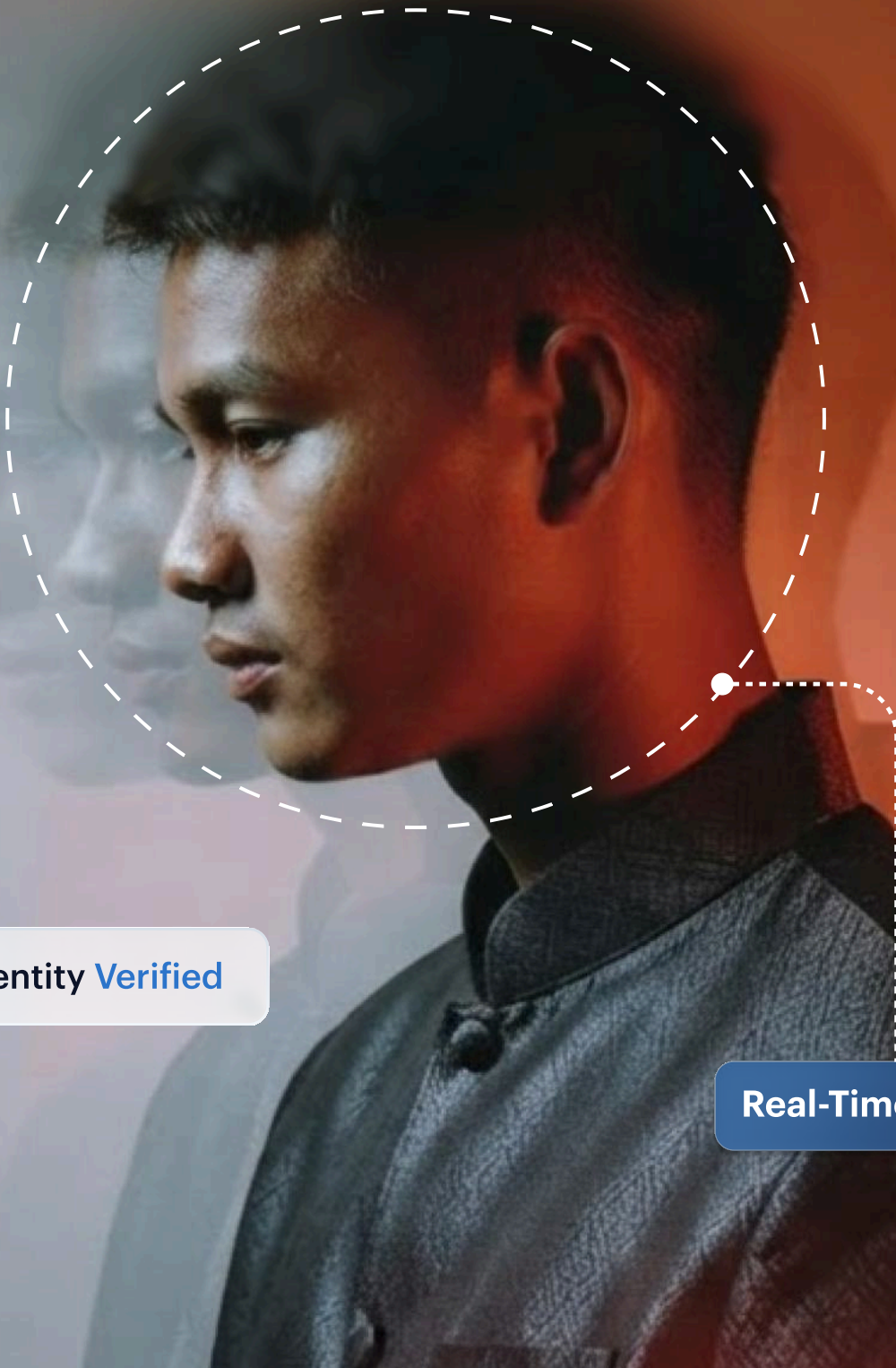


A Merchant's Guide to Identity Verification in CAMBODIA



Identity **Verified**

Real-Time Checks



VÉRIFICATION
D'ÂGE KJM



PCI DSS



iBeta L3



ISO 27001:2022



CE+



QG GDPR



SOC2



GDPR



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Introduction

A customer in Phnom Penh proves who they are with a national identity card printed largely in Khmer script, a writing system that runs without spaces between words and carries its own set of digits. The date of birth on that card can follow the Buddhist Era, which sits 543 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar. A verification flow built for Latin-script documents and Western dates will misread the fields it depends on, reject genuine Cambodian customers, and hand fraudsters the gaps they need.

