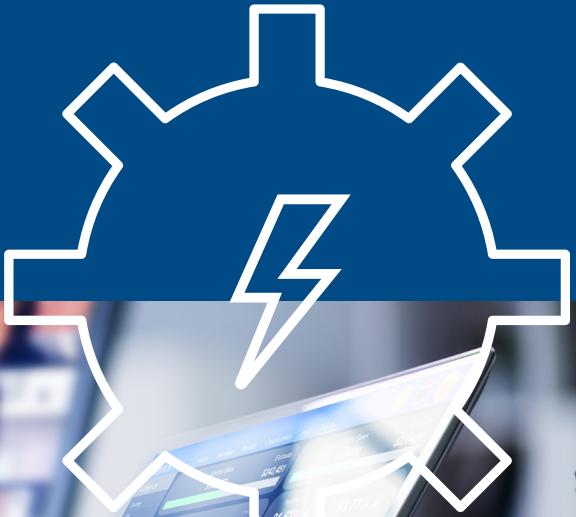


**SFE**<sup>SM</sup>

Southern Financial Exchange  
Your Payments Resource



# SFE Services Guide





# The SFE Difference

In today's dynamic landscape, you need a resource to keep you up to speed on the latest payments developments, risks, and opportunities. As a payments association, Southern Financial Exchange (SFE) serves members by providing expert education, news, and analysis of today's industry.

As your payments association and an extension of your team, we promise to:



- **Personally connect with you.** In an era of chatbots, email inundation, and text messaging spam, we reach out in person and on the phone. We make ourselves available to you.



- **Respond to you on the same day.** We get you the information you need when you need it. We offer the level of service you expect from your own team; our community is our primary focus.



- **Provide deep expertise in all payments systems, including auditors' perspectives.** Our team is made up of payments industry veterans, including AAPs, APRPs, NCPs, and certified auditors. We answer all of your regulatory and compliance questions, and we not only ensure you're compliant, but we also take it a step further, evaluating your policies and procedures from an auditor's perspective and identifying ways to lessen your risk.



- **Offer cost-savings and value-added services.** As an SFE member, you receive discounts on education, audits, risk assessments, and more. We also provide value-added solutions, including our complimentary Power Hours, exclusive Fraud Forum, Banking Law Information Service, and Pre-Rules Violation Mediation Services.



- **Educate you on need-to-know payments developments.** We conduct virtual and in-person sessions on the foundational and emerging topics most relevant to you, and we can collaborate with you to customize training for your organization. *Digital Digest*, our e-newsletter, will keep you informed of the latest developments in payments.

Above all, as an SFE member, **you are our top priority.**



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**Strengthen your ACH operations in compliance, risk controls, and efficiency. Allow your trusted SFE advisors to conduct your audits and risk assessments.**

## ACH Audit

*Examination of your ACH operations, as required annually by Nacha for financial institutions, third-party senders, and third-party services providers*

Services include:

- Pre-audit checklist
- Performance of audit as required by the Nacha Operating Rules
- Review of balancing and reconciliation functions
- Written ACH Audit Report including recommendations for improvement
- Audit Certification Form
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to the auditor for questions

## ACH Risk Assessment

*Evaluation of the complexity of your services, a thorough review of your overall ACH risk, and an examination of your established risk controls*

Services include:

- Pre-assessment checklist
- Thorough assessment of ACH activities and risk management program
- Written ACH Risk Assessment Report including recommendations for improvement
- Review of agreements
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to assessor for questions

## Real Time Payments® (RTP®) Audit

*Examination of your RTP operations as required annually by The Clearing House*

Services include:

- Pre-audit checklist
- Performance of audit as required by The Clearing House
- Written RTP Audit Report including recommendations for improvement
- Audit Certification Form
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to auditor for questions

## Real Time Payments® (RTP®) Risk Assessment

*Evaluation of RTP operations, policies, procedures, processes, and an examination of your established risk controls*

Services include:

- Pre-assessment checklists
- Thorough assessment of RTP activities and risk management program
- Written RTP Risk Assessment report including recommendations for improvement
- Review of agreements
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to assessor for questions



## Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) Risk Assessment and Internal Controls Testing

*Evaluation of your institution's commercial and consumer RDC operations, policies, procedures, processes and an examination of your established risk controls*

Services include:

