

**March 19, 2026**

**MARYLAND STATE TREASURER’S OFFICE**

**Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building  
80 Calvert Street, Room 109  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
FOR  
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR CHECK STOCK AND  
BACKGROUND PRINTING OF CHECKS FOR THE STATE  
TREASURER’S OFFICE**

**IFB #CP-03042026**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Section/Page number (if applicable)</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>1</b>	Must the paper have a mill fourdrinier watermark feature or does the simulated ink watermark feature suffice?		See Section 2.3.1 of the IFB where the 12 <sup>th</sup> bullet point states <i>“Must meet or exceed ANSI specifications x9.18 for check paper to be processed thru the Federal Reserve Bank System”</i> . The State is open to features that are guided by the preceding statement.
<b>2</b>	Must the paper have invisible fluorescent fibers and chemical reactivity?		See answer to Q #1.
<b>3</b>	What is the State’s definition of “Image Friendly” under 2.3.1.? Must the paper have a toner lock feature?		See answer to Q #1.
<b>4</b>	Please clarify whether the 4 color flag is to be: A) 4-color process printing, or B) 4 spot colors.		See answer to Q #1.

<b>5</b>	Please provide a bid tab from the previous award showing what the Treasurer’s office is currently paying?		The present contractor is RR Donnelley & Sons Company. Contract price - \$82,455 for 1,500,000 sheets.
<b>6</b>	Will a pre-production printed sample form be required in addition to the unprinted paper samples?		No, this is not required.
<b>7</b>	Please explain your definition of “guarded transportation” and the minimum requirements to fulfill this requirement.		Please refer to Section 1.1.1 of the IFB. To clarify, individuals that are responsible for the transportation are subject to background checks and must be in custody of the check stock from the pickup point to delivery point at the STO’s office. The responsible persons need not be gun carrying but must check in with the Security Officer at the building and must retain a visitor badge while on the property.
<b>8</b>	Please provide some insight into solving the challenging shipping requirements for bidders who do not maintain a nearby secure storage facility.		The State will work with the successful bidder to discuss any challenging shipping issues. The maximum shipping time will be one (1) week upon notification from STO. See Section 1.1.1 of the IFB.
<b>9</b>	Is there a provision for price modification to offset inflation and material cost increases during the initial 2-year term period? Please explain how to request it.		No. See Amendment #1 that addresses a related issue.
<b>10</b>	Is there a provision for price modification to offset inflation and material cost increases for the renewals? Please explain how to request it.		See Amendment #1.
<b>11</b>	Is the contractor allowed to refuse the renewals?		No. See Amendment #1.

<b>12</b>	Does the guard for the transportation need to be badged and/or gun carrying?		See answer to Q #7.
<b>13</b>	Is a guard a civilian with observance requirements of the vehicle/product?		See answer to Q #7.
<b>14</b>	How many times in the last 2 years have the state had more frequent shipments than the normal 300M quantity?		On average we experience higher than normal volumes twice per year, typically in January and June. See Section 2.3 of the IFB.
<b>15</b>	In section 2.3.1 it lists the paper as 28#. This defines the thickness but does not define the type of paper. In Appendix 3, 4 it shows samples of the print but does not define the type of paper raw material being used. Is this standard laser/mocr paper or is this safety paper? If Safety paper, what are the features required in the safety paper?		See answer to Q #1.
<b>16</b>	Within the roll, are missing numbers acceptable if a list is provided and also written on the outside of the roll?		For security control purposes, we require check number continuity. Checks must be delivered flat and in boxes.
<b>17</b>	What ink is printed on the backer? I don't see a copy of the backer on the bid – I know it has a watermark and endorsement etc but need to know what color?		Black
<b>18</b>	How do you want these to be packaged? Polywrapped? How many per wrapping? How many forms per carton?		No need for polywrapping. Presently they are packaged flat in boxes consisting of 2,000 sheets per box.

END OF FORM