



**HONG KONG INTERBANK
CLEARING LIMITED**
香港銀行同業結算有限公司

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20 February 2023

Your ref:

Our ref:

Circular No. 2023/042

Members of the Clearing House

eCMT Users and iCMT Users

and

TR Members

Dear Sirs,

Schedule of Contingency Drills in 2023

It is a standing practice for HKICL to conduct a series of annual drills with member banks and users in the production or backup site to ascertain the robustness of various contingency arrangements. To facilitate member banks and users in making necessary arrangements in advance, we have drawn up the following schedule of contingency drills in 2023 for your reference:

CLS full outage drills on 13 March and 11 September 2023: these half-yearly CLS full outage drills will enable HKICL and CLS subscribing members to rehearse the contingency procedures on receipt of CLS payments (i) on behalf of the CLS Bank via automated contingency channel; and (ii) from all Nostro Agents via Special Posting. All CLS subscribing member banks are required to participate in these drills in the production environment on Monday, 13 March 2023 and Monday, 11 September 2023.

Special Posting drill from June to August 2023: this drill will apply to all clearing currencies of CHATS (HKD, USD, Euro, and RMB). All member banks, except for overseas RMB clearing members, will be required to participate in this drill to rehearse the contingency procedures on (i) submission of special posting files to HKICL for settlement of payments in the testing environment; (ii) receipt of settlement notifications using the payment message export service in the testing environment; and (iii) access to iMBT as contingency channel for payment enquiry and control in the production environment.

File transfer service (FTS) contingency drill from August to September 2023: this drill will enable member banks which have subscribed to FTS to test the contingency measures on exchange of clearing/return files and cheque image files with HKICL via contingency media in the testing environment.

Bank default communication and system drill from August to September 2023: riding on the annual FTS contingency drill, this drill will enable member banks to rehearse the contingency procedures on bank default in the testing environment.

Annual clearing contingency drill from 16 October to 20 October 2023: this drill aims to ensure the sustainability of HKICL's backup site for production operations of all clearing and settlement systems of HKICL. All Settlement Institutions, Clearing Bank, clearing members and business partners are required to participate in this drill in the production environment.

The annual clearing contingency drill for all clearing currencies will be held from Monday, 16 October 2023 to Friday, 20 October 2023. During this period, the operating windows of the RTGS systems and the bulk clearing schedules of HKD/USD/RMB clearing, including submission and collection of clearing/return/cheque images, will remain unchanged.

On Monday, 16 October 2023, physical submission and collection of all bulk clearing items will only be conducted at the backup clearing operation centre at BOA, i.e. no dual-site operation on this drill day. Physical submission and collection of all bulk clearing items will resume normal at both the production clearing operation centre at MGT and the backup clearing operation centre at BOA from Tuesday, 17 October 2023 to Friday, 20 October 2023.

End-of-day Net Settlement (EODNS) drill from November to December 2023: all member banks will be required to participate in this drill to rehearse the contingency procedures on submission of EODNS files to HKICL for settlement of payments in the testing environment.

A master schedule summarising the 2023 contingency drills is attached (Attachment) for your ease of reference. Members, eCMT Users, iCMT Users and TR Members will be informed of the details of individual drills in due course. We would appreciate it if relevant Members/Users/participants would make available the necessary resources to participate in relevant drills abovementioned. For enquiries, please contact our Services Management at 2533 1100.

Yours faithfully,



Haster Tang
Chief Executive Officer