



SEPA Direct Debit - Creditor Identifier

SEPA Direct Debit debit has increased creditors' responsibilities, requiring them to restructure their processes and build in additional procedures. Under SEPA Direct Debit, creditors must add new information to mandates, store and archive in digital format and send mandate-related information with each transaction. Among the new information to be added to mandates is the Creditor Identifier.

What is a Creditor Identifier?

The Creditor Identifier is a uniform and standardised identification field used throughout Europe that unambiguously identifies the creditor. It cannot change over time, so debtor and the debtor's bank are able to return to the creditor for refunds and complaints. Each Creditor Identifier refers to just one creditor. A single creditor, however, is free to use one or more Creditor Identifiers to initiate collection instructions across SEPA. For the debtor, the Creditor Identifier can be a means to request a direct debit blockage.

Creditor Identifier structure

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------|------|----------|------|
| Digits 1-2 | ISO country code | | | | | |
| Digits 3-4 | Check digits according to 97 modulo ¹ check | | | | | |
| Digits 5-7 | Creditor Business code This code can be used to determine departments or subsidiaries and to determine the final destination of the funds and facilitate reconciliation when collecting at a central level. The creditor business code is issued by banks as 'ZZZ'. Creditors are free to fill this part out as they prefer, as the digits 5-7 are not involved in the 97 modulo calculation. For example, a telephone company can use the creditor business code 'INT' within the Creditor Identifier to refer to collections for the internet department or the creditor business code 'TEL' for collections for the telephone department. | | | | | |
| Digits 8 onwards ² | Country specific code with a country specific format | | | | | |
| Example | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>NL</td> <td>98</td> <td>ZZZ</td> <td>99999999</td> <td>0000</td> </tr> </table> | NL | 98 | ZZZ | 99999999 | 0000 |
| NL | 98 | ZZZ | 99999999 | 0000 | | |

¹ 97 modulo is a control number

² Up to a maximum of 35 digits

All countries apply the same uniform standardised Creditor Identifier structure. Only the last part is country specific and can differ per country.

Do I need a Creditor Identifier?

Yes. As a creditor you need a Creditor Identifier to enter into a SEPA Direct Debit agreement. The Creditor Identifier and Mandate Identifier together should be unique. The Creditor Identifier must be included in each collection and can be used throughout SEPA by a single creditor.

If you have multiple business units and/or operate in more than one country, you will need to determine how many Creditor Identifiers you require. One determining factor could be the countries in which you hold accounts and for which you initiate collection instructions. Another factor could be the structure of your treasury department, and whether it is centralised or decentralised.

The use of a single Creditor Identifier at the highest level, which can then be customised through the creditor business code, is recommended for centralised organisations. At more decentralised organisations, it may be advisable to apply for Creditor Identifiers for each department or subsidiary. Please contact your local ING consultant to help you find the best solution for your organisation.

How do I request a Creditor Identifier?

Most communities have their own specific procedures for obtaining Creditor Identifiers. They can be provided by national bank communities and associations, local institutions, and creditor banks. If a relationship is initiated between the creditor and the creditor bank, the creditor bank must provide or support the receipt of a Creditor Identifier. If you do not have a Creditor Identifier yet, please contact your local ING consultant. ING will help you obtain, or will provide you with a Creditor Identifier.

More information

For more information please contact your local ING consultant.

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