- Pre-assessment checklists
- Thorough assessment of RDC activities and risk management program
- Written RDC Risk Assessment Report including recommendations for improvement
- Review of agreements
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to assessor for questions

## Wire Transfer Risk Assessment and Internal Controls Testing

*Evaluation of your institution's wire transfer operations, policies, procedures, processes, compliance, and an examination of your established risk controls*

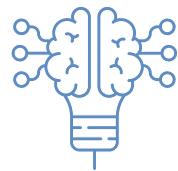
Services include:

- Pre-assessment checklists
- Thorough assessment of wire activities and risk management program
- Written Wire Risk Assessment Report including recommendations for improvement
- Review of agreements
- Opening and exit meetings
- Access to assessor for questions



**When you bundle services or complete your compliance services before July 1st, you are eligible for rate discounts. Request a proposal at [SFE.org](http://SFE.org).**

# Education



## Education Plan

SFE's Education Plan gives you year-round access to critical topics for your payments team. Specifically, it supports your team through:

- **Regulatory guidance alongside innovative possibilities:** The latest compliance and risk guidance balanced with insights into emerging opportunities
- **Organizational savings:** \$3,450 in savings when you opt for the group plan or \$1,000 with the individual plan\*

*\*Group plan: Any three employees may register for each eligible workshop. The registrants may be different individuals for each workshop. (\$3,000). Individual plan: Any one employee may register for each eligible workshop. The registrant may be a different individual for each workshop. (\$1150 for first registrant; \$1050 for each additional registrant).*

2025 sessions include:

- **Countdown to Fedwire ISO 20022 Migration**, January 30, 2025
- **The Payments Horizon: What's New and What's Next in 2025**, February 19-20, 2025
- **Navigating ACH Tax Refund Challenges**, March 12, 2025
- **Strengthening AML/CFT Programs: The Latest BSA Updates**, March 20, 2025
- **Check Image Processing Pain Points**, April 8-9, 2025
- **ACH Basics: An Introduction to the ACH Network**, May 7-8, 2025
- **What's UP? Unclaimed Property Update**, August 13-14, 2025
- **Understanding ACH Exceptions: A Guide for ODFIs and RDFIs**, August 19-20, 2025
- **Advanced ACH Rules and Compliance: Ensuring Operational Excellence**, September 16-17, 2025
- **Government Payment Processing: Enhancing Efficiency and Compliance**, November 5-6, 2025





# Digital Directions

April 14-16, 2025 • Orange Beach, AL

## Surf the Waves of Payments



35th Annual Conference & Expo

### Annual Conference

SFE's Annual Conference, Digital Directions 2025, taking place April 14 – 16 at **Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, AL**, will provide you with the in-depth training you need to navigate the next generation of payments, including risk, compliance, and emerging opportunities. In addition, it gives you unparalleled access to connect with leaders in the payments industry.

Visit [SFEAnnual.org](http://SFEAnnual.org).

### In-Person and Customized Training



As topics of industry importance emerge, SFE offers in-person trainings at select locations. In 2024, that included a check fraud session. In addition, upon request, we provide customized payments education specifically built for your organization's unique training needs and delivered at your institution.



## Timely Virtual Sessions



Throughout the year, SFE provides timely education to address emerging payments opportunities and challenges. Education takes place in:

- **Virtual Forums** – Live, virtual workshops, generally a day or more in duration, focused on strategic and trending topics with time for speaker Q&A
- **Webinars** – Live, virtual events in focused, short-duration sessions on a specific topic, with speaker Q&A
- **On-Demand Training** – Pre-recorded sessions to offer foundational knowledge on key topics
- **Videos Illuminating Payments (VIP)** – Special on-demand training offering in-depth, digestible sessions on topics including the FedNow® Service, faster payments strategy, and check fraud; and members receive complimentary access to the session, "Payments Channels in the U.S."

Save the date for our  
**Virtual Payments Fraud Symposium**  
October 16, 2025 - 9:00AM - 3:30PM CST



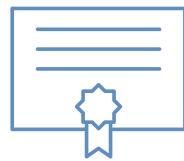
This all day virtual event addresses the most pressing cybersecurity and fraud topics facing the industry.



Keep an eye out for more information on new webinars on emerging topics throughout the year.