This guide gives you the working knowledge to verify Cambodian customers with confidence. It walks through the traits of Cambodian documents that break automated checks, the legal regime you verify under, the documents you can accept and how each one performs, and the settings that lift pass rates for genuine users while keeping forged documents out. Every failed read costs more than a retry. It is an abandoned signup and a customer you paid to acquire walking away.



Understanding the Challenges of Cambodia's Identity Documents

Four traits of Cambodian documents that decide whether your automated checks read them or reject them. Reliable verification in Cambodia starts with the documents themselves. Khmer script shapes every field on every card, the calendar can change from one document to the next, and card layouts have shifted between generations of issuance. The four challenges below cause most failed reads and false rejections, and Shufti's OCR and verification technology is trained specifically to handle them.

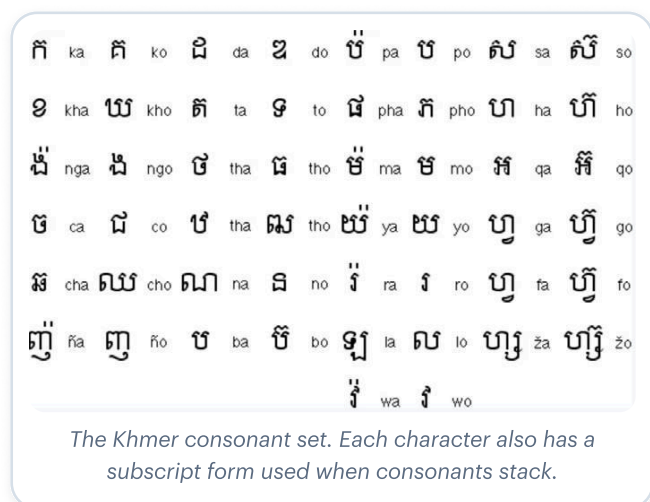
1 | Khmer Script Complexity

Khmer is the official language and appears on every Cambodian identity document. The script has 74 characters in total, made up of 33 consonants, 23 vowels, and 12 independent vowels, along with diacritics that modify sounds, and consonants stack into subscript forms when they cluster inside a word. Fonts and letter styles also shift between older and newer cards and passports, so an OCR engine trained on one generation of documents can stumble on the next.



2 | No Spaces Between Words

Khmer text runs in a continuous stream without spaces between words. The country's own name, កម្ពុជា, sits inside unbroken text and the reader is expected to know where one word ends and the next begins. OCR that splits text on whitespace has nothing to split on, so extraction needs language-aware segmentation that breaks the stream into the names and field values your checks actually compare.



3 | Complex Diacritic Marks

Khmer places marks above and below base characters to change their sound, and those marks carry meaning the same way full letters do. A misread mark can turn one name into another, so extraction has to resolve every diacritic rather than settling for the base characters and guessing the rest.

4 | Non-Standardised Date Formats

Dates are where Cambodian documents most often trip automated systems. Three habits matter.

Date order. Cambodian documents list dates in day, month, year order. A field reading 15/07/1985 means 15 July 1985, which matches common European practice and differs from the US convention. A parser tuned to month-first input will silently swap birthdays.

Khmer numerals. Khmer script has its own digits, ០ through ៩. Where they appear, your extraction needs to map them to Arabic numerals before any downstream system can use the value.

Two calendars. Some documents carry dates in the traditional Khmer calendar, which follows the Buddhist Era. The Buddhist Era runs 543 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar. The Gregorian year 2024, for example, corresponds to 2567 BE. Western and Buddhist forms can appear together, so dates need conversion before global systems can read them.

