

# JCB

## CODE OF CONDUCT

### RELATING TO THE SEPARATION OF EUROPEAN SCHEME AND PROCESSING

#### ACTIVITIES RESPECTIVELY BETWEEN JCBI AND JCBIE

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 JCB is a global payment card business with its Headquarters located in Japan.

1.2 JCB carries on various activities within the European Union ("EU") which relate to the use and acceptance of JCB cards. The activities that JCB entities undertake in Europe relating to the JCB payment card scheme are subject to European Union laws and regulations in certain specified respects.

1.3 The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set out JCB's expectations and requirements relating to the separation of scheme and processing activities in Europe, as required by applicable European Union laws and regulations as further described below.

## **2. The Interchange Fee Regulation**

2.1 In April 2015 the European Union issued its Regulation on Interchange Fees for Card-Based Payment Transactions (Regulation (EU) 2015/751) ("IFR"). The IFR is aimed at creating a secure, efficient, competitive and innovative electronic payments market in the European Union.<sup>1</sup> As its name indicates, the IFR sets out new regulations relating to caps

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<sup>1</sup> The IFR applies in all countries of the European Economic Area ("EEA"), which include the 28 European Union Member States as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

on interchange fees. In addition, it mandates the separation of scheme and processing to allow all processors to compete for customers of the scheme.

2.2 In order to comply with the IFR, JCB has separated its scheme related activities from its processing activities in Europe.

2.3 The separation of scheme and processing activities requires that scheme and processing entities should be independent in terms of accounting, organisation and decision making processes. JCB has chosen to comply with these separation obligations by carrying on scheme and processing activities, respectively, in separate legal entities as described below.

2.4 JCB's European scheme activities and processing activities are carried on as follows:

(a) Scheme activities are carried on by JCB International Co., Ltd ("**JCBI**"). JCBI is a Japanese company which carries on business from premises located in Japan. As the European Scheme entity it is subject to supervision by the UK Payment Systems Regulator;

(b) Processing activities are carried on by JCB International (Europe) Limited ("**JCBIE**"). JCBIE is a UK company which is authorised by the UK Financial Conduct Authority as a Payment Institution.

### **3. The Code of Conduct**

3.1 Payment card schemes and processing entities that are part of the same group are required to have a Code of Conduct setting out how their respective staff are required to act in order to ensure compliance with the IFR. This Code of Conduct sets out these requirements for the relevant staff of JCBI and JCBIE.

- 3.2 The Code of Conduct applies to relevant staff wherever they are located. In particular, JCBI staff located in Japan who are involved in European scheme activities are required to comply with the Code of Conduct
- 3.3 Both JCBI and JCBIE are committed to ensuring that they act in full compliance with their regulatory obligations and therefore require all staff to read and to adhere to this Code of Conduct. Breach of this Code of Conduct is a serious breach of your employment obligations and could result in disciplinary action being taken against you.
- 3.4 If you have any questions regarding this Policy, then you should contact Administration Department for further information.
- 3.5 Any concerns relating to a breach of this Code of Conduct should be reported immediately to the Planning department.

#### **4. Who must read this Code of Conduct?**

- 4.1 Every employee and officer of JCBIE and every employee and officer of JCBI who performs any function in relation JCBI's European scheme activities is required to read and comply with this Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 Any other staff of the JCB Group who are seconded to, who work on, or who provide functions directly relating to processing activities undertaken by JCBIE or scheme activities undertaken by JCBI must also be provided a copy of, and comply with, this Code of Conduct.
- 4.3 The implementation and maintenance of this Policy is the responsibility of, respectively, JCBI and JCBIE's Planning department.

## **5. What is the IFR separation requirement?**

- 5.1 The IFR is a European Union regulation that has the force of law in all jurisdictions of the European Union and of the European Economic Area.
- 5.2 The IFR requirement for "payment card schemes" to be separated from the "processing entity" for the scheme is intended to encourage competition amongst card processors and to reduce processing costs relating to the execution of payment card transactions.
- 5.3 This is intended to be achieved by ensuring that processing activities are carried on separately and in a way that does not confer any competitive advantage on a processing entity within the same group as a scheme. By creating a level playing field between processing entities in this way, the IFR intends to foster competition.
- 5.4 In broad terms, this means that scheme and processing entities must conduct separate and independent businesses, that decision making must be carried out separately and that they must not share confidential information relating to their respective businesses with each other.
- 5.5 The more specific requirements around achieving separation are set out below.

