

Data Security Operating Policy (DSOP)

Change Icons


Important updates are listed in the Summary of Changes Table and also indicated in the *DSOP* with a change icon. A change icon alongside the title of a section or subsection denotes revised, added, or removed text from the section or subsection. Changes in the *DSOP* are indicated with a change icon as shown here:



Summary of Changes Table

Important updates are listed in the following table and are also indicated in the *DSOP* with a change icon.

Section/Subsection	Description of Change
What to do if you have a Data Incident?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Added steps to follow when a Data Incident is identified.

 **What to do if you have a Data Incident?**

Please follow these steps if you have identified a Data Incident at your business.



Step 1:

Fill out the [Merchant Data Incident Initial Notice Form](#) and email to EIRP@aexp.com within 72 hours after the Data Incident is discovered.



Step 2:

Conduct a thorough investigation; this may require you to hire a [Payment Card Industry \(PCI\) Forensic Investigator](#).



Step 3:

Promptly provide us with all compromised American Express® Card numbers.



Step 4:

Work with us to help resolve any issues arising from the Data Incident.

View [Section 3 Data Incident Management Obligations](#) for more details on Data Incident Management Obligations.

Have more questions?

US: (888) 732-3750 (toll free)

International: +1 (602) 537-3021

EIRP@aexp.com

As a leader in consumer protection, American Express has a long-standing commitment to protect Cardholder Data and Sensitive Authentication Data, ensuring that it is kept secure.

Compromised data negatively impacts consumers, Merchants, Service Providers, and card issuers. Even one incident can severely damage a company's reputation and impair its ability to effectively conduct business. Addressing this threat by implementing security operating policies can help improve customer trust, increase profitability, and enhance a company's reputation.

American Express knows that our Merchants and Service Providers (collectively, **you**) share our concern and requires, as part of your responsibilities, that you comply with the data security provisions in your agreement to accept (in the case of Merchants) or process (in the case of Service Providers) the American Express® Card (each, respectively, the **Agreement**) and this Data Security Operating Policy, which we may amend from time to time. These requirements apply to all your equipment, systems, and networks (and their components) on which encryption keys, Cardholder Data, or Sensitive Authentication Data (or a combination of those) are stored, processed, or transmitted.

Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the glossary at the end of this policy.

Section 1 Targeted Analysis Program (TAP)

Cardholder data compromises may be caused by data security gaps in your Cardholder Data Environment (CDE).

Examples of Cardholder Data compromise include, but are not limited to:

- **Common Point of Purchase (CPP):** American Express Cardmembers report fraudulent transactions on their Card accounts and are identified and determined to have originated from making purchases at your Establishments
- **Card Data Found:** American Express Card and Cardholder Data found on the world wide web linked to transactions at your Establishments
- **Malware Suspected:** American Express suspects you are using software infected with or vulnerable to malicious code

TAP is designed to identify potential Cardholder data compromises.

You must, and you must cause your Covered Parties to, comply with the following requirements upon notification from American Express, of a potential Cardholder data compromise.

- You must promptly review your CDE for data security gaps and remediate any findings.
 - You must cause your third-party vendor(s) to conduct a thorough investigation of your CDE if outsourced.
- You must provide a summary of action taken or planned of your review, evaluation and/or remediation efforts upon notification from American Express.
- You must provide updated PCI DSS validation documents in accordance with [Section 5. Important Periodic Validation of Your Systems](#).
- As applicable, you must engage a qualified PCI Forensic Investigator (PFI) to examine your CDE if you or your Covered Party:
 - Cannot resolve the Cardholder data compromise within a reasonable period of time, as determined by American Express, or
 - Confirm that a Data Incident has occurred and comply with the requirements set forth in [Section 3 Data Incident Management Obligations](#).

TAP Non-Compliance Fee Table

Description	Level 1 Merchant or Level 1 Service Provider	Level 2 Merchant or Level 2 Service Provider	Level 3 or Level 4 Merchant
Non-compliance fee assessed when TAP obligations are not satisfied within 45 days from the date of notification.	USD \$25,000	USD \$5,000	USD \$1,000
Non-compliance fee assessed when TAP obligations are not satisfied within 90 days from the date of notification.	USD \$35,000	USD \$10,000	USD \$2,500
Non-compliance fee assessed when TAP obligations are not satisfied within 120 days from the date of notification. NOTE: <i>Non-compliance fees may continue to be applied monthly until the obligations are met or TAP is resolved.</i>	USD \$45,000	USD \$15,000	USD \$5,000

If your TAP obligations are not satisfied, then American Express has the right to impose the Non-compliance fees cumulatively, withhold payments, and/or terminate the Agreement.

