

[Individual Number]

Q1. Who receives an Individual Number? Are any procedures necessary?

A1. Everyone registered as a resident in Japan is assigned a unique Individual Number and is notified of it. Foreigners with certain statuses, such as a medium- to long-term resident status or a special permanent resident status, will also receive Individual Numbers. The first notifications were sent to individuals at their registered addresses between October and December 2015. Individual Numbers are automatically assigned to those who register as residents, and no particular procedures are necessary to obtain one. Shortly after you register as a resident, the notification will be sent to your registered address by recorded delivery.

Q2. What do you mean by “medium to long term” when you refer to medium- to long-term resident status?

A2. Those having a medium- to long-term resident status are foreigners who are living in Japan with a residence card issued for a status of residence, except those who have been granted a residency period of three months or less and those who have been granted a status of residence for a short-term stay or for diplomatic or government-related purposes.

Q3. When will I present my Individual Number?

A3. National government offices and municipal offices use Individual Numbers in matters relating to social security, tax and disaster response. When you conduct employment or medical insurance procedures, apply for welfare benefits (e.g., public assistance, children’s allowance), conduct tax procedures (e.g., tax return), you need to provide your Individual Number in the forms you submit. Your employer and financial institution may ask you to present your Individual Number if they have to conduct tax or social security procedures on your behalf. When sending or receiving money to or from other countries, you will also have to present your Individual Number to the bank or post office.

Q4. I noticed that my Individual Number is different from the number in my residence card or special permanent resident certificate. What is the purpose of the Individual Number?

A4. The Individual Number is designed for use in administrative procedures in three areas: social security, tax and disaster response. Its use for procedures in any other area is prohibited by law. You should be aware that the Individual Number may be used only in those limited areas for limited purposes. The numbers in residence cards or special permanent resident

certificates are assigned every time the card or certificate is issued. They are managed separately from Individual Numbers and appear only on residence cards or special permanent resident certificates.

[Notification card and Individual Number Card (also called My Number Card)]

Q5. What should I do if the information in my notification card does not match that in my residence card or special permanent resident certificate, or if I find an error in the information in my notification card?

A5. Please contact the municipal office of your registered address.

Q6. Can my notification card or Individual Number Card be a substitute for my residence card or special permanent resident certificate?

A6. No. Neither the notification card nor the Individual Number Card can be a substitute for the residence card or special permanent resident certificate. Even after you have received your notification card or Individual Number Card, you need to keep your residence card or special permanent resident certificate.

Q7. What is the difference between the notification card and the Individual Number Card?

A7. The notification card is a paper card that shows your Individual Number, name, address, date of birth and gender. The Individual Number Card is a plastic card that includes a photo of your face. It is issued when you apply. (If you choose to have your Individual Number Card issued, you will be requested to return your notification card to the municipal office.) The Individual Number Card can prove by itself both your Individual Number and identity. In addition to serving as your personal ID, the Card is useful for many other purposes. The embedded IC chip enables you to receive various public services (depending on municipalities), such as borrowing books at the library and obtaining seal registration certificates. The Individual Number Card also comes standard with an electronic certificate that allows you to file online tax returns via e-Tax. The notification card, on the other hand, is a paper card with no photo and cannot prove your identity. Therefore, when you use it for procedures requiring your Individual Number, you will be requested to submit a photo ID such as your residence card.

Q8. Do I have to obtain an Individual Number Card? Does the Card have an application period and an expiration date?

A8. Whether to obtain an Individual Number Card is your choice. There is no

application period set for the Card.

Once you obtain an Individual Number Card, it is valid until the tenth birthday after the issuance if you are 20 years or older, or until the fifth birthday after the issuance if you are under 20 years old. Note that the expiration date may vary depending on your residency period.

Q9. What should I do with my notification card or Individual Number Card if I decide to go back to my home country?

A9. You must surrender your notification card or Individual Number Card to the municipal office. The municipal office will add a note to the card to identify it as a surrendered card and then return it to you. This is because you may need to use your Individual Number even after you leave Japan for tax or other procedures.

[Individual Number Portal]

Q10. What is the Individual Number Portal (provisional name)? Does the site support foreign languages?

A10. This is an online portal set up for every citizen and expected to become available in 2017. By accessing your Individual Number Portal from your personal computer or other devices, you will be able to view when government offices provided your personal information associated with your Individual Number and to whom, what kind of your personal information is held by government offices, and messages from government offices.

Initially, the site will be available in Japanese only, but foreign language versions will be added, although the languages to be supported are undecided.

◆ Inquiries about the notification card and the Individual Number Card ◆

- Toll free number below for Inquiries about the Social Security and Tax Number System available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese

0120-0178-26 Inquiries about the Social Security and Tax Number System

0120-0178-27 Inquiries about the notification card and Individual Number Card

9:30–20:00 weekdays, 9:30–17:30 weekends and national holidays (closed on year-end/New Year holidays)

- For emergency suspension of your Individual Number Card due to loss or theft, call 0120-0178-27, available 24/7.
- To speak in Japanese, call 0120-95-0178.
- Information on the Individual Number is available on the following websites:
 - Cabinet Secretariat: <https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/>
 - J-LIS: <https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/>