

Terms and Conditions for e-Cheques Deposit Services

1. e-Cheques Deposit Services provisions - applicability and definitions

(a) The provisions in this Part apply to our services relating to e-Cheques. This Part supplements and forms part of our GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ACCOUNTS and IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS CONCERNING CHEQUES AND THEIR USE ("Existing Terms"). The provisions of the Existing Terms which apply to paper cheques or generally to our services continue to apply to e-Cheques and our e-Cheques Deposit Services to the extent that they are relevant and not inconsistent with the provisions in this Part. The provisions of this Part prevail if there is any inconsistency between them and the provisions of the Existing Terms with respect to the e-Cheques Deposit Services.

(b) For the purpose of the e-Cheques Deposit Services, the following terms have the following meanings:

"Bills of Exchange Ordinance" means the Bills of Exchange Ordinance (Cap. 19, Laws of Hong Kong), as may be amended from time to time.

"Clearing House" means Hong Kong Interbank Clearing Limited and its successors and assigns.

"Deposit Channel" means any channel offered by us from time to time for presentment of e-Cheques for deposit.

"e-Cheque" means a cheque (including a cashier's order), issued in the form of an electronic record (as such term is defined in the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap. 553, Laws of Hong Kong)) with an image of the front and back of the e-Cheque or e-cashier's order (as the case may be). e-Cheques may be issued in Hong Kong dollars, US dollars and Renminbi.

"e-Cheques Deposit Services" mean the services offered by us to customers from time to time for depositing e-Cheques.

"e-Cheque Drop Box" or "e-Cheque Drop Box Service" means an electronic drop box provided by the Clearing House that accepts presentment of e-Cheques in respect of which an e-Cheque Drop Box user must register an e-Cheque Drop Box Account with the Clearing House before presenting e-Cheques to a Payee Bank Account, as this term may be amended from time to time in accordance with the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms.

"e-Cheque Drop Box Account" means a user account for the e-Cheque Drop Box Service, and for which each user must register with the Clearing House before using the e-Cheque Drop Box for presenting e-Cheques for deposit into a Payee Bank Account, as this term may be amended from time to time in accordance with the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms.

"e-Cheque Drop Box Terms" means all the terms and conditions prescribed by the Clearing House from time to time for governing the e-Cheque Drop Box Service provided by the Clearing House and the use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service.

"Industry Rules and Procedures" means the rules and operating procedures governing the handling of e-Cheques developed and/or adopted by the Clearing House and the banking industry from time to time.

"Payee Bank" means the bank at which a Payee Bank Account is held.

"Payee Bank Account" means, in respect of each e-Cheque presented for deposit using the e-Cheques Deposit Services, the bank account of the payee of the e-Cheque maintained with us into which the e-Cheque is to be deposited which may be a sole name or a joint name account of the payee.

"Payer Bank" means the bank which digitally signed an e-Cheque created by its customer.

"you" means each customer to whom we provide e-Cheques Deposit Services.

2. Nature and scope of e-Cheques Deposit Services

- (a) We may provide e-Cheques Deposit Services at our discretion. If we provide e-Cheques Deposit Services to you, you may deposit e-Cheques. In order to use the e-Cheques Deposit Services, you have to provide such information and documents and accept such terms and conditions which may be required or prescribed by us and the Clearing House respectively from time to time. You may also be required to sign forms and documents prescribed by us from time to time.
- (b) e-Cheques Deposit Services allow you and other persons to present e-Cheques (whether payable to you and/or any other holder of the Payee Bank Account) for deposit with us (as Payee Bank), using the e-Cheque Drop Box Service offered by the Clearing House or using our Deposit Channels, in accordance with Clause 3 below.
- (c) We may provide e-Cheques Deposit Services relating to e-Cheques that are issued in any currency specified by us from time to time, including Hong Kong dollars, US dollars or Renminbi.
- (d) We have the right to set or vary from time to time the conditions for using the e-Cheques Deposit Services. These conditions may include the following (or any of them):
 - (i) the service hours of the e-Cheques Deposit Services (including cut-off times for presenting e-Cheques); and
 - (ii) any fees and charges payable by you for the e-Cheques Deposit Services.