## **6. What are the specific obligations?**

- 6.1 The "separation requirement" requires scheme and processing entities to:
- (a) prepare separate financial accounts;
  - (b) work separately and independently from each other;
  - (c) have independent management and executive bodies that make decisions independently of each other; and
  - (d) not share sensitive information with each other.

## **7. Shared Services**

7.1 Although scheme and processing activities must be carried on separately, the IFR does permit certain services to be shared between scheme and processing entities subject to this not resulting in the sharing of sensitive information between them. Services that can be provided on a shared basis are:

- (a) marketing;
- (b) finance and accounting;
- (c) HR;
- (d) legal and compliance;
- (e) IT;
- (f) Office and Facilities Administration;

7.2 If you work in any of these departments you may be exposed to information relating to each of JCBI and JCBIE. In these circumstances you must not share that information with the other entity and must only use that information for the purposes for which it was provided to you.

## **8. Prohibition on sharing Sensitive Information**

8.1 A key requirement in the IFR is the prohibition on sharing sensitive information between the scheme and processing entities and vice versa. This prohibition applies whether information is shared directly or indirectly.

8.2 For these purposes "sensitive information" is information of a sensitive nature that provides a competitive advantage to either the payment card scheme or the processing entity.

8.3 The IFR prohibits the disclosure of this category of information between scheme and processing entities since this would likely result in the recipient of that information gaining a competitive advantage when compared with third parties outside the JCB Group. This obligation is therefore a key aspect of ensuring a level playing field between JCB Group companies and third parties.

8.4 It should be noted that the prohibition applies only where the information is confidential, in the sense that has not been shared with other competitors.

8.5 For these purposes information could provide a "competitive advantage" if, in the event that the information was disclosed to a competitor, that competitor would have an advantage over other businesses in its field.

8.6 Examples of sensitive information subject to the prohibition include:

- (a) information about new or potential licensees;
- (b) details of pricing structures that deviate from published price lists;
- (c) details of the product offerings that differ from standard or published product details;
- (d) information relating to confidential commercial strategies and marketing initiatives;

## **9. Obligations on Employees relating to sensitive information**

9.1 Employees of JCBIE and JCBI must ensure that sensitive information is not shared in breach of the prohibition.

- 9.2 JCBIE staff must not, therefore, share sensitive information with JCBI and JCBI staff involved in European scheme activities covered by the IFR must not share sensitive information with JCBIE.
- 9.3 In relation to this requirement, only certain JCBIE staff are engaged in activities relating to "processing". Under procedures established by JCBIE, staff who are not involved with processing activities may communicate with and provide liaison services for JCBI, where these do not involve scheme activities.
- 9.4 In order to comply with these sensitive information requirements, JCB has also put in place IT processes that restrict scheme access to processing information and processing access to scheme information. You must comply with these measures, and must not try and circumvent security measures preventing you from accessing sensitive information to which you are not entitled.
- 9.5 To help you comply with requirements around sensitive information some practical recommendations are set out below:
- (a) if you are unsure whether information is "sensitive information" and/or whether disclosure to a particular recipient could result in a breach of the prohibition on disclosure of "sensitive information" you should not disclose that information without first clearing it with your immediate supervisor or line manager;
  - (b) you should exercise caution when sending emails to ensure that any email that contains sensitive information, or which you think may contain sensitive information, is not also sent to a recipient who is not entitled to receive that information;

- (c) be aware that there may be common areas that staff involved in both scheme and processing activities could occupy. For example, bathrooms, entrance halls and meeting rooms may be used by both staff. You should not discuss sensitive information in these public areas; and
- (d) these sensitive information requirements apply during outside of work hours and to communications made with personal devices.

## **10. Management**

- 10.1 The IFR requires scheme and processing entities to have separate and independent management and boards of directors. The management and board of directors of each of JCBI and JCBIE are subject to Conflicts of Interest policies relating to the separation of scheme and processing activities.
- 10.2 The management of each of JCBI and JCBIE will prepare separate and independent annual operating plans that establish the budget for the respective entity (including capital and operating expenditure).
- 10.3 You should ensure that you are aware of the separate management personnel and boards of directors that apply to each of JCBI and JCBIE. You should not discuss any operating budget, strategies or plans or other sensitive information with the management of other entity unless you have been given permission by your direct supervisor or line manager, or unless it is compliance with an established JCB policy.
- 10.4 In addition, you should not attempt to influence the strategies or plans of the other entity, or seek information relating to such strategies or plans, or operating budget.

