

# What is The Work Number?

The Work Number® is a simple, secure and discreet way to get proof of your employment and income to the companies that need it. It's available 24/7 so that you can get the approvals you need when you need them.

Without The Work Number, a lender, property manager or pre-employment screener could call your employer and ask to check on your employment or income. You have no control over when they call, who picks up the phone, who is asking for the information, whether the right information is actually given out, or if your privacy will be respected.

25% of verifications happen after business hours or on weekends. The Work Number is always on, so you can get the approvals you need, when you need them.

## Who can ask for a verification?

Not just anyone can ask for your personal information. They have to be credentialed. The Work Number only accepts requests from credentialed verifiers, meaning they have to go through a credentialing process to prove they have a "permissible purpose" (aka a legally established legitimate business reason) in order to make a request. You have to authorize. You have to give permission to get your employment information from The Work Number. This is called Consumer Consent, and it's usually part of an application you complete, for a job, for a lease, or for credit.

## How do I know my information is correct?

The Work Number complies with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which requires that employees can see everyone who has requested their information and that you can check the data and dispute anything that may be wrong. You can access your Employment Data Report at your convenience by visiting [www.theworknumber.com/Employees/DataReport](http://www.theworknumber.com/Employees/DataReport) or by contacting your employer.

## How do you protect my data?

The Work Number uses stringent security standards to protect its data. These protocols include advanced data encryption, physical security controls in the data centers, and user identity verification through multiple steps (often referred to as multi-factor authentication). There are also controls in place, by law (the Fair Credit Reporting Act), to protect your privacy. Finally, The Work Number is managed by Equifax Workforce Solutions; it is a completely separate database and was not impacted by the Equifax July 2017 cybersecurity incident.

Who needs to verify your employment/income? Typically, among other things, verifications are needed whenever someone:

- applies for a loan or public aid
- leases an apartment
- applies for a job
- updates their immigration status
- applies for a new credit card