Khmer zodiac years. Cambodian culture also names years through a twelve-animal cycle of rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig, which shows up in calendar material and everyday date references.

០ ១ ២ ៣ ៤ ៥ ៦ ៧ ៨ ៩
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Khmer digits and their Arabic equivalents.

1999 – Year of the Rabbit 1st Year (ចោរ ឆ្នាំ)
2000 – Year of the Dragon 2nd Year (រោង ឆ្នាំ)
2001 – Year of the Snake 3rd Year (ម្លូញ ឆ្នាំ)
2002 – Year of the Horse 4th Year (មមី ឆ្នាំ)
2003 – Year of the Goat 5th Year (មមែ ឆ្នាំ)
2004 – Year of the Monkey 6th Year (រំក ឆ្នាំ)
2005 – Year of the Rooster 7th Year (រំកា ឆ្នាំ)
2006 – Year of the Dog 8th Year (ច ឆ្នាំ)
2007 – Year of the Pig 9th Year (កុរ ឆ្នាំ)
2008 – Year of the Rat 10th Year (ថ្លូត ស៊ីវិធី ឆ្នាំ)
2009 – Year of the Ox 1st Year (ព្រៃ ឆ្នាំ)
2010 – Year of the Tiger 2nd Year (ខាល ឆ្នាំ)
2011 – Year of the Rabbit 3rd Year (ចោរ ឆ្នាំ)
2012 – Year of the Dragon 4th Year (រោង ឆ្នាំ)

Gregorian years and their Khmer animal-cycle names.

A Merchant's Guide to Identity Verification in Cambodia

The legal regime you verify under, the documents you can accept, and how each one performs.

Cambodia is finalising a general data protection regime. The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications prepared a draft Law on Personal Data Protection and ran public consultations on it during 2025, so building to its standards now beats retrofitting later. Verification duties already sit in the Law on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism of 2020, which requires regulated businesses to run customer due diligence. The Cambodia Financial Intelligence Unit, known as CAFIU, leads the country's anti-money laundering work under the National Bank of Cambodia.

1 | Verification Modes

Shufti supports two verification modes. Merchants can pick the mode that fits their needs, the document types they accept, and the challenges of their own flow.

ONSITE VERIFICATION

The end user completes verification inside your flow through Shufti's interface. The system captures the best frame automatically, gives clear step-by-step guidance, and lets the user switch devices if a camera fails so the session carries on. Users can correct OCR-extracted data, and the correction is cross-checked against the original document. Real-time guidance and retries cut errors and fraudulent submissions, which keeps first-attempt pass rates high in consumer signup.

OFFSITE VERIFICATION

You collect the proofs from your customers and submit them to Shufti for verification. Pre-taken documents such as scans, screenshots, or colour copies upload in formats like PNG, PDF, JPEG, or MP4 with file sizes up to 20MB. Shufti's pre-trained machine learning models examine each submission for authenticity by checking features like holograms, watermarks, and signs of tampering. This mode suits businesses that already hold customer documents.

2 | Document Types Selection

Cambodian customers can prove identity with three main documents, and each offers a different balance of coverage and security. Payment cards are a separate matter, covered on the following page.

National Identity Card. The primary identification document in Cambodia and the one your flow will see most. It carries the holder’s name, photo, and date of birth with fields in Khmer script, and it is widely accepted across sectors. The government approved a new card design in 2025 in both plastic and electronic formats, so expect more than one layout in circulation while older cards remain valid.

Passport. The most secure Cambodian document, used for international travel and high-security checks. The bio-data page pairs Khmer and English fields with a machine readable zone, which gives verification systems a second, machine-checkable read of the printed data.

Driver's Licence. Frequently used for identity checks, especially in transport and employment. The card is bilingual in Khmer and English and carries basic security features that make it dependable for verification.



A specimen passport bio-data page with a machine readable zone

Credit and Debit Cards. A payment card proves access to an account, not who is holding it. It carries no photo, no date of birth, and no biometric anchor, so treat it as a payment instrument and never as proof of identity.

