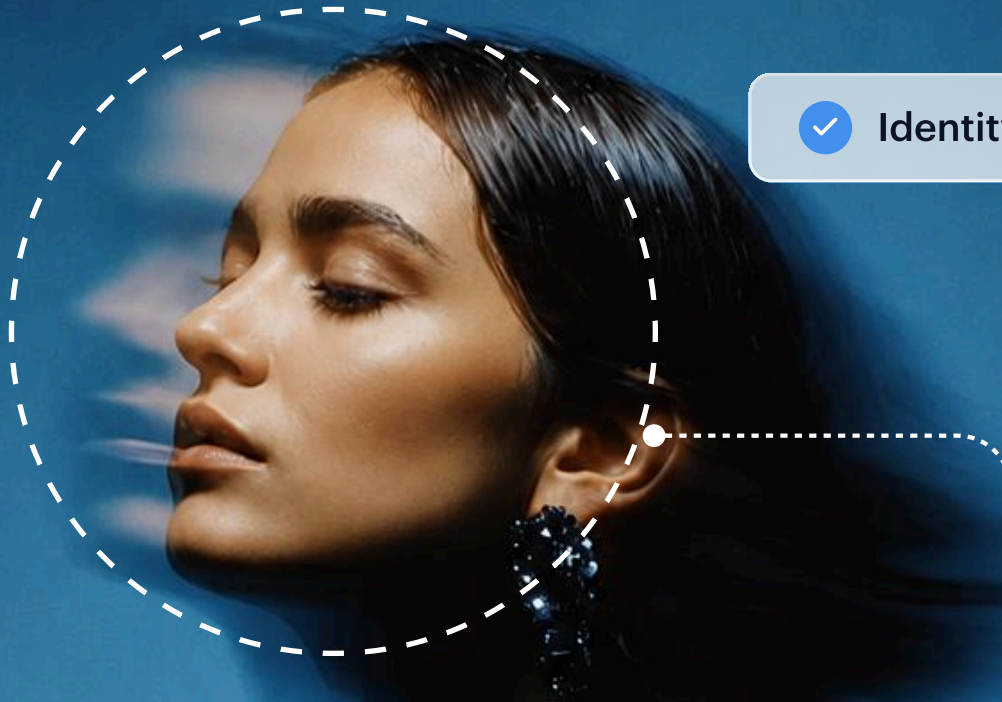


A Merchant's Guide to Identity Verification in LIBYA



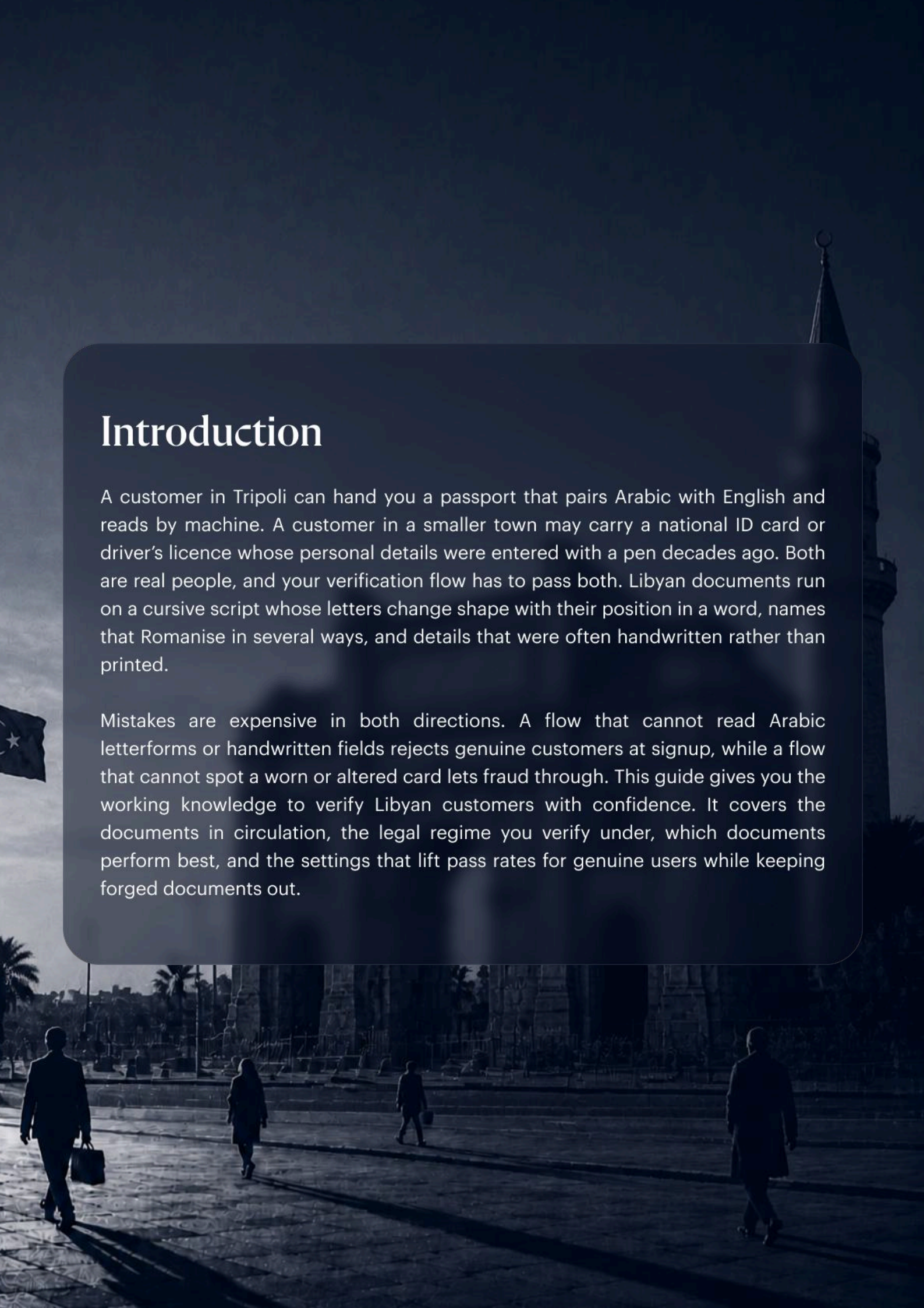
✓ Identity Verified

Real-Time Checks

Introduction

A customer in Tripoli can hand you a passport that pairs Arabic with English and reads by machine. A customer in a smaller town may carry a national ID card or driver's licence whose personal details were entered with a pen decades ago. Both are real people, and your verification flow has to pass both. Libyan documents run on a cursive script whose letters change shape with their position in a word, names that Romanise in several ways, and details that were often handwritten rather than printed.

Mistakes are expensive in both directions. A flow that cannot read Arabic letterforms or handwritten fields rejects genuine customers at signup, while a flow that cannot spot a worn or altered card lets fraud through. This guide gives you the working knowledge to verify Libyan customers with confidence. It covers the documents in circulation, the legal regime you verify under, which documents perform best, and the settings that lift pass rates for genuine users while keeping forged documents out.



