EU VRN Validation Service

Within the European Union (EU), a valid Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Number (VRN) strongly indicates if you are transacting with a business and whether that business is entitled to charge VAT or not be charged VAT. EU member states expect businesses to know their suppliers and customers—and whether or not they hold valid VAT registrations.
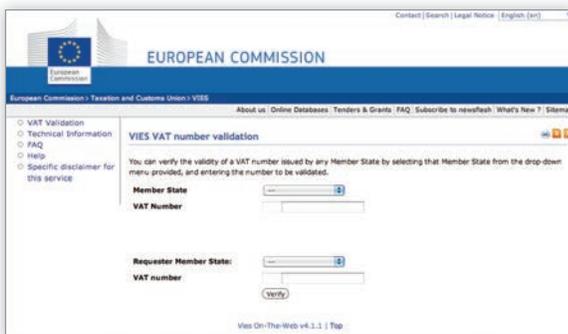
The implications of not checking VRN validity vary from member state to member state and from transaction to transaction. They might include:

- Support for zero-rating supplies

- Support for entitlement to deduct input tax

- Requirement to register for VAT in another member state due to "distance sales"

Traditional Options for VRN Validation

The European Commission and the member states do not make it easy to validate VRNs.

VIES VAT number validation – The VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) VAT number validation service on the European Commission's website only allows users to validate one number at a time. Furthermore, information from the page is obtained via copy/paste/reformat rather than simple export.

WSDL interface – The Web Service Description Language (WSDL) interface, published on the European Commission's website, allows a sufficiently skilled Information Technology professional to create a program to validate numbers in a batch. However, unlike a VRN validation through the European Commission's VIES VAT number validation website, a WSDL validation does not return a confirmation number with the validation.

Ryan's EU VRN Validation Service

Ryan's EU VRN validation service validates a batch of VRNs while returning a confirmation number—combining the best of both traditional offerings. In addition to the confirmation number, our validation service also returns the registered person's name and address via the VIES service. (This varies by member state.)

Our report summarises results by member state to allow you to quickly spot trends. We also extract the numbers flagged as invalid, so you have a separate list from which to work. In addition, we also review for the following to help with your analysis:

- **"Fake"** – Some numbers are obviously wrong. Examples include "12345," "11111," etc. Our review highlights these to distinguish from other errors that may be more legitimate.

- **"Format"** – Our review highlights numbers that may be invalid because of a typographical error on entry (e.g., an extra character or digit).

- **"Name"** – If your data and the member state's validation data both include names, we attempt a name match based on the first word, and then review and adjust where needed (e.g., "AB Consulting" and "A.B. Consulting").

Key Features:

- Batch processing
- VIES confirmation number
- Fake numbers review
- Format review
- Name matching