

Numerics Initiative: Updates to Key Resources to Help Clients Prepare for Eight-Digit BIN Migration

Global | Acquirers, Issuers, Processors, Agents

Visa, Interlink, Plus Networks; V PAY; Europe Processing



Overview: Visa has updated its Numerics Initiative resources to reflect the most current information related to client migration to the new eight-digit Bank Identification Number (BIN) industry standard. These critical enhancements are intended to assist clients in their analysis and development of necessary operations and systems changes to adhere to this new numerics standard.

Visa recognizes that clients need to plan carefully for the migration to the eight-digit Bank Identification Number (BIN) standard and the decision to expand existing BINs. As announced previously, effective with the April 2022 VisaNet Business Enhancements release, Visa will only assign eight-digit issuing BINs for new requests; six-digit BINs will no longer be assigned. Visa clarified in the 25 April 2019 edition of the *Visa Business News* that issuers have the discretion to convert any or all of their six-digit issuing BINs to eight digits, as well as to set their own timelines for expansion. Further, Visa will require all acquirers and processors (issuer and acquirer) to support the new lengths for issuing BINs and the changes to Visa-assigned processing identifiers.

Recent Updates to Numerics Initiative Resources

Most recently, Visa published updates to several key client resources related to the Numerics Initiative. These resources are intended to assist clients to prepare for the eight-digit migration and can be found on the [Numerics Initiative](#) page at Visa Online. Below is a brief summary of these updates.

- **Numerics Initiative: Guidelines for Migrating to the New Numerics Standard**, previously published as *Migrating to Eight-Digit BIN 2018 Guidelines*, was updated in November 2019 to include clarifying information related to the Issuing Identifier numeric and its usage; encryption keys, specifically impacts to the Zone Control Master Key (ZCMK); and testing opportunities for clients.
- **Numerics Initiative: Migrating to the New Numerics Standard—Frequently Asked Questions**, previously published as *Migrating to Eight-Digit BIN—Frequently Asked Questions*, was updated in November 2019 in response to client input to answer questions on processing identifiers, Issuer Public Key certificates, card reissuance and Visa Settlement Service report updates, as well as other topics of client interest.
- **Visa Numerics Impact Report**, which provides important information on the downstream Visa systems, tools and reports impacted by eight-digit BIN, was updated in January 2020 to reflect the most recent client communications and system enhancements.

The following training course, offered free of charge through [Visa Business School](#), is also available for client education:

- **Smart BIN Management, Policies and Resources** provides an overview of the upcoming eight-digit BIN and related Visa-assigned numeric changes. It helps clients understand how to manage their BIN portfolios for maximum efficiencies and be better prepared for the April 2022 effective date.

Visa is continually enhancing its approach to the new standard and the related supporting materials. Clients are therefore urged to regularly visit the Numerics Initiative page to review the most recent updates and ensure no key information related to this critical initiative is overlooked.

Start Planning for Numerics Changes Today

Given the potential size and scope of changes, Visa recommends clients begin analysis and planning now—well ahead of the April 2022 mandate. Although there are relatively few changes to VisaNet processing, Visa recognizes that many client and vendor systems and applications across the ecosystem may be using the six-digit International Organization for Standardization (ISO) BIN today, as well as the Visa processing identifiers that are expanding to 11 digits. The extent of necessary effort due to these updates will likely vary significantly by client; therefore, **Visa encourages clients to complete their impact analysis and begin development of the necessary changes prior to peak season of calendar year 2020, to ensure they are on track for the April 2022 VisaNet Business Enhancements release.**

The first step to prepare for the migration to new numerics standard is to analyze the impacts to your organization. Examples where impacts from expanding the issuing BIN may occur include billing, reporting, user interfaces, application interfaces, enrollment forms or anything that currently uses the six-digit issuing BIN.

Clients are encouraged to reach out to their Visa representative with questions about this initiative.

Note: Post 31 January 2020, the terms European Union, EU, European Economic Area and EEA will be updated with “and UK (and Gibraltar, where relevant)” in anticipation of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union.

For More Information

Merchants and third party agents should contact their acquirer.

© Visa. All Rights Reserved.