

NPCI/IMPS/OC No. 52 /2014-15

December 30, 2014

To,

All Members of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS),

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Subject: Credit Card Payments using IMPS**

Credit Card usage has been showing an increasing trend over the last few years. This, in turn has created the necessity for paying the credit card bills as a substitute of account number for making payments. Channels or services like NEFT already support transfer of funds to the card accounts with 'Card Number' as the unique field or identifier. Credit Card payments are one of the popular use cases for NEFT transactions and many customers and merchants make payments using the card details/number as the unique payment identifier.

On similar lines, we propose to use IMPS to enable fund transfers using the Card number as identifier for payment. Remitter can use IMPS push method by incorporating his/her credit card number in the account no. field. This additional enabler in the IMPS ecosystem will help increase transactions through IMPS and create customer convenience to pay their credit card bills using IMPS, which offers the facility of Fund transfer with instant confirmation.

**The Proposed Process:**

**Through P2A (Card Number & IFS Code):** The customer can also initiate the transaction for P2A push transaction using the Card number as the Account number & IFS Code of the beneficiary bank for routing the transaction. This facility may be made available by the member banks that are live with IMPS on P2A. The reference filed in the mobile app or through internet has to be mentioned as "Credit Card Payment".

The actual credits to card account can happen as per the current arrangement for similar cases like NEFT transactions etc. with the value date of transaction. The confirmation to the sender/remitting customer is required to be instant. Banks shall have to comply with the guidelines laid down from time to time by Reserve Bank of India, NPCI and any other regulatory or certification entities regarding such credit card payments.

The broad roles and responsibilities of the member/participants in this service are laid out in the Annexure.

We may request you to take steps towards implementation of the above at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dilip Asbe  
Chief Operating Officer

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**Annexure:**

**a) The broad Process:**

- Transaction will be initiated by customer using the credit card number instead of Account number and Payment reference as “Credit Card Payment”
- Remitter bank has to educate the customers for initiating IMPS credit card payment in P2A type with Credit card number instead of account number
- Transactions will hit NPCI as P2A type and NPCI will forward to the intended beneficiary
- Beneficiary bank will have to validate the transaction and identify as credit card payment hitting to its system
- Beneficiary bank will then validate the card number and accept the payment
- Response is sent to remitter bank via NPCI.

**b) Role of the Remitter Bank:**

- To educate customer to enter credit card number instead of account number
- To provide and populate “Credit Card Payment” in payment reference field
- Should clearly communicate the transaction status to customer, in case of time out bank should request the customer not to initiate new transaction.

**c) Role of NPCI:**

- Route the transaction to beneficiary bank.
- No incremental change required at NPCI

**d) Role of Beneficiary Bank:**

- To have online integration with the Credit card system for validating the card number
- To facilitate the real time credit to the customer credit card or to have the pool account created to receive credit card payment so that this can be reconciled as per process of bank by giving a credit to credit card account in a batch process. The reconciliation may be carried out basis the card number/ account to which the payment has been made.
- Beneficiary bank needs to send an instant response to the remitter regarding the status of the transaction.

*Ashwin*