

Standardize Test Keys and Certifications

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Overview:

The use of production encryption keys in a testing environment does not conform to current industry best practices. Therefore, in the near future, all Smart WIC EBT Authorities will issue WIC EBT cards loaded with test encryption keys for use in developer labs, retailer test labs and certifications by WIC Authorities. Discussion will focus on determining the level of effort required to eliminate the use of production key cards in a test environment.

Notes:

1. Discussed the use of test keys for system development and testing.
 - a. Smart WIC Authorities agreed to use test keys.
2. Minimizes the possibility of a key breach.
3. Minimizes the need for multiple POS terminals for each key type during a certification.
4. Discussed developer's concern regarding developing and testing with test keys only.
 - a. Developing and testing with only test key cards may not expose a potential production issue.
 - b. Using production keys for testing is more in-line with an actual lane visit.
 - i. Authorities agreed to provide at least one (1) production card with each set of cards sent to the developers.
5. Discussed moving to triple DES keys.
 - a. Authorities do not anticipate doing this until the next generation of cards is introduced.
 - b. Waiting for technology to catch up before moving to next generation of cards to lessen the impact on the store and grocer community.
 - i. All POS terminals will have to be injected to accommodate this change.

Summary:

While the Authorities, stores and developers responded favorably to the use of test keys for system development and testing, we have to wait for the card technology to catch up and make a coordinated effort for all Smart WIC Authorities to move to the same technology.