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இலங்கை மத்திய வங்கி
CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA

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கொடுப்பனவுகள், தீர்ப்பனவுகள் திணைக்களம்

Payments and Settlements Department

Payment and Settlement Systems Circular No. 02 of 2026

13 March 2026

To: CEOs of all Licensed Banks, Licensed Finance Companies and Licensed Operators of Mobile Phone Based E-Money Systems

LANKAQR National Quick Response Code Standard for Local Currency Payments and Peer-to-Peer Fund Transfers

This Circular is issued in terms of Section 44 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act No. 28 of 2005 (Act) read with Section 4 of the Act, to promote and enhance the adoption and effective use of the LANKAQR code.

This Circular shall replace the Payment and Settlement Systems Circular No. 02 of 2019 dated 11 March 2019 and its Addendums and shall come into operation with effect from 31 March 2026 and provides LANKAQR Specification (Annex 1) for both merchant-presented LANKAQR code-based payments and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) fund transfers through the LANKAQR code.

2 Definitions

For all intents and purposes, the following have been defined as parties to a LANKAQR code-based payment or a fund transfer.

- 2.1 Issuer - Financial Institution that facilitates LANKAQR code-based payments and fund transfers from current accounts, savings accounts, credit card, stored value card or charge card accounts and e-money accounts.
- 2.2 Merchant Acquirer - The Financial Institution (A Licensed Bank, Licensed Finance Company) or Operator of Mobile Phone Based E-Money System, which is responsible for enrolling merchants, assigning merchant IDs, maintaining merchant records/accounts, settling merchants, handling transaction disputes and facilitating the generation of the 'Merchant Presented LANKAQR codes' to merchants.
- 2.3 User Acquirer - The Financial Institution (A Licensed Bank, Licensed Finance Company) or Operator of Mobile Phone Based E-Money System, which is responsible for enrolling users, assigning user IDs, maintaining user records/accounts, settling payees, handling transaction disputes, and facilitating the generation of the 'P2P LANKAQR codes' to users that will be solely used for personal purposes and not commercial purposes.
- 2.4 Transaction Acquirer - The Financial Institution which provides acquiring facilities for the mobile application provider or Operator of Mobile Phone Based E-Money System to process LANKAQR transactions. This party would facilitate the financial transactions via the respective payment network.

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- 2.5 Transaction Initiator - The party which scans the LANKAQR code in order to make a payment or a fund transfer.
- 2.6 Transaction Receiver - The party which receives the funds when a payment or a fund transfer is made.
- 2.7 Network Facilitator - When the Issuer and Acquirer (Merchant/User Acquirer and Transaction Acquirer) are different, the Network Facilitator is responsible for routing transactions between the respective Financial Institutions involved in the transaction. Processing and clearing of all payments and fund transfers acquired using LANKAQR code, which are effected through current accounts, savings accounts and Mobile Phone Based e-Money accounts will be routed through the LankaPay (Pvt) Ltd (LPPL) network, including payments and fund transfers effected through accounts/wallets of international service providers linked with LPPL.

However, LANKAQR based payments and fund transfers effected through international payment networks, not linked with LPPL network will be processed and cleared through existing mechanisms.

- 2.8 Mobile Application Provider - This is the party which provides the mobile based payment solution to facilitate transactions using LANKAQR code. This can be a Transaction Acquirer or a third-party application provider of a Financial Institution.

3 Fees and Charges

- 3.1 No charges shall be levied on the Transaction Initiator for LANKAQR code-based transactions except for the 3.7 and 3.10.
- 3.2 Charges may be levied on Transaction Receiver in the form of a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) or a fee, as applicable.
- 3.3 Merchant Acquirers/User Acquirers shall ensure that the Transaction Receivers do not recover full/part of the MDR or fee from the Transaction Initiator.
- 3.4 The maximum MDR (for merchant-presented LANKAQR code-based payments) or the fee (for P2P fund transfers through the LANKAQR code) charged shall not exceed 1% of the transaction amount. The distribution of MDR/fee between all stakeholders i.e., Merchant Acquirers/User Acquirers, Transaction Acquirers, Issuers and LPPL, is given in Table 01.
- 3.5 The Issuer Fee and Transaction Acquirer Fee shall be distributed by LPPL, in accordance with the allocations provided in Table 01. The payment of the LPPL Fee by the Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer will be added to the existing LankaPay-CEFTS monthly invoice.

