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# THE LAW OF BANKING AND PAYMENT IN CANADA

Bradley Crawford, Q.C. Release No. 2, May 2023

## What's New in this Update:

This release adds new sections to Chapter 7, "Regulation of Payments Systems". The updates include sections on the scope of application, exemptions from, and requirements under the new retail payments regulatory framework.

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#### **Highlights:**

- § 7:54 Regulation of Payments Systems—Proposed Regulation of Retail Payment Services Providers—Retail Payments Regulatory Framework—The rapid pace of technological advancement and innovation has evolved retail payments in Canada, introducing innovative products provided by nontraditional payment service providers who are not subject to the same regulatory requirements as regulated financial entities. In an attempt to level the playing field and regulate entities by what they do rather than who they are, the federal government introduced Retail Payment Activities Act (the "Act") and corresponding proposed draft Retail Payment Activities Regulations (the "Regulations"). The Act received Royal Assent in June 2021 and applies to any "retail payment activity" performed by a "payment service provider" ("PSP") that has a place of business in Canada, and also applies to any retail payment activity performed for an "end user" in Canada by a PSP that does not have a place of business in Canada but directs retail payment activities at individuals or entities that are in Canada. The Bank of Canada (the "Bank") will be supervising PSPs under the Act.
- § 17:13 Recurring Debit and Credit Transfers—System Description and Terms of Participation—Duties of Sponsoring Financial Institution—Relations with Payor— Electronic authorizations and commercially reasonable **verification**—After a public consultation earlier in 2022, amendments to Rule H1 came into effect on October 3, 2022. Amendments made as a result of a holistic review of the entire Rule H1 by a Pre-Authorized Debit Working Group of the CPA (operating as Payments Canada) were effective October 3, 2022. The definition of "commercially reasonable" has been revised in the 2022 Rule H1 to allow payees to use forms of verification tailored to the particular circumstances of their business and PAD arrangement — e.g., the circumstances of the PAD, their relationship of the payee with the payor, and the payee's operational capabilities. A welcome amendment in the 2022 Rule H1 is the removal of the distinction between electronic and paper PAD agreements. Previously, Rule H1 required PAD agreements entered into electronically to additional verification requirements, including a minimum three-day lag before the first PAD. 2022 Rule H1 has removed the distinction between electronic and PAD agreements, such that agreements entered into in person and electronically are subject to the same requirements (i.e., there is no added procedure and onboarding time for electronic PAD agreements).

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