

# News You Can Use



## CREDIT CARD RECEIPT TRUNCATION

A federal law was passed in 2005 that establishes standards for credit and debit card receipts to protect against identity theft. Several states have passed similar laws that tighten these restrictions even further. It appears that this trend will continue.

The federal law requires that your POS System should truncate (remove) all but the last five numbers of any card transaction as well as the entire expiration date on all credit or debit card receipts provided to customers. In Illinois however, all but the last four numbers must be removed on all customer receipts (as well as the card expiration date). Note: These laws only apply to electronically generated receipts. They do not apply to handwritten or mechanically imprinted receipts.

In addition to the federal and state laws, VISA and MasterCard have their own rigid standards ("PCI DSS") for merchants using their cards. These companies can also impose large fines on merchants that are not in compliance.

### What You Should Do

1. Contact the local distributor of your POS System to determine if your system is compliant. If your system is not compliant, ask what you need to do to ensure compliance.
2. Make sure your POS System has a firewall if it has internet connectivity.
3. Make sure software patches are up to date.
4. Make sure your antivirus software is in place and up to date.
5. Change passwords on a regular basis. If you do not need one to get into your system, create one and use it!
6. Turn off remote access when it isn't needed.
7. Contact your POS System provider to see exactly what you are storing on your system. Remember if you don't need it, don't store it!

Complying with federal and state requirements is an important part of a comprehensive risk management program. Contact your Diversified Account Executive with any questions you may have.