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Table 01*- Distribution of the 1% MDR/Fee between all stakeholders

Transaction Amount (x) in LKR	LPPL Fee in LKR	Issuer Fee	Transaction Acquirer Fee	Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer Fee
$1 \leq x \leq 100$	0.01	0.25%	0.35% (To be shared with Mobile Application Provider)	0.40% - LPPL Fee
$100 < x \leq 1,000$	0.10			
$1,000 < x \leq 5,000$	1.00			
$5,000 < x$	3.00			

* Percentages given in the table are calculated from the total transaction amount (x)

- 3.6 In the instance of a reversal of a transaction, the network fee for the reversal (LPPL Fee which is non-refundable) shall be borne by the Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer.
- 3.7 A maximum convenience fee of LKR 10/= may only be levied on the Transaction Initiator for payments made to Government entities in circumstances where Government entities are not permitted to pay MDR/fee, or any such equivalent fees or charges to the Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer.
- 3.8 The convenience fee in above 3.7 shall be divided amongst the relevant stakeholders as given in Table 02.

Table 02-Distribution of LKR 10/= convenience fee for transactions made to a government entity (in LKR)

LPPL Fee	Issuer Fee	Transaction Acquirer Fee	Merchant/User Acquirer
0.01	2.50	3.50	3.99

The Issuers shall be allowed to decide whether to levy the entire convenience fee (LKR 10/=) on to the Transaction Initiator or to bear the convenience fee themselves, fully or partially. However, the allocation given above in Table 02 for LPPL, Transaction Acquirer and Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer shall not be changed.

The Transaction Acquirer Fee and Merchant Acquirer/User Acquirer Fee shall be distributed by LPPL, in accordance with the allocations provided in above Table 02. The LPPL Fee payment by the Issuer will be added to the existing LankaPay-CEFTS monthly invoice.

- 3.9 No MDR shall be applicable for the purchase of fuel from authorised dealers.
- 3.10 For the purchase of fuel from authorised dealers, a surcharge of not more than 0.5% of the total transaction amount may be levied, at the discretion of the Issuer.
- 3.11 The surcharge in above 3.10 shall be divided amongst the relevant stakeholders as given in Table 03.

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Table 03*-Distribution of the 0.5% surcharge for the purchase of fuel from authorised dealers

Transaction Amount (x) in LKR	LPPL Fee in LKR	Issuer Fee	Transaction Acquirer Fee	Merchant Acquirer Fee
X≤1,000	0.05	Up to 0.13%	0.17% (To be shared with Mobile Application Provider)	0.20% - LPPL Fee
1,000<x≤5,000	0.50			
5000<x	1.50			

* Percentages given in the table are calculated from the total transaction amount (x)

Though the surcharge may vary, the allocation for each stakeholder given above in Table 03 shall not be changed, with the exception of the Issuer Fee. However, the Issuers shall be allowed to decide whether to levy the entire surcharge amount on to the Transaction Initiator or to bear the surcharge amount themselves, fully or partially.

- 3.12 No fee shall be applicable for Transaction Initiator or Transaction Receiver on donations made to religious establishments. However, religious establishments that engage in the sale of merchandise shall be issued a separate LANKAQR code which is subject to MDR.

4 Transaction Value Limits

- 4.1 The maximum transaction value limit per LANKAQR code transaction shall be LKR 500,000/= for merchant-presented LANKAQR code-based payments and shall be LKR 5,000/= for P2P fund transfers through the LANKAQR code.
- 4.2 The minimum transaction value limit per LANKAQR code transaction shall be LKR 1/=.

5 Transaction Notifications

- 5.1 Issuers shall notify the Transaction Initiator of the transaction status in real-time, via a suitable real-time notification method, e.g., SMS.
- 5.2 Merchant Acquirers/User Acquirers shall notify the Transaction Receiver of the transaction status in real-time, via a real-time notification method, e.g., SMS, Sound Box, agreed with the merchant.
- 5.3 Merchant Acquirers may enable the option of sending the above transaction notification to more than one mobile number, in addition to the merchant's registered mobile number.

6 Network Facilitator

- 6.1 LPPL has been appointed as the main facilitating entity for the LANKAQR code-based payment and fund transfer process and shall issue the relevant Operating Guidelines and Branding Guidelines as approved by the Director, Payments and Settlements Department, CBSL. All participants engaging in LANKAQR code initiated transactions shall adhere to the above Guidelines issued by LPPL.

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7 Use of proprietary QR codes

No proprietary QR codes shall be allowed to operate in the market for local currency payments and fund transfers.

8 Dispute Resolutions

8.1 Appointing a LANKAQR point of contact

Each Issuer, Acquirer (Merchant/User/Transaction), third party mobile application provider, and Network Facilitator shall appoint an officer/s for dispute resolutions and shall share the contact details with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) within 07 days of the date of issuance of this circular (email to psd@cbsl.lk).

