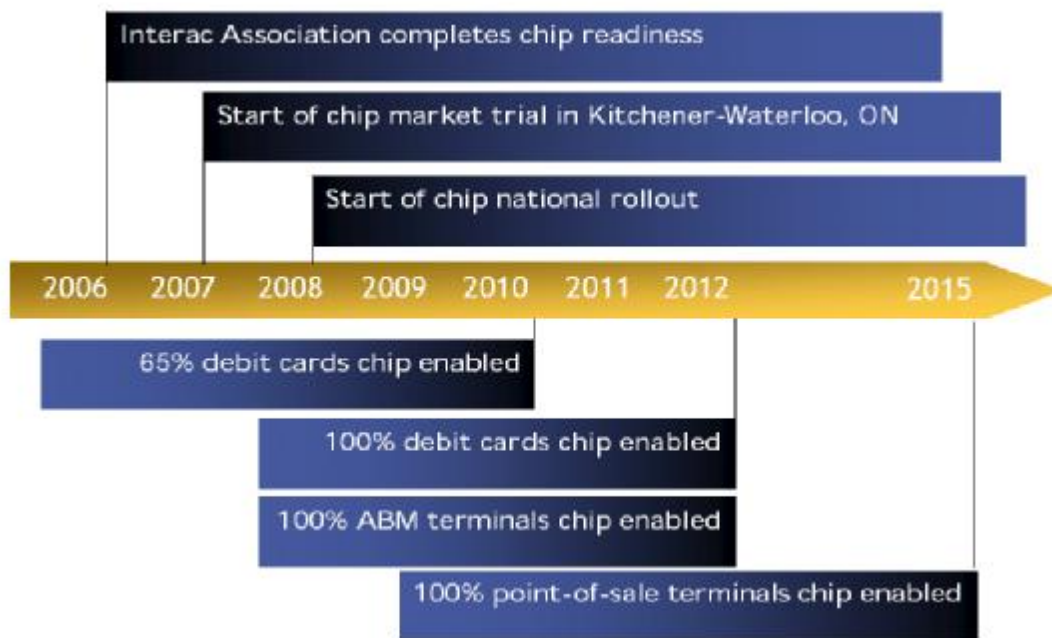




Beginning in 2007, cards, Automated Banking Machines and payment terminals will begin to feature chip technology, and within three years, it is expected that the majority of Canadians will be able to fully benefit from this new technology.

In order to ensure a smooth transition, Interac Association has set debit chip conversion deadlines. Magnetic stripe transactions will no longer be accepted at Automated Banking Machines after December 31, 2012 and will no longer be accepted at point-of-sale after December 31, 2015.

Chip cards will continue to carry the magnetic stripe, not only to facilitate the chip transition period, but also to allow cardholders to use their debit cards in other countries that do not use chip technology.



For more information, please contact:

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