



White Paper

Global E-Invoicing Compliance – Guide for International SAP Enterprises

xSuite

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01 Management Summary

E-invoicing is becoming a central component of modern finance processes worldwide. It is no longer just a technical format, but a complex interplay of regulatory requirements, tax compliance, process design, and data governance. This is particularly relevant for internationally operating SAP-driven enterprises that depend on consistent, integrated processes across regions.

E-invoicing is not a one-time implementation. It is an ongoing global process shaped by continuous regulatory change. Companies that address it early and in a structured way ensure compliance while building the foundation for more efficient, automated, and transparent finance operations.

Success requires more than meeting format requirements. It depends on end-to-end process visibility and strong data governance across the entire transaction lifecycle. Only companies that manage processes and data consistently can scale e-invoicing globally in a stable and compliant way.

02

Global E-Invoicing Landscape: Dynamics Instead of Static Knowledge

E-invoicing is expanding rapidly worldwide, but not in a uniform way. In Europe, initiatives such as ViDA (VAT in the Digital Age) are shaping national regulations without full harmonization. South America already operates with mature, often real-time reporting models. In Asia, programs are evolving gradually, while countries like Australia and Canada align with global standards. The United States has no central mandate yet, but adoption is expected to grow.

The main challenge is not only regional differences, but the pace of change. Mandates, formats, and transmission channels are continuously updated, sometimes several times a year. Static overviews quickly become outdated. What matters is understanding these dynamics and preparing for continuous change.



03

Why Companies Should Address E-Invoicing Now

Although many companies still receive most invoices as PDFs or paper, this is changing rapidly. Once e-invoicing becomes mandatory in a country, adoption increases within a short time frame and often reaches near full coverage within months.

This shift will not remain local. Companies that experience the efficiency and data quality benefits of e-invoicing tend to expand it across regions and supply chains. As a result, organizations are increasingly driven toward e-invoicing not only by regulation, but also by operational advantages.

Structured invoice data eliminates manual entry, improves transparency, and accelerates processing. For companies aiming at higher automation and better control, e-invoicing is a key enabler.



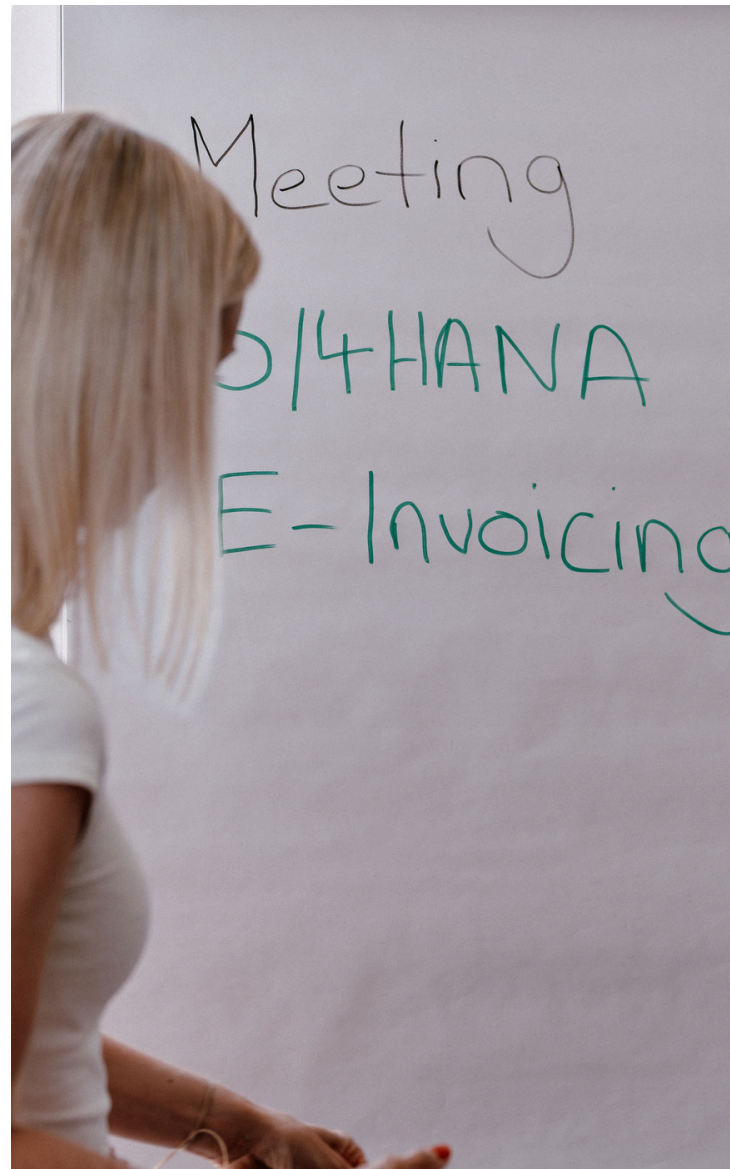
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Why E-Invoicing Is Not a “Small IT Project”