Section 2 Standards for Protection of Encryption Keys, Cardholder Data, and Sensitive Authentication Data

You must, and you must cause your Covered Parties to:

- store Cardholder Data only to facilitate American Express Card Transactions in accordance with, and as required by, the Agreement.
- comply with the current PCI DSS and other PCI SSC Requirements applicable to your processing, storing, or transmitting of Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data no later than the effective date for implementing that version of the applicable requirement.
- use, when deploying new or replacement PIN Entry Devices or Payment Applications (or both), in attended locations, only those that are PCI-Approved.

You must protect all American Express Charge records, and Credit records retained pursuant to the Agreement in accordance with these data security provisions; you must use these records only for purposes of the Agreement and safeguard them accordingly. You are financially and otherwise liable to American Express for ensuring your Covered Parties' compliance with these data security provisions (other than for demonstrating your Covered Parties' compliance with this policy under [Section 5, Important Periodic Validation of Your Systems](#), except as otherwise provided in that section).

Section 3 Data Incident Management Obligations

You must notify American Express immediately and in no case later than seventy-two (72) hours after discovery of a Data Incident.

To notify American Express, contact the American Express Enterprise Incident Response Program (EIRP) toll free at 1.888.732.3750, or at 1.602.537.3021, or email at EIRP@aexp.com. You must designate an individual as your contact regarding such Data Incident. In addition:

- You must conduct a thorough forensic investigation of each Data Incident.
- For Data Incidents involving 10,000 or more unique Card Numbers, you must engage a PCI Forensic Investigator (PFI) to conduct this investigation within five (5) days following discovery of a Data Incident.
- The unedited forensic investigation report must be provided to American Express within ten (10) business days of its completion.
- You must promptly provide to American Express all Compromised Card Numbers. American Express reserves the right to conduct its own internal analysis to identify Card Numbers involved in the Data Incident.

Forensic investigation reports must be completed using the current Forensic Incident Final Report Template available from PCI. Such report must include forensic reviews, reports on compliance, and all other information related to the Data Incident; identify the cause of the Data Incident; confirm whether or not you were in compliance with the PCI DSS at the time of the Data Incident; and verify your ability to prevent future Data Incidents by (i) providing a plan for remediating all PCI DSS deficiencies, and (ii) participating in the American Express compliance program (as described below). Upon American Express' request, you shall provide validation by a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) that the deficiencies have been remediated.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs of this [Section 3. Data Incident Management Obligations](#):

- American Express may, in its sole discretion, require you to engage a PFI to conduct an investigation of a Data Incident for Data Incidents involving less than 10,000 unique Card Numbers. Any such investigation must comply with the requirements set forth above in this [Section 3. Data Incident Management Obligations](#) and must be completed within the timeframe required by American Express.
- American Express may, in its sole discretion, separately engage a PFI to conduct an investigation for any Data Incident and may charge the cost of such investigation to you.

You agree to work with American Express to rectify any issues arising from the Data Incident, including consulting with American Express about your communications to Cardmembers affected by the Data Incident and providing (and obtaining any waivers necessary to provide) to American Express all relevant information to verify your ability to prevent future Data Incidents in a manner consistent with the Agreement.

Notwithstanding any contrary confidentiality obligation in the Agreement, American Express has the right to disclose information about any Data Incident to American Express Cardmembers, Issuers, other participants on the American Express Network, and the general public as required by Applicable Law; by judicial, administrative, or regulatory order, decree, subpoena, request, or other process; in order to mitigate the risk of fraud or other harm; or otherwise to the extent appropriate to operate the American Express Network.

Section 4 Indemnity Obligations for a Data Incident

Your indemnity obligations to American Express under the Agreement for Data Incidents shall be determined, without waiving any of American Express' other rights and remedies, under this [Section 4. Indemnity Obligations for a Data Incident](#). In addition to your indemnity obligations (if any), you may be subject to a Data Incident non-compliance fee as described below in this [Section 4. Indemnity Obligations for a Data Incident](#).

For Data Incidents that involve:

- 10,000 or more American Express Card Numbers with either of the following:

- Sensitive Authentication Data, or
- Expiration Date

you shall compensate American Express at the rate of \$5 USD per account number.

