



EDBS/KH/C/66/2019
18th August, 2019

The Chief Executive Officer
All Retail Bank Licensees
All Financing Companies
All Payment Service Providers
Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sub: Contactless Payment Transactions

As you are aware, MasterCard and Visa have announced their contactless technology standards. Accordingly, the CBB hereby requires that all licensees, to whom this circular is addressed, must take the necessary measures to ensure that all their related infrastructure and systems are capable of supporting Near Field Communications (“NFC”) payments using debit cards, credit cards, prepaid cards, charge cards and e-wallets on POS and ATMs as per the following timelines:

- Effective from the date of this circular, all new installations of automated teller machines (“ATMs”) must support contactless technology;
- Effective 1st October 2019, any new deployment of any type of POS terminals or devices must support contactless technology;
- Effective 12th October 2019, any new issuance or reissuance of payment cards (credit, debit, prepaid and charge cards) must support contactless technology; and
- Effective 1st April 2020, all ATMs that are currently installed must support contactless technology. You should therefore submit an action plan for compliance with such deadline to your Supervisory Point of Contact no later than 30th September 2019.

Yours faithfully,


Khalid Hamad

cc: Bahrain Association of Banks