

## **Guidelines for the usage of Maltese lira denominated value documents and stamps**

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**Guideline: NECC/0010/06**

**Version 2.0  
17<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

## 1. Objective

These guidelines describe the changeover process for stored monetary value documents, identifying the periods wherein such documents and/or their residual value post €-day will be able to be used by consumers. The guidelines also establish parameters for the sale of Lm denominated stored value documents post changeover.

## 2. Definitions

For the purposes of these guidelines, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

<b>Dual display</b>	-	A 'dual display' of a price or other monetary amount is the simultaneous display of an amount in the national currency unit and the euro.
<b>Voluntary period (dual display)</b>	-	The six month period between 1 <sup>st</sup> January and the commencement of the mandatory dual display period when dual display may be implemented by organisations on a voluntary basis.
<b>Mandatory period (dual display)</b>	-	The period commencing on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2007 (or the date the irrevocably fixed rate is established if later) and ending on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2008 when dual display will be mandatory by law.
<b>€-day</b>	-	The date when Malta enters the <u>euro zone</u> , i.e. the euro banknotes and coins become legal tender and are placed in circulation in Malta.
<b>Stored value documents</b>	-	Documents that either represent monetary values or documents which are purchased and contain a credit value, which value may be stored on magnetic stripes or an electronic chip about funds that have been prepaid to the card. Pre-paid debit cards, gift vouchers, credit notes and telephony cards are examples of stored value documents.
<b>Post dual display period</b>	-	This refers to the period following the mandatory period of dual display when some provisional measures may be applied in order to remove stored value documents referencing Lm from the market.

## 3. Applicability

3.1 These guidelines shall apply in full, and to all government entities, businesses, non-profit organisations or other entities and individuals that issue, produce, purchase, sell or use stored value documents.

3.2 These guidelines cover the periods up to the pre-entry period, €-day and post €-day periods as defined in Section 5 below.

3.3 Collector sets of stamps do not fall with the remit of this guideline, as long as they are not used for postage purposes. The same provision shall also apply for other collector stored value documents, where relevant.

## 4. Principle

These guidelines are based upon the principle that the Maltese lira is the official currency of Malta until the last day prior to €-day (31<sup>st</sup> December 2007) while the euro takes over from €-day (1<sup>st</sup> January 2008). In addition, the Maltese lira may circulate alongside the euro during the dual circulation period that runs for the month of January 2008.

## 5. Guidelines

### 5.1 Issuing, selling and use of stamps during the changeover period

Table 1 below indicates the options available to retailers and consumers during the changeover process, outlining the selling and/or purchasing and usage of stamps during the different phases of the euro changeover process.

Table 1

	<b>Voluntary Dual Display – between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007</b>	<b>Mandatory Dual Display Between 1st July 2007 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008</b>	<b>Post dual display From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008</b>
<b>Maltapost plc</b>	Will issue dual displayed stamps as from 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007.	Will continue issuing dual displayed stamps. The denomination is read as the Lm value prior to €-day and the euro on/after €-day.	Issues only euro-denominated stamps from 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2008 onwards.
<b>Retailers</b>	May sell any remaining Lm-only denominated stamps, as well as the issued dual displayed stamps	May sell ONLY dual displayed stamps.	May sell dual display stamps indefinitely <sup>1</sup> .
<b>Consumers</b>	May use Lm-only denominated stamps or dual displayed stamps.	May use Lm-only denominated stamps till the end of the dual circulation period (end of January 2008).  May use dual displayed stamps for the complete period.  May exchange unused Lm denominated stamps until March 2008.	May use remaining dual displayed stamps indefinitely <sup>1</sup> .

## 5.2 Issuing, selling and use of stored value documents during the changeover period

Table 2 below indicates the options available to manufacturers/issuers, retailers and consumers during the changeover process, outlining the selling and/or purchasing and usage of stored value documents during the different phases of the euro changeover process.

Table 2

	<b>Voluntary Dual Display – between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007</b>	<b>Mandatory Dual Display Between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008</b>	<b>Post dual display from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008</b>
Organisations that produce or issue stored value documents	May issue Lm only or dual displayed stored value documents	Will issue dual displayed stored value documents. The denomination is read as the Lm value prior to €-day and the euro on/after €-day	Will produce euro only stored value documents
Retailers	May sell Lm only or dual displayed stored value documents	May sell ONLY dual displayed stored value documents	May sell remaining dual displayed or euro only stored value documents until end of July 2008  Will sell euro only stored value documents from 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2008
Consumers	Both Lm only and dual displayed stored value documents may be used	Both Lm only and dual displayed stored value documents may be used  May exchange unused Lm only stored value documents with their provider until the end of March 2008	Lm only, dual displayed and euro only stored value documents may be used indefinitely <sup>1</sup>

### **5.3 Denomination and prominence of values on dual displayed stored value documents**

As of €-day, the denomination of all stored value documents changes from Lm to euro. The dual display guidelines request that organisations indicate this change of denomination by switching the prominence from the Lm to the euro value on the dual displayed medium. Through justifications of cost and/or complexity, certain organisations issuing stored value documents may issue such documents during the dual display period without indicating a prominent value. In such cases where dual display values have no prominence, the denomination is read as Lm prior to €-day and euro on or after €-day.

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<sup>1</sup> The stamp or document may be used indefinitely or to the end of a period of validity, where relevant