Understanding the Challenges of Libyan Identity Documents

Four traits of Libyan documents that decide whether your automated checks read them or reject them. Reliable verification in Libya starts with the documents themselves. They carry cursive Arabic script, handwritten entries, layered names, and an occasional second language, and the four challenges below cause most failed reads and false rejections.

1 | Linguistic and Script Complexity

Arabic is Libya's official language, and its script asks more of OCR than Latin text does. Two characteristics do most of the damage.

Cursive script and ligatures. The script is cursive, so letters connect, and each letter changes shape depending on where it sits in a word. The letter Ha takes four forms (ح)

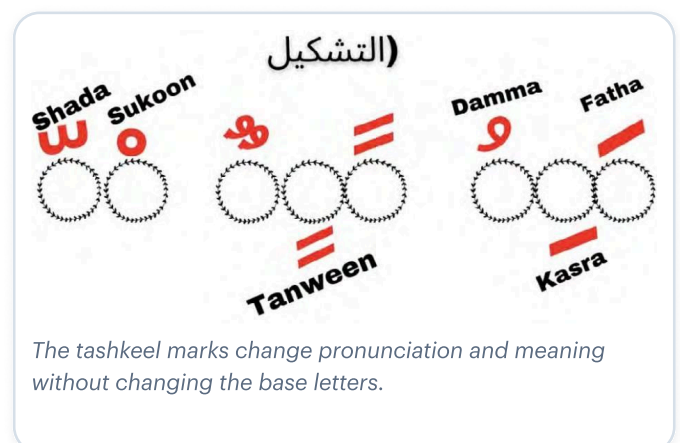
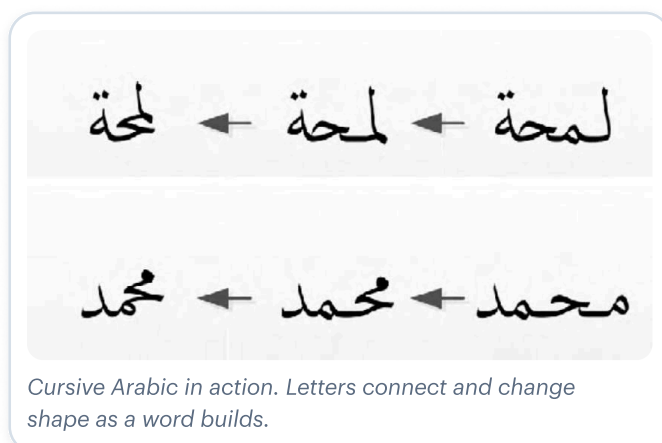
Isolated: ح · Beginning: ح as in حم (Hamza)

