



## Unique Identification Numbers for Depositors of Licensed Banks and Licensed Finance Companies

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) mandated all licensed banks and licensed finance companies to record unique identification numbers for all depositors when opening or maintaining deposit accounts from October 1, 2022, and to update the unique identification numbers of existing depositors.

In May 2024, CBSL issued new Operating Instructions under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act, No. 17 of 2023 for recording depositors' unique identification numbers, replacing the previous directions issued in this regard. Further, the deadline for updating the unique identification numbers of existing depositors was extended to December 31, 2024.

Accordingly, depositors must use the following mandatory unique identification numbers when opening or maintaining deposit accounts with licensed banks and licensed finance companies:

	Type of Depositor	Type of Identification Document/Number to be Produced
<b>1.</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	
1.1	Sri Lankan citizens	National Identity Card (NIC) and NIC Number <i>Alternative documents</i> <i>Licensed banks and licensed finance companies can use a depositor's driving licence or passport, which includes the NIC number, to open accounts. However, it is mandatory for these institutions to record the NIC number as the unique identification number of the depositor.</i>
1.2	Sri Lankan Citizen (residing outside Sri Lanka/ Permanent Resident holders/Temporary Resident holders),  Sri Lankan Dual Citizens (residing in or outside Sri Lanka)	NIC and NIC Number <i>Exceptional circumstances</i> <i>The Sri Lankan Passport Number can be used only in the following instances when the NIC is not available,</i>  (a) the NIC has been temporarily surrendered by a depositor (b) a Sri Lankan is living overseas (c) the depositor left Sri Lanka prior to becoming a major and does not have an NIC  <i>In such scenarios, depositors are instructed to obtain their NICs as early as possible and update the same in the systems of licensed banks and licensed finance companies</i>
1.3	Non-Sri Lankan citizens Includes - Foreign Nationals of Sri Lankan origin (residing outside Sri Lanka), Foreign Nationals on temporary visit to Sri Lanka or intending to visit Sri Lanka and Foreign Diplomats.	Foreign Passport and Passport Number
1.4	Minor Depositors (until obtaining the NIC)	Birth Certificate: <i>To record the Date of Birth followed by the Birth Certificate Number as the identification number until obtaining the NIC</i>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Institutions</b>	
2.1	Companies registered under the Companies Act	Company Registration Certificate and Company Registration Number
2.2	Non-Governmental Organizations	Registration Certificate issued by the National Secretariat for Non-Governmental Organizations and relevant Registration Number
2.3	Institutions registered under divisional/local government bodies such as Proprietorships/ Partnerships/Joint Ventures, etc.	Business Registration Certificate and Business Registration Number
2.4	An entity incorporated by an Act of Parliament	A copy of the initial Act of Parliament: <i>To record the initial Act Number followed by Year of Incorporation</i>
2.5	All other entities such as Clubs, Associations, Societies, etc.	Registration Certificate obtained from the relevant Authorities and relevant Registration Number. <i>Alternative for unregistered entities</i> <i>Identification number obtained under the International Transaction Reporting System through a licensed bank is permitted to be recorded as the unique identification number for that specific entity.</i>

All entities, including clubs, associations societies, etc. that have not yet obtained a registration under the relevant authorities are urged to do so and update the identification number with the respective licensed bank or licensed finance company.

Failure to record the specified unique identification number, or the use of alternative identification numbers, will cause delays and inconvenience for depositors when seeking compensation under the Sri Lanka Deposit Insurance Scheme if and when the licence of a bank or a finance company is cancelled.

Therefore, all depositors (both individuals and non personal depositors) are advised to notify their unique identification numbers to the applicable licensed banks and licensed finance companies promptly, if they have not already done so.