



payments**nz**

## Consultation on device lifecycle framework

---

December 2025

---

---

This document is produced by Payments NZ Limited (Payments NZ) and must not be copied, reproduced, or distributed, in whole or in part, without the consent of Payments NZ.

Payments NZ has relied on publicly available information and information provided to it by third parties in the production of this document. While Payments NZ has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in the document is accurate, it takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions in relation to the information contained in this document and Payments NZ will not be liable for any loss sustained in reliance on the information in this document. If you wish to rely on such information, you should obtain your own independent advice. © December 2025 Payments NZ Limited. All rights reserved.

---

## Contents

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Executive summary</b>                                | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>About the framework review</b>                       | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>How the device lifecycle framework works</b>         | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>What we've heard so far</b>                          | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>What we're proposing for setting lifecycle dates</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>What this means for 5.x devices</b>                  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>What this means for 6.x devices</b>                  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>Proposed consultation and communication approach</b> | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Looking ahead to future device standards</b>         | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Consultation questions</b>                           | <b>12</b> |



---

# Executive summary

## Purpose of the consultation

Payments NZ is reviewing the device lifecycle framework that governs how EFTPOS terminals are registered, maintained, and retired from the network in Aotearoa New Zealand. This consultation seeks industry and public feedback on proposed changes to how lifecycle dates are set, communicated, and managed.

## What is being proposed

- Amendments to the current risk-based approach to setting sunset dates.
- Revised sunset timelines for PCI 5.x and 6.x devices.
- Proposed shift in lifecycle deadlines from April to August to better accommodate local business cycles.
- Formalised consultation and communication processes for future PCI device standards.

## Why it matters

Ensuring the secure, efficient, and timely replacement of payment devices is critical to protecting cardholder data, managing evolving cyber risks, and maintaining interoperability across the payments ecosystem. Your feedback will help shape a fit-for-purpose framework that balances commercial realities with security and global alignment.

## How to respond

Feedback is welcomed from all parties across the payments industry. You can submit your response using the official consultation response form, available at [www.paymentsnz.co.nz](http://www.paymentsnz.co.nz), or email your feedback to [clearing.systems@paymentsnz.co.nz](mailto:clearing.systems@paymentsnz.co.nz)

## Key dates

- Consultation opens: December 2025
- Submissions due: 31 March 2026
- Summary of submissions published: May 2026
- Final framework and lifecycle dates released: June 2026

# About the framework review

## Policy development

Since 2012, Payments NZ has regulated the EFTPOS device lifecycle framework across the payments industry in Aotearoa. This framework ensures that devices connected to the EFTPOS switching network remain secure enough to protect sensitive cardholder data from unauthorised disclosure or use, whilst balancing the needs of the device reseller community, cardholders, merchants, switches, acquirers, issuers, and vendors. It reflects our commitment to promoting an interoperable, innovative, safe, open, and efficient payment system.

Lifecycle dates are a key component of the framework. They determine when devices can no longer be deployed into the market and, more importantly, when they must be retired from the network. The dates are designed to phase out older device models in favour of newer, more secure alternatives that reflect technological advancements and address evolving security threats.

Payments NZ is currently reviewing the framework. To date we have considered the changing security landscape of card payments and undertaken targeted consultation with stakeholders. Based on the work done so far, we believe there is scope to enhance the framework and lifecycle process, particularly in relation to how lifecycle dates are set, communicated, and managed.

## Consultation

Payments NZ is now consulting more broadly on the framework. This includes seeking feedback on:

- Proposed changes to the current risk-based approach to setting sunset dates;

- The application of those changes to proposed dates for 5.x and 6.x devices; and
- The approach to communicating deadlines to the market.

This is a public consultation. Submissions are invited from all interested parties across the payments ecosystem to help shape a framework that remains secure, transparent, and fit for purpose for the payments industry in Aotearoa.

This paper has also been distributed directly to affected stakeholders, including card schemes, switches, acquirers, device vendors, device resellers, and Retail NZ which represents merchants who use EFTPOS devices to accept payments.

