p>
5	Will cashier's orders remain available for corporates?	<p>Cashier's Orders will still be available to corporates and retail users.</p>
6	Will USD cheques remain available for corporates?	<p>USD cheques will still be available to corporates and retail users.</p>

¹ https://www.mas.gov.sg/-/media/mas-media-library/publications/consultations/ftig/2022/consultation-paper-2-nov-22/p011_consultation-paper-on-roadmap-to-terminate-the-sgd-cts---eliminating-corporate-cheques-by-2025.pdf

For retail cheque users		
1	Will retail users still be able to use SGD cheques after 2026?	<p>Yes, retail users will still be able to issue and deposit SGD cheques after 2026. This includes the issuance of retail cheques for payment into corporate accounts.</p> <p>Retail customers in receipt of cheques issued by a corporate should present their cheques for clearing well before 31 December 2026, to ensure that their cheques can be processed before the deadline.</p>
2	Will cashier's orders remain available for retail users?	Cashier's Orders will still be available to corporates and retail users.
3	Will USD cheques remain available for retail users?	USD cheques will still be available to corporates and retail users.
4	When will retail cheques, cashier's orders and USD cheques be phased out?	<p>Retail cheques, cashier's orders and USD cheques will continue to be available to serve users that require more time to transition to alternative payment methods.</p> <p>MAS, ABS and the industry will continue to monitor cheque usage and provide updates on any changes to the timeline or availability of these payment methods following future reviews.</p> <p>In the meantime, we encourage users to explore and adopt digital alternatives where possible.</p>
5	Will cheque issuance fees continue to be waived for seniors after 31 December 2025?	<p>Currently, cheque issuance fees are being waived by D-SIBs for customers aged 60 years old and above until 31 December 2025.</p> <p>To ensure that the banking needs of seniors are well met going forward, customers who are aged 60 years old and above as of 31 December 2025 will remain eligible for the waiver of cheque services fees after 31 December 2025.</p>

6	How can customers using e-payments be safe from scams?	<p>Banks, individually and as an industry, have put in place various measures and controls to safeguard consumers from scams. Working closely with the Singapore Police Force, Monetary Authority of Singapore and other government agencies, banks continuously tune their controls to counter prevailing scam types, and enhance their anti-scam capabilities as new techniques and technologies become available.</p> <p>Combating scams requires the effort and cooperation of everyone – banks, ecosystem players and also customers. Public awareness and staying vigilant are key – and banks will continue their efforts to keep customers abreast of prevailing and emerging scam methods and remind them to stay alert. Customers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not share your bank account details, password and OTP with anyone ▪ Pay close attention to notification alerts sent by your bank. According to MAS' E-Payments User Protection Guidelines², a bank account holder needs to provide their bank with the required contact information and enable notification alerts on any device used to receive the alerts via channels such as SMS, email or in-app push notification. ▪ Use the bank's official platforms to execute transactions ▪ Not transfer money to anyone you do not know ▪ Not click on links and QR codes received in mobile text messages and e-mails <p>Customers are strongly advised to also practice good cyber hygiene, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not downloading software or apps that are not found on official sources ▪ Disabling "install unknown app" or "unknown sources" in device settings ▪ Staying vigilant in granting app permissions ▪ Installing the latest anti-virus apps in your devices ▪ Keeping the operating system of your devices updated so that the device may be protected with the latest security patches
---	--	--

² <https://www.mas.gov.sg/regulation/guidelines/e-payments-user-protection-guidelines>