



भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक  
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA



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RBI/2021-2022/142

CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S-1211/02-14-003/2021-22

December 23, 2021

All Payment System Providers and Payment System Participants

Madam / Dear Sir,

**Restriction on storage of actual card data [i.e. Card-on-File (CoF)]**

In terms of our [circular DPSS.CO.PD.No.1810/02.14.008/2019-20 dated March 17, 2020](#) on “Guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways”, the authorised non-bank payment aggregators and merchants on-boarded by them were prohibited from storing card data (CoF) from June 30, 2021. At the request of industry stakeholders, this timeline was extended to December 31, 2021 vide [circular CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S33/02-14-008/2020-2021 dated March 31, 2021](#). Further, regulations on CoF Tokenisation (CoFT) were issued vide [circular CO.DPSS.POLC.No.S-516/02-14-003/2021-22 dated September 07, 2021](#) on “Tokenisation – Card Transactions: Permitting Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) Services”.

2. In light of various representations received in this regard, we advise as under:
  - a) the timeline for storing of CoF data is extended by six months, i.e., till June 30, 2022; post this, such data shall be purged; and
  - b) in addition to tokenisation, industry stakeholders may devise alternate mechanism(s) to handle any use case (including recurring e-mandates, EMI option, etc.) or post-transaction activity (including chargeback handling, dispute resolution, reward / loyalty programme, etc.) that currently involves / requires storage of CoF data by entities other than card issuers and card networks.
3. This directive is issued under Section 10 (2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (Act 51 of 2007).

Yours faithfully,

(Sudhanshu Prasad)  
General Manager (Officer in Charge)

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हिंदी आसान है, इसका प्रयोग बढ़ाएँ