**Visit the Education Calendar at [SFE.org](https://SFE.org) for the latest information.**

# Accreditation



Payments' accreditations serve as the industry gold standard, ensuring an individual's deep operational knowledge of payments systems. SFE offers specialized training (at a discounted rate to members) to prepare individuals for the following accreditations:

- **Accredited ACH Professional (AAP)** – As an AAP, you will join an elite group of professionals who are recognized for their ACH payments expertise. The exam window is October 6 - November 1, 2025, and SFE training kicks off in May.
- **Accredited Payments Risk Professional (APRP)** – As an APRP, you are an esteemed risk professional, exhibiting advanced knowledge in risk across payment channels at an enterprise level. The exam window is August 4 - August 30, 2025, and SFE training kicks off in April.
- **Accredited Faster Payments Professional (AFPP)** – The inaugural AFPP, which designates expertise in faster payments systems, kicks off in 2025, with the exam window open February 17 - March 8, 2025.
- **Faster Payments Professional (FPP) Certificate** – The FPP certificate demonstrates your proficiency in the faster payments field. It is offered in three modules, with the certificate awarded with the certificate awarded after the completion of three training modules, and pass rates on each module's quiz and a comprehensive final quiz. It's available on-demand through March 31, 2025.
- **National Check Professional (NCP)** – NCPs demonstrate a working knowledge of every significant aspect of the check payments system including products and operations, relevant rules and laws that govern checks, industry standards, and fraud and risk mitigation considerations. The exam window is April 19 – May 10, 2025, and SFE training kicks off in January.





## Publications

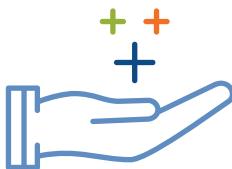


In conjunction with Nacha and Payments Associations, SFE offers a wide variety of payments publications to members at special rates. In addition, all SFE members receive a complimentary annual copy of the Nacha Operating Rules and Guidelines.

Key publications include:

- **Nacha Operating Rules and Guidelines**
- **ACH Compliance Manual**
- **ACH Risk Management Handbook**
- **Third-Party Senders and the ACH Network**
- **ACH Quick-Reference Guide and Reference Cards**
- **Check Returns and Adjustments Quick-Reference Guide**
- **Image and Remote Deposit Capture (RDC) Guide**

# Value-Added Services



We believe in going above and beyond for our members. The following value-added services support SFE Members in a number of important ways:

- **Banking Law Information Service** – Provided by Scott Jones, a partner in the law firm of Adams and Reese LLP and counsel to SFE, the Banking Law Information Service is a free resource for SFE members to ask basic questions on all areas of payments laws and regulations.
- **Complimentary Power Hours** – Complimentary for members, SFE's Power Hour webinars provide 60-minute sessions packed with information on industry hot topics. Held bimonthly throughout the year.
- **Foundational On-Demand Information** – SFE members receive complimentary access to the on-demand Videos Illuminating Payments (VIP) session, "Payments Channels in the U.S."
- **Fraud Forum** – Through SFE's partnership with finovifi, we offer a members-only Fraud Forum, which includes digital access to the latest tips and insights for fraud prevention, as well as bimonthly complimentary webinars on important fraud topics.
- **Fraud Information Services** – The Financial and Retailers Protection Association (FRPA) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting financial and serious retail property crimes. As a member of FRPA, SFE learns about the latest local fraud trends to keep SFE members abreast of current happenings.
- **Monthly ACH Volume Reports** – SFE Members receive exclusive data from Nacha to help them compare national trends with their individual ACH volume.
- **IDA, SFE's AI Solution** – Whether in a chat function at SFE.org or as a tool scanning the Nacha Operating Rules (available soon), IDA, powered by Identifee, brings the power of AI to SFE members.
- **Pre-Rules Violation Mediation Services** – SFE provides help for member organizations to solve possible Rules violations before a claim is submitted to Nacha's System of Fines; SFE can serve as a liaison between member organizations.



# The SFE Community



SFE boasts a thriving and diverse membership. When you become a member, you not only gain access to SFE staff, but you also become part of a bigger payments network.

- From in-person networking to digital forums, we draw together diverse industry organizations facing similar challenges and opportunities.
- SFE regularly engages a growing group of organizations primarily from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, to learn, collaborate, and network.
- On LinkedIn, SFE connects with its members, national bodies, regulators, and the broader payments community, sharing the latest news, updates, and information. Connect with us and grow your knowledge and network.



**We offer a true payments community. Reach out to SFE today to connect.**



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