



# E-invoicing in Germany

Factsheet

# Contents

<b>Country Description</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sending</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Receiving</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Storecove</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Onboarding</b>	<b>14</b>

# 1. Country Description

## 1.1. Germany

Germany has passed the [Growth Opportunities Act](#), introducing a new mandate for B2B e-invoicing that will become mandatory in the coming years. This legislation positions German businesses at the forefront of nationwide digitalization efforts.

The Act aims to modernize financial operations by requiring e-invoicing for domestic B2B transactions, streamlining processes and significantly reducing the administrative burden linked to traditional paper invoicing.

This shift is expected to enhance operational efficiency and promote a more sustainable approach to business transactions across the country.



## 1.2. Timeline

The timeline for the phased implementation of the e-invoicing mandate is as follows:

- **1 January 2025:** All German businesses must be able to receive and process electronic invoices
- **1 January 2027:** German businesses with an annual turnover exceeding €800k must issue their invoices electronically for domestic B2B transactions
- **1 January 2028:** All German businesses must issue invoices electronically for domestic B2B transactions

### What are the technical requirements?

To ensure a seamless transition, electronic invoices must adhere to the [EN 16931 standard](#). However, businesses retain the capacity to negotiate the [Electronic Data Interchange \(EDI\) standards](#) used, provided mutual agreement is reached between invoice issuers and recipients.

Whilst Germany will eventually need to comply with the digital reporting requirement (DRR), as outlined in the European Commission's [VAT in the Digital Age \(VIDA\)](#) proposal, the mandate is specific to invoice exchange between supplier and buyer and does not include a Continuous Transaction Controls (CTC) / centralised model.

## 1.3. Formats

The formats in use in Germany are:

- **XRechnung:** The official Peppol-compliant syntax/format used in Germany. Supports both UBL and CII.
- **ZUGFeRD:** A hybrid format commonly sent via email. It embeds XML data within a PDF file, allowing both human-readable and machine-readable information.
- **PDF:** Not an e-invoice format itself but can be added as an attachment to an e-invoice for distribution over Peppol or via email.

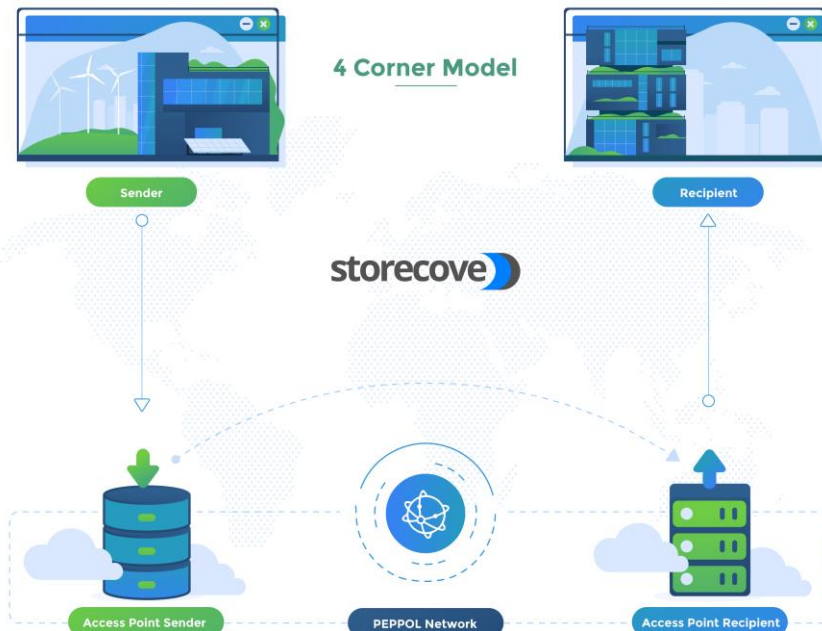
## 1.4 Peppol Authority (KoSIT)

Germany has introduced **Peppol** as an open e-invoice exchange network for its government agencies and businesses. Each participating country designates a Peppol Authority to oversee its use. In Germany, this role is held by KoSIT. KoSIT defines the identifiers for German companies and the e-invoice formats supported within the Peppol network. Additionally, it governs the German Certified Peppol Access Points.

Below is an infographic illustrating the Peppol **4-corner model**. Both buyers and suppliers must register with the network through a **Peppol Access Point** (such as Storecove).

In Germany, businesses are identified by their **VAT numbers** (DE: VAT), while government entities use a **Leitweg ID**. Connections between senders and receivers on the Peppol network are automatically established based on these identifiers. The recipient's Peppol Access Point can specify the preferred format (using SMP functionality), which simplifies transactions.