The LANKAQR point of contact shall be available on 24*7 basis.

Each Issuer, Acquirer (Merchant/User/Transaction), third party mobile application provider shall copy the same with the Network Facilitator. The Network Facilitator shall maintain an updated list and circulate among all stakeholders with a copy to CBSL.

If the officer is changed a new officer shall be appointed promptly and informed to CBSL and to the Network Facilitator.

8.2 Dispute resolution time

All disputes shall be resolved within a maximum of 07 working days after reporting of such disputes.

8.3 Availability of help lines

The branding of LANKAQR code as well as the mobile payment applications shall also include a hotline number that enables Transaction Initiators and Transaction Receivers to immediately contact, report and resolve any issues arising from a transaction. LANKAQR point of contact shall aim to resolve any issues as soon as possible.

8.4 Maximum transaction completion time

Each Issuer, Acquirer (Merchant/User/Transaction), third party mobile application provider shall ensure that a payment/fund transfer shall be completed within maximum of 08 seconds with acknowledgements to the Transaction Initiator and Transaction Receiver.



K V K Alwis
Director
Payments and Settlements

LANKAQR Specification

**Based on the EMV® QR Code Specification for Payment Systems (EMV QRCPS) -
Merchant-Presented Mode - Version 1.1 – November 2020.**

Merchant Presented Mode and Peer-to-Peer Fund Transfers Mode

Version 1.3 – January 2026

Payments and Settlements Department

Central Bank of Sri Lanka

VERSION CONTROL

No	Date	Version	Comments
1	09-Oct-2018	1.0	Issued by CBSL
2	30-Oct-2019	1.1	<p>Updated the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1 – Data Object Under the Root of LANKAQR Code ii. 1.8 –Additional Data Field Templates <p>Added the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1.3 – Merchant Category Code ii. 1.4 – Tip or Convenience Indicator iii. 1.5 – Value of Convenience Fee Fixed iv. 1.6 – Value of Convenience Fee Percentage
3	27-Nov-2020	1.2	<p>Updated the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1.3 – Merchant Category Code
4	January-2026	1.3	<p>Updated the following sections;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 1.2 – Merchant Account Information Root ii. 1.3 – Merchant Category Code iii. 1.7 – Merchant Account Information (Template)

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INTRODUCTION

Quick Response (QR) code-based solutions, initiated using mobile devices, facilitate two distinct modes of transactions: **(i) payments** between a customer and a merchant, and **(ii) fund transfers** between a sender and a receiver. In the case of QR-based payments, customers can make purchases without the need to carry cash or payment cards, while merchants can accept payments without investing in high-cost Point-of-Sale (POS) devices. QR-based fund transfers, on the other hand, enable users to transfer funds conveniently and securely between accounts using mobile devices.

The adoption of a standardized QR code within Sri Lanka's payment ecosystem will bring significant benefits. Accordingly, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka is hereby issuing the LANKAQR Specification V1.3, a QR code standard aimed at promoting convenience, security and ensure interoperability of different payment mechanisms and instruments. By using this standardized QR code, financial institutions can enable both payments between customers and merchants and fund transfers between users in a secure, efficient and cost-effective manner.

PURPOSE

This document outlines the customizations to be applied to the EMV® QR Code Specification for Payment Systems to enable the implementation of LANKAQR. This specification shall be used by all Financial Institutions and Operators of Mobile Phone-based e-Money Systems when issuing LANKAQR codes to their Merchants/Users to facilitate LANKAQR code-based payments and/or fund transfers or by any other third party wishing to do so.

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REFERENCES

EMV® QR Code Specification for Payment Systems (EMV QRCPS) - Merchant-Presented Mode - Version 1.1 – November 2020

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1. DATA OBJECT UNDER THE ROOT OF LANKAQR CODE

Please note that the data objects, unless otherwise specified under this document, shall be as per the EMV® QR Code Specification for Payment Systems (EMV QRCPS) - Merchant-Presented Mode – Version 1.1 – November 2020 (EMV ® QR Code Specifications).

The following data objects under the root of the LANKAQR code will be customised as mentioned under the templates:

- Transaction Currency
- Merchant Account Information
- Merchant Category Code
- Tip or Convenience Indicator
- Value of Convenience Fee Fixed
- Value of Convenience Fee Percentage
- Additional Data Field
- Unreserved Templates

1.1. TRANSACTION CURRENCY (ID - “53”)

The Transaction Currency shall conform to ISO 4217 and shall contain the value “144” for LKR.

