Gemalto Explains Contactless Payment

1. At a retailer, the card owner simply holds the card within two inches of the payment reader. No swiping is necessary and the card never leaves the owner’s hand.

2. The reader’s electromagnetic field wakes up a tiny computer in the card, and the encrypted credit/debit card number is transferred to the reader.

3. Information on the card cannot be altered. Privacy and security is ensured by mechanisms designed by Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

4. Typically, if the amount is below $25, no signature is required.

Source: Gemalto
How it works

Contactless payment

5 Research has shown that a contactless transaction is 53% faster than a traditional credit card, and 63% faster than using cash.

6 There is a traditional magnetic stripe on the card in case the merchant is unable to process contactless payments.