3 | Document Type Preference and Performance

Different types of Cambodian identity documents yield varying success rates in verification. Here is how each performs and what Shufti extracts from it.



A specimen National Identity Card with Khmer-script fields and an MRZ.

National Identity Card

The clear layout of the Cambodian National Identity Card lifts OCR accuracy, so Shufti extracts data cleanly and verifies with confidence. The card also carries a machine readable zone that gives automated checks a second anchor against the Khmer-script fields.

Extraction parameters: name · date of birth · issue date · document number · expiry date · address

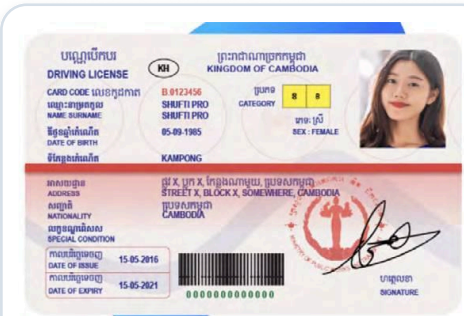


A specimen passport bio-data page.
Khmer and English fields sit side by side.

Passport

The detailed and secure design of the Cambodian passport supports precise extraction and dependable verification. Cross-checking the MRZ against the printed fields catches tampering a visual check alone would miss.

Extraction parameters: name · date of birth · issue date · document number · expiry date · nationality · gender



A specimen driving licence front. Fields appear in both Khmer and English.

Driver's Licence

The Cambodian driver's licence shows personal details clearly and carries security elements such as holograms. Its bilingual layout helps automated matching because the Latin-script fields give a second reference against the Khmer text.

Extraction parameters: name · date of birth · issue date · document number · expiry date · address

4 | Preferred Document for Identity Verification

At Shufti, we recognise the National Identity Card as the preferred document for identity verification in Cambodia because of its widespread use and clear layout. Its consistent data and acceptance across sectors make it the leading choice.

The passport is the strongest alternative where international recognition matters, and the driver's licence covers customers who hold neither. Our advanced OCR technology is optimised for these documents, ensuring quick and accurate data extraction.

Verification Settings

Four configuration choices that decide your pass rate in Cambodia. The documents are half the picture. These four settings decide how well your Cambodian verification flow performs in production.

01

Verification Mode (Onsite vs. Offsite)

Onsite verification is preferred in Cambodia for its higher accuracy and better control over the verification process. This is crucial in a market where document fraud can be a concern. Onsite methods leverage biometric and AI-driven technologies to ensure the authenticity and reliability of the verification process.

02

Data Extraction

Turn on OCR extraction. Cambodian documents mix Khmer script, Khmer digits, and Latin transliterations, and accurate extraction depends on handling the intricacies of Khmer characters. Shufti recommends the OCR mode of verification — our trained OCR models extract the exact data, translate it, and provide it in the response with high accuracy.

03

Identity Document's Backside Proof

Cambodian documents, such as ID cards and driver's licences, usually carry all required information on the front. For a quicker process, provide only the front side by setting Backside Proof Required to 'No', provided it meets compliance regulations. This simplifies verification, reduces additional uploads, and minimises delays.

4 | Real-Time Proof Capture vs. Proof Upload

Real-Time Proof Capture. Shufti's advanced auto-capture detects the document and captures it without user intervention, making it the fastest and most reliable option for verifying physical documents.

Proof Upload. Users can also upload pre-captured images of their identity documents. The seamless upload process suits users who already hold clean images and prefer a straightforward upload and verification.

Merchants can enable **Allow Online** (real-time proof capture) and **Allow Offline** (proof upload) in the Verification Settings tab. Offering both keeps completion rates high whether physical or electronic documents are being verified.

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Global reach, local precision

Shufti verifies identities across 240+ countries and territories and reads each market's documents with local accuracy. In **Cambodia** that means the old paper RG, the blue CPF card, every CNH format, and the new national identity card are all handled correctly, so you onboard real people fast and keep fraud out.

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