



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक  
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

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**Confidential**

DCM(CC) No.G- 18 /03.39.01/2008-09

November 14, 2008

The Chairman & Managing Director/  
The Chief Executive Director  
(All banks having currency chests)

Madam/Dear Sir

**Technical Specifications for construction  
of currency Chest Strong Rooms (Vaults)**

Please refer to our circular DCM(CC) No.G12/03.39..01/2006-07 dated January 09, 2007. Considering the representations made by certain banks regarding problems being faced by them in establishing currency chests conforming to the technical specifications specified therein, a Committee was constituted to recommend modifications in the existing specifications.

2. Based on the Committee's recommendations technical specifications and infrastructural requirements for setting up currency chests have been modified/revised as per Annex 1 to 4.

3. The banks may henceforth make their applications for establishing new currency chests as well as for shifting/change of premises as per the revised instructions relating to their requirements and in accordance to the area concerned.

4. Please acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully

*U.S. Paliwal*

(U.S. Paliwal)

Chief General Manager

Enclosures: 9 sheets (Annex 1-4)

यह विभाग आईएसओ 9001:2000 प्रमाणित

मुद्रा प्रबंध विभाग, केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, नौथी मंजिल, अमर भवन, सर पी. एम. रोड, पोस्ट बॉक्स सं. 1379, मुंबई - 400 001, भारत  
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The Department is ISO 9001:2000 Certified

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### Construction of Currency Chests by banks

(Currency Chests located in Basement and Ground floors of the buildings at Metro Cities, State capitals and District HQs)

All dimensions in millimetres.

Vault Class			AA	AAA
Application	Wealth level		Medium	High
	Risk level		Medium	High
Main door with time-lock [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] to be fixed on front side			Class 'AA'	Class 'AAA'
Emergency door [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] if to be provided and fixed on back side as per the layout prepared by the bank's Architect /Structural consultant.			Class 'AA'	Class 'AAA'
Internal clear usable size without obstructions (HxWxD)			3000x6100x6100, Min (400 sq ft)	3000x6100x7625 Min (500 sq ft)
			Or else, larger size as may be required by the user	Or else, larger size as may be required by the user
Construction shall be done as per the design of the Structural Consultant subject to minimum requirements given here for achieving burglary resistance against attack by common hand-held / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc.; fire resistance against gas cutting torch, fluxing rods etc.; fire hose stream reheat endurance against exposure to major fire and fire-fighting water stream/jet etc.	Wall thickness		450, Min	450, Min
	Floor and roof		450, Min	450, Min
	Concrete mix (see IS 456)		M40, Min	M50, Min
	Steel grid in walls, floor and roof	Bar dia	18	20
		Mesh	Mesh made by placing and tying rebars at 200x200 c/c bothways; one such mesh placed staggered on both the faces of each wall, floor and roof, in such a manner so as to make less than 100x100 c/c through openings	
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min		1 Row in Walls, 1 Layer in Floor, 1 Layer in Roof	2 Rows in Walls, 2 Layers in Floor, 2 Layers in Roof
Surveillance passage/ Patrol Corridor			1150, Min for Front and Back, 750, Min for sides	
Security Ventilator (see IS 14387) / Exhaust fan			Height from Floor Level: 2100, Min. Opening Size: 450x450, Max.	
Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements			Shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole /emergency door.	

Vault Class		AA	AAA
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit Television (CCTV) coverage for vault including patrol corridor and other chest areas	Shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Emergency lighting	Shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Smoke detection and fire alarm system	Shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Fire-fighting systems	Necessary fire-extinguishers for fighting A, B and C class fire shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Burglar and Security alarm system	Sensors for movement / vibration / moisture / heat / smoke / magnetic etc. detection based system capable of automatically raising an alarm using hooters / sirens etc. in the currency chest premises as well as at a remote location whenever the currency chest is attacked, shall be provided and shall be periodically tested and always maintained in good working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply.	
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed outside the Vault area in Currency Chest Premises.	Fire-fighting systems	Fire-extinguishers and Sprinkler or Dry/Wet riser system shall be provided and always maintain in good working order through service contracts.	
	CCTV Coverage for peripheral area surrounding the chest premises	Shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in good working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Biometric Access Control systems	Systems for verification of the authority to have access inside vaults shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply.	
	Burglar and Security Alarm Systems	Burglar and Security alarm system capable of automatically raising audio-visual emergency alarm when actuated manually by the on-duty Police Guard shall be necessarily provided, periodically tested and always maintained in good working order.	

