

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, RUC</i>) 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. Without this identification number, stakeholders will not be able to exercise any commercial dealings in Panama. It is important to note that, although it may not be feasible to exercise an economic activity in Panama without having a RUC, every Legal Person registered in Panama whether it operates or not in the Republic of Panama must have a RUC.</p> <p>The RUC of a natural person consists of the number of their personal identity card accompanied by a check digit (<i>dígito verificador, DV</i>) allocated by the General Directorate of Revenue (<i>Dirección General de Ingresos, DGI</i>), while for a legal person corresponds to their assigned registration number at the Public Registry (<i>Registro Público</i>) followed by either a combination of other registry numbers provided by the Public Registry Office (i.e. microjacket, roll, or image) or, by the year of its incorporation, with a DV as well.</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, NT</i>), 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>Tax Numbers (NT) must also be supplemented with a DV.</p> <p>The Tax Identification Number in Panama (RUC) is assigned once it has been requested before the General Directorate of Revenue of the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Everyone living in Panama can request a RUC or NT.</p> <p>The assigned RUC is unique and non-transferable for each taxpayer. In case of modification of the RUC data, said modifications must be communicated to the DGI. It will be in force while the</p>	

taxpayer is active, and must be notified to the DGI in the event of dissolution, elimination, death, etc., of the taxpayer.

The DGI creates and activates the RUC at the request of the taxpayer and subject to an enrolment procedure in the Single Taxpayers Registry Section (*Sección de RUC*) of the General Directorate of Revenue, which can be performed online. Registration of RUC is essential for the tax compliance of natural and/or 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. For these purposes, it is important to consider that Panama has a territorial tax system.

Its Legal basis 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, SIR*), 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.

There are no separate RUCs for different taxes. **For Identification purposes in the context of CRS, TIN expected to be provided would be the RUC.**

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 General Directorate of Revenue through its website. This key or password will be personal and non-transferable and accepted by the DGI for all purposes, as an electronic signature and it is the taxpayer's responsibility to preserve its privacy. Therefore, it is a private number that should not be confused with the RUC, also often translated and related to as Tax Identification Number or TIN.

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]
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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 6, 7, 8 or more characters in the future.

You can have RUCs structures, for example, as follows:

X-XX-XXX DV
X-XXX-XXX DV
X-XXX-XXXX DV

• **Legal Person:** Consists of the registration number assigned by the Public Registry with an assigned DV. For companies registered before 1985, the entry consists of numbers, periods and/or other characters.

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 consecutives 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 FOLIO	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

In all cases, the DV will be a two (2) digits number.

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 Electronic Registry Enrolment System, the new 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 or birth certificate.



Panamanian Identity Card

Decree number 53, of July 29, 1958 regulates the preparation and issuance of the ID card and Article 9 of the same decree 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

Regarding entities, there is no official document containing the assigned RUC number. It can be found in Tax Returns and other tax forms.

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 General Directorate of Revenue (DGI) <https://dgi.mef.gob.pa>

Then click on the button "e-Tax 2-0"

Go to the "Queries" (CONSULTAS) menu and click on the submenu "Active RUC Query" (CONSULTAS RUC ACTIVO)

Write the name or company name to consult.

Click search

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

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

Then click on the button "e-Tax 2-0"

Go to the "REGISTER" (REGISTRO) menu and click on the submenu "VERIFICATION DIGIT" (DIGITO VERIFICADOR)

Enter the information of the RUC as requested to consult.

Other useful information:

<https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/Registro.php>

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

<https://dgi.mef.gob.pa/PreguntasFrecuentes/ruc.php>

<https://etax2.mef.gob.pa/etax2web/Login.aspx#>

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

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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