Middle: ح as in محمد (Muhammad)

End: ح as in حمص (Samuh)

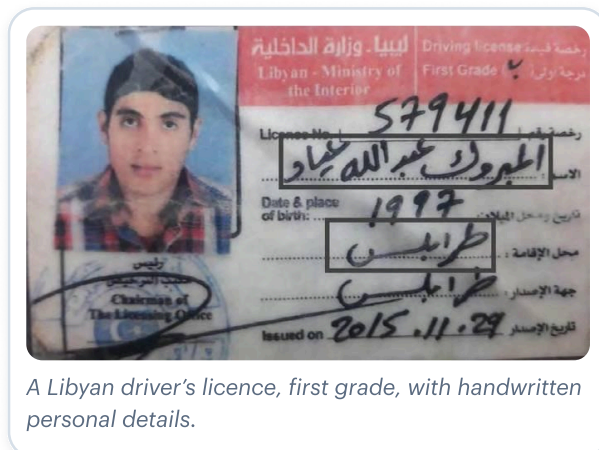
The shape shifts with context, so the engine has to identify each letter from its contextual form rather than from a single fixed template.

Complex diacritical marks. Short marks above and below the letters, the harakat, change pronunciation and meaning. The same base letters read as حمّاء (alam, flag) or حمّاء (alima, he knew) depending on the marks alone, so an engine that misses them misreads names and other key data. Shufti's OCR is trained on contextual Arabic letterforms and diacritics, so extraction stays accurate across the script's many shapes.



2 | Handwritten ID Documents

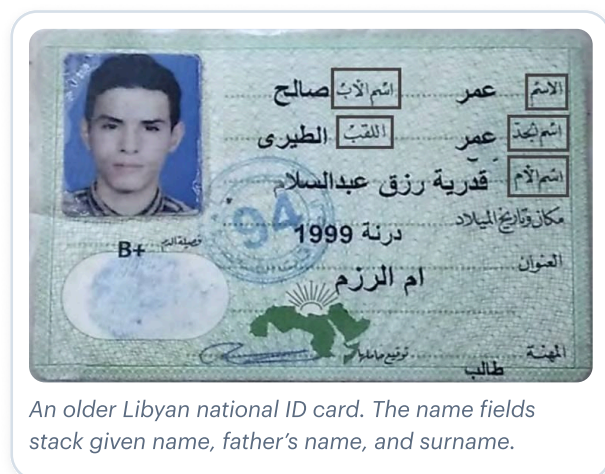
Handwritten details are common on Libyan documents, above all on older cards and those issued in certain regions. Both the national ID card and the driver's licence can carry names, birth details, and addresses entered with a pen. Handwriting defeats template based OCR because no two clerks form letters the same way. Verification software needs recognition trained on varied Arabic handwriting to read these documents without kicking them back to manual review.



A Libyan driver's licence, first grade, with handwritten personal details.

3 | Complex Naming Structure and Cultural Differences

Libyan names follow a structure that differs from Western conventions, and a full name typically stacks four parts.



An older Libyan national ID card. The name fields stack given name, father's name, and surname.

Given name (first name). The person's own name, such as Umer or Fatima.

Father's name (middle name). Marks the person's patrilineal heritage, such as Salah or Umair.

Surname or title (last name). Usually a title carried through family or tribal affiliation, such as Al-Tairi.

Tribal or extended family name. Sometimes added to signal tribal or regional background, such as Al-Misrati or Al-Warfali.

Arabic names also Romanise in more than one way, so the same محمد can appear as Muhammad, Mohammad, or Mohamed across documents. Your verification flow has to match these layered, variant spellings to one person rather than flagging them as mismatches.

1 | Verification Modes

Shufti supports two verification modes, and the right choice depends on who collects the proofs.

ONSITE VERIFICATION

The end user completes verification inside your flow through Shufti's iFrame or Verify component. The user submits ID and address proofs directly, gets real time guidance during capture, and you receive results in the Back Office portal or through the API response. This mode suits consumer signup, where guided capture prevents the blurry photos and cropped documents that sink first attempt pass rates.

OFFSITE VERIFICATION

You collect the proofs from your customers and submit them to Shufti for verification. Results come back through the same Back Office portal or API response. This mode suits businesses that already hold customer documents or run verification in batches.

