

THE INTERNAL SECURITY ASSESSOR (ISA) PROGRAM

ISA TRAINING PROGRAM DETAILS

In December, 2009, MasterCard introduced changes and revisions to the SDP Program to help enhance existing safeguards and ensure the integrity of payment card data. MasterCard has worked with the PCI SSC to expand its training and accreditation to the merchant community and on April 15, 2010, the PCI Security Standards Council announced the availability of the new Internal Security Assessor (ISA) Program designed to help promote greater consistency and improve the quality of training among merchant assessors, while also providing greater assessment options for merchants.

In June, 2011, MasterCard announced revisions to the SDP Program mandate by postponing the implementation date of the Level 1 and Level 2 merchant internal audit staff training and certification requirements until 30 June 2012. MasterCard has postponed the implementation date of the Level 1 and Level 2 merchant internal audit staff training and certification requirements to accommodate for the PCI SSC's global rollout of the ISA Program and to provide Level 1 and Level 2 merchants in all regions with the opportunity to attend the ISA Program and pass the associated accreditation examination.

The PCI SSC ISA Program is a Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) training and qualification program for eligible internal audit security professionals. The 2-day course helps participants improve their organization's understanding of PCI DSS and validate and maintain ongoing compliance through:

- Enhancing the quality, reliability, and consistency of internal PCI DSS self-assessments
- Supporting the consistent and proper application of PCI DSS measures and controls
- Effectively facilitating interactions with QSAs

For training dates and locations and to register for the ISA Program, please visit the PCI SSC Web site at: www.pcisecuritystandards.org/education/isa_training.shtml

ISA TRAINING AND THE MASTERCARD SITE DATA PROTECTION (SDP) PROGRAM

Level 1 merchants are required to successfully complete an annual onsite assessment conducted by a PCI SSC certified QSA or an Internal Security Assessor (ISA). Effective 30 June 2012, Level 1 merchants that use an internal auditor for completing an annual onsite assessment must ensure that primary internal auditor staff attend the PCI SSC ISA Program and pass the associated accreditation examination annually to continue to use internal auditors.

Level 2 merchants are required to successfully complete an annual self-assessment questionnaire. Effective 30 June 2012, Level 2 merchants must ensure that staff engaged in the self-assessment attend the PCI SSC ISA Program and pass the associated accreditation examination annually to continue the option of self-assessment for compliance validation. Alternatively, Level 2 merchants may, at their own discretion, complete an annual onsite assessment conducted by a PCI SSC-approved Qualified Security Assessor (QSA).