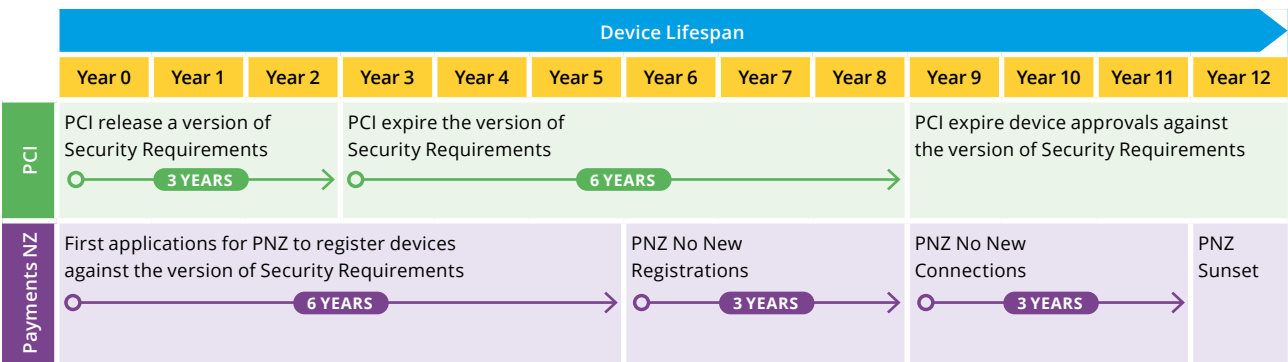
Submissions are requested by 31 March 2026.

## Next steps after consultation

After consultation closes, Payments NZ will compile and publish a summary of all submissions received. This summary will outline key themes, areas of agreement, and any concerns raised by stakeholders. It will be made available to all submission respondents to ensure transparency and demonstrate how feedback has informed the next steps.

## Final policy

The finalised device lifecycle framework and policy for setting lifecycle dates, including confirmed lifecycle dates for 5.x and 6.x devices, will be published in June 2026.



# How the device lifecycle framework works

## Purpose of the device lifecycle framework

The device lifecycle framework ensures EFTPOS devices remain secure and protect cardholder information. It also seeks to balance the economic lifetime a device can remain in market – allowing stakeholders to maximise value from the terminal – against the growing security risk that develops over time as terminals age.

## Device registration and lifecycle dates

Devices must be registered with Payments NZ if they accept EFTPOS (the Proprietary Debit system in Aotearoa) or Scheme Debit transactions accessing Cheque or Savings accounts.

Only models listed on the Payments NZ device register may connect to the EFTPOS switching network.

Payments NZ aligns its registration process and lifecycle dates with the international PCI Security Standards, specifically the PCI PIN Transaction Security (PTS) Point of Interaction (POI) standards. These standards protect the cardholder data environment.

The PTS and POI standards are updated approximately every three years with a new version. PCI expires older versions as new versions are published, and will only certify terminals to a current standard. This ensures the PTS and POI standards continue to be strengthened to protect terminals and cardholder data from new and emerging threats.

To register a device that accepts EFTPOS transactions in Aotearoa, the applicant must provide a copy of the PCI certification showing that it conforms with a current version of the PTS and POI standard.

Once registered, devices are subject to three key lifecycle dates:

- **No new registrations;**
- **No new connections;** and
- **Sunset** (disconnection date when the standard expires).

These dates are communicated to the applicant once the device has been registered.

## Current policy for setting lifecycle dates

Historically, PCI targets **three-year lifecycle** and **nine-year approval periods** for each version of the standard, using the following two expiry points:

- **PCI Security requirements**, which expire three years from their approval date; and
- **PCI Device Approvals**, which expire six years after the effective date of the subsequent version of the standard.

Payments NZ adopts PCI's approach by linking lifecycle dates to these expiry points. Under the current policy:

- **No new registrations** are set three years after expiry of the PCI Security Requirements;
- **No new connections** align with the PCI Device Approval expiry date; and
- **Sunset dates** are set three years after the PCI Device Approval expiry date.

As reflected in the below diagram, this provides stakeholders with a maximum 12-year window for each PCI version, balancing security with stakeholder needs. It is designed to allow vendors, resellers, and merchants to achieve an appropriate return on investment, align lease contracts with sunset dates, and prepare for a transition to newer and more secure devices.

