

Submission re eBay International AG - Notification - N93365

This item was on the Ebay 'Member to Member' help forum, 16 June 2008

'My last two purchases on eBay, the sellers offered a variety of payment options, including bank deposit. I always prefer bank deposit as it's easily controlled & proven. But when I went to 'pay now' online both times - with different sellers - eBay automatically took me to PayPal which I don't use. I have had to arrange payment by e-mail direct with the sellers and I can't check off a payment made. This worries me greatly. I don't know if it's some bug with eBay, the sellers haven't set up the options properly (both were experienced), or if eBay is trying to subtly pressure us all to go with PayPal. Has anyone else encountered this? I have contacted eBay to no response.'

According to my buyers this is happening with alarming regularity. For several months Ebay has claimed this problem to be 'a glitch in the system' which they were 'attempting to rectify'.

Ebay will not allow sellers to back charge Paypal costs to buyers – airlines, and a wide variety of businesses backcharge credit card payment fees.

If Ebay is able to institute 'Paypal only' payment they will effectively increase postage & handling costs by at least 2% in most sales. They will also increase their income considerably by taking a share of these costs, to the detriment of buyers and sellers.

I have sold nearly 2000 items on Ebay in the past two years, with approximately 50% being paid by Bank Deposit or Australia Post Money Order without problems.

I believe that Ebay's Notification relates to profits not safety, it is anti competitive in that it denies buyers the right to choose what payment system they will use, and it forces buyers to provide personal and financial details to an international organisation which is able to avoid Australian legal requirements.

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