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Reminder and FAQs About Using MCC 5552 for Electric Vehicle Charging

Global | *Acquirers*
Visa Network; V PAY; Europe Processing

Overview: Acquirers and their merchants are reminded to use Merchant Category Code (MCC) 5552 if they are offering electric vehicle charging services to customers.

With technological improvements and a growing demand for sustainable energy, electric vehicles are becoming more widely used. To meet the electric vehicle charging (EVC) infrastructure needs, charging stations are being deployed in a variety of environments, including both private and public locations such as gasoline stations, grocery store lots and office parking lots.

Prior to October 2019, transactions involving EVC fit under two MCC categories, either MCC 5542—Automated Fuel Dispensers or MCC 7523—Parking Lots, Parking Meters and Parking Garages. Effective 18 October 2019, Visa instituted MCC 5552—Electric Vehicle Charging for global use. Clients should update their systems to account for this new MCC.

Issuers are beginning to target EVC spend for rewards and other benefits, so it is important that these transactions are correctly classified to avoid cardholder complaints.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When can EVC merchants start using MCC 5552—Electric Vehicle Charging?

A: Merchants offering EVC services that are not already using MCC 5552 should begin to do so immediately. The MCC has been available since October 2019.

Q: What types of authorization models are available for EVC transactions?

A: Merchants can use one of the following two options to authorize transactions:

- Authorize for a known amount at the end of the transaction

- Authorize for an estimated amount and use incremental authorizations / reversals

Q: What is an estimated / initial authorization?

A: Estimated / initial authorizations give eligible merchants the ability to better process transactions when the final amount of the transaction is not known. An estimate/initial authorization is an authorization for the anticipated amount of the transaction.

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Q: What is an incremental authorization transaction?

A: An incremental authorization is used to increase the total amount authorized if the estimated / initial authorized amount is insufficient. To use an incremental authorization, the original authorization must have been coded as an estimated authorization. An incremental authorization request may also be based on a revised estimate of what the cardholder may spend. They do not replace the original authorization but are only additional to previously authorized amounts. The sum of all linked estimated and incremental authorizations represents the total amount authorized for a given transaction.

Q: How should merchants flag estimated / incremental transactions?

A: Merchants must correctly identify these transactions in VisaNet and use the appropriate indicators listed below when using estimated and incremental authorizations. A few of the key fields include:

- **Field 60.10—Additional Authorization Indicators**: Acquirers must send the value of 2 (estimated amount) or 3 (estimated amount and terminal accepts partial authorization responses).

- **Field 62.2—Transaction Identifier Bitmap Format** or **TLV Field 124, Usage 2, Dataset ID 03, Tag 03— Original Transaction Identifier**: The original transaction identifier value from the initial authorization must be included in Field 62.2 of all subsequent incremental authorizations and/or authorization reversals.

- **Field 63.3—Message Reason Code**, populated with a message reason code value of 3900 (incremental authorization)

- Optionally, **Field 54—Additional Amounts**, populated with the total cumulative amount for this series of incremental authorizations in the amount type 43 (total cumulative amount)

Merchants should consult with their acquirers to ensure the indicators are being populated and passed in the authorization record before implementing an estimated and incremental solution.

Q: What is the maximum timeframe between original transaction authorization and the final amount authorization?

A: Incremental authorizations can be performed during the approval response validity period of the original estimated / initial authorization. For card-present transactions, the validity period is the same day and for card-absent transactions, the validity period is seven days. For more details, refer to the Visa Rules (ID#: 0029524).

Q: What if the estimated amount is authorized for less or more than the final amount?

A:
- If the final amount is less than the estimated amount, the merchant is required to reverse the difference using a reversal authorization request.

- If the final amount exceeds the estimated amount, the merchant is required to use an incremental authorization for the additional amount.
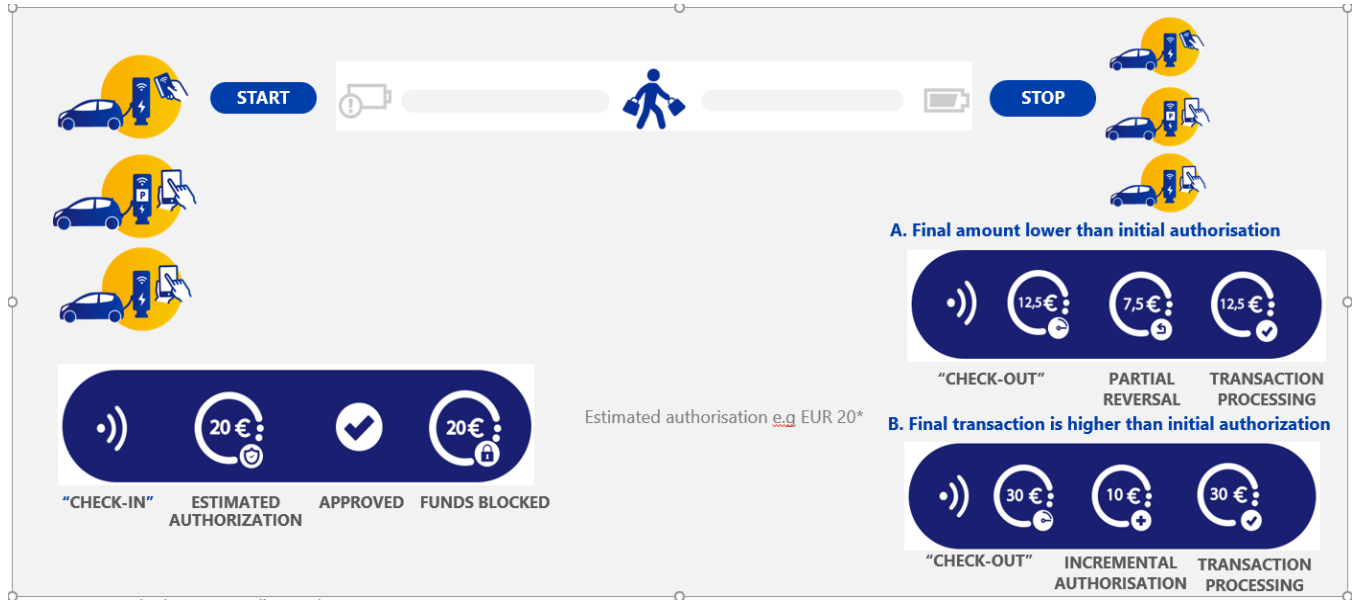
Q: If a merchant charges for both parking and EVC, which MCC should be used?

A: The MCC that reflects the merchant's primary business or highest sales volume should be used. It is also acceptable to use two MCCs (MCC 7523—Parking and MCC 5552—EV Charging) separately if preferred to make it more transparent for the customer.

Q: Are there any specific interchange rates for EVC transactions?

A: No segment-specific interchange rates are being created for EVC transactions at this time.

EVC Payment Flow