

COMPENSATION POLICY

Introduction

Technological progress in payment and settlement systems and the qualitative changes in operational systems and processes that have been undertaken by various players in the market have enabled market forces of competition to come into play to improve efficiencies in providing better service to the users of the system. It will be the bank's endeavor to offer services to its customers with best possible utilization of its technology infrastructure. Withdrawal of the Reserve Bank of India instructions to banks on time frame for collection of outstation cheques, payment of interest on delayed collection of outstation cheques/instruments, with effect from 1st November 2004, had offered bank further opportunities to increase its efficiency for better performance. A Compensation policy of the bank was therefore, designed to cover areas relating to unauthorized debiting of account, payment of interest to customers for delayed collection of cheques/instruments, payment of cheques after acknowledgement of stop payment instructions, remittances within India, foreign exchange services, lending, etc., is based on principles of transparency and fairness in the treatment of customers.

Objective

The objective of this policy is to establish a system whereby the bank compensates the customer for any financial loss he/she might incur due to deficiency in service on the part of the bank or any act of omission or commission directly attributable to the bank. By ensuring that the customer is compensated without having to ask for it, the bank expects instances when the customer has to approach Banking Ombudsman or any other Forum for redressal to come down significantly.

Framework

The policy covers only compensation for financial losses which customers might incur due to deficiency in the services offered by the bank which can be measured directly and as such the commitments under this policy are without prejudice to any right the bank will have in defending its position before any forum duly constituted to adjudicate banker-customer disputes.

Various kinds of financial losses are outlined below:

1. Unauthorised / Erroneous Debit:

If the bank has raised an unauthorized/erroneous direct debit to an account, the entry will be reversed immediately on being informed of the erroneous debit, after verifying the position. In the event the unauthorized/erroneous debit has resulted in a financial loss for the customer by way of reduction in the minimum balance applicable for payment of interest on savings bank deposit or payment of additional interest to the bank in a loan account, the bank will compensate the customer for such loss. Further, if the customer has suffered any financial loss incidental to wrongful return of a cheque or failure to

entertain direct debit instructions, arising due to insufficient balance on account of unauthorized / erroneous debit, the bank will compensate the customer to the extent of such financial losses.

In case verification of the entry reported to be erroneous by the customer does not involve a third party, the bank shall arrange to complete the process of verification within a maximum period of 7 working days from the date of reporting of erroneous debit. In case, the verification involves a third party, the bank shall complete the verification process within a maximum period of one month from the date of reporting of erroneous transaction by the customer.

Erroneous transaction reported by the customers in respect of credit card operations which require reference to a merchant establishment will be handled as per rules laid down by card association.

However, the Bank will ensure that wrong bills are not raised and issued to customers. In case, a customer protests any bill, the bank will provide explanation and, if necessary, documentary evidence to the customer within a maximum period of sixty days with a spirit to amicably redress the grievances.

2. ECS direct debits/other debits to accounts

The bank will undertake to carry out direct debit/ ECS debit instructions of customers in time. In the event the bank fails to meet such commitments customer will be compensated to the extent of any financial loss the customer would incur on account of delay in carrying out the instruction/failure to carry out the instructions.

The bank would debit the customer's account with any applicable service charge as per the schedule of charges notified by the bank. In the event the bank levies any charge in violation of the arrangement, the bank will reverse the charges when pointed out by the customer subject to scrutiny of agreed terms and conditions. Any consequential financial loss to the customer will also be compensated.

Where it is established that the bank had issued and activated a credit card without written consent of the recipient, the bank would not only reverse the charges immediately but also pay a penalty without demur to the recipient amounting to twice the value of charges reversed.

3. Payment of Cheques after Stop Payment Instructions:

In case a cheque has been paid after stop payment instruction is acknowledged by the bank, the bank shall reverse the transaction and give value-dated credit to protect the interest of the customer. Any consequential financial loss to the customer will be compensated as provided under para 1 above. Such debits will be reversed within 2 working days of the customer intimating the transaction to the bank.

4. Foreign Exchange Services:

Cheques payable at foreign centres where the bank has branch operations (or banking operations through a subsidiary, etc.) will be collected through that office or through a correspondent bank as per arrangement made by the International Division, Baroda Corporate Centre, Mumbai. The services of correspondent banks will be utilized in country/centres where the correspondent has presence. Cheques drawn on foreign banks at centres where the bank or its correspondents do not have direct presence will be sent direct to the drawee bank with instructions to credit proceeds to the respective Nostro Account of the bank maintained with one of the correspondent banks or with our own overseas branches/subsidiaries. The Bank will endeavour to provide the credit to its Customers at the earliest depending upon realisation received from the paying/correspondent bank and cooling period prescribed for various countries. However, the maximum period for affording credit for cheques payable in foreign countries will be 25 working days or one calendar month whichever is higher.

However, the Bank may consider providing upfront credit by purchasing the instrument, if the conduct of the account has been satisfactory in the past, for a charge at its sole discretion. Alternatively, the customer may utilize the Final Credit Service, provided by certain correspondents of our Bank on payment of a fee, which gives return free credit subject to certain conditions.

Payment of Interest for delayed Collection of Cheques sent for collection to foreign countries.

