

Circular: NPCI/2019-20/RuPay/006

23 May, 2019

To All Member Banks – RuPay

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: - Mandatory update of Ingenico Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26 deployed at the merchant establishments

1. With reference to OM issued by Department of Financial Services (DFS) of even number dated 19th July 2018 and 21st Aug 2018 on issuance of contactless / NFC cards, it was further informed that contactless card / NFC cards issued by Bank which is equipped with **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) complaint** should be accepted at all payment channel i.e. transit operators, Retails, E-commerce etc.
2. In view of the above, there is need to ensure that the efforts are made to create acceptance infrastructure for contactless card based payment across the country.
3. The RuPay specification for Contactless cards, both issuance and acquiring are based on standards as defined in EMV version 4.3 and the Common Core Definitions (CCD) extension as far the support for the contact based transaction are concerned.
4. With the launch of NCMC complaint RuPay cards and its usage across retail establishments, it is observed that for a particular “Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26” of “Ingenico” make PoS terminal models, the application of EMV w.r.t “Unpredictable Number” is not in compliance.
5. The terminal generates an Unpredictable Number, which is used for input to the application cryptogram algorithm to ensure the unpredictability of data input to this calculation or for random transaction selection for terminal risk management. After speaking to Industry folks it is understood that in past there were some discussions with in the industry whether the UN used in the 2nd Gen AC should be different from the UN in the first Gen AC, and accordingly terminal manufacturers had made some changes in their “Kernel Version 5.26” including moving the population of the UN tag to after GPO.
6. This behaviour of kernel was objected by some payment schemes and thus, an updated “Kernel Version 5.38 and 8.38” was released by terminal manufacturers to avoid any controversies.

7. We have seen from our database that few member Banks are using the “Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26” on their “Ingenico” make of PoS terminal models, which is thereby causing transaction declines for RuPay NCMC complaint cards.
8. The “Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26” are both expired in early April, 2019.
9. In view of all above and the vast issuance of NCMC complaint cards by various member Banks, it is imperative that all PoS terminals deployed at the merchant establishments with “Kernel Version 5.26” are updated with latest kernels (Kernel Version 5.38 and 8.38).
10. Therefore, with effect from **01th June, 2019** member Banks are requested to deploy any new “Ingenico” make of PoS terminals with updated “Kernel Version 5.38 and 8.38”.
11. For all PoS terminals currently running with “Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26”, member Banks are requested to certify their devices with latest available kernel and compliance to RuPay and RuPay International Card Affiliates acceptance including that of RuPay Contactless cards **with in next three months’ time.**
12. It is further requested from the member Banks that all new PoS certifications should be made complaint with RuPay and RuPay International Card Affiliates acceptance including that of RuPay Contactless cards. Any exceptions to this would result in domestic RuPay card failure and hence, in cases of any exceptional waiver, Banks are requested to provide time bound Plan of Action (PoA) to mitigate mentioned risk while seeking waiver.
13. Our teams will get connected to member Banks having affected “Kernel Version 5.26 and 7.26” in their PoS terminals deployed at their Merchant establishments.

All Member Banks are requested to kindly take a note of the aforesaid. For any queries, you may please contact your respective relationship manager.

Yours faithfully,



Praveena Rai
Chief Operating Officer