The no new connection date acts as an early signal three years before the sunset date that preparation should be underway to plan for the migration.

This approach also helps maintain alignment with international security standards, spreads risk in the market across multiple versions of the PCI standards, and manages security risk over a defined period of time.

## Communication approach

As lifecycle dates approach, Payments NZ will communicate lifecycle dates through regular email campaigns to device vendors and resellers, supported by media releases, LinkedIn updates, and website content. Communication with merchants is managed by device resellers and acquirers.

# What we've heard so far

Payments NZ has undertaken targeted consultation with a range of stakeholders, including five acquiring banks, three EFTPOS switching network operators, four device vendors, the wider device reseller community, and Retail NZ. Interviews with each of these parties were conducted and facilitated independently.

Key themes emerging from this consultation include:

## Retention and ownership of the framework

There is strong support for Aotearoa retaining a device lifecycle framework with standards and lifecycle dates that protect and benefit the market. Stakeholders consulted with so far believe Payments NZ should continue to own and manage this framework.

## Risk management and transparency

Stakeholders highlighted the need for clearer articulation of the security risks the framework seeks to manage. Independent expertise should be engaged to support risk identification, assessment, and communication in a way that is easily understood by all parties.

## Communication to support and prepare for the upgrade process

Improved communication was identified as a key factor to support the device upgrade processes as the market moves towards a sunset date. This included early communication of no new connection and sunset dates, as well as regular, ongoing communication as the industry moves towards each key milestone.

Stakeholders also highlighted challenges that can impact the ability to meet these dates, such as delays in delivering required device functionality to Aotearoa, followed by potential delays in software development, testing, and certification.

## Alignment with global practices

Device resellers in particular questioned why sunset dates are set significantly earlier in Aotearoa than in comparable countries. There is an expectation that, following an appropriate risk assessment, sunset dates should be adjusted to better align with international practice.

Some of the device vendors we have spoken to so far, by contrast, were concerned that extended timeframes in other jurisdictions create an unrealistic expectation that devices will be supported all the way through to the end of those timeframes. Those vendors suggested a maximum of five years past the PCI expiry date as a more realistic timeframe.

## Balancing commercial outcomes with risk

Feedback highlighted a disconnect between parties who distribute and manage devices, such as device resellers, and those who bear the financial or reputational risk if devices are compromised.

Parties who distribute and manage devices are seeking to extend the lifetime of a device for as long as possible, while those who bear the financial risk of compromised devices (issuers and acquirers) want to spread that risk across a modern and secure fleet. This creates a tension between the interests of these stakeholder groups.

# What we're proposing for setting lifecycle dates

Payments NZ is consulting on proposed changes to the device lifecycle framework regarding how lifecycle dates are set, communicated, and managed, while ensuring security is maintained across the EFTPOS ecosystem.

## Proposed policy for setting lifecycle dates

The proposed policy for setting lifecycle dates, based on feedback, is as follows:

- **No new registration date** – continue to align with the year of the expiry of the PCI Security Requirements.
- **No new connection date** – continue to align with the year of PCI expiry for approved devices.
- **Sunset date** – apply a minimum three-year transition period after the year of PCI expiry, with the actual sunset date determined by:
  - **Independent security assessments** – enabling a risk-based approach to setting sunset dates. This would mean sunset dates are set between 3 years (the minimum transition period) and 5 years (the serviceable lifetime), based on the risk assessment for each version of PCI.
  - **Serviceable lifetime of devices** – ensuring sunset dates reflect the period during which manufacturers can provide parts, maintenance updates, and technical support. Based on feedback received to date, this would provide for a sunset date that is no more than 5 years after the PCI expiry.

This proposed approach maintains consistency with PCI standards for registration and no new connection dates, while introducing a risk-based framework for setting the sunset date. It also allows flexibility for longer device lifespans within supported periods, without compromising security.

We are also proposing to move lifecycle dates from April to August. Stakeholders have highlighted that the Christmas and New Year holiday period in Aotearoa makes it difficult to schedule change close to the April deadline.

