I dug through various versions of my 6800 data sheets and found a reference I had not noticed before as published in the their 1978 microcomputer data library tome.

Under the "condition code register operations heading" page 1-22

"A CLI-WAI instruction sequence operated properly with early M6800 processors only if the preceding instruction was odd. (Least Significant Bit = 1.) **similarly it was advisable to precede any SEI instruction with an odd opcode-such as NOP.** These precautions are not necessary for M6800 processors indicating manufacture in November, 1977 or later.

Systems which require an interrupt window to be opened under program control should use CLI-NOP-SEI sequence rather than CLI-SEI."

Emphasis mine.

Guess it was fixed masks post nov 1977.

