

## New Visa Contactless Requirements for LAC Region

LAC | Acquirers, Issuers



**Overview:** Effective 13 October 2018, Visa will introduce new contactless issuance and acceptance requirements in the LAC region.

Contactless payments offer an array of benefits to both cardholders and merchants. Most notably, contactless payments provide faster transactions at the point of sale, which could increase sales, as well as lower operating costs because of reduced cash handling.

Issuers also benefit from contactless payments as they can drive preference for their products and at the same time help to accelerate the transition from plastic to digital payment forms.

Aligning the deployment of contactless infrastructure across both acceptance and issuing systems is fundamental to delivering ubiquitous fast, secure and frictionless payment experiences at point of sale.

To that end, **effective 13 October 2018**, new contactless issuance and acceptance requirements will be introduced in LAC as follows:

### Acquirer / Merchant Requirements

Effective Date	Acceptance Requirement	Client Impact
13 October 2018	All <b>newly deployed</b> POS terminals or existing terminals that are upgraded on or after the effective date must accept Visa contactless transactions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exceptions:</b> mobile POS (mPOS) devices, integrated fuel dispensers (IFDs), electronic cash registers (ECRs) and ATMs.</li> </ul>	Acquirers should ensure that all newly deployed POS terminals and existing terminals that are upgraded on or after the effective date must accept and process Visa contactless transactions.
13 October 2021	All <b>newly deployed</b> mPOS devices, IFDs, ECRs and ATMs must accept Visa contactless transactions.	Acquirers should ensure that all newly deployed mPOS, IFDs, ECRs, ATMs accept contactless transactions.
1 April 2023	All POS terminals must accept Visa contactless transactions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Exceptions:</b> mPOS devices, IFDs, ECRs and ATMs.</li> </ul>	Acquirers should ensure that all POS terminals are software- and hardware-enabled to support contactless transactions.
1 April 2025	All mPOS devices, IFDs, ECRs and ATMs must accept Visa contactless transactions.	Acquirers should ensure that all POS terminals are software- and hardware-enabled to support contactless transactions.

#### Related Training From Visa Business School:

- [Digital Solutions](#)

## Issuer Requirements

Effective Date	Issuance Requirement	Client Impact
13 October 2018	All newly issued and reissued Visa chip cards must support Visa contactless transactions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Exceptions:</b> This requirement will not apply to non-reloadable Visa Prepaid cards.</li></ul>	Issuers should ensure that all newly issued or reissued Visa chip cards support and can process Visa contactless transactions.

Migrating payments to Visa contactless will establish the infrastructure for future innovation, while bringing global consistency and interoperability for consumers, merchants and issuers. In addition, growing the contactless infrastructure is an effective way to convert cash to electronic payments.

## Client Support

To support these changes, Visa will provide client implementation training sessions and best practice guides, as well as marketing materials. These training sessions may include in-country workshops, webinars or other sessions offered to clients when they begin implementing the changes. Migration to Visa contactless payments will also be addressed during the Operational Support Client Forums.

Visa is exploring technology partnerships to offer clients the option to purchase Visa-approved products (e.g. contactless cards, POS terminals) at competitive prices. Interested clients should contact their Visa representative for further details.

## Testing and Certification

First-time contactless clients must be certified by Visa to issue and/or accept contactless transactions before they begin issuing or accepting such transactions. This means that:

- Host testing and card review are mandatory for first-time contactless issuers.
- Host testing and Contactless Device Evaluation Toolkit (CDET) review are mandatory for first-time contactless acquirers.
- Host testing review is **not** mandatory for existing Visa contactless clients that want to migrate their remaining Bank Identification Numbers (BINs).

Visa recommends that clients prepare their system infrastructure as soon as possible, as the average timeline to complete migration activities ranges from four to six months. Supporting documentation for the change can be accessed on the [Visa Chip Documentation](#) page of Visa Online.

Visa is committed to working with its clients and supporting the collective goal to facilitate innovative and secure payments for the benefit of all participants in the payments system. Clients are encouraged to provide feedback and to discuss any issues they may have about Visa contactless requirements at an early stage.

## Additional Resources

[Contactless Acceptance and Issuance Requirements in the LAC Region \(Advance Copy\)](#)

**Note:** For Visa Online resources, you will be prompted to log in.

## For More Information

Contact your Visa representative.

---

Notice: This Visa communication is furnished to you solely in your capacity as a customer of Visa Inc. (through its operating companies of Visa U.S.A Inc., Visa International Service Association, Visa Worldwide Pte. Ltd, Visa Europe Ltd., Visa International Servicios de Pago España, S.R.L.U. and Visa Canada Corporation) or its authorized agent, or as a participant in the Visa payments system. By accepting this Visa communication, you acknowledge that the information contained herein (the "Information") is confidential and subject to the confidentiality restrictions contained in the Visa Rules, which limit your use of the Information. You agree to keep the Information confidential and not to use the Information for any purpose other than in your capacity as a customer of Visa Inc. or as a participant in the Visa payments system. You may disseminate this Information to a merchant participating in the Visa payments system if: (i) you serve the role of "acquirer" within the Visa payments system; (ii) you have a direct relationship with such merchant which includes an obligation to keep Information confidential; and (iii) the Information is designated as "affects merchants" demonstrated by display of the storefront icon  on the communication. A merchant receiving such Information must maintain the confidentiality of such Information and disseminate and use it on a "need to know" basis and only in their capacity as a participant in the Visa payments system. Except as otherwise provided, the Information may only be disseminated within your organization on a need-to-know basis to enable your participation in the Visa payments system. Visa is not responsible for errors in or omissions from this publication.