Vault Class		AA	AAA
Other measures to be taken for ensuring security and safety of treasure stored in vaults.	Whether armed security guards are required to be posted at chest premises in addition to the police guards provided by State Police?	Not Mandatory	Not Mandatory
	Police-guard rooms	Rooms with all necessary facilities for the guards to take rest shall be provided near the strong room.	
	Whether cell-phones to be given to the security-guards guarding the vaults?	Not Mandatory	Yes
	Whether Auto-dialer, Hotline connections to nearest Police Station is required to be provided at chest premises?	Yes	
	Insuring the vaults against terrorist / insurgent / vandal / mob attack etc.	Insurance is not required if treasure is guarded by State Armed Police guards. In case it is guarded by Ex-servicemen security agencies sponsored by DGR , banks may take insurance cover at their option /cost.	



### Construction of Currency Chests by banks

(Currency Chests located in Basement and Ground floors of the buildings at other centres i.e. other than metro cities, state capitals and district HQs.)					
All dimensions in millimetres.					
Vault Class			AA		AAA
Application	Wealth level		Medium		High
	Risk level		Medium		High
Main door with time-lock [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] to be fixed on front side			Class 'AA'		Class 'AAA'
Emergency door [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] if to be provided and fixed on back side as per the layout prepared by the bank's Architect / Structural consultant.			Class 'AA'		Class 'AAA'
Internal clear usable size without obstructions (HxWxD)			3000x6100x6100, Min (400 sq ft)		3000x6100x7625, Min (500 sq ft)
			Or else, larger size as may be required by the user		Or else, larger size as may be required by the user
Construction shall be done as per the design of the Structural Consultant subject to minimum requirements given here for achieving burglary resistance against attack by common hand-held / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc.; fire resistance against gas cutting torch, fluxing rods etc.; fire hose stream reheat endurance against exposure to major fire and fire-fighting water stream/jet etc.	Wall thickness		450, Min		450, Min
	Floor and roof		450, Min		450, Min
	Concrete mix (see IS 456)		M40, Min		M50, Min
	Steel grid in walls, floor and roof	Bar dia	16		18
		Mesh	Mesh made by placing and tying rebars at 200x200 c/c bothways; one such mesh placed staggered on both the faces of each wall, floor and roof, in such a manner so as to make less than 100x100 c/c through openings.		
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min		1 Row in Walls, 1 Layer in Floor, 1 Layer in Roof		2 Rows in Walls, 2 Layers in Floor, 2 Layers in Roof
Surveillance passage/ Patrol Corridor			1150, Min for Front and Back, 750, Min for sides		
Security Ventilator (see IS 14387) / Exhaust fan			Height from Floor Level: 2100, Min. Opening Size: 450x450, Max.		
Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements			If needed, shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole /emergency door.		

