Verification of Payee (VOP)

The IBAN name check for SEPA payments, and how our BAV Service and IBAN Suite fit in

Verification of Payee, also known as an IBAN name check, confirms before a payment is authorised whether the name of the payee belongs to the IBAN. It stops misdirected payments and invoice fraud before any money moves.

What the regulation requires

- **Legal basis:** the Instant Payments Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2024/886.
- **Euro area:** mandatory since **9 October 2025** for payment service providers (PSPs) in the 20 Member States that had the euro on that date.
- **Bulgaria:** adopted the euro on 1 January 2026; its PSPs have until **1 January 2027**.
- **Non-euro EU Member States:** deadline **9 July 2027**.
- **Scope:** credit transfers in euro, both standard (SCT) and instant (SCT Inst). The check is free of charge for the payer.

How a check works

1. **You** enter the name and the IBAN
2. **Your bank** sends a VOP request before the payment
3. **IBAN to BIC** the account holding BIC shows which bank to ask — IBAN Suite
4. **Payee's bank** compares the name with its account holder
5. **Answer** comes back within seconds

The four results

Result	What it means	What to do
Match	The name belongs to the IBAN.	Pay.
Close match	The name is almost right. The name of the account holder is shown.	Compare it with your invoice, correct the name and pay.
No match	The name does not belong to the IBAN.	Do not pay until you have confirmed the details with the payee, using contact details you already know.
Check not possible	The payee's bank could not answer.	Verify the details another way before you pay.

Two services, two jobs

BAV Service

FOR COMPANIES THAT PAY SUPPLIERS

- Performs the whole IBAN name check with one API request.
- You send only the IBAN and the name.
- The account holding BIC is retrieved automatically.
- Returns one of four results: match, close match, no match or unavailable.

IBAN Suite

FOR PSPS AND VOP PROVIDERS

- Used only to retrieve the account holding BIC from an IBAN.
- Lets you route each VOP request you send to the correct bank.
- Does not perform the IBAN name check itself.
- REST API for automation.

Why the BIC matters. A VOP request can only be routed when the BIC of the bank that holds the account is known. This account holding BIC has to be retrieved from the IBAN, and it is not always the BIC written on an invoice or entered by the payer.

BAV Service coverage

United States, **United Kingdom** and **20 euro area countries:** Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Bulgaria is not supported yet.

Good to know

- **Payment intent:** a VOP request may only be made with the intent to make a payment. There is no public lookup that shows who owns an IBAN.
- **Genuine supplier, "no match":** usually the name entered is a trading name or an abbreviation, not the name the bank holds. Ask the payee for the exact name of the account holder, and print yours next to the IBAN on your own invoices.
- **Bulk payments:** businesses may opt out of the check at their bank for payment orders submitted together as a package; single payments are always checked.

About us

ISO/IEC 27001:2022
Certified information security management system

ISO 9001:2015
Certified quality management system

Hosted in the EU
Google Cloud infrastructure in Frankfurt, Germany

Since 2011
Payment validation for businesses globally

See it working
Animated example, country map and frequently asked questions

www.iban.com/verification-of-payee

© 2026 IBAN.COM, GW SOLUTIONS Ltd. · November 2026