

Being Nacha Certified Puts ACI Payments 'Above the Other Processors' Who Are Not

ACI Payments, Inc. has been Nacha Certified since 2018. It's a distinction they take very seriously—and for good reason.

The company provides bill payment services for the ACI Speedpay, Official Payments, and Speedpay service brands, serving more than 3,700 billers in the U.S. ACI Payments is a subsidiary of ACI Worldwide (ACI), which powers electronic payments for many of the largest financial institutions and organizations around the world through software and application development and other products.

Moving money is in the company's DNA and the Nacha Certified program was a natural yet critical step to validating the importance of payments compliance for ACI Payments.

"The Nacha certification is really important because a lot of our clients look to us to ensure that we are meeting all regulatory requirements from a Nacha perspective when processing ACH payments," said Trinity Van, Senior Manager, Product Management, at ACI Worldwide.

By being Nacha Certified, she said, "we are putting ourselves above the other Processors that might not have this distinctive certification. That means that we know what we're doing in ACH processing, and we are able to demonstrate our robust compliance and risk management programs. It gives us leverage with how we present ourselves to our clients."

Various industries rely on ACI Payments for electronic bill presentment and payment services, and having Nacha standards for sound core practices in ACH payment processing is significant for these organizations.

Van said there are clients who each year ask if ACI Payments has had its annual ACH audit. "We always pass the annual audit, but then customers go a step further and ask if we're Certified with Nacha," said Van. "We can proudly point them to the Nacha website or our internal site to display the certification logo."



Melissa Bernardino
Director
Operational Compliance



Trinity Van,
Senior Manager
Product Management

Originating Depository Financial Institutions trust that ACI Payments, as a Processor, recognizes the Nacha Operating Rules and Guidelines, and also ensures that ACI Payments' customers follow through with those rules.

Additionally, the ACI Payments team promotes the Nacha Certified status to prospective clients. "We are showing that we think the accreditation is as important as they do," said Van.

As for the steps involved in becoming Nacha Certified, Melissa Bernardino, Director, Operational Compliance at ACI, said the initial certification process was "very thorough and comprehensive."

"Fortunately, given our long-standing tenure in payment processing and significant regulatory oversight as a money services business, the majority of information was readily available by the Product, Operations and Compliance teams. Our parent company, ACI Worldwide has the strength of being a publicly traded corporation subject to regulatory oversight as well, so the part of the process that made sure we could prove our compliance capabilities was pretty straightforward," said Bernardino.

"The rest of the details supporting our payment processing operations was provided by responsible team members and demonstrated not only our size as a market leader but also our adherence to Nacha Rules."