All VISA account numbers begin with a 4. The characters and numbers embossed on the card should be clear and uniform in size and spacing.

A four-digit number printed on the card (above or below the account number) should match the first four digits of the account number.

The Valid Date lists the last date on which the card is valid. Some cards may have an Effective Date as well.

The “Flying V” is embossed on the same line as the valid dates.

The account number embossed on the card must match the account number printed on the sales draft. The last grouping of embossed digits should extend into the hologram.

A hologram showing the Visa Dove should appear to move when the card is tilted. A genuine hologram is a photographic image that appears to be three-dimensional when rotated. Most counterfeit cards contain a one-dimensional printed image on a foil sticker.

Tamper-evident signature panel with “VISA” printed at an angle in blue and gold or blue only.

Tiny characters called Micro Printing form a border around the Visa logo which appears above or below the hologram. Visible by using a magnifying loupe, it is made up of the first four digits of the account number and other characters.

The signature on the back of the card must match the signature on the sales draft. All Visa cards must be signed before they are valid.