E-invoicing may seem like a technical change, but in practice it is a cross-functional transformation. It involves IT, Finance, Tax, and Compliance, and requires alignment across systems, processes, and responsibilities.

For international companies, complexity increases significantly. Multiple formats, country-specific requirements, and different SAP landscapes must be integrated into a consistent global approach. At the same time, e-invoicing is closely linked to broader initiatives such as SAP S/4HANA transformations, cloud strategies, and automation efforts.

E-invoicing is therefore not just a technical topic. It is a process and data challenge that requires early planning to avoid fragmented solutions and time pressure later on.



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Challenges in Practice

5.1 Technical Challenges: The technical challenge is driven not only by the variety of formats, but by how these formats must be integrated into SAP processes. While EN-16931 provides a European framework, many countries use derived variants such as ZUGFeRD, Factur-X, or FatturaPA, each with specific fields, structures, and validation rules. Outside Europe, additional XML, JSON, or hybrid formats further increase complexity.

For SAP-driven organizations, this means that each format must be mapped precisely to SAP data structures such as company codes, tax codes, master data, and posting logic. Format requirements directly impact how invoice data is validated, enriched, and ultimately posted in SAP. Even small deviations can lead to processing errors or compliance risks.

Regular format updates require continuous adjustments in SAP. New fields, validation rules, or structural changes must be reflected in mappings, business logic, and testing cycles. Without a structured approach, this creates significant effort and risk for SAP operations.

Transmission channels add further complexity. Whether using Peppol, national platforms, or proprietary networks, companies must ensure seamless integration into SAP processes without creating fragmented interfaces.

5.2 Regulatory Challenges: Regulatory requirements are closely linked to technical implementation. In many countries, e-invoicing is part of broader tax control frameworks. Clearance models, real-time reporting, and authority feedback significantly extend the scope.

Companies must not only send invoice data, but also receive, process, archive, and integrate responses into SAP processes. Regulatory changes occur asynchronously across countries, increasing the complexity of global operations.

The challenge lies not in individual changes, but in managing multiple parallel developments across regions in a controlled and scalable way.

5.3 Organizational Challenges: E-invoicing only works reliably if responsibilities are clearly defined. Finance needs transparency on format changes, IT implements technical adjustments, tax departments interpret regulatory requirements, and Compliance ensures adherence to the overall framework. Global companies must align regional specifics with global standards.

At the same time, success depends on process and data quality long before an invoice is created. Visibility across the transaction lifecycle, from purchase requisition to invoice generation, is essential to ensure accurate and compliant invoice data. Missing or inconsistent data often leads to errors, resulting in rejections, reconciliation efforts with authorities, or penalties.

This becomes particularly evident in clearance or CTC models. In traditional processes, invoice errors can often be corrected directly between business partners. In CTC environments, corrections typically involve tax authorities, making the process significantly more complex and time-consuming. This increases the importance of getting invoice data right from the start.

For internationally active companies, managing these interdependencies is not only a compliance requirement but also a key enabler of business agility. A structured governance model allows organizations to scale e-invoicing processes in line with international expansion, without creating operational bottlenecks.

At the same time, a harmonized data layer across processes and regions creates additional business value. It improves visibility into liabilities and cash flow, supports more accurate reporting, and provides a foundation for working capital optimization.

E-invoicing is therefore not just a matter of formats or interfaces, but an ongoing interplay of technology, law, and organization. Companies that manage this interplay effectively can meet global requirements while unlocking operational and financial value.