3. e-Cheques Deposit Services

- (a) The e-Cheques Deposit Services may allow presentment of e-Cheques for deposit with us (as Payee Bank) using the e-Cheque Drop Box Service provided by the Clearing House or using our Deposit Channels.
- (b) e-Cheque Drop Box Service
 - (i) The e-Cheque Drop Box Service is provided by the Clearing House. You are bound by the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms in relation to your use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service. You are solely responsible for performing your obligations under the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms.
 - (ii) In order to use the e-Cheque Drop Box Service, you are required by the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms to register an e-Cheque Drop Box Account with one or more Payee Bank Account for presenting e-Cheques. You are allowed by the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms to register an e-Cheque Drop Box Account with a Payee Bank Account that is your same-name account or an account other than your same-name account. You are responsible for the presentment of all e-Cheques by you or any other person using your e-Cheque Drop Box Account (including presentment of any e-Cheques to a Payee Bank Account other than your same-name account).
 - (iii) Any issue relating to the use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service should be handled in accordance with the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms. We may (but have no obligation to) provide reasonable assistance to you. In particular, we do not have the electronic record or image of any e-Cheque deposited using the e-Cheque Drop Box Service. On your request, we may (but have no obligation to) provide the date, e-Cheque amount, e-Cheque number, payee name and any other information agreed by us relating to an e-Cheque deposited using your e-Cheque Drop Box Account.
 - (iv) We give no representation or guarantee, whether express or implied, relating to the availability, quality, timeliness or any other aspect of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service provided by the Clearing House. Unless otherwise stated in the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms, you bear the responsibilities and risks relating to the use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service. We are not liable for loss, damage or expense of any kind which you or any other person may incur or suffer arising from or in connection with the use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service.
- (c) Our Deposit Channels

We may specify or vary from time to time (i) the available Deposit Channels without notice; and (ii) the terms governing the use of any Deposit Channel.

4. Handling of e-Cheques, associated risks and our liabilities

(a) Handling of e-Cheques

You understand that we and other banks have to follow the Industry Rules and Procedures in the handling, processing, presentment, payment, collection, clearance and settlement of e-Cheques payable to you. Accordingly, we are entitled to collect any e-Cheque payable to you by presenting that e-Cheque to the Payer Bank in accordance with the Industry Rules and Procedures even if the Bills of Exchange Ordinance may not expressly provide for presentment of e-Cheques or may specify other manner for presentment of cheques.

(b) Restriction of our liability

Without reducing the effect of the provisions of the Existing Terms:

- (i) we are not liable for loss, damage or expense of any kind which you or any other person may incur or suffer arising from or in connection with the use of the e-Cheques Deposit Services or the handling, processing, presentment, payment, collection, clearance or settlement of e-Cheques presented by you or any other person using the Deposit Channels provided by us to you, except to the extent that any loss, damage or expense incurred or suffered is direct and reasonably foreseeable arising directly and solely from our negligence or wilful default or that of our officers, employees or agents;
- (ii) in particular and for clarity, we are not liable for loss, damage or expense of any kind which you or any other person may incur or suffer arising from or in connection with the following (or any of them):
 - (1) use of the e-Cheque Drop Box Service by you or any other person, or the e-Cheque Drop Box Terms;
 - (2) your failure to comply with your obligations relating to the e-Cheques Deposit Services;
 - (3) presentment of any e-Cheque payable to you in accordance with the Industry Rules and Procedures despite the provisions of the Bills of Exchange Ordinance; and
 - (4) any failure or delay in providing the e-Cheques Deposit Services, or any error or disruption relating to the e-Cheques Deposit Services, caused by or attributed to any circumstance beyond our reasonable control; and
- (iii) in no event will we be liable to you or any other person for any loss of profit or any special, indirect, consequential or punitive loss or damages.

- (c) Your confirmation and indemnity
- (i) You accept the restriction of liabilities and disclaimers imposed by us and the Clearing House in relation to the e-Cheques Deposit Services and the services provided by the Clearing House respectively. You accept and agree to bear the risks and the liabilities for depositing e-Cheques.
 - (ii) Without reducing the effect of any indemnity given by you under the Existing Terms or any other rights or remedies that we may have, you will indemnify us and our officers, employees and agents and hold each of them harmless against all liabilities, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, charges and expenses of any kind (including legal fees on a full indemnity basis and other expenses reasonably incurred) which may be incurred or suffered by us or any of them and all actions or proceedings which may be brought by or against us or any of them as a result of or in connection with our provision of the e-Cheques Deposit Services or your use of the e-Cheques Deposit Services.
 - (iii) The above indemnity does not apply to the extent that it is proved that any liabilities, claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, charges, expenses, actions or proceedings are direct and reasonably foreseeable arising directly and solely from our negligence or wilful default or that of our officers, employees or agents.
 - (iv) The above indemnity shall continue to have effect after the termination of the e-Cheques Deposit Services.