



Press Release

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Australian Cardholders Not Liable for Fraudulent Transactions

Sydney, June 21, 2005 – MasterCard International confirmed today that any Australian credit cardholder affected by fraud as a result of the breach of payment card data in the US will not be liable for any fraudulent transactions.

The data breach, which involved all brands of credit cards, could only affect cardholders who have made transactions in the United States or online with US-based merchants.

MasterCard is urging all cardholders to monitor their credit card statements and if unauthorised activity is suspected, they should stop using their card and contact their issuing bank as soon as possible.

MasterCard is currently working with each of the Australian banks and financial institutions to take appropriate actions.

The MasterCard Approach to Protecting its Consumers

In keeping with its standards that focus on consumer protection and the safeguarding of sensitive information, MasterCard immediately notifies its customer banks of specific card accounts that may have been subject to compromise.

In the event of a cardholder data breach, MasterCard always takes this precaution regardless of whether there is any indication that fraud has resulted and whether or not there has been a final determination that a security breach has or has not occurred. Upon receiving notice from MasterCard, banks are able to take the appropriate steps to protect their cardholders from potential fraud. No highly sensitive information, such as social security numbers or dates of birth, is stored on MasterCard cards.

Protecting cardholders, preventing fraud, and safeguarding financial information is a top priority at MasterCard. The company maintains a global team of experts devoted to maintaining the integrity and security of its payment systems and who work closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to help in the apprehension of fraudsters and other criminals.