## **11. What does this all mean for you**

### *Compliance*

- 11.1 JCB has a strong compliance culture and ethic and we encourage this in our employees. You should at all times comply with both the form and intent of this Code of Conduct.
- 11.2 If you become aware of any breach of this policy, or you become aware of facts which cause you to suspect that there has been a breach of this policy, you must inform your line manager or the Planning department. immediately. If for any reason you do not feel that you can raise such concerns with your line manager or the Planning department., then you should raise your concerns with Administration Department.

### *Office and IT separation*

- 11.3 You will be situated in a work space that is specifically designated to the activities that you provide. You are not able to, and you should not try to, access floor space which has been allocated to the other entity or activities. Similarly, if you see someone from the other entity or activity in your work space you should ask them to leave and report this as a breach of the Code of Conduct to your supervisor or line manager.
- 11.4 Common areas have been designated (for example kitchen areas, main office spaces and bathrooms) that both scheme and processing staff may access. When you are in a common area you should avoid discussing matters that relate specifically to your work. In particular, you should not be very careful not to disclose any "sensitive information" (see Section 8 above) when in a common area.
- 11.5 In addition to the work space separation, IT has established restrictions to prevent scheme and processing employees from accessing information relating to the other entity. You should not email or otherwise share documents with staff of the other entity

that they cannot access, nor should you ask staff of the other entity to provide you with access to documents that you cannot access.

- 11.6 These IT restrictions will also prevent you from printing documents to printers located in the work space of the other entity. You should comply with these printing and IT restrictions.

#### *Staff Separation*

- 11.7 You must ensure that any interactions with staff of the other entity do not breach the requirements of this Code of Conduct. You are permitted to share information and to work with shared services staff, although you must take reasonable steps to ensure that no sensitive information is indirectly passed between the scheme staff of JCBI and the processing staff of JCBIE.
- 11.8 Similarly, legitimate business reasons may exist for the scheme staff of JCBI and the processing staff of JCBIE to work together. However, any such legitimate business arrangements must be conducted in accordance with this Code of Conduct, the Conflicts of Interest Policy and all other applicable JCB policies and manuals.
- 11.9 All such business arrangements between the scheme staff of JCBI and the processing staff of JCBIE must also be conducted on an "arms length" basis and must in no circumstances involve the sharing of sensitive information.
- 11.10 HR is a shared service function and both scheme staff of JCBI and processing staff of JCBIE may engage with HR on a regular and business basis. However, as with all shared services, you should be aware of the risk of indirectly passing sensitive information to the other entity. HR staff should be aware of this risk and take steps to

ensure that any sensitive information they share from either scheme staff of JCBI or processing staff of JCBIE are not shared between each other.

### *Business arrangements*

11.11 When entering into arrangements or relationships with customers, scheme staff of JCBI and processing staff of JCBIE must not enter into arrangements with customers that would treat the other entity more favourably than any other competitor. For example, scheme staff of JCBI should not offer customers discounts on JCBIE services that it does not offer to other third party processors.

## **12. Development of new solutions**

12.1 Scheme staff of JCBI and processing staff of JCBIE are permitted to work together on matters relating to:

- (a) the design, update or implementation of any processing services; and
- (b) the design of the rules, practices, standards and implementation guidelines for the execution of card-based payment transactions,

subject to compliance with a number of conditions and principles.

12.2 In order for scheme staff of JCBI to assist with the design, update or implementation of any processing services:

- (a) the tasks performed by the scheme staff of JCBI must be necessary for innovation purposes;
- (b) JCBI must inform all processing entities participating in the JCB payment card scheme in Europe at the same time and under the same conditions of the development of the new solution for processing services; and

(c) the processing entities are selected on a non-discriminatory basis.

12.3 In order for the processing staff of JCBIE to assist with the design of the rules, practices, standards and implementation guidelines for the execution of card-based payment transactions:

(a) the tasks related to the design of the single set of rules must be offered to other processing entities on a non-discriminatory basis; and

(b) the design of the rules must involve a representative sample of all processing entities participating in the JCB payment card scheme.

12.4 Before the scheme staff of JCBI and the processing staff of JCBIE collaborate on any innovation project in accordance with this section of the Code of Conduct, approval must be obtained from the Planning department.

12.5 Where the scheme staff of JCBI and the processing staff of JCBIE collaborate on any innovation project under this section of the Code of Conduct, care should be taken to ensure that no sensitive information is passed between the entities other than as approved by the Planning department in the initial approval for the relevant innovation project.