What makes our solution unique is that we automatically generate the correct processable format for each invoice, allowing you – as a sender - to avoid producing different document types manually. You will also receive notifications on the delivery status within seconds, such as *received*, *authorized*, *set for payment*, or *paid*.



## 1.5 Archiving

**10-year mandatory archiving:** Integrators and ERP system users can ensure compliance with the legal 10-year archiving requirement. With Storecove's API, users can retrieve the exact invoice generated and delivered to the recipient, often including a digital signature from the receiver as proof of receipt.

For received invoices, the API provides both a parsed JSON object containing all invoice data and the original format in which the invoice was received.

These documents can be stored in a local financial or ERP system, thereby fully meeting Germany's archiving regulations.



## 2. Sending

Storecove prioritizes delivery via **Peppol** or the **DBNAlliance** (the U.S. open exchange network), using the identifier specified in the routing data.

If the recipient is not registered on either the Peppol or DBNAlliance its network, Storecove can alternatively deliver the invoice via email. In this case, the invoice is sent in ZUGFeRD and PDF format, with attachments localized according to the recipient's country.

### 2.1. B2B

With Storecove as your e-invoicing solution, sending e-invoices to German B2B recipients is a smooth process. A key advantage of our solution is its ability to automatically generate the required processable format for each transaction. Once generated, we efficiently transmit the invoice data directly to the recipient.

The process for sending e-invoices through Storecove, whether for B2B or B2G transactions, is outlined below:

#### Supplier (Customer 1):

- **Step 1:** The supplier initiates the e-invoicing process by generating e-invoices in JSON format.
- **Step 2:** The supplier sends these e-invoices to Storecove via the API connection, without the need to adhere to any specific syntax or formatting requirements. We then take care of the automatic processable format generation.
- **Step 3:** the sender wishes to send via the Peppol or DBNAlliance network, the sender must add the recipient's identifier (Peppol ID) and a fallback email address.

#### Buyer (Customer 2):

- **Step 4:** The buyer receives the processable invoice (*webhooks / evidence, can be used to retrieve the original invoice as delivered*).

## 2.2. Cross-Border

Cross-border e-invoices can be sent through **Peppol** and **DBNAlliance** channels if suppliers have a *unique international identifier*.

If an identifier is not available for Peppol or DBNAlliance, we can deliver the invoice via email. For this email fallback method, a fallback email address must be included in the JSON data.

To enable successful delivery, suppliers are required to submit **at least one** international identifier, which we can then use to route the invoice.

The process for sending cross-border e-invoices with Storecove is outlined below:

### Supplier (Customer 1):

- **Step 1:** The supplier initiates the invoicing process by generating e-invoices in JSON format.
- **Step 2:** The supplier sends the e-invoices to Storecove via the API.

### Storecove:

- **Step 3:** Storecove extracts data from the e-invoices and directly sends via the Peppol or DBNAlliance network or email .
- **Step 4:** If the invoice cannot be delivered via Peppol or DBNAlliance Open exchange networks, Storecove will alternatively deliver to the fallback email address.

## 2.3. Sending ZUGFeRD:

Using the JSON data provided to the Storecove API, we can generate any required e-invoice format, including the hybrid German e-invoice format, **ZUGFeRD**. The ZUGFeRD format is a PDF that embeds an XML e-invoice, providing both a readable document and structured data.

If delivery via an Open Exchange network (like Peppol or DBNAlliance) is not possible, Storecove will generate the ZUGFeRD format and send it to the fallback email address. As mentioned before, it's essential to include both an identifier and a fallback email address in the invoice data to ensure successful delivery.



## 2.4 Unique format generation

In cross-border transactions, Storecove's ability to automatically generate any global e-invoice format is especially valuable. When delivering an invoice via Peppol or DBNAlliance, Storecove communicates with the recipient's access point to determine the specific format required.

From your JSON data, we generate the precise country-specific format that the recipient can process directly.

As new countries join and new formats emerge, **we guarantee full interoperability**. This means that a single integration with the Storecove API ensures ongoing compliance, eliminating the time-consuming task of manually uploading or managing formats.

Our solution is also **EU-PINT ready**, a new standard soon to be introduced by Peppol.



## 3. Receiving

### 3.1 Receiving via the Peppol Network

Once registered on the Peppol network, you will automatically receive invoices from any supplier connected to Peppol as a sender (transmitted based on receiver's ID). If Peppol capability at receiver's end is not enabled, we will switch delivery to be via email.