## Serviceable lifetime of devices

In relation to the serviceable lifetime of devices, feedback has suggested that sunset dates extending more than 5

years beyond the PCI Device Approval expiry date (and thus the Payments NZ no new connection date) create an unrealistic expectation from merchants and resellers that terminals can be supported beyond this timeframe.

Challenges with supporting ageing devices, such as access to spare parts, the EMV kernel expiry and declining hardware availability, grow significantly as their lifespan extends beyond 5 years. This begins to impact the viability of the device.

Based on current support practices, we are recommending that the sunset date should be no more than five years after the PCI Device Approval expiry date (aligned with the Payments NZ no new connection date).

A five-year serviceability period is therefore proposed for reviewing lifecycle dates for 5.x and 6.x devices, with this timeframe to be revisited as part of the consultation process for future device versions.

## Security assessment and risk-based approach

Payments NZ has commissioned an independent assessment by a Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) certified by the PCI Security Standards Council to evaluate vulnerabilities and review security risks associated with PCI versions 3.x, 4.x, 5.x, and 6.x ("the security assessment").

The security assessment highlights the evolution in security and functionality across PCI standards. Earlier versions (3.x and 4.x) focused on physical security, requiring strong anti-tamper measures to prevent device tampering and skimming.

In contrast, 5.x and 6.x (which build on 3.x and 4.x) have added measures to address logical and firmware-based threats, such as software vulnerabilities, unauthorised updates, and supply chain vulnerabilities.

While physical security remains robust, newer standards prioritise preventing compromise before devices reach the market. This supports the appropriateness of the sunset dates previously set by Payments NZ, and indicates that 5.x and 6.x devices present a lower overall risk profile.

The security assessment has been provided as part of this consultation.

## What this means for 5.x devices

The security assessment highlights that the 5.x standard offers greater security by introducing requirements for firmware to be updatable alongside new and amended measures for supply chain security. This shift toward addressing firmware and supply chain vulnerabilities makes 5.x devices better positioned for extended lifecycles, compared to previous versions.

Based on this assessment and application of the proposed policy, the following proposed changes to Payments NZ's lifecycle dates for 5.x devices are recommended:

- The **no new registration** date for 5.x remains unchanged, as this date has already passed;

- The **no new connection** date for 5.x devices – which has moved from 2026 to 2027 to align with PCI's Extension of Expiration for 5.x devices – remains in 2027 but is extended by four months, from April to August; and
- A new **sunset** date is introduced for 5.x devices, set at the maximum five years beyond PCI Device Approval expiry (aligned with the Payments NZ no new connection date) and also extended from April to August.

The table below compares existing lifecycle dates for 5.x devices with the proposed changes:

| Lifecycle stage                  | Existing date | Proposed date |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Payments NZ no new registrations | 30/04/2023    | N/A           |
| Payments NZ no new connections   | 30/04/2027    | 31/08/2027    |
| Payments NZ sunset               | 30/04/2030    | 31/08/2032    |

## What this means for 6.x devices

The security assessment shows that the 6.x standard represents a significant evolution in device security by introducing 3-yearly device firmware re-assessments. Combined with the firmware updatability introduced in 5.x, this ensures 6.x devices remain resilient against emerging threats over time, making them notably superior to earlier versions.

This lower risk profile positions 6.x devices as strong candidates for extended lifecycles.

Based on this assessment and application of the proposed policy, the following proposed changes to Payments NZ's lifecycle dates for 6.x devices are recommended:

- The **no new registration** date for 6.x devices remains in 2027 but is extended by four months, from April to August;

- The **no new connection** date for 6.x devices – which has moved from 2030 to 2032 to align with PCI's Extension of Expiration for 6.x devices – remains in 2032 but is extended by four months, from April to August; and
- A new **sunset** date is introduced for 6.x devices, set at the maximum five years beyond PCI Device Approval expiry (aligned with the Payments NZ no new connection date) and also extended from April to August.

