

## **FAQs on Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in Cheque Truncation System**

### **1) What is Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation?**

Ans: Cheque Truncation System (CTS) presently processes cheques with a clearing cycle over two working days. To improve the efficiency of cheque clearing and reduce settlement risk for participants, and to enhance customer experience, CTS is being transitioned from the current approach of batch processing to continuous clearing with 'on-realization-settlement'. Cheques will be scanned, presented, and passed in a few hours and on a continuous basis during business hours. The clearing cycle will reduce from the present T+1 days to a few hours. Settlement will be posted for only approved (including deemed approved) cheques in continuous clearing.

### **2) Which circulars have been issued in this regard?**

Banks may refer to RBI circulars [CO.DPSS.RLPD.No.S536/04-07-001/2025-2026 dated August 13, 2025 on 'Introduction of Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation in Cheque Truncation System'](#) and [CO.DPSS.RPPD.No.S680/04-07-001/2025-2026 dated September 26, 2025 on 'Special Clearing in Cheque Truncation System on October 3, 2025'](#).

Banks may also refer to CTS specifications V3.0 issued by NPCI on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for technical aspects of the project.

### **3) What is the go live date for the project?**

Ans: Continuous clearing and settlement on realisation will be implemented in two phases. Phase I – Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 to Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026, Phase II – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 onwards.

### **4) What is the difference between Phase I and II?**

Ans: In Phase I, Item expiry time of all cheques shall be 7 PM by default. In Phase II, it will be 3 clear hours.

For example, in Phase II, the cheques received by drawee banks between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM will have to be confirmed positively or negatively by them by 2:00 PM (3 hours from 11:00 AM).

**5) What is Item Expiry Time?**

Ans: Time till when the confirmation for the cheque can be submitted. A tag for the same is included in the PXF(inward) file.

**6) What is the presentation session timings?**

Ans: 10 AM to 4 PM on any CTS working day.

**7) Will settlement happen for presentation?**

Ans: No settlement shall be carried out for presentation of cheques.

**8) What will be the clearing type to be used for Continuous Clearing?**

Ans: Clearing type "14" is to be used for Continuous Clearing.

**9) Till what time response can be submitted?**

Ans: In Phase I, the confirmation should be submitted to NPCI before 7 PM. In Phase II, within 3 clear hours.

**10) When and where settlement will be posted?**

Ans: Settlement position will be arrived at based on the positively confirmed cheques at the end of every hour starting from 11 AM up to to 7 PM and settlement will be posted in current account of the bank held with RBI. Total 9 settlements will be there on any day.

**11) Do I need to send confirmation for all the cheques?**

Ans: Yes, all the inward received has to be confirmed with proper response code ("00" for positive and for negative appropriate return reason code)

**12) What is deemed approved cheques?**

Ans: If banks fail to provide negative or positive confirmation for a cheque within its item expiry time, the said cheques will be considered as deemed approved and included in settlement.

**13) How can presenting bank identify deemed accepted items?**

Ans: Return Reason code will be “99” for deemed accepted cheques in the BRF file.

**14) When will inward be received by drawee banks?**

Ans: Inward will be generated every 15 minutes or once 250 items are available, whichever is earlier.

**15) When last inward file will be received?**

Ans: 4 PM last inward will be generated.

**16) When customers' accounts to be credited?**

Ans: Customers accounts are to be credited within 1 hour of successful settlement posting.

**17) Can we present cheques after 4 PM or before 10:00 AM?**

Ans: NPCI will not accept CXF file received after 4:00 PM or before 10:00 AM.

**18) What is Recall functionality?**

Ans: In case a drawee bank wants to reverse the positive or negative confirmation submitted, they can do so using the Recall functionality before next settlement time. Any cheque which is settled cannot be recalled.

**19) How can banks raise an extension request?**

Ans: Direct banks should request for day extension through Aptra page under Request Extension option.

**20) How can sub-member banks raise extension request?**

Ans: Submember banks need to reach out to their sponsor banks to raise day extension on behalf of them.

**21) When can a day extension request can be initiated?**

Ans: After presentation session is closed i.e. after 4PM.

**22) What will be revised item expiry time in case of day extension?**

Ans: In phase I, extended items shall have revised Item Expiry Time of 7PM of next working day. In phase II, it will be 11AM of next working day.

**23) How can bank know their presentation and inward?**

Ans: Outward item detail report and Inward item detail report should be downloaded by the banks to know their presentation and inward. Sub member banks can use NAS portal for checking the data.

**24) How to reconcile the settlement amount?**

Ans: Settlement csv file may be downloaded by the banks to tally their settlement every hour.

**25) How can we check the returns data?**

Ans: Return item detail report consists of all the return item.

**26) Will CTS Holiday list be changed?**

Ans: There is no change in the holiday calendar for CTS.

