NPCI:2018-19:IMPS:OC 86

Oct 16, 2018

To,
**All Members of IMPS**

Madam/ Dear Sir,

**Sub: Alignment of member bank switches towards IMPS Online Technical Specification**

IMPS switching system (IMPS Bharat Switch) supports P2P, P2A, P2U and FIR based transactions. IMPS Online Technical Specifications mandates certain compliances on the online messages exchanged between member switch and IMPS Online switching platform. Currently in IMPS Online Switching System, it was observed that many of the member banks are not fully compliant with IMPS Online Technical Specifications.

For e.g., Though some of the fields are mentioned as mandatory fields in the response message from member switch OR to be echoed back with value as received in the request message OR to be populated with allowed values specified for the field, it was observed that some of the member switches are not strictly complying as a result of which IMPS switch at NPCI is made to ignore or accommodate such non-compliances. Such scenarios lead to mismatch in data elements handling across the ecosystem with cascading effect onto other banks and subsequent clearing & settlement and dispute processing.

In order to establish compliance for online messages with IMPS Online Switching Specifications, NPCI has initiated IMPS specification alignment activity with member banks.

It is to be noted that NPCI is NOT introducing any new compliance rules but ONLY enforcing the compliance rules as per the already existing IMPS specifications in order to align the member bank online switching platform.

**NOTE:**
**All acquirer compliances will be declined with Invalid Transaction (RC-12). Transaction will not be declined in case of Issuer compliance.**

In this regard, NPCI has issued a circular - NPCI/IMPS/OC No 84/2018-19 dated 24th Apr 2018 for member banks to certify using BOSS simulator and comply by 16th Aug 2018. Though most of the members are certified and enabled in production, few of the member banks are yet to certify.

We are extending the deadline upto **31st Dec 2018** for pending banks to certify and comply in production. Beyond this date, **NPCI switch would start declining the non-compliant online request messages** from acquirer member bank switch.

Those who have already certified and enabled the compliance in production, kindly ignore this circular.

Kindly make a note of the above and disseminate the instructions contained herein to the officials concerned in order to verify the compliance of your online switching application.

For any queries or clarification, please contact:

| Name | e-mail ID | Mobile Number |
|---|---|---|
| Sarthak Choudhary | sarthak.choudhary@npci.org.in | 9022077266 |
| Bharat Nanavati | bharat.nanawati@npci.org.in | 8879760297 |

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. N. Rajendran**
**Chief Technology Officer**

**Encl:** 1. Alignment of member bank switches towards IMPS Online Technical Specification (Circular no. 84 dtd. 24.04.2018)

NPCI/IMPS/OC No. 84/2018-19                                                24th April, 2018

To,

**All Members of IMPS**

Madam/ Dear Sir,

**Sub: Alignment of member bank switches towards IMPS Online Technical Specification**

IMPS switching system (IMPS Bharat Switch) supports P2P, P2A, P2U and FIR based transactions. IMPS Online Technical Specifications mandates certain compliances on the online messages exchanged between member switch and IMPS Online switching platform. Currently in IMPS Online Switching System, it was observed that many of the member banks are not fully compliant with IMPS Online Technical Specifications. E.g. though some of the fields are mentioned as mandatory fields in the response message from member switch OR to be echoed back with value as received in the request message OR to be populated with allowed values specified for the field, it was observed that some of the member switches are not strictly complying as a result of which IMPS switch at NPCI is made to ignore or accommodate such non-compliances. Such scenarios lead to mismatch in data elements handling across the ecosystem with cascading effect onto other banks and subsequent clearing & settlement and dispute processing.

At a high level, this mandate addresses the following key aspects:

1. Request / Response received from member bank switch must contain all the mandatory fields, conditional data and valid values in fields as per IMPS Online Switching Specifications.
2. Member bank switch must not reject transactions basis the absence of optional fields in the message received from NPCI IMPS Switch.
3. Response from member bank switch must echo back certain fields (as per IMPS Online Switching Specifications) with values as sent by IMPS Switch in the request.

In order to establish compliance for online messages with IMPS Online Switching Specifications, NPCI has initiated IMPS specification alignment activity with member banks.

It is to be noted that NPCI is NOT introducing any new compliance rules but ONLY enforcing the compliance rules as per the already existing IMPS specifications in order to align the member bank online switching platform.

**NOTE: All acquirer compliances will be declined with Invalid Transaction (RC-12). Transaction will not be declined in case of Issuer compliance.**

Please refer the matrix as per Annexure A attached herewith for the IMPS online mandates to be implemented by 16th August 2018. Member banks must share the mandate document with their ASPs/Product vendors for their perusal and take necessary action in order to make their switch compliant with the mandate.

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**Introduction of Bharat Online Switching Simulator (BOSS):**

In order to simplify the certification process, NPCI will be providing banks with Bharat Online Switching Simulator which is a Windows based standalone simulator. The member banks will be able to install the same at their own premises (in case of banks served by ASPs, it will be installed by ASPs in their premises) and connect with their switch. Member bank (in liaison with their vendor/ASP) has to perform the online transaction by connecting their switch to simulator for the applicable test scripts and submit the logs (generated from simulator) to NPCI. NPCI certification team will verify the logs and confirm the compliance to Member Bank.

| Activity | Timeline |
|---|---|
| NPCI Provides BOSS simulator installable to member bank (or their ASP in case of hosted member banks) | 15th May 2018 |
| Date for submitting the simulator logs to NPCI | Start : 1st June 2018<br><br>End : 31st July 2018 |

Please make a note of the above and disseminate the instructions contained herein to the officials concerned in order to verify the compliance of your online switching application and take necessary action.

For any queries or clarification, please contact:

| Name | e-mail ID |
|---|---|
| Sarthak Choudhary | sarthak.choudhary@npci.org.in |
| Bharat Nanawati | Bharat.nanawati@npci.org.in |

Yours faithfully,

**Ram Sundaresan**
**SVP & Head – Operations**

Encl:   1. Annexure A – IMPS_Mandate_2018_Version_1.0.pdf