The table below compares existing lifecycle dates for 6.x devices with the proposed changes:

| Lifecycle stage                  | Existing date | Proposed date |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Payments NZ no new registrations | 30/04/2027    | 31/08/2027    |
| Payments NZ no new connections   | 30/04/2032    | 31/08/2032    |
| Payments NZ sunset               | 30/04/2035    | 31/08/2037    |



## Proposed consultation and communication approach

Payments NZ proposes to take a more formal role in communications to strengthen industry engagement, provide clear direction on lifecycle dates, and ensure transparency and predictability for all stakeholders.

### Consultation

Moving forward, Payments NZ will introduce an industry-wide consultation process for each PCI version and the associated lifecycle dates. Each consultation will outline the rationale for proposed dates and include a security assessment. Following the consultation, the finalised

dates will be published on the Payments NZ website and communicated to all stakeholders.

### Communications

Payments NZ will continue direct communications with device vendors and resellers as lifecycle dates approach, supported by website updates, LinkedIn posts, and media releases. In addition, Payments NZ will provide an annual update to all relevant stakeholders with upcoming milestones and guidance on planning and replacement expectations. Communications to merchants will remain the responsibility of device resellers and acquirers.

## Looking ahead to future device standards

Payments NZ will undertake further industry consultations on proposed lifecycle dates for future PCI device standards as they are released. These consultations will invite submissions before any proposed dates are finalised.

The first of these consultations will cover the PCI 7.x standard, with consultation expected to commence in Q2 2026.

# Consultation questions

We encourage your response to each of the questions below. Where possible, please include reasoning to support your views.

## Device lifecycle framework

| Questions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | <p>The framework aims to balance the length of time a device can remain in market with the increasing security risks as they age.</p> <p>Do you believe the proposed framework achieves the right balance between maximising device value and managing security risk? If not, why not?</p>       |
| 2         | <p>The proposed policy for setting lifecycle dates considers global security standards, independent security assessments, and the serviceable lifetime of devices.</p> <p>Are there any additional factors that should influence lifecycle decisions? What else should we take into account?</p> |

## Policy for setting lifecycle dates

| Questions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3         | <p>The proposed policy for setting lifecycle dates aims to align with international security standards by linking lifecycle dates with PCI's lifecycle.</p> <p>Do you support linking the no new registration date to the expiry of PCI Security Requirements and the no new connection date with the PCI Device Approval expiry date? If not, what alternative approach would you recommend?</p>                                                                         |
| 4         | <p>A risk-based assessment has been identified as a key factor for setting lifecycle dates.</p> <p>Do you agree with using a risk-based approach that incorporates independent security assessments for setting sunset dates? Does the assessment provided clearly explain the risks Payments NZ seeks to manage? If not, what more information is needed to explain the risks?</p>                                                                                       |
| 5         | <p>The serviceable lifetime of devices is proposed as a key factor in setting sunset dates. We are recommending that these be set a maximum of five years beyond the PCI Device Approval expiry date (aligned with the Payments NZ no new connection date).</p> <p>Should serviceable lifetime be considered when determining sunset dates? If yes, do you agree with the proposed maximum five-year timeframe? If not, what alternative would you recommend and why?</p> |

## Lifecycle dates for 5.x and 6.x devices

| Questions |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6         | The proposed policy sets a longer sunset timeframe for 5.x and 6.x devices.<br>To what extent do you agree or disagree with this longer timeframe? Are there any unintended consequences we should consider? |
| 7         | We propose moving lifecycle deadlines from April to August. Do you support this change? If not, what alternative would you suggest and why?                                                                  |

## Consultation and communications

| Questions |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8         | The proposed industry-wide consultation process aims to engage a broad range of stakeholders to gather input on proposed lifecycle dates and build commitment to those dates.<br>How effective do you think this process will be in achieving these objectives?<br>Are there any additional stakeholders we should be consulting? |
| 9         | Our communications approach seeks to provide early, regular, and ongoing updates to support device upgrade planning.<br>Will this approach adequately support compliance? Is additional communication needed and if so what suggestions do you have?                                                                              |

## General

| Questions |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10        | Do you have any other feedback on the device lifecycle framework in Aotearoa? What changes, if any, would further improve it? |

payments**nz**

---

+64 4 890 6750  
clearing.systems@paymentsnz.co.nz  
[www.paymentsnz.co.nz](http://www.paymentsnz.co.nz)

