

1. Business model requirements

- Define your business model and ensure the provider supports your strategic goals.
- Confirm omnichannel support for payment options relevant to your audience.
- Check if the provider's payment processing fees are suitable for your business.

3. Integration options

- Assess the provider's integration capabilities and compatibility with your existing setup.
- Evaluate the clarity and comprehensiveness of API documentation.

5. Payment processing

- Check capabilities in handling various authorisation and capture scenarios, including incremental authorisations, extended windows, and over-captures.
- Evaluate the speed of transaction processing and settlement.

7. Reporting and analytics

- Confirm availability of real-time, detailed transaction reporting.
- Check for custom reporting capabilities and API access for data integration.
- Evaluate the availability of tools for data analysis and visualisation.

9. Privacy and security

- Confirm PCI DSS compliance and other relevant security certifications.
- Evaluate tools for minimising PCI exposure.
- Assess data transfer and storage security in compliance with regulations like GDPR.

2. Global coverage

- Analyse popular payment options and currencies in your target geos.
- Ensure compliance with local regulations in key markets.
- Verify localisation capabilities, including languages and currencies.

4. Payment provider's health

- Check the provider's system stability and uptime records.
- Ensure it's flexible enough for rapid development and expansion.
- Confirm scalability for handling peak transaction volumes.
- Assess the provider's commitment to innovation and feature updates.

6. Risk management

- Assess built-in fraud management tools and customisation options.
- Check the provider's approach to disputes and chargeback management.
- Evaluate the fees for processing chargebacks and refunds.
- Check if the rolling reserve conditions suit you (especially for high-risk businesses).

8. Reconciliation

- Check for transaction-level reporting accuracy and availability of efficient post-settlement reconciliation.
- Confirm the availability of manual or automated reconciliation of chargebacks and refunds.

10. Additional services and support

- Check for the availability of decent and timely customer and technical support.
- Evaluate any additional services like subscription management, invoicing, and in-person payments.
- Confirm the availability of resources for EMV certification and hardware support.

Final step

Request and review provider references and case studies. Then schedule a demo and ask for sandbox access to test the provider's service.