However, American Express will not seek indemnification from you for a Data Incident that involves:

- less than 10,000 American Express Card Numbers, or
- more than 10,000 American Express Card Numbers, if you meet the following conditions:
 - you notified American Express of the Data Incident pursuant to this [Section 4. Indemnity Obligations for a Data Incident](#),
 - you were in compliance at the time of the Data Incident with the PCI DSS (as determined by the PFI's investigation of the Data Incident), and
 - the Data Incident was not caused by your wrongful conduct or that of your Covered Parties.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs of this [Section 4. Indemnity Obligations for a Data Incident](#), for any Data Incident, regardless of the number of American Express Card Numbers, you shall pay American Express a Data Incident non-compliance fee not to exceed \$100,000 USD per Data Incident (as determined by American Express in its sole discretion) in the event that you fail to comply with any of your obligations set forth in [Section 3. Data Incident Management Obligations](#). For the avoidance of doubt, the total Data Incident non-compliance fee assessed for any single Data Incident shall not exceed \$100,000 USD.

American Express will exclude from its calculation any American Express Card Account Number that was included in a prior Data Incident indemnity claim made by us within the twelve (12) months prior to the Notification Date. All calculations made by American Express under this methodology are final.

American Express may bill you for the full amount of your indemnity obligations for Data Incidents or deduct the amount from American Express' payments to you (or debit your Bank Account accordingly) pursuant to the Agreement.

Your indemnity obligations for Data Incidents hereunder shall not be considered incidental, indirect, speculative, consequential, special, punitive, or exemplary damages under the Agreement; provided that such obligations do not include damages related to or in the nature of lost profits or revenues, loss of goodwill, or loss of business opportunities.

In its sole discretion, American Express may reduce the indemnity obligation for Merchants solely for Data Incidents that meet each of the following criteria:

- Applicable Risk-Mitigating Technologies were used prior to the Data Incident and were in use during the entire Data Incident Event Window,
- A thorough investigation in accordance with the PFI program was completed (unless otherwise previously agreed in writing),
- Forensic report clearly states the Risk-Mitigating Technologies were used to process, store, and/or transmit the data at the time of the Data Incident, and
- You do not store (and did not store throughout the Data Incident Event Window) Sensitive Authentication Data or any Cardholder Data that has not been made unreadable.

Where an indemnity reduction is available, the reduction to your indemnity obligation (excluding any noncompliance fees payable), is determined as follows:

Indemnity Obligation Reduction	Required Criteria
Standard Reduction: 50%	>75% of total Transactions processed on Chip Enabled Devices ¹ OR Risk-Mitigating Technology in use at >75% of Merchant locations ²
Enhanced Reduction: 75% to 100%	>75% of all Transactions processed on Chip Enabled Devices ¹ AND another Risk-Mitigating Technology in use at >75% of Merchant locations ²

¹ As determined by American Express internal analysis

² As determined by PFI investigation

- The Enhanced Reduction (75% to 100%) shall be determined based on the lesser of the percentage of Transactions using Chip Enabled Devices AND Merchant locations using another Risk-Mitigating Technology. The examples below illustrate the calculation of the indemnity reduction.
- To qualify as a Risk-Mitigating Technology, you must demonstrate effective utilization of the technology in accordance with its design and intended purpose. For example, deploying Chip Enabled Devices and processing Chip Cards as Magnetic Stripe or Key Entered Transactions, is NOT an effective use of this technology.
- The percentage of locations that use a Risk-Mitigating Technology is determined by PFI investigation.
- The reduction in the indemnity obligation does not apply to any non-compliance fees payable in relation to the Data Incident.

Ex.	Risk-Mitigating Technologies in use	Enhanced Indemnity Obligation Reduction Eligible?	Reduction
1	80% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices	No	50%: Standard Reduction (Less than 75% use of Risk-Mitigating Technology does not qualify for Enhanced Reduction) ¹
	0% of locations use other Risk-Mitigating Technology		
2	80% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices	Yes	77%: Enhanced Reduction (based on 77% use of Risk-Mitigating Technology)
	77% of locations use other Risk-Mitigating Technology		
3	93% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices	Yes	93%: Enhanced Reduction (based on 93% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices)
	100% of locations use other Risk-Mitigating Technology		
4	40% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices	No	50%: Standard Reduction (Less than 75% of Transactions on Chip Enabled Devices does not qualify for Enhanced Reduction)
	90% of locations use other Risk-Mitigating Technology		

¹ A Data Incident involving 10,000 American Express Card Accounts, at a rate of \$5 USD per account number (10,000 x \$5 = \$50,000 USD) may be eligible for a reduction of 50%, reducing the Indemnity Obligations from \$50,000 to \$25,000 USD, excluding any non-compliance fees.