The Bank will pay interest to its customers on account of collection of instruments sent for collection to foreign countries where the credit has not been given –

a). Within 10 days from the date of receipt of remittance advice from abroad for remittance up to equivalent USD 5,000 (reckoning Saturday as a working day except for transactions involving conversion at confirmed exchange rate).

Or

b). An intimation has not been sent to the beneficiary within 3 working days (reckoning Saturday as a working day) from the date of receipt of credit advice in respect of remittances exceeding equivalent of USD 5,000.

Saturday may continue to be treated as working day except for transactions involving conversion at confirmed exchange rate.

Interest for delayed collections will be payable at the following rates :

- 2% over the applicable Saving Bank rate of interest for the period of delay as per Point No. a & b above.

The customer will also be compensated for the loss on account of adverse movement of exchange rate i.e. loss due to exchange rate difference, if any, between the actual exchange rate at which foreign currency is converted into Indian Rupees and the exchange rate as on the latest due date of payment as Point No. a & b above.

5. Collection Services in India:

The compensation on account of delays in collection of instruments would be as indicated in the bank's collection policy which is reproduced below for information:

“Payment of Interest for delayed Collection of Outstation Cheques:

As part of the compensation policy of the bank, the bank will pay interest to its customer on the amount of collection instruments in case there is delay in giving credit beyond the time period mentioned above. Such interest shall be paid without any demand from customers in all types of accounts. There shall be no distinction between instruments drawn on the bank's own branches or on other banks for the purpose of payment of interest on delayed collection.

Interest for delayed collection shall be paid at the following rates:

- a) Savings Bank rate for the period of delay beyond 7/10 days as the case may be up to 14 days in collection of outstation cheques.
{Time frame for collection - Four major Metro centres (New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai) – maximum -7- days. Other Metro centres and State Capitals (other than those of North Eastern States & Sikkim) - Maximum -10- days. All other centres : Maximum -14- days}.
- b) Where the delay is beyond 14 days interest will be paid at the rate applicable to for term deposit for the respective period.
- c) In case of extraordinary delay, i.e. delays exceeding 90 days interest will be paid at the rate of 2% above the corresponding Term Deposit rate.
- d) In the event the proceeds of cheque under collection was to be credited to an overdraft/loan account of the customer, interest will be paid at the rate applicable to the loan account. For extraordinary delays, interest will be paid at the rate of 2% above the rate applicable to the loan account.

It may be noted that interest payment as given above would be applicable only for instruments sent for collection within India.

The bank's compensation policy for financial loss suffered by the customers due to loss of instrument after it has been handed over to the bank for collection by the customer, is also incorporated in our collection policy. The same is extracted below for information:

“Cheques / Instruments lost in transit / in clearing process or at paying bank's branch:

In the event a cheque or an instrument accepted for collection is lost in transit or in the clearing process or at the paying bank's branch, the bank shall immediately on coming to know of the loss, bring the same to the notice of the accountholder so that the accountholder can inform the drawer to record stop payment and also take care that cheques, if any, issued by him / her are not dishonoured due to non-credit of the amount of the lost cheques / instruments. The bank would provide all assistance to the customer to obtain a duplicate instrument from the drawer of the cheque.

The bank will compensate the accountholder in respect of instruments lost in transit in the following way:

- a) In case intimation regarding loss of instrument is conveyed to the customer beyond the time limit stipulated for collection (7/10/14 days as the case may be) interest will be paid for the period exceeding the stipulated collection period at the rates specified above.
- b) In addition, bank will pay interest on the amount of the cheque for a further period of 15 days at Savings Bank rate to provide for likely further delay in obtaining duplicate cheque/instrument and collection thereof.
- c) The charges incurred for making stop payment of the lost cheque by the customer with the Paying Bank will be compensated by the Bank.
- d) The bank would also compensate the customer for any reasonable charges he/she incurs in getting duplicate cheque/instrument upon production of receipt, in the event the instrument is to be obtained from a bank/ institution who would charge a fee for issue of duplicate instrument.

6. Violation of the Code by banks agent

In the event of receipt of any complaint from the customer that the bank's representative / courier or DSA is engaged in any improper conduct or acted in violation of the Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers which the bank has adopted voluntarily, bank shall take appropriate steps to investigate and to handle the complaint and to compensate the customer for financial losses, if any.

7. Transaction of "At par instruments" of Co-operative Banks by Commercial Banks

As the full pre-funding of the account is obtained to the extent of the aggregate amount of instruments to be presented for payment under 'At Par' facility from our client, the Bank will honour all the cheques issued 'At Par' under the arrangement and will also be responsible to compensate the cheque holder for non payment/delayed payment of cheques in absence of adequate funding arrangement.

8. Force Majeure

The bank shall not be liable to compensate customers for delayed credit if some unforeseen event (including but not limited to civil commotion, sabotage, lockout, strike or other labour disturbances, accident, fires, natural disasters or other "Acts of God", war, damage to the bank's facilities or of its correspondent bank(s), absence of the usual means of communication or all types of transportation, etc.) beyond the control of the bank, prevents it from performing its obligations within the specified service delivery parameters.

9. Periodicity of Review of the Policy

The policy will be effective for one year from the date of approval and it will continue to be in force till the reviewed policy comes into place.
