

PCI-DSS FAQ

5 W's of PCI What/Who/When/Why/Where

Q: What is PCI-DSS?

A: The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) is a worldwide information security standard mandated by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council. The Standard was created to help organizations that process card payments prevent credit card fraud through increased controls around data and its exposure to compromises. You, as an owner, president, or signer of the merchant agreement, will be responsible for ensuring that your business becomes PCI compliant.

Q: Who created PCI-DSS?

A: It was a mandate by the PCI Council, which consists of Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and JCB.

Q: When did PCI begin? When do we have to become compliant?

A: The PCI Security Standards Council was formed on December 15, 2004 and rolled out compliance requirements beginning with large merchants, adding requirements for smaller and smaller merchants until all levels of merchants were required to be PCI compliant. For most of [~] merchants, the compliance deadline is set by the acquiring processor.

Q: Why should I become compliant?

A: If a breach occurs at your location, and if you are not PCI compliant at the time, the card associations may assess a fine against you and you will be liable for all the fraudulent transactions caused by the breach. If you are compliant, the fine may be reduced and you may not be responsible for the fraudulent transactions.

Q: Can US Bankcard Services, Inc. do the compliance for us?

A: No, merchant must become PCI compliant on your own. However, we can provide guidance.

Q: Will I be notified that my compliance is about to expire? When do I have to renew my compliance?

A:

- E-mail notifications will be sent to your registered e-mail address prior to its expiration date. Your compliance expiration date is also printed on your PCI Compliance certificate.
- All SAQ's must be renewed **annually**, and a passing quarterly scan is required for merchants who process transactions over the internet, including IP-based desktop terminals.
- You may also contact us at (888) 468-1155 to check your PCI status.

Fees and Penalties

Q: Why am I being charged a monthly compliance fee?

A: The monthly compliance fee is assessed by the acquiring processor to enroll and certify the merchant's PCI compliance status.

Q: Do I have to become PCI compliant? What will happen if I don't become PCI compliant?

A: All of [redacted] acquiring partners enforce the PCI Council's compliance certification requirements. If you are not compliant, the acquirer will assess an additional monthly non-PCI compliance fee until you become compliant.

Note: The information on this page is for reference only. Please contact our customer service department at 888-468-1155 if you need assistance, or visit the PCI Council's website at <https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org> for the most up-to-date information.