

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)-approved Banknote Equipment Manufacturer (BEM). The following provides information for gaining access to newly designed U.S. test notes and counterfeits. Please note that the approval of a BEM company and its subsequent entry into the BEP database does not imply that the BEP in any way endorses or underwrites the use and functionality of the equipment manufactured by the BEM company.

To be considered for BEP-approval, your company must meet the following eligibility criteria:

Eligible: Manufacturers of devices that process U.S. currency for commercial purposes, involving accept/reject decisions. Examples include counters, validators, stackers, discriminators, dispensers, recyclers, system integrators, self-service kiosks, gaming machines, transit, vending, point-of-sale devices, etc.

Non-eligible: Firms that act as resellers, distributors or maintenance stations/centers of those devices.

Assuming your firm meets the eligibility criteria, you will need to request approval from the BEP. BEP-approval designation is based on a security background check of your company and key employees. As a BEP-approved BEM, your firm will be invited to test newly designed U.S. currency provided by the BEP on your company's equipment prior to each note's public circulation.

Additionally, your firm will be eligible to access the counterfeits held by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond's Vendor Outreach Program (VOP) in Richmond, VA, where the counterfeit notes are maintained. Please be advised that the VOP is part of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond that runs the counterfeit note program. The VOP will sign a separate nondisclosure agreement with your firm prior to access to the counterfeits.

Once becoming a BEP-approved BEM, you will be eligible to receive invitations for opportunities to work with test deck notes prior to circulation of any newly designed U.S. currency. Your firm will be invited to participate in two phases:

- 1) The BEP will coordinate an in-house, BEM conference to exhibit the newly designed notes which shall not be taken outside the BEP. You may bring your machines to evaluate these test notes at the BEP for approximately six to eight (6-8) hours.
- 2) Approximately six to eight (6-8) months prior to circulation of new notes to the public, the BEP will invite your firm to pick up the actual production notes (called test deck notes) which can be held for at least six (6) months for new algorithm development and sensor adaptation activities. Participating companies may sign out a test-deck from the BEP with no up-front monetary security deposits.

To begin this process, please contact BEM Support Division via email at [BEM and CRM Customer Support@bep.gov](mailto:BEM_and_CRM_Customer_Support@bep.gov)

In this process, the BEP will conduct a background investigation to determine the eligibility of your company and its designated employees. Please be advised, this background investigation will require personal information for key contacts at the company, including, but not limited to, date of birth and social security number/passport number. At any time during the application process, you may contact the BEM Support Division with questions.