This connection is established based on the identifiers of the business partners, ensuring that invoices are routed accurately. Each invoice will appear in your financial system in a fully processable format, instantly ready for a smooth integration into your workflows.

The process for receiving e-invoices in Germany via the Peppol network, when using Storecove as your Peppol access point, is outlined below:

#### **Supplier (Customer 1):**

**Step 1:** The supplier generates electronic e-invoices.

**Step 2:** Then, the supplier sends them through the Peppol or DBNAlliance network.

#### **Storecove:**

**Step 3:** Storecove receives your e-invoices via Peppol, DBNAlliance Network or via email ingestion directly into the API endpoint.

**Step 4:** No matter what e-invoice format you receive, Storecove always produces the same JSON data that your ERP system can interpret.

#### **Buyer (Customer 2):**

**Step 5:** Incorporating all necessary information the buyer provides.

## 3.2 Receiving via e-mail

In Germany, a hybrid e-invoice format known as ZUGFeRD is still in use. ZUGFeRD is a PDF file that includes an embedded XML e-invoice format. You can receive this format through a dedicated email address, which can then be processed through our API. We will extract the XML e-invoice from the PDF package and handle it accordingly.

Read [how ZUGFeRD can be received via email](#), and then be ingested in the API endpoint. This endpoint unifies all incoming e-invoices into a single receive flow.

*To establish and maintain the connection to Storecove's API, **a developer with experience in RESTful JSON is required**. This can be an in-house developer or a systems integrator. If you don't have an existing integration partner for your ERP system, we can connect you with one of our preferred partners who has experience with our API.*



## 4. Storecove

### With Storecove



**Global Reach:** Available in multiple countries, ideal for businesses with international operations.



**Efficiency:** Streamlined, automated process for invoice handling, reducing administrative work.



**Compliance:** Ensures invoices meet legal tax authority requirements.



**Monitoring and Updates:** Storecove keeps up with regulatory changes.

**Certified Peppol Access Point:**

PEPPOL

As a trusted Peppol Access Point (+10 years of experience) we enable Peppol functionalities for your business. E-invoices can easily be exchanged through Peppol.



**Archiving** Customer's responsibility, resource-intensive, and requires more budget.

### Without Storecove



**Efficiency:** Manual and time-consuming process, leading to increased administrative work.



**Compliance:** Customer's sole responsibility, potentially error-prone and time-consuming



**Archiving** Customer's responsibility, resource-intensive, and requires more budget.

## 4. How can Storecove help?

Whether you need to send B2B, B2C or cross-border e-invoices, Storecove facilitates compliant e-invoicing in over 30 countries, including Germany.

- ✓ As your Peppol-ready solution provider, we will extract and format your invoice data submissions to ensure they align with German legal requirements, including tax codes and structure.
- ✓ Connection and maintenance of the connection to Storecove's API have to be set up by a developer with RESTful JSON experience. An in-house developer or an Integrator. If you do not have an integration partner for your specific ERP system, we can supply you with a preferred one that has experience with the Storecove API.
- ✓ We send the formatted invoice data via the Peppol network, to your buyer.
- ✓ We send the invoice to the buyer via the Peppol network or via email. When sending an e-mail we always add an electronic invoice format to the email beside the original PDF that you supply.

### Request a test account

If you're interested in our compliant e-invoicing in Germany and/or Peppol services, we encourage you to [request a test account](#). For other inquiries or support request, please contact our support team at [helpdesk@storecove.com](mailto:helpdesk@storecove.com)

# 5. Onboarding

## 5.1. Identifiers

If you're considering our e-invoicing services and your business operates in Germany, it's important to note that every German Legal entity must register with a VAT number (businesses) or a Leitweg ID (governmental organizations).

If you believe our solution aligns well with your business needs, you can start the setup process by reaching out to us via email at [helpdesk@storecove.com](mailto:helpdesk@storecove.com).

## 5.2. For Developers

Developers can request a sandbox testing environment (active for 30 days) simply by sending us their email address and request to [helpdesk@storecove.com](mailto:helpdesk@storecove.com).

After approval by our team, we will send you the account details and you can start testing right away.

You can also check our [API documentation](#) or and if you have more technical questions, feel free to reach out to us at [apisupport@storecove.com](mailto:apisupport@storecove.com).

**Note:**

You only need to connect once to the Storecove API to meet the German requirements and receive e-invoices through Peppol, DBNAlliance (U.S. open exchange network) and email.