Card Security Code

The **Card Security Code (CSC)** is usually a 3 – or 4 - digit number, which is not part of the credit card number. The CSC is typically printed on the back of a credit card (usually in the signature field).

On some cards, all or part of the card number appears before the CSC, for example, 1234 567. In this example, 1234 are the last four digits of the credit card number, and 567 is the CSC.

The number appears only on the card itself (not on receipts or statements), this provides some assurance that the physical card is in possession of the buyer and therefore, helps to prevent unauthorized or fraudulent use.

CSC is known by different names with the different card associations. CSC is known to Visa® as the Card Verification Code (CVV2); to MasterCard® as the Card Validation Code (CVC2); and finally to American Express® and Discover® as the Card Identification Number (CID).