



FACTSHEET on SOFI-NUMBERS

1. What is a sofi-number?

A 'sofi-number' (short for *social-fiscaal nummer*) is the old unique personal number which the Dutch tax and customs administration (*Belastingdienst*) uses to identify registered taxpayers. The sofi-number has largely been replaced by the burgerservicenummer, however it is still applicable to people who are not registered with a Dutch municipality (GBA).

Other people may also ask you for your sofi-number. For example, your employer, benefit provider, bank or insurance company may also need to know your sofi-number. This is because they are required by law to provide the tax and customs administration with any information that may be relevant to your tax situation. Where a burgerservicenummer is asked, you can present your sofi-number.

2. Where can I get a sofi-number?

To get a sofi-number, you will need to go to a sofi-number issuing tax office. They are located in the following cities:

- Alkmaar
- Almelo
- Amsterdam
- Breda
- Den Haag
- Doetinchem
- Eindhoven
- Goes
- Groningen
- Heerlen
- Leiden
- Leeuwarden
- Nijmegen
- Rotterdam
- Utrecht
- Zwolle

The exact addresses of the offices can be found on the tax and customs administration's website: <http://www.belastingdienst.nl/reken/gvk/>

To get a sofi-number, you will need to phone in advance to make an appointment. Phone the main call centre on 0800-0543 and select options 4-2 in the interactive menu¹.

¹ This is correct at time of writing (January 2008). If you find that the menu has changed, please let us know so that we can update our information. Wait with pressing an option until the menu provides a quiet choice moment.

3. What documents do I need to show to get a sofi-number?

What documents you need to show to get a sofi-number depends on your nationality.

If you are a national of one of the following countries, you only need to show your passport or national identity card, no other documents are needed:

Austria	Finland	Latvia	Portugal
Belgium	France	Liechtenstein	Romania
Bulgaria	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Cyprus (Republic of Cyprus)	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Czech Republic	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Denmark	Iceland	Netherlands	Sweden
Estonia	Ireland	Norway	Switzerland
	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom

If you are a national of another country, you will additionally need to present the following documents:

- An alien's identity card type I, II, III or IV.
- If you don't yet have an alien's identity card type I, II, III or IV, you will need to show an endorsement in your passport stating that you have the right to residence in the Netherlands. The endorsement is entered in your passport in the form of a sticker. The sticker is affixed to your passport by the local authority of the place where you live. If you are a knowledge migrant, it will be affixed by the IND. The sticker must state that you are entitled to work ("*arbeid toegestaan*"). If the sticker says that you need a work permit ("*TWV vereist*"), you will also need to show your work permit.

Important!

- Your identity document must be valid. Out-of-date or damaged documents will not be accepted. The tax and customs administration will check that your identity document is valid and authentic, and then make a copy of it. Because the checks can sometimes take a long time, you may be asked to come back at a later time.
- Other documents, such as driving licences and foreign emergency travel documents are NOT acceptable forms of ID when applying for a sofi-number.
- The endorsement in your passport must be valid. The endorsement loses its validity automatically on the expiry date, but is also rendered invalid by the IND's decision on your application for a residence permit.
- Your work permit (TWV) must be valid. This means that you must get your sofi-number before the expiry date shown on the work permit. If you try to get a sofi-number after the expiry date, you will not be given a sofi-number even if you have already started working.
- The tax and customs administration considers every application for a sofi-number individually on its own merits. If the tax office has doubts about the correctness of an endorsement in your passport, they will contact the IND to make checks.

4. You need to provide your address of residence and your address in the Netherlands

The Tax Office will also need your address of residence and the address where you are staying during your stay in the Netherlands.

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