Vault Class		AA	AAA
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit Television (CCTV) coverage for vault including patrol corridor and other chest areas	It shall be necessarily provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Emergency lighting	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Smoke detection and fire alarm system	If needed, shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Fire-fighting systems	Necessary fire-extinguishers for fighting A, B and C class fire shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Burglar and Security alarm system	If needed, sensors for movement / vibration / moisture / heat / smoke / magnetic etc. detection based system capable of automatically raising an alarm using hooters / sirens etc. in the currency chest premises as well as at a remote location whenever the currency chest is attacked, shall be provided and shall be periodically tested and always maintained in good working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply.	
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed outside the Vault area in Currency Chest Premises.	Fire-fighting systems	Fire-extinguishers shall be provided and always maintained in good working order through service contracts.	
	CCTV Coverage for peripheral area surrounding the chest premises	Shall be provided and always maintained in good working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Biometric Access Control systems	If needed, systems for verification of the authority to have access inside vaults shall be provided and always maintained in work order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply.	
	Burglar and Security Alarm Systems	Burglar and Security alarm system capable of automatically raising audio-visual emergency alarm when activated manually by the on-duty Police / Security Guard shall be provided, periodically tested and always maintained in good working order.	
Other measures to be taken for ensuring security and safety of treasure stored in vaults.	Whether armed security guards are required to be posted at chest premises in addition to the police guards provided by State Police?	Not Mandatory	
	Police-guard rooms	Rooms with all necessary facilities for the guards to take rest shall be provided near the strong room.	
	Whether cell-phones to be given to the security-guards guarding the vaults?	Not Mandatory	
	Whether Auto-dialer, Hotline connections to nearest Police Station is required to be provided at chest premises?	Yes	
	Insuring the vaults against terrorist / insurgent / vandal / mob attack etc.	Insurance is not required if treasure is guarded by State Armed Police guards. In case it is guarded by Ex-servicemen security agencies sponsored by DGR, banks may take insurance cover at their option /cost.	

### Construction of Currency Chests by banks

(Currency Chests located in basement and ground floors of the buildings at places near International Borders i.e within 80 Kms and other Insurgency affected areas as considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI / State Government concerned)

All dimensions in millimetres

Vault Class		AA	AAA
Application	Wealth level	Medium	Medium
	Risk level	High	Very High
Main door with time-lock [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] to be fixed on front side		Class 'AA'	Class 'AAA'
Emergency door [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] if to be provided and fixed on back side as per the layout prepared by the bank's Architect /Structural consultant.		Class 'AA'	Class 'AAA'
Internal clear usable size without obstructions (HxWxD)		3000x6100x6100, Min (400sq ft)	3000x6100x6100, Min (400sq ft)
		Or else, larger size as may be required by the user	Or else, larger size as may be required by the user
Construction shall be done as per the design of the Structural Consultant subject to minimum requirements given here for achieving burglary resistance against attack by common hand-held / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc.; fire resistance against gas cutting torch, fluxing rods etc.; fire hose stream reheat endurance against exposure to major fire and fire-fighting water stream/jet etc.	Wall thickness	450, Min	600, Min
	Floor and roof	450, Min	600, Min
	Concrete mix (see IS 456)	M50, Min	M60 Min
	Steel grid in walls, floor and roof	Bar dia 18	20
		Mesh	Mesh made by placing and tying rebars at 200x200 c/c bothways; one such mesh placed staggered on both the faces of each wall, floor and roof, in such a manner so as to make less than 100x100 c/c through openings.
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min	2 Rows in Walls, 2 Layers in Floor, 2 Layers in Roof	3 Rows in Walls, 3 Layers in Floor, 3 Layers in Roof
Surveillance passage/ Patrol Corridor		1150, Min for Front, Back and Sides	
Security Ventilator (see IS 14387) / Exhaust fan		Height from Floor Level: 2100, Min. Opening Size: 300x300, Max.	
Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements		Shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole /emergency door.	



Vault Class		AA	AAA
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	CCTV coverage of cash handling operation in the vault including patrol corridor and other chest areas	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Emergency lighting	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Smoke detection and fire alarm system	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Fire-fighting systems	Necessary fire-extinguishers for fighting A, B and C class fire shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Burglar and Security alarm system	Vibration / moisture / smoke detection based system capable of raising an alarm at a location, in case currency chest is attacked, may be provided if it is possible to always same in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply.	
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed outside the Vault area in Currency Chest Premises.	Fire-fighting systems	Fire-extinguishers and Sprinkler or Wet riser system shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	CCTV Coverage for peripheral area surrounding the chest premises	Shall be provided and maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Biometric Access Control systems	Systems for verification of the authority to have access inside vaults shall be provided and maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Burglar and Security Alarm Systems	Burglar and Security alarm system capable of automatically raising audio-visual alarm when actuated manually by the on-duty Police Guard shall be provided, periodically tested and always maintained in good working order.	
Other measures to be taken for ensuring security and safety of treasure stored in vaults.	Whether armed security guards are required to be posted at chest premises in addition to the police guards provided by State Police.	Not Mandatory	
	Police-guard rooms	Rooms with all necessary facilities for the guards to take rest shall be provided near the room.	
	Whether cell-phones to be given to the security-guards guarding the vaults	Yes	
	Whether Auto-dialer, Hotline connections to nearest Police Station is required to be provided	Yes	
	Insuring the vaults against terrorist / insurgent / vandal / mob / enemy attack etc.	Insurance is not required if treasure is guarded by State Armed Police guards. In case by Ex-servicemen security agencies sponsored by DGR, banks may take insurance on option / cost.	



