

THE NEW \$5 BILL



In early 2008 you will begin seeing the new \$5 bills in circulation. For most Americans this may not be a big deal, however, for most vending, route and gaming operators, it maybe a big challenge.

There is hardly anything more frustrating than inserting your bills in a vending machine or kiosk and having it rejected repeatedly. This can lead to lost sales for recreation centers, vending and route operators, gaming operators, casino owners and other similar business operations, not to mention the potential frustration for customers who are usually anxious, ready and able to spend their money!

With the help of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing (BEP), currency equipment manufacturers in the USA and all over the world have already started the process of testing the new \$5 bills in their bill acceptors long before the new \$5 bills are to be released to the public. Prototypes of the currency acceptance equipment are being double checked and vending and related equipment route operators are bracing themselves for the major job of upgrading their currency equipment in the field. For the first time ever, the U.S. government revealed a new paper currency design through an all-digital unveiling, as the new \$5 bill was unveiled to the public on September 20, 2007

Some of the currency equipment, especially those that are fairly modern, may have the capability of being upgraded in the field within a few minutes. This can be accomplished with the use of modem connections, hand held devices and other sophisticated software technology. However, older equipment may need more drastic measures to be updated. In some cases, the very old bill acceptors may be too outdated and possibly need total replacement of both software and hardware in order to accept the new \$5 bills.

Whenever there are new USA currency designs, the BEP provides manufacturers with test notes and specifications at least six months in advance of releasing the new bills. In 2003 the new \$20 bill was released, followed by the new \$50 bill in 2004 and the new \$10 bill in 2006. A new \$100 bill will soon follow the new \$5 bill. The \$1 and \$2 bills will not be redesigned.

Why the new bills? The US government is working hard to stay one step ahead of counterfeiting and therefore keeping our bills safer, smarter, and more secure. There are many important enhancements on the new bills. However, the redesigned \$5 bills retain two of the most important security features that were first introduced in the 1990's, the watermark and security thread. Some of the other new or improved features include a new symbol of freedom, Federal Reserve indicators, portrait and vignette, low-vision feature, micro printing, linen and cotton paper with red and blue fibers, new light purple and other colors and unique serial number placements.

The next time you are handling any US currency or the first time you receive the new \$5 bill, we hope you will better appreciate all the tremendous effort that is put forth to make your purchasing power safer, smarter, and more secure, regardless of whether you are paying a clerk in person or a via vending or related piece of equipment.



For more information or questions on the new \$5 bill and similar issues, or to request a free info package on 100's of varieties of vending machines, bulk, games, vending machine educational materials and more, contact Charles Hanna: 913 894 4979 or 800-397 8363 or visit us at: www.hanna-vending.com or email: charles@hanna-vending.com