Section 5 Important Periodic Validation of Your Systems

You must take the following actions to validate under PCI DSS annually and quarterly as described below, the status of your and your Franchisees' equipment, systems, and/or networks (and their components) on which Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data are stored, processed, or transmitted.

There are four actions required to complete validation:

Action 1 – Participate in American Express' compliance program under this policy.

Action 2 – Understand your Level and Validation Requirements.

Action 3 – Complete the Validation Documentation that you must send to American Express.

Action 4 – Send the Validation Documentation to American Express within the prescribed timelines.

Action 1: Participate in American Express' Compliance Program under this Policy

Level 1 Merchants, Level 2 Merchants, and all Service Providers, as described below, must participate in American Express' PCI Compliance Program under this policy by providing the full name, email address, telephone number, and physical mailing address of an individual who will serve as their data security contact. You must submit this information to SecureTrust, a division of Trustwave (<https://portal.securetrust.com>), which administers the program on behalf of American Express, by one of the methods listed in [Action 4: Send the Validation Documentation to American Express](#) below. You must notify SecureTrust if this information changes, providing updated information where applicable. Your failure to provide such contact information will not affect our rights to assess fees for non-validation as outlined in the [Non-Validation Fee Table](#).

American Express may designate, at our sole discretion, certain Level 3 and Level 4 Merchants participation in American Express' compliance program under this policy by sending them written notice. The Merchant must enroll no later than 90 days following receipt of the notice.

Action 2: Understand your Level and Validation Requirements

There are four Levels applicable to Merchants and two Levels applicable to Service Providers based on your volume of American Express Card Transactions. For Merchants, this is the volume submitted by their establishments that roll-up to the highest American Express Merchant account level.* You will fall into one of the Levels specified in the Merchant and Service Provider tables below.

Buyer Initiated Payments (BIP) Transactions are not included in the volume of American Express Card Transactions to determine Merchant Level and validation requirements.

*In the case of Franchisors, this includes volume from their Franchisee establishments. Franchisors who mandate that their Franchisees use a specified Point of Sale (POS) System or Service Provider also must provide validation documentation for the affected Franchisees.

Merchant Requirements

Merchants (not Service Providers) have four possible classifications regarding their level and validation requirements. After determining the Merchant level from the list below, see the [Merchant Table](#) to determine validation documentation requirements.

- **Level 1 Merchant** – 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions or more per year; or any Merchant that American Express otherwise, in its discretion, assigns a Level 1.
- **Level 2 Merchant** – 50,000 to 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions per year.
- **Level 3 Merchant** – 10,000 to 50,000 American Express Card Transactions per year.
- **Level 4 Merchant** – Less than 10,000 American Express Card Transactions per year.

Merchant Table

Merchant Level/ Annual American Express Transactions	Validation Documentation		
	On-Site Assessment Report on Compliance (ROC)	Self Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) AND Quarterly Network Scan	STEP Attestation for eligible Merchants
Level 1/ 2.5 million or more	Mandatory	Not applicable	Optional (replaces ROC)
Level 2/ 50,000 to 2.5 million	Optional	SAQ mandatory (unless submitting an On-Site Assessment); scan mandatory with certain SAQ types	Optional (replaces SAQ and network scan or ROC)
Level 3/ 10,000 to 50,000	Optional	SAQ optional (mandatory if required by American Express); scan mandatory with certain SAQ types	Optional (replaces SAQ and network scan or ROC)
Level 4/ 10,000 or less	Optional	SAQ optional (mandatory if required by American Express); scan mandatory with certain SAQ types	Optional (replaces SAQ and network scan or ROC)

*For the avoidance of doubt, Level 3 and Level 4 Merchants need not submit Validation Documentation unless required in American Express' discretion, but nevertheless must comply with, and are subject to liability under all other provisions of this Data Security Operating Policy.

American Express reserves the right to verify the accuracy and appropriateness of the PCI validation documentation provided as needed, including by engaging, at American Express' expense, a QSA or PFI of our choice.

