



BANK OF THAILAND

BOT Press Release

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Migration of ATM and Debit Cards to Thai Standard Chip Cards

Mrs. Tongurai Limpiti, Deputy Governor (Financial Institutions Stability), Bank of Thailand, announced the migration of ATM and debit cards from magnetic stripe cards to chip cards complying with the Thai Bank Chip Card Standard. Starting from 16 May 2016 onwards, all newly issued ATM and debit cards will be chip-based. Existing 60 million magnetic stripe cards currently in use will be migrated to chip cards by 31 December 2019.

In 2013, the Payment Systems Committee formulated a policy for financial institutions to migrate magnetic stripe ATM and debit cards to chip cards. This policy is a crucial measure to increase security for cardholders, solving counterfeit card frauds whereby magnetic stripe cards are skimmed to make unauthorized payments and cash withdrawals. This measure will enhance customers' confidence in using ATM and debit cards for financial transactions via ATMs as well as paying for goods and services via point-of-sale (POS) terminals instead of using cash. In addition, this policy aligns with many other countries including ASEAN members.

Cooperation from relevant stakeholders was a key success factor for this project, especially from the Thai Bankers Association (TBA). The TBA has established the Thai Bank Chip Card Standard for locally-issued ATM and debit cards to enable interoperability for bank customers. The banks have also worked together to improve their internal procedures and upgrade the ATMs and POS to accept chip cards.

The implementation of this chip card standard in Thailand is a crucial step in the development of payment services by encouraging greater use of e-payment. It is also in line with the National e-Payment Master Plan's aim of moving the country to a cashless society. This beneficial development of Thailand's payment system is another successful step in enhancing the efficiency and security of payment services in Thailand.

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