

Revenue



Cáin agus Custaim na hÉireann
Irish Tax and Customs

Electronic Tax Clearance Verification Web Service Specification

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0 Document Information

Synopsis

This document contains information regarding testing of the third party verification web service for electronic Tax Clearance Certificates.

Document Change History

Table 0-1: Change History

Version Number	Sections Affected	Change Description	Date
1.0	ALL	Initial Version of Document	10/09/2015
1.1	2.1.1	Updated to reflect the fact that old style VAT Numbers are valid. Also updated letters in Tax Reference Numbers.	12/10/2017
1.2	2.1.1	Updated to reflect that there are 5 taxRef number formats	29/06/2021
1.3	2.1	Updated HTTP requests to use correct URL	12/01/2022

Abbreviations used in this document

Table 0-2: Acronyms and Abbreviations List

Abbreviation	Description
GN	Government Networks
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
PPSN	Personal Public Service Number
REST	Representational State Transfer
TRN	Tax Reference Number
PSB	Public Sector Body

1 Introduction

Revenue will enable Public Sector Bodies (PSBs) to verify the Tax Clearance Certificates of customers electronically over Government Networks using a secure web service.

1.1 Electronic Tax Clearance

The electronic Tax Clearance project is designed to give effect to the legislative provisions of S95 of Finance Act 2014; which provided for electronic tax clearance and for review and rescission of tax clearance certificates.

It will provide a more up-to-date picture of a customer's Tax Clearance Certificate status on a given date and will reduce the opportunity for persons to trade on a printed Tax Clearance Certificate, which might have no bearing on the person's current Tax Clearance Certificate status.

1.2 Government Networks

Government Networks (GN) is a private, managed, wide area network (WAN) connecting Government PSBs on a data, voice and video capable network.

GN is designed primarily to support existing and future Government applications and to facilitate easy, efficient, secure and reliable communication between Government PSBs. GN offers a number of potential cost and operational benefits to participating PSBs and to government:

- Facilitates inter-PSB collaboration and delivery of joined-up government services by providing a secure connectivity environment for data exchange/sharing.
- Takes care of many standard day-to-day infrastructure services so PSBs can focus their resources on providing their core programmes and services.
- Security of government information systems is significantly improved by consolidating expertise and resources at a small number of network connections.

Revenue will be providing a secure web service over Government Networks to allow PSBs to verify a customer's Tax Clearance Certificate.

Web Service Verification of Tax Clearance Certificates

The web service will allow a body to verify whether or not a customer currently holds a valid Tax Clearance Certificate. This verification includes both electronic TCCs and paper TCCs. This means that if a customer does not currently have an electronic TCC but has a paper TCC, the web service will verify that the customer has a valid TCC.

The web service will work on a per-customer basis; this means a separate request is required for each customer.

The web service will also require the details of the body carrying out verification.

Revenue will keep an audit of all requests made to the Verification web service. In addition, Revenue recommends that PSBs also keep an independent record/log of their requests.

2 Service Description

The service requires two query parameters, one parameter to specify the body carrying out the verification and one parameter to specify the customer to verify tax clearance for. The response will contain a field to indicate whether or not the customer currently holds a valid tax clearance certificate and a field containing the date and time that the verification was carried out.

2.1 HTTP Request

The service can be accessed via an HTTP request with the following format:

```
GET https://[domain]/live/etc-web/restful/taxclearancecert?[parameters]
```

2.1.1 Parameters

Table 2-1 Request Parameters

Name	Type	Description	Required
verifierTaxRefNumber	String	Tax Reference Number (TRN) of the body carrying out the tax clearance verification. There are two valid formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNNNNNNX (e.g. 1234567A) • NNNNNNNXX (e.g. 1234567AH) 	Yes

taxRefNumber	String	Tax Reference Number (TRN) or PPSN of customer for which tax clearance is being verified. There are five valid formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NNNNNNNX (e.g. 1234567A) • NNNNNNNXX (e.g. 1234567AH) • NXNNNNNX (e.g. 8A12345T) • XNNNNNNX (e.g. T1234567A) • XNNNNNNNXX (e.g. T1234567AH) 	Yes
verifierRef	String	An internal reference identifier for use if required by the verifier.	No

Please note that the web service verification operates on a per-customer basis, so each customer will require a separate call to the web service.

