

# Banks to raise limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry

## Contactless payments can help contain the spread of coronavirus

- In order to contain the spread of the coronavirus, traders are asking consumers to pay electronically whenever possible.
- Contactless payment is not only safe, it's also hygienic: people do not need to touch the payment terminal keypad, or they at least need to touch it less often.
- In Belgium, the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry will be raised from €25 to €50 per card payment. Consumers will only have to enter their PIN when making a payment of more than €50.
- Similarly, the cumulative limit for those who make several consecutive contactless card payments without PIN entry will also be raised to €100.
- As from 14 April, payment terminals that are in operation today – within the current quarantine measures – will be gradually adapted to the new limits.
- Febelfin will be sharing a number of straightforward informational videos that show consumers how to make electronic and online payments.

*Contactless payment: it's fast, easy and safe. But above all – especially in light of the corona crisis – it's the most hygienic way to pay. You don't have to touch the keypad on the payment terminal, or at least you won't have to touch it as often. It is precisely for this reason that the banks have decided to raise the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry.*

*The current limit of €25 per contactless card payment will be increased to €50, which means that you will no longer need to enter a PIN for a payment that is less than or equal to €50. The cumulative limit will also be increased: Previously, the limit for consecutive contactless card payments without having to enter a PIN was set at €50 – this will now be increased to €100.*

*As from 14 April, payment terminals that are in operation today – within the current quarantine measures – will be gradually adapted to the new limits.*

## Why is the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry being raised?

Today, digital technology is more important than ever. In order to contain the spread of the coronavirus as much as possible, everyone is doing the best they can to manage and organise their daily lives digitally. And the same is true for payments.

Thanks to the fact that people do not need to touch the payment terminal keypad (or they at least touch it less often), contactless payment is an ideal way to contribute to the containment of the coronavirus. It is precisely for this reason that Febelfin and its members decided to raise the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry.

## When will you have to enter a PIN?

You will no longer need to enter a PIN for a payment that is less than or equal to €50. The current limit is €25. The limit for consecutive contactless card payments without PIN entry will also be increased, so you won't have to enter your PIN as often. At the moment, you have to enter your PIN after making a series of payments worth €15, €16 and €24, for example, because the total amount adds up to more than €50; in the near future, you will only have to enter it after a total amount of €100.

#### **Contactless payments with your bank card: How do the new limits work?**

1. The trader enters the amount you have to pay.
2. Hold your bank card close to the contactless symbol on the payment terminal.
  - Is the amount less than €50? Or exactly 50? Then you don't need to do anything.
  - Is the amount more than €50? No problem! The payment terminal will ask you to enter your PIN.
  - If you make successive contactless card payments without entering your PIN and those payment amounts add up to more than €100 (e.g. €10 + €45 + €25 + €25), you will need to insert your bank card into the terminal and enter your PIN for the last transaction.
  - After this transaction, you will be able to make contactless card payments without PIN entry again.
3. Wait a few seconds...
4. A message will appear on the terminal display to let you know whether the payment was approved.
5. Transaction approved? Remove your bank card and ask for the receipt.

#### **When will the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry be raised? And for how long will this measure last?**

In order to raise the limit for contactless card payments without PIN entry, the banks are collaborating with all relevant stakeholders so that the payment terminals can also be adjusted. As from 14 April, payment terminals that are in operation today – within the current quarantine measures – will be gradually adapted to the new limits.

This measure will remain in force for as long as is necessary and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

#### **Why is the limit per card payment being raised to €50 and not to €75, for example?**

This limit was set by the legislator. Contactless payments without PIN entry are not permitted for transactions above €50 according to the PSD2 Payment Services Directive.

#### **What about people who are unable to pay digitally?**

The financial sector is aware that not everyone is digitally proficient yet. That's why Febelfin has created a number of straightforward instructional videos that show you how to pay electronically and online, including how to make a contactless card payment.

For more information contact Isabelle Marchand via [press@febelfin.be](mailto:press@febelfin.be) or 02 507 68 31.