PayPal Online Sellers Best Practice Guide



If you follow a few simple steps early in your eCommerce business, you can build credibility as a seller in less time than you think.

To help you gain trust with shoppers, we've put together this handy checklist. The more ticks you have in "Best Practice", the faster you'll become a seller buyers can rely on.



Best Practices

Preferential Risk Treatment

for merchants meeting the below criteria in addition to providing the mandatory information

Good Practices

Standard Risk Treatment

for merchants providing the below mandatory information

Bad Practices

Strict Risk Treatment

for merchants with at least one of the below characteristics (non-exhaustive list)

Financial Performance

- ☐ Able to demonstrate profitability with sustainable growth (e.g. net margin greater than 10%)
- ☐ Strong cash position (equivalent to 1 month expected total payments volume via bank statements)
- □ Past 6 months processing statements (with same level processing volume) and reserve settings (if currently using another payment provider)
- ☐ Significant capital/investment from shareholder

- ☐ Past 2 years financial statements (or equivalent; e.g. Shopify "OrderMetrics" plugin)
- ☐ Past 3 months bank statement.
- ☐ Previous processing statements and reserve settings (if currently using another payment provider)
- ☐ No financial or bank statements provided
- ☐ Weak liquidity position (less than 1 month expected total payments volume)
- ☐ Negligible capital

Business Model

- ☐ Optimized marketing cost < 40% of revenue and payment through PavPal
- □ Dedicated Customer Service in place with sufficient capacity against sales volume
- ☐ Prompt response on open dispute cases
- ☐ Well-structured group with no linked accounts
- ☐ Same selling URLs with built up reputation/branding

- ☐ Reasonable marketing cost between 40% and 60% of revenue
- Customer service team in place to address buyer's queries
- ☐ Well-structured group with limited accounts under one MOR
- ☐ Marketing cost > 80% of revenue
- ☐ No customer service available
- ☐ High number of open claims/ dispute cases
- ☐ Individual business or unknown type of entity
- ☐ Known linked accounts with fulfilment issues
- ☐ Multiple linked accounts with no clear purpose)
- ☐ Constantly switching URLs with bad reputation

	Best Practices	Good Practices	Bad Practices
Web Description	Fair statement of product functionalityConservative delivery time commitment	☐ Fair statement of delivery time	 Over statement of product functionality Overstated fast shipping where most shipping unable to meet announced delivery timeframe
Suppliers	 □ Good quality suppliers with proven relationship (invoices, agreement, contracts provided) □ High rated Alibaba/1688 suppliers (i.e. AAA), Amazon suppliers □ Highly reputable suppliers with proof of warehousing / inventory guarantee □ High % of supply cost paid via PayPal platform 	 □ Agreements / contracts and invoices signed with suppliers □ Acceptable rating for Alibaba/1688 suppliers (i.e. A) 	 □ No supplier relationship (no valid invoices, agreement, contracts provided) □ Suppliers with poor ratings or no contact information □ Supplier with known fulfillment problem
Shipping	□ Complete Shipping API Integration with: o Shipping Rate > 90% within 7 days from transaction date AND, o Valid tracking ID showing goods shipped out from warehouse □ Delivery timeframe (processing shipping time) less than 20 days □ Reliable courier provider such as DHL, FedEx, USPS □ Contracts with reliable shipping agencies	□ Complete Shipping API Integration with: o Shipping Rate > 90% within 14 days from transaction date AND, o Valid tracking ID showing goods shipped □ Valid tracking ID with end to end tracking □ Delivery timeframe between 20 to 30 days □ Reliable courier provider such as EMS	 □ Incomplete Shipping API Integration with shipping rate below 50% (for 14 days) □ No Shipping API integration □ Invalid tracking ID □ Courier with no end to end tracking □ Delivery timeframe more than 30 days □ Local shipping agencies with poor track record
Product	 Robust quality assurance process in place Product vertical with previous trading experience 	☐ Basic quality check on the product	 □ No control or visibility over product quality □ Constantly changing Hot Items with unstable supplier □ Average Selling Price > US\$500
Risk Metrics	☐ Monthly chargebacks + Claims < 1.0%	☐ Monthly chargebacks + Claims < 2.5% (Where chargeback alone must be below 1.0%)	☐ Monthly chargebacks > 1% or,☐ Monthly claims > 3%



Did you know?

PayPal might occasionally review your business under risk review. As part of this process, you will be asked to submit documents outlined above to help us understand whether you are a credible seller. You can also proactively upload these statements if preferred and these can be picked up during any risk review. It is therefore important that you work towards "Best Practice" to avoid any unwanted delays in payments or release of funds.

