

Jurisdiction's name:	PANAMA
Information on Tax Identification Numbers	
Section I – TIN Description	
<p>Please provide here a narrative description of the criteria governing the issuance of the TIN (e.g. some jurisdictions may only issue TINs to individuals, or to individuals that are filing tax returns; other jurisdictions may also issue TINs to (a subset of) Entities). In addition, information about the TIN issuing bodies, as well as the taxes for which the TIN is used as means of identification (e.g. income tax, wage tax, withholding taxes, VAT, etc.). In case a jurisdiction issues separate TINs for different taxes (e.g. income taxes, VAT, etc.), please only provide information in relation to the TINs you would expect to be provided for identification purposes in the context of the CRS.</p> <p>Furthermore, jurisdictions may provide any useful information regarding the validity and frequency of renewal of TINs, as well as any recent changes made to the structure of their TINs.</p> <p>Any further information regarding TINs that jurisdictions deem useful for publication on the CRS Portal may also be added in this narrative section.</p> <p>The Single Taxpayer Registry (<i>Registro Único de Contribuyente</i>, RUC) is the Tax Identification Number of every Panamanian natural or legal person. The RUC is therefore an individual unique number that identifies and distinguishes natural or legal persons for tax purposes. Every Legal Person incorporated in Panama, whether it operates or not in the Republic of Panama, must have a RUC.</p> <p>For a natural person, the RUC number is the same as their personal identity card number.</p> <p>For a legal person, the RUC number is the registration number granted by the Commercial Entities Section (<i>Sección de Personas Mercantiles</i>) of the Public Registry of Panama (<i>Registro Público de Panamá</i>). It includes data like micro jacket, roll, image and the year of incorporation.</p> <p>Those who, due to their migratory nature cannot meet the registration requirements for a natural person's RUC, must be assigned a Tax Number (<i>Número Tributario</i>, NT), which is the identification of such taxpayer for tax matters. The RUC of foreign natural persons will be identified with the prefix NT.</p> <p>In the cases of Legal Persons that do not have Legal Status, because they were born in accordance with special laws, a Tax Number (NT) will be assigned to identify the taxpayer and the responsibility of such taxpayer, before the Tax Administration.</p> <p>The Directorate General of Revenue (<i>Dirección General de Ingresos</i>, DGI) allocates a check number (<i>dígito verificador</i>, DV) to all RUC numbers for control purposes. In all cases, the DV will be a two (2) digits number. It originates from an algorithm that validates the structure and registration of the RUC.</p> <p>The RUC is activated once its registration has been requested before the DGI of the Ministry of Economy and Finances (<i>Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas</i>, MEF). Everyone living in Panama can request a RUC or NT.</p> <p>The assigned RUC is unique and non-transferable for each taxpayer. Taxpayers must comply with the tax obligation to update the information in their RUC, in accordance with current legal regulations. In the event of dissolution, elimination, death or any change of circumstances of the taxpayer, it must be notified to the DGI.</p> <p>The DGI registers and activates the RUC at the request of the taxpayer and subject to an enrolment procedure in the Single Taxpayers Registry Section (<i>Sección de RUC</i>) of the DGI, which can be</p>	

managed online. Registration of the RUC is essential for the tax compliance of natural and legal persons that cause or must withhold taxes based on the economic activities they engage in, therefore covering all national taxes established in the Tax Code of the Republic Panama (*Código Fiscal*). There are no separate RUCs for different taxes. For these purposes, it is important to consider that Panama has a territorial tax system.

The legal basis for the RUC is Law 76 of December 22, 1976 and the last changes made to the structure of the RUC were in 2014 by Executive Decree 847.

Executive Decree 847 of October 20, 2014 orders the use of the Electronic Registry Enrolment System (*Sistema Electrónico de Inscripción Registral*, SEIR), which replaces the registration method of the record and document with the electronic real folio, consequently generating a restructuring of the RUC format for legal entities as of October 24, 2014.



ATTENTION

Please take the following into account for the purposes of the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) and FATCA reporting:

1. The TIN expected to be provided would be the RUC.
2. The hyphens separating the sets of digits are required.
3. The DV number is not required.

It is very important to note that in the case of Panama, the TIN understood as the Tax Identification Number of each taxpayer corresponds to the RUC. The tax identification number (*Número de Identificación Tributario*, NIT) is the access code to manage online, the procedures and services offered by the DGI through its website. Therefore, it should not be confused with the RUC.

Additional information on the mandatory issuance of Tax Identification Numbers (TINs)

Question 1 – Does your jurisdiction automatically issue TINs to all residents for tax purposes?

Individuals	[No]	Entities	[No]

Question 2a – If you answered No to Question 1 with respect to individuals, describe those instances where individuals are not being automatically issued a TIN.

Response: The issuance of the RUC is not automatic; the taxpayer must submit an application through a registration process.

Question 2b – If you answered No to Question 1 with respect to Entities (as defined by the CRS), describe those instances where Entities are not being automatically issued a TIN.

Response: The issuance of the RUC is not automatic; the taxpayer must submit an application through a registration process.

Section II – TIN Structure

This section contains information on the alphanumeric structure of the TIN, the use of slashed, capital letter, hyphens, etc. In addition, please outline here the meaning given to the numbers and letters that make up the TIN (including for instance the use of check digits).

- Natural Person: Consists of the number of the holder's personal identity card with an assigned DV.

For example: 8-100-678 DV: 90

The first number identifies the province or region (1-13) of birth of the taxpayer.