Security Technology Enhancement Program (STEP)

Merchants that are compliant with PCI DSS may also, at American Express' discretion, qualify for American Express' STEP if they deploy certain additional security technologies throughout their Card processing environments. STEP applies only if the merchant has not experienced a Data Incident in the previous 12 months and if 75% of all merchant Card Transactions are performed using:

- **EMV** – on an active Chip-Enabled Device having a valid and current EMVCo (www.emvco.com) approval/certification and capable of processing AEIPS compliant Chip Card Transactions. (U.S. Merchants must include Contactless)
- **Point-to-Point Encryption (P2PE)** – communicated to the Merchant's processor using a PCI-SSC-approved or QSA-approved Point-to-Point Encryption system

Merchants eligible for STEP have reduced PCI Validation Documentation requirements, as further described in [Action 3: Complete the Validation Documentation that you must send to American Express](#) below.

Service Provider Requirements

Service Providers (not Merchants) have two possible classifications regarding their level and validation requirements. After determining the Service Provider level from the list below, see the [Service Provider Table](#) to determine validation documentation requirements.

Level 1 Service Provider – 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions or more per year; or any Service Provider that American Express otherwise deems a Level 1.

Level 2 Service Provider– less than 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions per year; or any Service Provider not deemed Level 1 by American Express.

Service Providers are not eligible for STEP.

Service Provider Table

Level	Validation Documentation	Requirement
1	Annual Onsite Security Assessment Report on Compliance	Mandatory
2	Annual SAQ D (Service Provider) and Quarterly Network Scan or Annual Onsite Security Assessment Report on Compliance, if preferred	Mandatory

It is recommended that Service Providers also comply with the PCI Designated Entities Supplemental Validation.

Action 3: Complete the Validation Documentation that you must send to American Express

The following documents are required for different levels of Merchant and Service Provider as listed in the Merchant Table and Service Provider Table above.

Annual Onsite Security Assessment – The Annual Onsite Security Assessment is a detailed onsite examination of your equipment, systems, and networks (and their components) where Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data (or both) are stored, processed, or transmitted. It must be performed by:

- a QSA, or
- you and attested to by your chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief information security officer, or principal and submitted annually to American Express on the applicable Attestation of Compliance (AOC).

The AOC must support compliance with all requirements of the PCI DSS and, upon request, include copies of the full report on compliance (Level 1 Merchants and Level 1 Service Providers).

Annual Self-Assessment Questionnaire – The Annual Self-Assessment is a process using the PCI DSS SAQ that allows self-examination of your equipment, systems, and networks (and their components) where Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data (or both) are stored, processed, or transmitted. It must be performed by you and certified by your chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief information security officer, or principal. The AOC section of the SAQ must be submitted annually to American Express. The AOC section of the SAQ must certify your compliance with all requirements of the PCI DSS and include full copies of the SAQ on request (Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 Merchants; Level 2 Service Providers).

Quarterly Network Scan – The Quarterly Network Scan is a process that remotely tests your Internet-connected computer networks and web servers for potential weaknesses and vulnerabilities. It must be performed by an Approved Scanning Vendor (**ASV**). You must complete and submit the ASV Scan Report Attestation of Scan Compliance (**AOSC**) or the executive summary of findings of the scan (and copies of the full scan, on request), quarterly to American Express. The AOSC or executive summary must certify that the results satisfy the PCI DSS scanning procedures, that no high risk issues are identified, and that the scan is passing or compliant (all Merchants except those who also submit an Onsite Security Assessment Report, STEP-eligible Merchants, and all Service Providers). For the avoidance of doubt, Quarterly Network Scans are mandatory if required by the applicable SAQ.

Annual STEP Attestation Validation Documentation – The American Express Annual STEP Qualification Attestation (“STEP Attestation”) is available only to merchants who meet the criteria listed in [Action 2: Understand your Level and Validation Requirements](#) above. The STEP Attestation involves a process using PCI DSS requirements that allows self-examination of your equipment, systems, and networks (and their components) where Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data (or both) are stored, processed, or transmitted. It must be performed by you and certified by your chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief information security officer, or principal. You must complete the process by submitting the STEP Attestation form annually to American Express. (STEP-eligible Merchants only). The Annual STEP Attestation form is available for download via SecureTrust’s secure portal.

Non Compliance with PCI DSS – If you are not compliant with the PCI DSS, then you must submit one of the following documents:

- an Attestation of Compliance (AOC) including “Part 4. Action Plan for Non-Compliant Status”
- a PCI Prioritized Approach Tool Summary and Attestation of Compliance (PASAOC)
- a Project Plan Template (available for download via SecureTrust’s secure portal)

Each of the above documents must designate a remediation date, not to exceed 12 months following the document completion date in order to achieve compliance. You must submit the appropriate document to American Express by one of the methods listed in [Action 4: Send the Validation Documentation to American Express](#) below. You shall provide American Express with periodic updates of your progress toward remediation of your Non-Compliant Status (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4 Merchants; All Service Providers). For the avoidance of all doubt, Merchants that are not compliant with PCI DSS are not eligible for STEP.