1.2. MERCHANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION (ROOT) (ID – “02” to “51”)

With reference to **Table 4.1: Allocation of Merchant Account Information (IDs “02” to “51”)** under EMV ® QR Code Specifications, the following IDs shall be present accordingly.

Table 1.1 – Allocation of Merchant Account Information for LANKAQR Code Specification

ID	Meaning
“26”-“27”	Reserved for LankaPay

1.3. MERCHANT CATEGORY CODE (ID – “52”)

(As per ISO 18245 Standards)

- a. Issuance of LANKAQR codes to fuel stations shall carry the Merchant Category Code – “5542 - Automated fuel dispensers”.
- b. Issuance of LANKAQR codes to Government entities shall carry the Merchant Category Code – “9399 - Government services - not elsewhere classified”.
- c. Issuance of LANKAQR codes to religious establishments shall carry the Merchant Category Code – “8661 – Religious organisations”.
- d. Issuance of LANKAQR codes to accommodate person-to-person (P2) fund transfers shall carry the Merchant Category Code – “4829 - Money Orders & Wire Transfers”.

1.4. TIP OR CONVENIENCE INDICATOR (ID – “55”)

- a. A value of “01” shall be used if the mobile application should prompt the consumer to enter a tip to be paid to the merchant (Optional).
- b. A value of “02” shall be used to indicate inclusion of the data object Value of Convenience Fee Fixed (ID "56").
- c. A value of “03” shall be used to indicate inclusion of the data object Value of Convenience Fee Percentage (ID “57”).

Table 1.2 – Tip or Convenience Indicator Data Object Under the Root of LANKAQR Code

Name	ID	Format	Length	Presence
Tip or Convenience Indicator	“55”	N	“02”	C (based on CBSL issued regulations)

N – Numeric C – Conditional

1.5. VALUE OF CONVENIENCE FEE FIXED (ID “56”)

Applicable only if the data object Tip or Convenience Indicator (ID “55”) is present with a value of “02”.

Table 1.3 – Value of Convenience Fee Fixed Data Object Under the Root of LANKAQR Code

Name	ID	Format	Length	Presence
Value of Convenience Fee Fixed	“56”	ans	var. up to “13.”	C (based on CBSL issued regulations)

ans – Alphanumeric Special C – Conditional

1.6. VALUE OF CONVENIENCE FEE PERCENTAGE (ID “57”)

Applicable only if the data object Tip or Convenience Indicator (ID "55") is present with a value of "03".

Table 1.4 – Value of Convenience Fee Percentage Data Object Under the Root of LANKAQR Code

Name	ID	Format	Length	Presence
Value of Convenience Fee Percentage	“57”	ans	var. up to “05.”	C (based on CBSL issued regulations)

ans – Alphanumeric Special C – Conditional

1.7. MERCHANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION (TEMPLATE)

With reference to **Table 4.2: Data Object ID Allocation in Merchant Account Information Template (IDs “26” to “51”)** under EMV[®] QR Code Specifications, the following IDs shall be present accordingly.

Table 1.5 – Data Object ID Allocation in Merchant Account Information Template for LANKAQR Code Specification

ID	Meaning	Format	Length	Presence	Comment
“80”	Reserved for LankaPay	S	*	O	*

O – Optional S – String

*Refer to the respective Network Facilitator documents

1.8. ADDITIONAL DATA FIELD TEMPLATES (ID – “62”)

With reference to **Table 3.7 – Data Objects for Additional Data Field Template (ID “62”)** under EMV ® QR Code Specifications, the following IDs shall be present accordingly.

Table 1.6 – Data Objects for Additional Data Field Template for LANKAQR Code Specification

Name	ID	Format	Length	Presence
Reference Label	“05”	ans	var. up to “25.”	M
Reserved for LankaPay	“60”	S	*	O
Reserved for LankaPay	“61”	S	*	O

ans – Alphanumeric Special M – Mandatory O – Optional S – String

*Refer to the respective Network Facilitator documents

1.9. DATA OBJECTS – UNRESERVED TEMPLATES (ID – “80”- “99”)

With reference to **Table 4.5 – Data Object ID Allocation in Unreserved Templates (IDs “80” to “99”)** under EMV ® QR Code Specifications, the following IDs shall be present accordingly.

Table 1.7 – Data Object ID Allocation in Unreserved Templates for LANKAQR Code Specification

ID	Meaning
80	Reserved for LankaPay
81	Reserved for LankaPay

2. SPECIFICATION – NETWORK FACILITATORS

Please refer to the relevant Network Facilitators' specifications for further information.