2.1.2 Example

```
GET https://[domain]/live/etc-web/restful/
taxclearancecert?verifierTaxRefNumber=2233224N&taxRefNumber=1234567A
```

2.1.3 Authentication

Requests to the service will require HTTP basic access authentication. The necessary credentials do not form part of this document.

2.2 Response

If successful, the service returns with a 200 OK HTTP status code and a JSON response containing the result of the tax clearance verification, as follows:

2.2.1 Structure

Successful JSON responses will adhere to the following structure:

```
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/schema#",
  "title": "Tax Clearance Certification Verification Web Service Response",
  "description": "Response from the Tax Clearance Certification Verification Web Service",
  "id": "/",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "verifierTaxRefNumber": {
      "id": "verifierTaxRefNumber",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "taxRefNumber": {
      "id": "taxRefNumber",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "verifierRef": {
      "id": "verifierRef",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "firstName": {
      "id": "taxRefNumber",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "mainName": {
      "id": "taxRefNumber",
      "type": "string"
    },
    "taxClearanceCertExists": {
      "id": "taxClearanceCertExists",
      "type": "boolean"
    },
    "dateTimeVerified": {
      "id": "dateTimeVerified",
      "type": "string"
    }
  },
  "additionalProperties": false,
  "required": [
    "taxRefNumber",
    "mainName",
    "verifierTaxRefNumber",
    "taxClearanceCertExists",
    "dateTimeVerified"
  ]
}
```

2.2.2 Example

Please find an example below of a successful response for the example request in the previous section. The data in this response is for illustration purposes only.

```
{
  "verifierTaxRefNumber": "2233224N",
  "taxRefNumber": "1234567T",
  "firstName": "JOHN",
  "mainName": "DOE",
  "taxClearanceCertExists": true,
  "dateTimeVerified": "2015-08-13T12:20:14+0100"
}
```

2.2.3 Response Field Details

Table 2-2 Response Fields

Name	JSON Type	Description	Required
verifierTaxRefNumber	String	Verifier TRN supplied in the request.	Yes
taxRefNumber	String	Customer TRN supplied in the request.	Yes
verifierRef	String	An internal reference identifier for use if required by the verifier.	No
firstName	String	The first name of the customer (for individuals)	No
mainName	String	The surname, company name or partnership name	Yes
taxClearanceCertExists	Boolean	True if the customer currently holds a valid Tax Clearance Certificate. False if the customer does not currently hold a valid Tax Clearance Certificate.	Yes
dateTimeVerified	String	Date and Time that the verification was carried out. This would be returned in the following format: yyyy-MM-dd'T'HH:mm:ssX An example of this format is below: 2015-08-13T12:20:14+0100	Yes

2.2.4 HTTP Status Codes

The following table provides a summary of HTTP status codes that may be returned from the service.

Table 2-3 HTTP Status Codes

Code	Description
200 OK	Standard response for successful HTTP requests.
400 Bad Request	<p>The request cannot be fulfilled due to bad syntax. This will include a description of why the status occurred. The possible values for this description are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invalid Parameter: Request does not include a required parameter - Invalid Parameter: Invalid format for customer taxRefNumber parameter - Invalid Parameter: Invalid format for verifierTaxRefNumber parameter
401 Unauthorized	The user credentials are not authorised for this service.
404 Not Found	<p>The requested resource could not be found but may be available again in the future. This will include a description of why the status occurred. The possible values for this description are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requested customer taxRefNumber is unknown to Revenue - Requested verifierTaxRefNumber is unknown to Revenue
500 Internal Server Error	The server encountered an unexpected condition which prevented it from fulfilling the request.
503 Service Unavailable	The server is currently unable to handle the request.

3 Other Considerations

3.1 Network Connectivity

Once available the hostname of the test Revenue verification web service will be published to the Government DNS. However in order to gain access at a network level connectivity will have to be enabled by both Revenue and by the Public Sector Body wishing to connect to the web service.

3.2 Service Availability

Please note that while every effort is made to ensure availability of the test web service, this is not a live web service. As such, no guarantees can be made as to the availability of the test web service.

3.3 Technical Support

Technical support queries should be directed to Revenue Tax

Clearance support at: CGsTaxClearanceGroup@revenue.ie