American Express shall not impose non-validation fees (described below) on you for non-compliance prior to the remediation date, but you remain liable to American Express for all indemnity obligations for a Data Incident and are subject to all other provisions of this policy.

[Action 4: Send the Validation Documentation to American Express](#)

All Merchants and Service Providers required to participate in the American Express PCI Compliance Program must submit the Validation Documentation marked “mandatory” in the tables in [Action 2: Understand your Level and Validation Requirements](#). You must submit your Validation Documentation to SecureTrust by one of these methods:

- **Secure Portal:** Validation Documentation may be uploaded via SecureTrust’s secure portal at <https://portal.securetrust.com>.
Please contact SecureTrust at 1-866-659-9016 or 1-312-267-3208 or via email at americanexpresscompliance@securetrust.com for instructions on using this portal.
- **Secure Fax:** Validation Documentation may be faxed to 1-312-276-4019. Please include your name, DBA (Doing Business As) name, the name of your data security contact, your address and phone number, and, for Merchants only, your 10-digit American Express Merchant number.

If you have general questions about the program or the process above, please contact SecureTrust at 1-866-659-9016 or 1-312-267-3208, or via email at americanexpresscompliance@securetrust.com.

Compliance and validation are completed at your expense. By submitting Validation Documentation, you represent and warrant to American Express that you are authorized to disclose the information contained therein and are providing the Validation Documentation to American Express without violating any other party’s rights.

[Non-Validation Fees and Termination of Agreement](#)

American Express has the right to impose non-validation fees on you and terminate the Agreement if you do not fulfill these requirements or fail to provide the mandatory Validation Documentation to American Express by the applicable deadline. American Express will notify you separately of the applicable deadline for each annual and quarterly reporting period.

Non-Validation Fee Table

Description	Level 1 Merchant or Level 1 Service Provider	Level 2 Merchant or Level 2 Service Provider	Level 3 or Level 4 Merchant
A non-validation fee will be assessed if the Validation Documentation is not received by the first deadline.	USD \$25,000	USD \$5,000	USD \$50
An additional non-validation fee will be assessed if the Validation Documentation is not received within 60 days of the first deadline.	USD \$35,000	USD \$10,000	USD \$100
An additional non-validation fee will be assessed if the Validation Documentation is not received within 90 days of the first deadline, and every 30 days thereafter.	USD \$45,000	USD \$15,000	USD \$250

If American Express does not receive your mandatory Validation Documentation within 90 days of the first deadline, then American Express has the right to terminate the Agreement in accordance with its terms as well as impose the foregoing non-validation fees cumulatively on you.

Section 6 Confidentiality

American Express shall take reasonable measures to keep (and cause its agents and subcontractors, including SecureTrust, to keep) your reports on compliance, including the Validation Documentation in confidence and not disclose the Validation Documentation to any third party (other than American Express' Affiliates, agents, representatives, Service Providers, and subcontractors) for a period of three years from the date of receipt, except that this confidentiality obligation does not apply to Validation Documentation that:

- a. is already known to American Express prior to disclosure;
- b. is or becomes available to the public through no breach of this paragraph by American Express;
- c. is rightfully received from a third party by American Express without a duty of confidentiality;
- d. is independently developed by American Express; or
- e. is required to be disclosed by an order of a court, administrative agency or governmental authority, or by any law, rule or regulation, or by subpoena, discovery request, summons, or other administrative or legal process, or by any formal or informal inquiry or investigation by any government agency or authority (including any regulator, inspector, examiner, or law enforcement agency).

Section 7 Disclaimer

AMERICAN EXPRESS HEREBY DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, AND LIABILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THIS DATA SECURITY OPERATING POLICY, THE PCI DSS, THE EMV SPECIFICATIONS AND THE DESIGNATION AND PERFORMANCE OF QSAs, ASVs, OR PFIs (OR ANY OF THEM), WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED, STATUTORY, OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR

A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD ISSUERS ARE NOT THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES UNDER THIS POLICY.