## FAQs on Transition Plan

### 1) What is the plan for transition to continuous clearing and settlement on realisation?

Ans: Transition plan for go live of phase 1 is given below. On October 3, session timings will be modified, and special clearing with same day return will be conducted to facilitate the transition.

Day	Activity	Timing
October 1, 2025 (Wednesday)	Presentation Session	3:30 PM – 7:30 PM
October 2, 2025 (Thursday)	CTS Holiday	
October 3, 2025 (Friday)	Return Session	08:00 AM – 10:00 AM
	Special Clearing Presentation Session	11:00 AM – 03:00 PM
	Special Clearing Return Session	05:00 PM – 08:00 PM
Migration of systems by NPCI and banks – 8:00 PM on October 3, 2025 to 8:00 AM on October 4, 2025		
October 4, 2025 (Saturday)	Presentation Session	10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
	Confirmation Session	10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

### 2) What is the time of return sessions and presentation session on Oct 3, 2025?

Ans: Return session for presentation of October 1, 2025 will be from 8AM to 10AM. After that there will not be any regular clearing on that day. All instruments will be presented in special clearing only. Special clearing presentation will be from 11 AM to 3 PM and return will be from 5PM to 8PM.

### 3) What are the attributes to be used in Special Clearing on October 3, 2025?

Ans: Presentation session num: 21, returns session num: 22 and clearing type will be “99”.

**4) Whether normal cheques will be accepted in special clearing?**

Ans: Yes, all type of cheques (gov and normal) will be accepted in special clearing sessions.

**5) Will time or day extension be provided on transition day (Oct 3, 2025)?**

Ans: Time and day extension will not be provided on Oct 3, 2025.

**6) Whether reports will be available post 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2025?**

Ans: All the reports of 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2025 are to be downloaded on the same day. If any banks want to download the reports after Oct 3, they may use NAS reports portal.

**7) When can banks start their migration ?**

Ans: Post downloading all reports of 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2025 banks can start migration activities in CTS application and CBS and be ready for continuous clearing by 8AM of 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025.

**8) When will settlement be posted for special clearing?**

Ans: Settlement will be posted for both presentation and return session after closure of session. Settlement will be posted in current accounts of banks held with RBI.

**9) When will CHM be available to banks for consumption on Oct 4, 2025.**

Ans: NPCI is expected to make the CHM available to banks before 5 AM on October 4, 2025.

## FAQs on NAS

### 1) What is National Archival Services(NAS)?

Ans: NAS is a service which is available for the banks to retrieve the images and reports for up to 10yrs after clearing day. Adding to this facility, NPCI has introduced one more module of CCData where sub member banks can view images of outward and inward cheques.

### 2) Is it necessary to onboard on NAS?

Ans: All sub member banks need to onboard on NAS to monitor their outward, inward and returns.

### 3) What is Service Level Agreement?

Ans: Service Level Agreement is an agreement to be signed between NPCI and the sub member banks for onboarding.

### 4) What is the amount of stamp paper to be purchased for SLA?

Ans: SLA to be executed on 600/- stamp paper.

### 5) What all needs to be filled in SLA?

Ans: Effective date on page one – date should be same or after the agreement purchase date.

Signatory details such as Name, Designation and address on page 7

Signatures on right side of the page along with the “in presence of” signature on page 8

Each page of SLA should be signed and bank stamp to be affixed.

### 6) Are all legal stamp duty types allowed?

Ans: Yes, all type of stamp duties is allowed; like stamp paper (600/-, 500+100/-, 6\*100/-etc.), estamp, notary, franking etc.

### 7) Who is authorized to sign the SLA?

Ans: Banks CEO/MD can sign the agreement or the signing authority of the bank.

**8) How to get access of NAS application?**

Ans: Raise a cflow request to get access for NAS.

**IP whitelisting → CTS → NAS→ select production as subset.**

**9) How to get Cflow access?**

Ans: For all Cflow User Access Creation/Account Reactivation/Password Reset related requests please raise CRM Ticket under

**Department Certification -> Onboarding -> Cflow and related Sub Category**

**10) How to get CRM access?**

Ans: Please submit below form for CRM access.

<https://forms.office.com/r/NCaPWUF9Zt>

**11) How many users can be requested for NAS?**

Ans: Access will be provided to 3 users per bank.

**12) What is NAS user form?**

Ans: Banks need to fill the user request form and raise a CRM ticket for the creation of user ids.

**CTS→CTS→onboarding in NAS**

**13) What need to be mentioned in the “Domain” filed at the time of login?**

Ans: “BANK” is the domain to be mentioned on the login screen.

**14) Is there any circular on NAS?**

Ans: Yes, Circular details - “CTS | OC002 | FY 25-26 | Accessing CTS Data through National Archival Services (NAS)” along with user manual.