

CHAPTER 19

PAYMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL CARDS

1. Payment in foreign exchange may be made through International Card (debit/credit/pre-paid as the case may be) of internationally recognised issuing company against the following entitlements:

International cards

i) Balance in exporters' retention quota account [Ref : Para 28, Chapter 13].

ii) Annual personal travel quota entitlement of individual [Ref : Para 1, Chapter 12].

iii) Balances held in Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (RFCD) accounts [Ref : Chapter 13, Section-III].

iv) Foreign exchange entitlement (fixed by the Government for each person intending to perform Hajj) of approved private Hajj Agencies for meeting food/lodging expenses of the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.

v) Foreign exchange entitlement fixed by the Ministry of Finance/competent authority for official or semi-official visits abroad by the officials of Government/Autonomous/Semi-autonomous institutions etc. [Ref: Para 3, Chapter 12].

vi) Per diem foreign exchange entitlement for private sector participants for attending seminars, conferences, workshops abroad arranged by recognised international bodies [Ref : Para 4, Chapter 12].

vii) Balances held in private foreign currency accounts [Ref : Para nos. 1, 2 and 6, Chapter 13].

viii) Personal entitlement fixed by the Government of Bangladesh in each year for intending pilgrims for performing Hajj [Ref : Para 10, Chapter 12].

Instructions relating to issuance of international cards are outlined below:

2. International Credit/Debit Card may be issued against the balances held in the exporters' retention quota (ERQ) foreign currency account as per entitlement mentioned in Para 28, Chapter 13 of this Guidelines. International cards may be issued in favour of upto three (3) top level executives of an exporting firm/organisation holding ERQ accounts. An exporting firm/organisation may avail of the card facility from one card issuing bank only. It will be upto the card issuing bank to accept or decline a request from an ERQ account holding exporting firm/organisation for issuance of international cards. Cards issued against ERQ accounts may be used only for meeting the bonafide business purposes of the exporting firm/organisation as mentioned in Para 29(i), Chapter 13 (Section - IV) of this Guidelines.

International credit/debit card against ERQ accounts

International credit/debit card against RFCD accounts

3. International Credit/Debit Card may be issued against the balances held in RFCD accounts opened and maintained as per instructions mentioned in Chapter 13 (Section III) of this Guidelines by authorised dealers in Bangladesh.

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International credit/pre-paid card against travel quota entitlement .

4. ADs may issue international Credit/Pre-paid Card against the annual personal travel quota entitlements of the prospective card holders as per Para 1, Chapter 12 of this Guidelines. While issuing card, the AD shall endorse on the passport, the value for which the card is issued. ADs are advised to establish effective control to ensure utilisation of foreign exchange issued for (1) SAARC countries & Myanmar and (2) Other than SAARC countries & Myanmar in the respective areas.

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International credit/pre-paid card against govt. officials etc.

5. International Credit/Pre-paid Card may be issued favoring Officials of Government/Autonomous/Semi-autonomous institutions etc. for official/semi official visits abroad against foreign exchange entitlement fixed by the Ministry of Finance/competent authority from time to time as mentioned in Para 3, Chapter 12 of this Guidelines. In such case, the prospective card holder shall be required to submit the letter of sanction for limit of foreign exchange and the Competent Authority's Order authorising the travel. While issuing the card, the AD shall endorse an amount not exceeding the entitlement (as fixed by the Government/Competent Authority) on the passport. □

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International credit/pre-paid card for private sector officials.

6. International Credit/Pre-paid Card may be issued favouring private sector participants for attending seminars, conferences and workshops abroad arranged by recognised international bodies as per entitlement mentioned in Para 4, Chapter 12. While issuing the card, the AD shall endorse an amount not exceeding the entitlement (as stated in the above Para of the GFET) on the passport. □

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International debit card against private foreign currency accounts

7. International Debit Card may be issued against the balances held in Private Foreign Currency Accounts (accounts opened and maintained as per Para nos. 1, 2 & 6, Chapter, 13).

Payment of mobile phone roaming bill

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Other instructions

10. Subject to entitlement in each of the categories mentioned above, International Card holder may pay their mobile phone roaming service utilisation bill to mobile phone operators in Bangladesh through International Card. For realisation of roaming bills, the mobile phone operators are advised to specify the followings in their bills:

- i) category of area (SAARC/Non-SAARC including Myanmar);
- ii) name of the country;
- iii) amount of security deposit of the customer (if any, specifying area and country as above)

11. The following requisites, instructions etc. shall have to be meticulously complied with while issuing such international cards :

- i) A declaration from the intending card holder stating that he is not availing himself of any International Credit/Debit/Pre-paid Card from any other AD against the same account or the same entitlement;
- (ii) In case the card is issued by a bank against any ERQ/RFC/FC account maintained in another bank, an authorisation has to be obtained from the prospective card holder allowing the card issuing bank to have lien and debit authority for the said account from the bank maintaining that account;
- (iii) Effective control system must be ensured by the issuing bank to guard against unwanted drawings in excess of the entitlement or balance in the respective foreign currency accounts (as the case may be). To facilitate monitoring towards limiting the liabilities on account of card use, the FC account holding ADs may from time to time advise the card issuing bank about the credit balances of the FC account;
- (iv) The cards shall have to be withheld/invalidated as soon as the fund available in the ERQ/RFC/FC account is fully utilised/exhausted unless there is reasonable prospect of replenishment;
- (v) In cases of issuances of International Cards against ERQ/RFC/FC accounts, the amount of the respective card shall be under lien so that under no circumstances related account is overdrawn. Yet for any unforeseen reason, if any account becomes overdrawn at any point of time, the same shall have to be immediately reported to the Bangladesh Bank clarifying the reason and remedial measure thereof;
- (vi) All records, documents, account statements relating to issuance and use of cards should be kept ready and available for inspection/examination by Bangladesh Bank as and when required.

12. Information about issuance of card(s) shall have to be submitted to Foreign Exchange Operation Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka as per proforma given in Appendix-5/87 within 15th of the following month on monthly basis. Issuance of International Cards and release of foreign exchange thereagainst under the different categories of entitlement as mentioned above shall have to be reported to Bangladesh Bank [Foreign Exchange Operation Department, and Statistics Department] by the Head Office/Country Office of ADs by 15th of the following month with usual monthly returns according to the instructions furnished in appendix-5/88. Besides, a statement of utilisation/payment of foreign exchange against international cards has to be submitted on monthly basis as per Appendix 5/89 by the Head Office/Country Office by 15th of the following month.

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