

1. What is an IBAN?

IBAN stands for **International Bank Account Number**. It is used internationally and is intended to be standardised for all countries as per the format advised by the International Standards Organisation (ISO). IBANs should be used, instead of an account number, when transferring funds to or from an account within Saudi Arabia.

Within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the format being followed is as follows:

A total of 24 characters (alphanumeric – without any spaces in-between).

SAXX4500000001123456001

SA | XX | 45 | 000000 | 001123456001

Item	Value	Comments
Country Code	SA	For Saudi Arabia
Check Digits	XX	Is used to verify the BBAN (Basic Bank Account Number) and the Country Code
Bank Identifier Code	45	For SABB
Additional Digits	000000	For standardisation – fixed at six zeros for SABB (varies for other banks)
Account Number	001123456001	SABB Account number – fixed at twelve characters for SABB (varies for other banks)

For example:

SAXX4500000001123456001



24 characters long, no spaces

SAXX 4500 0000 0011 2345 6001



Spaces in-between

SAXX450000000112345601



23 characters long

As mandated by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA), it is being implemented by all banks, and will be made mandatory for all SAR payments made to local banks.

2. When should I use IBAN?

If you are making payments within Saudi or to some specific countries currently using the IBAN.

3. What happens if I don't quote the IBAN of the beneficiary whilst initiating a payment? How about receiving payments without IBAN?

Although the payment will be processed, it might be delayed. Also, at a later date, these payments may be rejected.

The Bank will not reject a payment received with a valid account number, but without a valid IBAN, at this stage. However, this may be rejected at a later date.

4. Do I need to quote IBAN for SABB-to-SABB transfers?

While IBANs are not required for internal SABB payments, it is a good idea to include the IBAN, which will be validated against the algorithm provided by SAMA (used as a self-check on the IBAN).

5. Is it applicable for overseas payments as well?

While IBAN usage is mandatory for payments to some countries, it is not mandatory for all overseas payments. With regard to receipt of foreign currency payments, the remitting bank will also be required to quote an IBAN for all payments to beneficiaries based in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

6. Which other countries require an IBAN?

The following list shows countries that use the IBAN as an international standard for identifying their bank accounts:

Albania	Gibraltar	Netherlands
Andorra	Greece	Norway
Austria	Greenland	Palestine, State of
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Poland
Bahrain	Iceland	Portugal
Belgium	Ireland	Romania
Bulgaria	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Croatia	Jordan	Slovakia
Cyprus	Kuwait	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Latvia	Spain
Denmark	Lebanon	Sweden
Estonia	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Faroe Islands	Lithuania	Tunisia
Finland	Luxembourg	Turkey
France	Malta	United Arab Emirates
Georgia	Mauritania	
Germany	Moldova	

If you are receiving cross-border payments, please give your IBAN to anyone who needs to make payments to you. You can get your IBAN from SABBNET or by calling our Contact Center.