Abstract

An apparatus for recognising genuine electronic IC cards (2) in card readers (1), with means (4) for exchanging electronic data from and to an IC card circuit (3) includes a measuring means (12) for measuring a temporal delay Δt between an input signal (E) for the IC card (2) and a response signal (A) given by the IC card (2) as a response to the card reader (1), and a limit value memory (15) for permissible limit values of the measured delay Δt. The means for data exchange (4) are arranged for comparing the measured delay Δt with at least one permissible limit value or limit value range stored in the limit value memory (15). If the delay Δt measured with an IC card (2) exceeds the limits determined by the limit value or by the limit value range, the means for data exchange (4) interrupt the data exchange with the IC card (2) with a signal switch (16), and reject the IC card (2).

(Fig. 1)