There can be different lengths for a Natural Person's RUC. According to the structure, you may have RUCs for natural persons that can have up to 5, 6, 7, 8 or even more characters in the future. RUC structures can be as follows:

[1 to 2 digits] – [1 to 4 digits] – [1 to 4 digits] DV

- Legal Person: Consists of the registration number in the Public Registry with an assigned DV.

For older companies, registered before 1985, the entry consists of numbers, periods, letters, and/or other characters. In these cases, the RUC number should be registered using only the numerical digits that compose it.

For example: 4789-321-1515 DV: 85

The new structure of the RUC (as of Q3 2014) is Real Folio-2-YYYY or Real Folio-3-YYYY depending on the type of company since there are two consecutive after the FOLIO, one for Commercial Companies (2) and another for Non-Commercial Companies (3), being YYYY the year of registration of the company.

The Real Folio-2-YYYY structure will apply to the following types of companies:

Limited liability
Anonymous society
Limited Partnership by Shares
Simple Limited Partnership
Branches or Agencies of Foreign Companies
Collective Societies

For example: 155986022-2-2019 DV: 12

The Real Folio-3-YYYY structure will apply to the following types of companies:

Private Interest Foundations
Non-profit Associations
Civil Partnerships

For example: 26631254-3-2020 DV: 78

The sequential of the Folio comprises of 9 digits for commercial companies and 8 digits for non-commercial companies. It is consecutive and incremental and it will not be limited only to this number of digits, but will grow over time.

According to data from the Public Registry of Panama, to date there have been four generations of RUC for entities, namely:

1st Generation	TOME	FOLIO	ENTRY	1913-1974
2nd Generation	ROL	IMAGE	TAB	1974-1999
3rd Generation	REDI DOC	1	TAB	1999 – October 21 2014
4th Generation	REAL	2(*) 3(*)	YYYY	October 24 2014 - to date

2 (*) Commercial Companies

3 (*) Non-Commercial Companies

The RUC for foreigners residing in Panama corresponds to the Tax Number, assigned by the DGI and identified with the letters NT.

For example: 3-NT-3-33 DV: 45

As additional information for reference purposes only, for Estates (*Fincas*), before Executive Decree 847 of October 20 2014, their RUC was made up of the estate number and the location code. The first number of the location code indicates the province where the property is located.

For example: 000001-8001 (8 = Panama Province)

With the implementation of the SEIR, Estates that originate with the new system will be identified with a Real Electronic Folio Number, without using data such as volume, document, roll, etc. The new Electronic Real Folios -FINCAS- originating from segregations will have 8 digits.

Section III – Where to find TINs

Please list here the official documents where the TIN can be found, such as the photo page of passports, social security cards, corporate documents, etc. Ideally, jurisdictions would provide scans of the documents on which they would highlight the place where the TIN can be found.

Regarding individuals, RUC can be found in the personal identity card (*Cédula de Identidad Personal*, C.I.P), driver licence, and the photo page of the passport.



Panamanian Personal Identity Card

Decree number 53 of July 29, 1958 regulates the preparation and issuance of the ID card and on its Article 9 regulates the ID numbering as follows:

- For Panamanian citizens by birth, the key number of the applicant's province of birth is used, followed by the volume and entry in which it appears registered in the Civil Registry.
For example: 8-926-1601
- Panamanians born abroad will bear the letters (PE), followed by the volume and entry in which it appears registered in the Civil Registry.
For example: PE-5-687.
- Naturalized Panamanians will bear the letter (N), followed by the volume and entry in which the definitive letter of nature is registered in the Civil Registry.
For example: N-19-473
- For foreigners legally domiciled in the country, the letter (E) will be used, followed by the code number of the province where the application originated and finally the number of the application's entry order.
For example: E-8-74258



Panamanian Driver Licence



Panamanian Passport Photo Page

Regarding legal persons or entities, there are no similar documents containing the assigned RUC number. It can be found in Tax Returns and other tax forms and in some legal documents.

Section IV – TIN information on the domestic website

Please provide here hyperlinks to their domestic website where further information on TINs can be found. In addition, please provide a link to an online TIN-verification tool, if available.

To verify a Panamanian Tax Identification Number (RUC):

First, go to the official webpage of the Directorate General of Revenue (DGI) <https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/>

Then click on the button "e-Tax 2-0" at the top of the screen 

Go to "CONSULTAS" (Queries) menu and click on the submenu "Consulta RUC activos" (Active RUC query)

Write the name of the person or company to consult.

Click "BUSCAR" (Search)

For consulting the Check Digit (DV), do as follows:

First, go to the official page of the Directorate General of Revenue <https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/>

Then click on the button "e-Tax 2-0" at the top of the screen 
Go to the "REGISTRO" (Register) menu and click on the submenu "DIGITO VERIFICADOR" "Verification digit"

Enter the information of the RUC as requested to consult.

Regardless of the DV, if the Name/Company Name (*Nombre/Razón Social*) field shows UNREGISTERED TAXPAYER (*Contribuyente No Inscrito*), it means that the taxpayer has not registered with the DGI and therefore their RUC is not active.

Other useful information:

RUC FAQ:

<https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/Preguntas/ruc>

Inscripción y Actualización del RUC:

<Guía de Usuario DGI - Solicitud de Inscripción y Actualización de RUC.pdf>

Formulario de Registro Único de Contribuyentes:

<https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/Form-Tramites/FormulariosPdf/Formulario-RUC-2023.pdf>

About the Panamanian ID:

<https://www.tribunal-electoral.gob.pa/direccion-nacional-de-cedulacion/>

Public Registry of the Republic of Panama:

<https://registro-publico.gob.pa/>

Section V – Contact point for further information

Please provide here the contact details of the competent service authority, which can be contacted in case of further questions on TINs.

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