

Also Refer

**Confidential**

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

November 14, 2008

To,  
The Chairman & Managing Director /  
The Chief Executive Director  
(All Banks having Currency chests)

Dear Madam / Sir

**Technical Specification 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,

Sd/-

**(U. S. Paliwal)**  
Chief General Manager

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Annex - 1 (RBI letter)

**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 Milimetres

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 obstruction (HxWxO)		3000 x 6100 x 6100, Min (400 sq.ft.)	3000 x 5100 x 7625, 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 / pinking / 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 streamjet 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 etc 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 etc, through openings	
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min	1 Raw in Walls,	2 Raw in Walls,	
		1 Layer in Floor,	2 Layer in Floor,	
1 Layer in Roof		2 Layer in Roof		
Surveillance passage / Petrol Corridor		1150, Min for Front and Back, 700, Min for sides		
Security Ventilator (See IS 14387) / Exhaust fan		Height from Floor Level : 2100, Min, Opening Size : 450 x 450, Max		
Heating Ventillation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements		Shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole / emergency door		
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit Television (CCTV) coverage for vault including petrol 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 contract 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 contract 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.	
<b>Class</b>		<b>AA</b>	<b>AAA</b>
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.	

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Annex - 2 (RBI Letter)

**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			
All dimensions in millimeters			
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 (HxWxO)		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 streamjet 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 etc 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 etc. through openings	
	Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min	1 Raw in Walls,	2 Raw in Walls,	
		1 Layer in Floor,	2 Layer in Floor,	
1 Layer in Roof		2 Layer in Roof		
Surveillance passage / Petrol Corridor		1150, Min for Front and Back, 700, 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.		
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit Television (CCTV) coverage for vault including petrol 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 necessarily 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 necessarily 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.

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Annex - 3 (RBI Letter)

**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 millimeter

Vault Class		AA	AAA
Application	Wealth Level	Medium	High

	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 obstruction (HxWxO)		3000 x 6100 x 6100, Min (400 sq.ft.)	3000 x 6100 x 6100, 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 handheld / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc; fire resistance against gas gutting 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	18	20
		Mesh	Mesh made by placing and lying 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 Raw in Walls,	3 Raw in Walls,
		2 Layer in Floor,	3 Layer in Floor,	
		2 Layer in Roof	3 Layer in Roof	
Surveillance passage / Petrol Corridor		1150, Min for Front, Back and Side		
Security Ventilator (See IS 14387) / Exhaust fan		Height from Floor Level : 2100, Min, Opening Size : 300 x 300, Max		
Heating Ventillation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements		Shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole / emergency door		
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	CCTV coverage of cash handling operation in the vault including petrol 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 necessarily 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 remote location, in case currency chest is attacked, may be provided if it is possible to always maintain the 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 work 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 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 activated 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 strong 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 it is guarded by Ex-Servicemen security agencies sponsored by DGR, banks may take insurance cover at their option / cost.

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Annex - 4 (RBI Letter)

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 millimeters**

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 (HxVxD)	Tolerance on dimensions : ±2%	2450x3350x2460, 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 handheld / picking / impact / portable electric / hydraulic / concrete cutting / drilling tools, pressure applying devices, power saws, etc; fire resistance against gas gutting torch, fluxing rods etc; fire hose stream reheat endurance against exposure to major fire and fire fighting water streamjet etc.	Wall thickness	Portable type constructed from minimum 10 mm thick mild steel plates and lines with high quality fire resisting insulation blocks / bricks minimum 230 mm for sides and minimum 150 mm for ceiling (see US 153369 : 2003)	225, Min
	Floor and roof		150, Min
	Concrete mix (see IS 456)		M50, Min
	Steel grid in walls, Floor and roof		12
	Bar dia		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
	Mesh		
Twisted tang bars laid with staggered joints and 25 mm overlap, Min			
Surveillance passage / Petrol 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 Ventillation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) arrangements		---	If required, it shall be provided through plenum chamber attachment to manhole.
Other security and surveillance systems to be provided and installed inside the Vault	Close Circuit television (CCTV) coverage of cash handling operation in the vault including petrol 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 lighting 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 / enemy 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.	

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Refer

- DCM (CC) No.2482/03.39.01/2018-19 dt 08-04-19
- DCM (CC) No.G-11/3445/03.39.01/2015-16 dt 13-04-16
- DCM(CC)No.G-13/4553/03.39.01/2014-15 dt 23-04-15