

Security Considerations for New SNAP Online Retailers

It's important for new/potential SNAP Online retailers to keep the security of their business information in mind while making decisions about technical and financial partnerships such as eCommerce platforms and Third-Party Processors (TPPs)-PIN solution providers.

The Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) considers the FNS authorization numbers ("FNS number") they provide to retailers as protected information – both for brick & mortar and internet retailer (IR) operations. Your FNS number(s) should be treated like your personal social security number (SSN) and only provided to trusted entities for known business purposes. Do not include your full FNS number in unencrypted emails.

Your new IR FNS number will be provided by FNS after you have submitted your SNAP Online Letter of Intent (LOI) and additional required information. Until that time, you will not be able to provide your IR FNS number to your selected eCommerce platform or TPP.

Once you decide on a specific eCommerce platform and/or TPP-PIN solution provider, you will need to execute contract(s) with them. Obtaining legal counsel or an authorized representative to navigate this process is not a requirement; most retailers choose to work through the process on their own. If you would like to designate legal counsel or authorize a representative to manage the SNAP Online process for you, please use the [Letter of Representation form](#) posted on the SEMTAC website.

The companies listed on this [page](#) are the only TPP-PIN Solutions certified in the SNAP Online space. If you are considering a different TPP-PIN Solution provider for SNAP Online than one of the companies listed, be aware that their solution will need to be certified by FNS before launching. Be sure to be in touch with FNS, and to put your prospective TPP in touch with FNS, before signing a contract or providing any of your protected business information. The best way to reach the SNAP Online team is via email: sm.fn.snaponline@usda.gov.

Similarly, there are a number of [eCommerce platforms](#) that are already providing SNAP Online functionality to retailers. If you plan to use an eCommerce platform that is *not* already active in the SNAP Online space, the eCommerce provider and you should be in contact with FNS to discuss the process before any protected business information or payment is provided to the eCommerce platform for SNAP Online services.

In short, research your eCommerce options carefully and do not sign a contract, provide an FNS number, banking information, or payment to a business until you have vetted them and are sure they are legitimate and able to provide the services you are expecting.

You are welcome to contact SEMTAC with questions or for assistance:

Phone: 1-833- SEMTAC1

Email: SNAPOnline@nationalgrocers.org

SEMTAC.org