Implementing Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) Exemptions
Implementing Strong Customer Authentications (SCA) Exemptions

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Topics Covered in eBook

**PSD2 RTS SCA and exemptions**
Focus on card payments

**European Banking Association (EBA) insight**
The impact of the EBA’s opinion document on SCA strategies

**Deadlines**
Under review and are set to be extended, similarly to the U.K.

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Intended Audience within the payments value chain

This resource is primarily intended for issuing and acquiring banks and payment service providers (PSPs) but is relevant for eCommerce merchants.

Terminology can differ depending upon region.

PSD2 RTS SCA and exemptions apply to both card and non-card payments.

Please contact Jay.Floyd@aciworldwide.com if there are any questions around strong customer authentication (SCA)/exemptions for non-card (digital) payments.

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1. Payment Services Directive 2
Protect the Customer Experience and Gain Competitive Advantage

**Five steps** to implement SCA exemptions ahead of the PSD2 deadline

Many consumers can feel frustrated with current authentication approaches. For card payments, this is typically done through 3DS (3D Secure, versions 1 and 2) via specific characters in a static password or one-time password (OTP) via SMS or text message.

Applying SCA for all transactions over €30 may prove unacceptable and result in **increased abandon rates**, or in **consumers choosing to shop elsewhere** or with a **different card**, ultimately risking loss of market share.
Implementing Strong Customer Authentications (SCA) Exemptions

Exemptions are key to balancing the customer experience (CX). Compliance and fraud prevention should always be included as part of the overall regulatory technical standard (RTS) SCA implementation strategy.

A compliant strategy is based in **adopting inherence** (biometrics) or, as some financial institutions are considering, **implementing acceptable possession and knowledge elements**, e.g., OTP via SMS (to meet the possession requirement) and a password/personal identification number (PIN) (to meet the knowledge requirement).

**Authentication methods**
- Inherence (biometrics)
- OTP via SMS
- Password/PIN

**Results in**
- Current authentication
- Customer frustration
Implementing Strong Customer Authentications (SCA) Exemptions

2 Implementation Strategy and Solution

How do I deploy an exemptions strategy?

Technology As An Enabler

The right technology can enable fraud prevention and exemption strategies. Everything must be done in real time (RT). It’s critical to lead with a strategy that prioritizes maintaining and improving the CX, to help both issuers and merchants reduce customer attrition and grow market share.

Issuers

- Integration with Access Control Server (ACS)
- Real-time capabilities

Leverage a single solution for financial crime prevention that includes SCA/exemption capabilities

Merchants

- Integration with payments gateway or PSP
- Real-time capabilities

Authentication messages (SCA/exemptions)

Chargebacks/
represents

Behavioral profiling

Authorizations

TC40/SAFE

Artificial intelligence (AI)—Adaptive machine learning scoring models (tactical models for SCA/exemptions)

Settlement (postings)

Real-time configuration for SCA/exemption codes

Exemption rate calculation

Implementing Strong Customer Authentications (SCA) Exemptions
PSD2 RTS-SCA and Exemptions—EMV 3DS Scenario
Both legs in (issuer and merchant both in the EU)

The above diagram illustrates the typical flow for EMV 3DS authentication and subsequent card authorization. However, the key difference here is how the payments gateway/merchant integrator/PSP can call out to ACI Fraud Management for an SCA/exemptions decision in real time. Likewise, issuers’ ACS (Access Control Server) can also call out to ACI Fraud Management for an SCA/exemptions decision in real time. Combining this authentication data with the card payment authentication provides enhanced data intelligence for sophisticated fraud prevention strategies.

Implementing Strong Customer Authentications (SCA) Exemptions
Address Ambiguity with Scoring
Do I need to implement new scoring for Article 18?

"The assessment made by a PSP shall combine all those risk-based factors into a risk score for each individual transaction to determine whether a specific payment should be allowed without strong customer authentication."

EBA, Single Rulebook

AN EXEMPTIONS STRATEGY CAN INCLUDE AN OPTIONAL TRANSACTION RISK ANALYSIS (TRA) AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE 18 AND DERIVE A SCORE THAT CAN BE LEVERAGED TO EITHER APPLY EXEMPTIONS OR TRIGGER SCA.

To achieve this, organizations should implement a financial crime prevention solution that allows robust TRA as defined under Article 18 and more.

Can your fraud prevention technology do the all of this?

Create and maintain your own behavioral profiles

Data retention and historical interactions

Digest information from multiple data sources for enhanced intelligence

Create and maintain your own tactical AI adaptive machine learning scoring models
## Understand Liability to Mitigate Risk
Which party is liable for fraud losses based on the authentication flow?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Use Case</th>
<th>Merchant</th>
<th>Liability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard-3DS</td>
<td>Initiates 3DS</td>
<td>Issuer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant not 3DS-enabled</td>
<td>Cannot apply 3DS</td>
<td>Acquirer/Merchant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant/PSP/acquirer exemption</td>
<td>Initiates 3DS flow with exemption</td>
<td>Issuer if they override and conduct SCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchant/PSP/acquirer SCA</td>
<td>Authenticates consumer with SCA</td>
<td>Issuer if they override and conduct SCA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a merchant/PSP/acquirer/issuer is not compliant by the deadline, potential consequences are:

- Loss of license
- Potential fines
- Non-compliant party
Integrate EMV 3DS
What are the alternatives to EMV 3DS?

Online Purchases
EMV 3DS appears to be the go-to strategy for organizations processing online purchases.

Merchant Mobile Apps
EMV 3DS does not appear to be the go-to strategy for organizations when processing mobile app purchases. **SCA must still be applied where needed**, but can be in the form of other combinations of knowledge and possession vectors.

- Biometrics
- Wallets
- PINS
Key Takeaways
What you need to know about PSD2 SCA exemptions

Customer Experience + Compliance
If you do not offer exemptions, companies run the risk of impacting CX and reducing revenue.

Managing exemptions
Managing exemptions is critical and can be rapidly and easily adopted with the right technologies and partners. Without a strong SCA exemptions solution, you cannot deliver on CX.
The Recipe for Success

Three key ingredients

1. Identify, accept and embrace the need for exemptions

2. Adopt the best approach and strategy and engage with the right technology partner, like ACI, to assist

3. Implement before deadline to ensure compliance
How to Solve for SCA Exemptions

WITH THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY IN PLACE TO MAKE REAL-TIME DECISIONS AND WITH SUPPORT FROM A KNOWLEDGEABLE PARTNER, IMPLEMENTING EXEMPTIONS AHEAD OF THE REGULATORY DEADLINE CAN BE EASY.

Many see exemptions as “just another challenge to overcome,” but it is worth thinking strategically now to avoid creating future complexity as a result of a poor tactical decision. Reverting the impact of a poor decision now will be painful in the future.

The ACI Fraud Management solution has a proven track record of excellence in managing customer attrition related to fraud prevention. This experience now benefits the acquirers as they look to achieve compliance and manage customer experience in parallel, to minimize the impact of SCA and capitalize on the opportunity of exemptions. This creates an accelerated path to market leadership.

Learn more about how ACI Fraud Management solution can solve for SCA exemptions.
ACI Worldwide is a global software company that provides mission-critical real-time payment solutions to corporations. Customers use our proven, scalable and secure solutions to process and manage digital payments, enable omni-commerce payments, present and process bill payments, and manage fraud and risk. We combine our global footprint with local presence to drive the real-time digital transformation of payments and commerce.

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