



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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CertifiChecks deadline is July 31

Extension to redeem commissary gift certificates expires for customers who were deployed or TDY March 6 – July 31, 2009

*By Courtney Rogers,
DeCA Office of Communication*

FORT LEE, Va. – Authorized patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty during the original limited CertifiChecks redemption period of March 6 to July 31, 2009, have until July 31, 2010, to redeem their commissary gift certificates.

Shortly after CertifiChecks Inc. ceased operations on Feb. 26, 2009, the Defense Commissary Agency announced its customers could continue using their commissary gift certificates in stores until July 31, 2009. Authorized patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty during that limited redemption period were subsequently granted an extension through July of this year; this extension applies only to those customers.

These announcements resulted from an agreement reached with Department of Defense officials to allow DeCA to absorb the losses incurred from honoring the certificates for a limited time with its Defense Working Capital Fund. During the original limited redemption period, more than 30,000 gift certificates worth \$878,000 were redeemed. The Dayton, Ohio-based gift certificate company formally filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in April 2009.

“We realize that many of our patrons who were deployed or away on temporary duty during the original limited redemption period may not have seen the announcements about CertifiChecks redemption we made during that time,” said Tom Milks, DeCA’s acting director. “That’s why we are using these final weeks before the extension expires to get word out about

this again. We want to ensure that no one misses the opportunity to redeem their commissary gift certificates because they were away from home serving our nation.”

Customers who qualify for the extension must complete a CertifiCheck redemption form and have it signed by a supervisor to certify that the customer was away on duty during the entire limited redemption period. This form can be downloaded [here](#) or from the homepage of <http://www.commissaries.com>, and is also available in the customer service area or cash office of your local commissary. Eligible customers must present this signed form and the gift certificate to a cashier at the point of purchase to receive credit.

A permanent replacement for the CertifiChecks program has not yet been announced, but DeCA is offering \$25 gift vouchers for sale in all commissaries as a temporary solution until a replacement program is in place. More information about the gift voucher program is available on <http://www.commissaries.com> on the “Gift Voucher” section of the FAQ page.

-DeCA-

About DeCA: *The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth more than about \$4,400 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America’s military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.*