### Construction of Currency Chests by banks

(Currency Chests located in Basement and Ground floors of the buildings at inaccessible / hilly places as considered by State Governments / any appropriate authority)

All dimensions in millimetres.

Vault Class		C	B
Application	Wealth level	Low	Medium
	Risk level	Low	Medium
Main door with time-lock [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] to be fixed on front side		Class 'C'	Class 'B'
Emergency door [see IS 11188 (Part 1) for construction details] if to be provided and fixed on back side as per the layout prepared by the bank's Architect / Structural consultant.		Class 'C'	Class 'B'
Internal clear usable size without obstructions (HxWxD)	Tolerance on dimensions: $\pm 2\%$	2450x3350x2450, Min	3000x6100x6100, Min (400 sq ft)
		Or else, larger size as may be required by the user	Or else, larger size as may be required by the user
Construction shall be done as per the design of the Structural Consultant subject to minimum requirements given here for achieving burglary resistance against attack by common hand-held / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc.; fire resistance against gas cutting torch, fluxing rods etc.; fire hose stream reheat endurance against exposure to major fire and fire-fighting water stream/jet etc.	Wall thickness		225, Min
	Floor and roof		150, Min
	Concrete mix (see IS 456)		M50 Min
	Steel grid in wall floor and roof	Bar dia	12
		Mesh	Mesh made by placing and tying rebars at 150x150 c/c bothways; one such mesh placed staggered on both the faces of each wall, floor and roof, in such a manner so as to make less than 75x75 c/c through openings.
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min		Not Mandatory
Surveillance passage/ Patrol Corridor		1150, Min for Front, 600, Min for Back and sides	
Security Ventilator (see IS 14387) / Exhaust fan		---	Height from Floor Level: 2100, Min. Opening Size: 450x450, Max.
Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements		---	If required, it shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole.

Vault Class		C	B
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit Television (CCTV) coverage of cash handling operations in the vault including patrol corridor and other chest areas.	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts and uninterrupted power supply	
	Emergency lighting	Shall be provided and always maintained in working order through service contracts	
	Smoke detection and fire alarm system	Not Mandatory	
	Fire-fighting systems	Necessary fire-extinguishers for fighting A, B and C class fire shall be provided	
	Burglar and Security alarm system	Mandatory	
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed outside the Vault area in Currency Chest Premises.	Fire-fighting systems	Necessary fire-extinguishers for fighting A, B and C class fire shall be provided	
	CCTV Coverage for peripheral area surrounding the chest premises	Yes	
	Biometric Access Control systems	Not Mandatory	
	Burglar and Security Alarm Systems	Not Mandatory	
Other measures to be taken for ensuring security and safety of treasure stored in vaults.	Whether armed security guards are required to be posted at chest premises in addition to the police guards provided by State Police.	Not Mandatory	
	Police-guard rooms	Rooms with all necessary facilities for the guards to take rest shall be provided near the strong room.	
	Whether cell-phones to be given to the security-guards guarding the vaults?	Not Mandatory	Yes
	Whether Auto-dialer, Hotline connections to nearest Police Station is required to be provided at chest premises?	Yes	
	Insuring the vaults against terrorist / insurgent / vandal / mob attack etc.	Insurance is not required if treasure is guarded by State Armed Police guards. In case it is guarded by Ex-servicemen security agencies sponsored by DGR, banks may take insurance cover at their option /cost.	