2 | Document Types You Can Accept

Libyan customers can prove identity with three main documents, and each offers a different mix of everyday reach and security. Shufti accepts the following for identity verification.

ID Card. The national ID card is the most widely held document in Libya and turns up in banking, healthcare, and education checks. Under Law No. 8 of 2014 every citizen also carries a unique national ID number issued through the civil registry, and that number anchors the card to the state's civil records. Older and regionally issued cards often carry handwritten personal details, which is where OCR quality decides your pass rate.

Driver's License. The driver's licence is a common secondary document, above all in transport and logistics. Licences vary by grade and by issuing region, and older cards in particular carry handwritten fields such as addresses and endorsements.

Passport. The Libyan passport is the strongest document for high assurance checks. It carries biometric data, prints Arabic and English on the data page, and follows international machine readable standards, which makes it widely accepted for KYC.

Credit and Debit Cards. Payment cards exist to move money. They prove possession of an account rather than a person's identity, and they carry no photo, no biometric anchor, and no issuing authority attestation of who the holder is. Do not accept them as identity proof.

3 | Document Type Preference and Performance

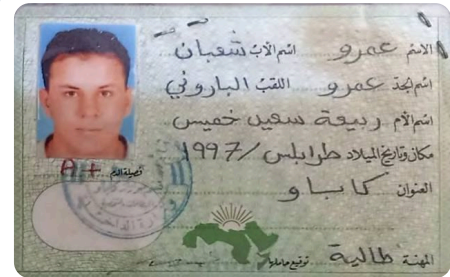
Different Libyan documents produce different verification success rates. Here is how each performs in practice.

ID CARD

The national ID card is the primary form of identification in Libya, and printed versions give OCR a stable layout to read. Handwritten entries on older cards are the main drag on pass rates, and Shufti's OCR is trained to read them.

EXTRACTION PARAMETERS

Name, father's name, date of birth, issue date.



An older Libyan national ID card with handwritten Arabic entries.



The Libyan passport data page, printed in Arabic and English with a machine readable zone.

PASSPORT

The passport carries security features such as the machine readable zone, holograms, and watermarks. Features like these defeat weaker OCR systems, and Shufti's engine reads them cleanly, which makes the passport the most dependable Libyan document to verify.

EXTRACTION PARAMETERS

Name, date of birth, issue date, document number, expiry date, nationality, gender, place of issue.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

Licences vary across regions and grades, with differing security and design features. Shufti's OCR manages these differences and extracts data accurately, though heavily handwritten cards can take extra processing time.

EXTRACTION PARAMETERS

Name, date of birth, issue date, document number.



A Libyan driver's licence, second grade, with handwritten details.

4 | Preferred Documents for Identity Verification

Shufti recommends the national ID card and the passport as the preferred documents for identity verification in Libya. Both carry the security features that reliable checks depend on, and the passport adds a machine readable zone for the highest assurance. The driver's licence works as a widely accepted alternative, above all for domestic transactions. Shufti's OCR is tuned for Arabic script, document specific layouts, and handwritten elements, so extraction stays fast and accurate whichever document the customer presents.

Verification Settings

Five configuration choices that decide your pass rate in Libya. The documents are half the picture. These five settings decide how well your Libyan verification flow performs in production.

01

Verification Mode (Onsite vs. Offsite)

Onsite verification is the better default for Libya. Guided real time capture with biometric checks gives you stronger control over authenticity than reviewing files a user gathered elsewhere, which matters in a market where handwritten and worn documents invite tampering.

02

Data Extraction

Turn on OCR extraction. Libyan documents mix printed and handwritten Arabic with occasional English, and extraction tuned for these formats reads them correctly where manual keying introduces errors. The engine must handle contextual letterforms, diacritics, and varied handwriting.

03

Identity Document's Backside Proof

Switch on the backside proof requirement. Libyan documents often carry important information on the back, including addresses and expiry dates, and a front only check misses data your compliance record needs.

4 | Real-Time Proof Capture vs. Proof Upload

Two flexible routes cover every user.

Real-time proof capture. Shufti's auto capture detects the document and photographs it without user fumbling, which makes it the fastest and most reliable route for physical documents.

Proof upload. Users can also upload pre-captured images of their identity documents. Upload suits users who already hold clean images of their documents.

Merchants control both routes through the **Allow Online** (real time proof capture) and **Allow Offline** (proof upload) options in the Verification Settings tab. Offer both and completion rates stay high across Libya's mix of printed and handwritten documents.

5 | Allow Handwritten Documents

Many Libyan ID cards and driver's licences carry handwritten details, so allow handwritten documents in your verification settings. Exclude them and you reject a large share of genuine customers outright. Allow them, with OCR trained on Arabic handwriting, and conversion rises without loosening your fraud controls.

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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 **Libya** 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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