Useful Websites

American Express Data Security: www.americanexpress.com/datasecurity

PCI Security Standards Council, LLC: www.pcisecuritystandards.org

Glossary

For purposes of this policy only, the following definitions apply:

American Express Card, or Card, means any card, account access device, or payment device or service bearing American Express' or an affiliate's name, logo, trademark, service mark, trade name, or other proprietary design or designation and issued by an issuer or a card account number.

Approved Point-to-Point Encryption (P2PE) Solution, included on PCI SSC list of validated solutions or validated by a PCI SSC Qualified Security Assessor P2PE Company.

Approved Scanning Vendor (ASV) means an entity that has been qualified by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC to validate adherence to certain PCI DSS requirements by performing vulnerability scans of internet facing environments.

Attestation of Compliance (AOC) means a declaration of the status of your compliance with the PCI DSS, in the form provided by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC.

Attestation of Scan Compliance (AOSC) means a declaration of the status of your compliance with the PCI DSS based on a network scan, in the form provided by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC.

Buyer Initiated Payment (BIP) means a payment Transaction enabled via a payment instruction file processed through BIP.

Cardholder Data has the meaning given to it in the then current Glossary of Terms for the PCI DSS.

Cardholder Data Environment (CDE) means the people, processes, and technology that store, process, or transmit cardholder data or sensitive authentication data.

Cardmember means an individual or entity (i) that has entered into an agreement establishing a Card account with an issuer or (ii) whose name appears on the Card.

Card Number means the unique identifying number that the Issuer assigns to the Card when it is issued.

Charge means a payment or purchase made on a Card.

Chip means an integrated microchip embedded on a Card containing Cardmember and account information.

Chip Card means a Card that contains a Chip and could require a PIN as a means of verifying the identity of the Cardmember or account information contained in the Chip, or both (sometimes called a "smart card", an "EMV Card", or an "ICC" or "integrated circuit card" in our materials).

Chip-Enabled Device means a point-of-sale device having a valid and current EMVCo (www.emvco.com) approval/certification and be capable of processing AEIPS compliant Chip Card Transactions.

Compromised Card Number means an American Express Card account number related to a Data Incident.

Covered Parties means any or all of your employees, agents, representatives, subcontractors, Processors, Service Providers, providers of your point-of-sale (POS) equipment or systems or payment processing solutions, Entities associated with your American Express Merchant account, and any other party to whom you may provide Cardholder Data or Sensitive Authentication Data (or both) access in accordance with the Agreement.

Credit means the amount of the Charge that you refund to Cardmembers for purchases or payments made on the Card.

Data Incident means an incident involving the compromise or suspected compromise of American Express encryption keys, or at least one American Express Card account number in which there is:

- unauthorized access or use of Encryption Keys, Cardholder Data, or Sensitive Authentication Data (or a combination of each) that are stored, processed, or transmitted on your equipment, systems, and/or networks (or the components thereof) of yours or the use of which you mandate, provide, or make available;
- use of such Encryption Keys, Cardholder Data, or Sensitive Authentication Data (or a combination of each) other than in accordance with the Agreement; and/or
- suspected or confirmed loss, theft, or misappropriation by any means of any media, materials, records, or information containing such Encryption Keys, Cardholder Data, or Sensitive Authentication Data (a combination of each).

Data Incident Event Window means the period that begins as of the date of compromise, if known, or 365 days prior to the Notification Date if the actual date of compromise is not known. The Data Incident Event Window ends 30 days after the Notification Date.

EMV Specifications means the specifications issued by EMVCo, LLC, which are available at www.emvco.com.

EMV Transaction means an integrated circuit card (sometimes called an "IC Card," "chip card," "smart card," "EMV card," or "ICC") Transaction conducted on an IC card capable point of sale (POS) terminal with a valid and current EMV type approval. EMV type approvals are available at www.emvco.com.

Encryption Key (American Express encryption key) means all keys used in the processing, generation, loading, and/or protection of Account Data. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Key Encrypting Keys: Zone Master Keys (ZMKs) and Zone Pin Keys (ZPKs)
- Master Keys used in secure cryptographic devices: Local Master Keys (LMKs)
- Card Security Code Keys (CSCKs)
- PIN Keys: Base Derivation Keys (BDKs), PIN Encryption Key (PEKs), and ZPKs

Forensic Incident Final Report Template, means the template available from the PCI Security Standards Council which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

Franchisee means an independently owned and operated third party (including a franchisee, licensee, or chapter) other than an Affiliate that is licensed by a Franchisor to operate a franchise and that has entered into a written agreement with the Franchisor whereby it consistently displays external identification prominently identifying itself with the Franchisor's Marks or holds itself out to the public as a member of the Franchisor's group of companies.

