

EMV® General Bulletin No. 54
Second Edition, January 2023

Annual Renewal of EMV Contactless Specifications

This General Bulletin explains that the set of EMV Contactless Specification Books A, B, and C-x will no longer be republished every year

Applicability

This Bulletin applies to:

EMV® Contactless Specifications for Payment Systems:

- *Book A: Architecture and General Requirements, Version 2.10, March 2021*
- *Book B: Entry Point Specification, Version 2.10, March 2021*
- *Book C-x: Kernel Specifications, Version 2.10, March 2021*

Related Documents

- *None*

Effective Date

- *Immediately*
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Background of publication of this second edition

The first edition of General Bulletin 54, published in March 2022, explained that depending on the extent of changes, a minor version might be published as an alternative to the Specification Bulletin. However, since this approach does not allow the opportunity to seek feedback from stakeholders on the content of the changes, this second edition is published by changing a minor version to be published when reflecting past-published Specification Bulletins or making editorial changes to the specifications. Changes made in the 2nd edition of this bulletin are shown using underlines and vertical change bars.

Description

In the first or second quarter of each year, EMVCo normally updates the EMV Contactless Specifications by incorporating Specification Bulletins and publishing a new version of the EMV Contactless Specifications. While the contents of the Specification Bulletins are already in effect upon their issuance (dependent on their Effective Date), this annual publication of a new version of the EMV Contactless Specifications is primarily an editorial update to maintain the readability of the specifications and no new requirements are introduced outside of the Specification Bulletins.

However, given the slowing pace of Specification Bulletins for the EMV Contactless Specifications, EMVCo will no longer automatically publish new EMV Contactless Specification versions every year, and will instead only publish a new version of the EMV Contactless Specifications when there is sufficient content for an updated publication.

Please note that, regardless of whether a new version of the EMV Contactless Specifications is published, changes to the specifications will continue to be supported through the use of Specification

Bulletins. At times when the extent of changes makes the usual comparison format difficult to read, EMVCo may decide to use the full version format for the Specification Bulletin. Within its sole discretion, EMVCo may decide to publish one or more Minor Versions of the Specifications in between two Major Version releases. The Minor Version will be identified by a third decimal in its version number (i.e. 2.10.x) and only impacted specification books may be updated and published. Similar to a Major Version, a Minor Version will include only previously published Specification Bulletins since the last Major or Minor version, along with editorial updates if any.

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