



# INTERNATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN) AND BANK IDENTIFIER CODE (BIC) IN PAYMENTS



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## INTERNATIONAL BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER (IBAN) AND BANK IDENTIFIER CODE (BIC) IN PAYMENTS

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 'FI' 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.

A=10	G=16	M=22	S=28	Y=34
B=11	H=17	N=23	T=29	Z=35
C=12	I=18	O=24	U=30	
D=13	J=19	P=25	V=31	
E=14	K=20	Q=26	W=32	
F=15	L=21	R=27	X=33	

### 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

FI2112345600000785

FI = Country code of Finland (ISO)

21 = checksum

1 = Nordea Bank code

2345600000785 = unique part of the account number



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

SE3550000000054910000003

SE = Country code of Sweden (ISO)

35 = checksum

500 = SEB Bank code and office number

5491000000 = account number

3 = checksum

DK5000400440116243

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

NL39RABO0300065264

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  
HELSEFIHH = 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).

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Bank\\_Account\\_Number](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Bank_Account_Number)

Country codes: ISO-standard 31661

BIC codes: ISO-standard 9362



  
Finanssialan Keskusliitto  
Bulevardi 28  
00120 Helsinki  
[www.fkl.fi](http://www.fkl.fi)



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