Franchisor means the operator of a business that licenses persons or Entities (Franchisees) to distribute goods and/or services under, or operate using the operator's Mark; provides assistance to Franchisees in operating their business or influences the Franchisee's method of operation; and requires payment of a fee by Franchisees.

Issuer means any Entity (including American Express and its Affiliates) licensed by American Express or an American Express Affiliate to issue Cards and to engage in the Card issuing business.

Level 1 Merchant means a Merchant with 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions or more per year; or any Merchant that American Express otherwise deems a Level 1.

Level 2 Merchant means a Merchant with 50,000 to 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions per year.

Level 3 Merchant means a Merchant with 10,000 to 50,000 American Express Card Transactions per year.

Level 4 Merchant means a Merchant with less than 10,000 American Express Card Transactions per year.

Level 1 Service Provider means a Service Provider with 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions or more per year; or any Service Provider that American Express otherwise deems a Level 1.

Level 2 Service Provider means a Service Provider with less than 2.5 million American Express Card Transactions per year; or any Service Provider not deemed Level 1 by American Express.

Merchant means the Merchant and all of its affiliates that accept American Express Cards under an Agreement with American Express or its affiliates.

Notification Date means the date that American Express provides issuers with final notification of a Data Incident. Such date is contingent upon American Express' receipt of the final forensic report or internal analysis and shall be determined in American Express' sole discretion.

Payment Application has the meaning given to it in the then current Glossary of Terms for Payment Card Industry Payment Application Data Security Standard, which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council (PCI SSC) Requirements means the set of standards and requirements related to securing and protecting payment card data, including the PCI DSS and PA DSS, available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

PCI-Approved means that a PIN Entry Device or a Payment Application (or both) appears at the time of deployment on the list of approved companies and providers maintained by the PCI Security Standards Council, LLC, which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

PCI DSS means Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

PCI Forensic Investigator (PFI) means an entity that has been approved by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC to perform forensic investigations of a breach or compromise of payment card data.

PCI PIN Security Requirements means the Payment Card Industry PIN Security Requirements which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

PIN Entry Device has the meaning given to it in the then current Glossary of Terms for the Payment Card Industry PIN Transaction Security (PTS) Point of Interaction (POI), Modular Security Requirements, which is available at www.pcisecuritystandards.org.

Point of Sale (POS) System means an information processing system or equipment, including a terminal, personal computer, electronic cash register, contactless reader, or payment engine or process, used by a Merchant, to obtain authorizations or to collect Transaction data, or both.

Point-to-Point Encryption (P2PE) means a solution that cryptographically protects account data from the point where a merchant accepts the payment card to the secure point of decryption.

Processor means a service provider to Merchants who facilitate authorization and submission processing to the American Express network.

Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) means an entity that has been qualified by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC to validate adherence to the PCI DSS.

Risk-Mitigating Technology means technology solutions that improve the security of American Express Cardholder Data and Sensitive Authentication Data, as determined by American Express. To qualify as a Risk-Mitigating Technology, you must demonstrate effective utilization of the technology in accordance with its design and intended purpose. Examples include: EMV, Point-to-Point Encryption, and tokenization.

Security Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) means the American Express' program in which Merchants are encouraged to deploy technologies that improve data security. To qualify for STEP, Merchants must not have had a Data Incident in the 12 months prior to submitting the Annual STEP Attestation and conduct at least 75% of all Transactions using Point-to-Point Encryption or face to face Transactions using EMV Chip Enabled Devices.

Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) means a self-assessment tool created by the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council, LLC, intended to evaluate and attest to compliance with the PCI DSS.

Sensitive Authentication Data has the meaning given it in the then current Glossary of Terms for the PCI DSS.

Service Providers means authorized processors, third party processors, gateway providers, integrators of POS Systems, and any other providers to Merchants of POS Systems, or other payment processing solutions or services.

Targeted Analysis Program (TAP) means a program that provides early identification of a potential Cardholder data compromise in your CDE. [See Section 1 – Targeted Analysis Program \(TAP\).](#)

Transaction means a Charge or a Credit completed by means of a Card.

Validation Documentation means the AOC rendered in connection with an Annual Onsite Security Assessment or SAQ, the AOSC and executive summaries of findings rendered in connection with Quarterly Network Scans, or the Annual Security Technology Enhancement Program Attestation.