INTERNATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN) AND BANK IDENTIFIER CODE (BIC) IN PAYMENTS
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This document describes the structures and verification of IBAN and BIC, and their usage in Finnish national and cross-border payments.

IBAN has been taken into use especially in Europe, but also in other parts of the world. In Finland, IBAN has replaced the previous national bank account number format (BBAN).

Cross-border payments often require beneficiary’s Bank Identifier Code (BIC) in addition to IBAN, but in Finnish SEPA-payments BIC is not required as of 1 February 2014. Other international (non-SEPA) payments can be transferred as before.

1 IBAN

IBAN (International Bank Account Number) is a bank account number standard published by the European Committee for Banking Standards (EBS 204). An international version of the standard (ISO 13616) was also later published by the International Organization for Standardization.

1.1 IBAN Structure

In Finland, IBAN is generated by combining the two-character country code, two-digit checksum and the 14-digit unique number. It can always be verified in the same way, and it does not require knowledge on how bank account numbers are generated and verified in each country.

A Finnish IBAN can unambiguously be recognized by the country code ‘Fl’ followed by two numbers.

The fifth to eighth characters of a Finnish IBAN indicate the specific bank or banking group as follows:

1nn = Nordea Bank (Nordea)
2nn = Nordea Bank (Nordea)
31n = Handelsbanken (SHB)
33n = Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB)
34n = Danske Bank
36n = S-Bank
37n = DnB NOR Bank (DnB NOR)
38n = Swedbank
39n = S-Bank
4nn = Savings Banks (Sp), local co-operative banks and Aktia Bank
5nn = Co-operative banks (Op) and OKO Bank
6nn = Bank of Åland
713 = Citibank
8nn = Danske Bank
1.2 IBAN verification

Converting characters into numbers
Before verifying an IBAN, each alphabetical character is converted into a number as follows. The conversion is not case-sensitive.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verifying checksum
- The country code and checksum are moved to the end of the account number
  - Example 1 (Finland): 12345600000785FI21
  - Example 2 (Netherlands): RABO0300065264NL39
- Alphabetical characters are converted into numbers, as explained above
  - Example 1: 12345600000785151821
  - Example 2: 271011240300065264232139
- The resulting number is divided by 97. If remainder from this division is 1, the IBAN has been formed correctly.

1.3 Usage

1.3.1 IBAN in incoming payments
Finnish companies must use IBAN in their invoices. They may also be required to include their BIC.

BIC is optional:
- as of 1 February 2014 in euro-denominated credit transfers within Finland
- as of 1 February 2016 in euro-denominated credit transfers within the euro area
- as of 31 October 2016 in all euro-denominated credit transfers between EU and EEA countries

In paper format, IBAN is printed on the invoice in four-character groups separated by spaces, starting from left:

- FI21 1234 5600 0007 85 paper format

The spaces are not used in electronic (computerised) format:

- FI211234560000785 electronic format

Examples of Finnish IBAN
FI211234560000785
FI = Country code of Finland (ISO)
21 = checksum
1 = Nordea Bank code
2345600000785 = unique part of the account number
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FI7536363001154921
  FI = Country code of Finland (ISO)
  75 = checksum
  36 = Tapiola Bank code
  363001154921 = unique part of the account number

1.3.2 IBAN in outgoing payments

When paying invoices within SEPA, the companies, communities and consumers use IBAN provided by the invoicer. The IBAN is entered in electronic format in the field reserved for account number. The beneficiary’s BIC is required in transfers made beyond SEPA, but is optional:

- as of 1 February 2014 in euro-denominated credit transfers within Finland;
- as of 1 February 2016 in euro-denominated credit transfers within the euro area;
- as of 31 October 2016 in all euro-denominated credit transfers between EU and EEA countries.

Examples of international IBAN

SE35500000000054910000003
  SE = Country code of Sweden (ISO)
  35 = checksum
  500 = SEB Bank code and office number
  5491000000 = account number
  3 = checksum

DK500400440116243
  DK = Country code of Denmark (ISO)
  50 = checksum
  0040 = bank and office number
  44011624 = account number
  3 = checksum

DE89370400440532013000
  DE = Country code of Germany (ISO)
  89 = checksum
  37040044 = bank code
  532013000 = account number

NL39RABO030065264
  NL = Country code of the Netherlands (ISO)
  39 = checksum
  RABO = bank identifier
  0300065264 = account number

2 Bank Identifier Code, BIC

BIC is an ISO 9362-compliant international Business Identifier Code, used in payments transmission together with the IBAN. The BIC register is administered and maintained by SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication), and for this reason, BICs are sometimes also referred to as SWIFT identifiers.
2.1 **BIC structure**

BIC has the length of 8–11 characters as follows:

- characters 1–4: bank code
- characters 5–6: ISO 3166-1 country code
- characters 7–8: location code
- characters 9–11: office code

When 8-character BIC is used, characters 9–11 can be replaced with “XXX”, in which case the BIC refers to the main office of the bank or banking group in question.

Finnish BIC examples:
- NDEAFIHH = Nordea Bank
- HELSFIHH = Aktia Bank
- OKOYFIHH = Pohjola Bank
- AABAFI22 = Bank of Åland
- DABAFIHH = Danske Bank
- HANDFIHH = Handelsbanken
- ESSEFIHX = Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
- DABAFIHX = Danske Bank
- DNBAFIHX = DnB NOR Bank
- TAPIFI22 = Tapiola Bank
- SWEDFIHH = Swedbank
- SBANFIHH = S-Bank

3 **Additional information**

Additional information is available from banks. Country-specific IBAN formats are available at [www.swift.com](http://www.swift.com).


Country codes: ISO-standard 31661
BIC codes: ISO-standard 9362
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Country codes: ISO-standard 3166
BIC codes: ISO-standard 9362