06

E-Invoicing as a Global Compliance Process

E-invoicing is not a completed implementation, but an ongoing compliance process. Companies need a structured model to monitor regulatory developments, assess their impact, and implement changes.

A sustainable approach includes continuous monitoring of global requirements, impact analysis on SAP processes, structured design of changes, and controlled testing and rollout. For international organizations, these activities must be coordinated globally while executed with local precision.

This requires end-to-end process visibility and a strong data governance model to ensure consistent, high-quality data across all regions and systems.



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E-Invoicing Do's & Don'ts

A common mistake is underestimating e-invoicing and delaying action until deadlines are near. This leaves little room for sustainable process design. Another frequent issue is building custom solutions that create long-term maintenance challenges.

Custom developments in SAP may solve short-term needs but lead to high technical debt. Every format change or regulatory update requires adjustments, which become difficult to manage in global environments.

Successful companies take a different approach. They establish global governance early, leverage existing capabilities, and define a dynamic roadmap that allows them to adapt continuously.



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Selection Criteria for E-Invoicing Solutions in SAP Landscapes

There is no universal solution that covers all global requirements. Companies must define priorities, such as country coverage, SAP integration depth, or time-to-compliance.

E-invoicing should always be considered in the context of broader SAP strategies, including S/4HANA transformation, cloud adoption, and automation initiatives. Isolated implementations lead to fragmentation and limit long-term value.

An increasingly important factor is the role of AI. While e-invoices eliminate manual data capture, they do not automate decision-making. Structured data alone is not sufficient to handle account assignment, approval routing, exception handling, or fraud detection.

Modern AP solutions use AI to support these steps. They can suggest account assignments, determine approvers, detect anomalies, and identify potential fraud. This enables higher automation while maintaining control and auditability within SAP processes.



Companies should therefore evaluate not only compliance capabilities, but also how solutions use AI to improve efficiency, decision-making, and process quality.

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Our Approach: xSuite eDNA in the International SAP Context



At xSuite, we combine deep SAP expertise with a focus on end-to-end process automation. With xSuite eDNA, we provide a solution that integrates e-invoicing seamlessly into SAP processes.

We support both inbound and outbound e-invoicing, covering the full process chain within a consistent SAP-integrated approach. Our experience in invoice processing ensures high data quality, robust validation, and reliable automation.

For global connectivity, we partner with ecosio, a VERTEX Company, enabling integration with Peppol and other international networks. This combination allows companies to implement global e-invoicing requirements efficiently and reliably.

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A Possible Roadmap to Global E-Invoicing Compliance

A structured roadmap is essential for sustainable implementation. It typically starts with analyzing markets, mandates, and SAP systems, followed by defining a target architecture and rollout plan.

Design, implementation, and testing are carried out in phases, followed by step-by-step go-live. Continuous monitoring ensures that regulatory changes are integrated over time. tions, cloud strategies, and automation efforts.



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Conclusion

E-invoicing is a global topic with high dynamics that presents internationally active companies with complex challenges. Different formats, mandates, and reporting requirements must be integrated into a harmonized SAP process model within a constantly evolving environment.

At the same time, e-invoicing mandates are a strong driver for modernization. Companies that act early, establish governance, and ensure process visibility can turn compliance requirements into an opportunity.

Structured, high-quality data improves compliance, reduces risk, and enables faster, more transparent processes. It also provides better insights into liabilities and cash flow, supporting Treasury and working capital optimization.

With xSuite eDNA, companies can manage global e-invoicing complexity while moving toward more automated, transparent, and value-driven finance processes within SAP.

About the xSuite Group

xSuite is a software manufacturer of applications for document-based processes and provides standardized, digital solutions worldwide that enable simple, secure, and fast work. We focus mainly on the automation of important work processes in conjunction with end-to-end document management. Our core competence lies in accounts payable (AP) automation in SAP (including E-Invoicing), for leading companies worldwide, as well as for public clients. This is supplemented by applications for purchasing and order processes as well as archiving. Delivering everything from a single source (software components and services), xSuite solutions operate in the cloud, on-premises, or in hybrid scenarios. We are proud of the superior quality products we offer, proven by the SAP solutions and deployment environment certifications we regularly receive. With over 300,000 users benefitting from our solutions, xSuite processes more than 80 million documents per year in over 60 countries.