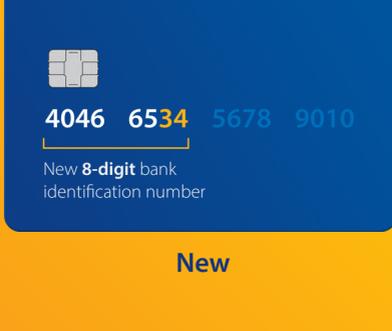


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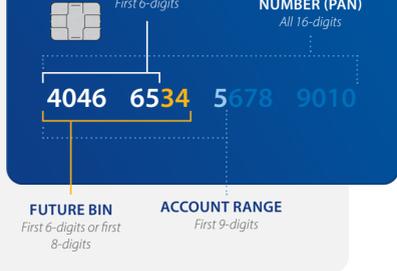
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# THE 8-DIGIT BIN EXPANSION IS COMING **APRIL 2022**

To address the industry shortage in supply, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) **EXPANDED THE LENGTH OF ISSUING BANK IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (BIN) FROM 6 TO 8 DIGITS**. Visa is supporting this change to fuel innovation of the payment ecosystem. Although the BIN lengths are changing from the first 6 to the first 8 digits of Visa Primary Account Numbers (PAN), PAN lengths, and 9-digit account range lengths will not be modified.

## Why are BINs changing from 6 digits to 8 digits?

A BIN is a numeric assigned by ISO to Visa and licensed by Visa to our clients. A BIN makes up the first digits of the Primary Account Number (PAN).



In 2016, ISO identified an industry shortage of BINs, spurred by the rapid growth of the payments business. As BINs are foundational to the payments business, an ISO-formed group of industry experts agreed to address the shortage by changing the standard from 6 to 8 digits.

Visa endorsed the standard in 2017 and announced April 2022 as its final effective date.

While Visa has an ample supply of BINs, it's supporting this change to ensure an adequate supply to help fuel future innovation.



## Did you know?

Although ISO is only assigning 8-digit BINs for new requests, for the foreseeable future, Visa credentials with 6-digit BINs will continue to exist. Therefore, **it is imperative that Service Providers are able to handle both 6 and 8-digit BINs** in back-end systems and transaction processing.



## Why does it matter?

Starting **April 2022**, Visa will only assign 8-digit BINs; 6-digit BINs will no longer be assigned. Migrating to 8-digit BINs will allow issuers the ability to support innovation and growth strategies by having a sufficient supply of BINs and to optimize growth costs.

Making the systems and process updates necessary to support 8-digit BINs can be a large effort and the repercussions of not having support in place by April 2022 can be significant. If you haven't started a project to make this important change, we highly recommend you start sooner than later.



To minimize cardholder impacts, PANs and tokens will not be modified. However, if updates are not made to support 8-digit BINs across the payments ecosystem there may be significant impacts to cardholder transaction processing.<sup>1</sup>



## What do service providers need to do?

**This is a significant change that will touch businesses globally**, so it's imperative that service providers assess the impacts of this change with clients, merchants, vendors and other partners and suppliers who support transaction processing, routing and downstream activities. **Partner readiness is critical to success** and collaboration across all customer and stakeholder groups is essential, as this is not just a technology project and **requires cross-functional attention**.



Service providers who make necessary changes early will be well positioned to support client needs as more issuers start adopting 8-digit BINs for their Visa portfolios.

1. It is important to evaluate any potential cardholder impacts related to the industry wide migration to 8-digit BINs with cross functional teams at your organization. For more information on how to assess program readiness, contact your Visa account representative or visit the [Numerics Initiative page on Visa.com](#).

**This is a significant change that will touch businesses globally.**



## What might happen if the requirements aren't met?

**Service Providers that use the first 6 digits of the PAN for services may experience a number of impacts in back-end systems** including transaction processing, issuing product management, cardholder servicing, ATM, merchant servicing and disputes, fraud management, data warehouse and reporting and other areas.

**Allowing adequate time** for communication and planning with clients, merchants, vendors and other partners and suppliers is a key planning consideration. If the new 8-digit BIN standard is not supported by the deadline, transaction processes may be impacted, and services provided to clients may be disrupted.



Failure points and severity will vary depending on the specific usage of the issuing BIN, set up of the supporting technology, dependencies across service providers and downstream process flows and associated outputs.



## Will there be any changes to PCI requirements?

There are no changes to PCI Requirements to "Mask PAN when displayed" and "Render PAN Unreadable when stored".

For service providers that do use the first 6 digits of the PAN for services, Visa has updated our truncation<sup>2</sup> requirement to allow for the removal of at least 4 digits, allowing a maximum of First 8 digits, and any other 4 digits to be stored.<sup>3</sup>

2. Truncation of the PAN by permanently removing a segment of the PAN is one of four approaches to render PAN unreadable.  
3. See PCI FAQ "What are acceptable formats for truncation of primary account numbers?"

## How do you know your business is ready for 8-digit BINs?

Given the BIN is not used in Visa processing, most of the changes required will not be visible to Visa as they are not your internal or proprietary systems. Use the following checklist as a guide to determine your readiness state:

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>  | <b>✓</b>  |
| <b>Actively engage</b>   | <b>Analysis underway</b>   | <b>Implementation</b>   | <b>Ready for 8-digit BINs</b>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct impact assessment across organization</li> <li>Learn about impacts to Visa card processing and downstream systems</li> <li>Inform management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish cross functional team</li> <li>Contact key partners, clients, merchants, suppliers and vendors</li> <li>Identify project scope and milestones</li> <li>Finalize plan and approve with management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve budget and schedule resources</li> <li>Complete organization-wide 8-digit BIN updates</li> <li>Confirm readiness with all key stakeholders</li> <li>Set up testing plan with all key stakeholders</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete testing and establish risk mitigations</li> <li>Communicate readiness to all stakeholders</li> <li>Establish process for live monitoring and ongoing maintenance</li> </ul> |



Service provider readiness must also include any partners, vendors, and other entities that participate in transaction processing on behalf of the service provider. It is imperative that service providers receive confirmation of 8-digit BIN readiness from all connected parties.

## How can Visa help?

Visa will continue to communicate regularly with payment industry stakeholders regarding the migration to the 8-digit BIN standard. We highly encourage you to visit our **Numerics Initiative Page** to learn more and to access the set of tools we've developed to help drive your analysis, planning and transition to this new industry standard.

Together, we're innovating the payment ecosystem. The ongoing evolution of digital payment products and form-factors will increase the necessity of our collective agility and speed to market. The continued advancement of our clients, partners and competitors empower all of us to move into the next generation of digital payments, together.



## If you have questions

If you have questions on how the 8-digit BIN industry change may affect your business or have questions specific to Visa's approach to the new 8-digit BIN standard, visit the **Numerics Initiative page on Visa.com** or reach out to **ServiceProviderNumericsSupport@visa.com**.

The 8-digit BIN expansion is coming.

**Get ready for April 2022.**