

Using the Peppol Network for Domestic E-Invoicing in France

Overview

The Peppol (Pan-European Public Procurement On-Line) network enables standardized electronic document exchange between businesses. For French domestic e-invoicing, both sender and receiver communicate through access points like HubBroker, which acts as the service provider connecting participants to the Peppol network.

Key Components

Participants

- **Sender:** The business issuing the e-invoice
- **Receiver:** The business receiving the e-invoice
- **Service Provider (HubBroker):** The certified Peppol access point facilitating the exchange

Identification

Each participant needs a Peppol ID (also called Participant ID), which in France typically uses:

- SIRET number - format: 0009:FRxxxxxxxxxx (14 digits)
- SIREN number - format: 0002:FRxxxxxxxx (9 digits)
- GLN (Global Location Number) - format: 0088:37xxxxxxxxxx
- VAT number - format: 9957:FRxxxxxxxxxx

Outbound E-Invoicing Process (Sending)

1. Registration with HubBroker

- The sender registers as a Peppol participant through HubBroker
- Receives their Peppol ID configuration
- HubBroker registers the sender in the Peppol SMP (Service Metadata Publisher) directory

2. Invoice Creation

- Sender creates invoice in their ERP/accounting system
- Invoice is converted to Peppol BIS Billing 3.0 format (UBL or CII XML standard)

3. Transmission via HubBroker

- Sender submits the e-invoice to HubBroker (via API, file upload, or system integration)
- HubBroker validates the invoice format and content
- HubBroker looks up the receiver's access point in the Peppol SML/SMP directory
- HubBroker sends the invoice through the Peppol network to the receiver's access point

4. Delivery Confirmation

- HubBroker provides delivery status back to the sender
- Sender receives confirmation that the invoice reached the receiver's access point

Inbound E-Invoicing Process (Receiving)

1. Registration with HubBroker

- The receiver registers their Peppol ID with HubBroker
- HubBroker publishes the receiver's endpoint information in the Peppol SMP directory
- This makes the receiver discoverable to all Peppol senders

2. Invoice Reception

- When a sender transmits an invoice to the receiver's Peppol ID, the sender's access point queries the Peppol directory
- The directory returns HubBroker's endpoint information
- The invoice is routed through the Peppol network to HubBroker

3. Processing via HubBroker

- HubBroker receives and validates the incoming e-invoice
- HubBroker can transform the invoice format if needed (e.g., from XML to the receiver's preferred format)
- HubBroker notifies the receiver of the new invoice

4. Delivery to Receiver

- Invoice is delivered to the receiver through their preferred method:
- Direct integration with ERP/accounting system (API)
- Web portal access through HubBroker's platform
- Email notification with download link
- File transfer (SFTP, AS2, etc.)

French-Specific Requirements

For domestic French e-invoicing via Peppol, ensure:

- **SIRET identification:** French companies must use their SIRET number (Système d'Identification du Répertoire des Etablissements) as the Peppol identifier (format 0009:FRxxxxxxxxxx)
- **Chorus Pro integration:** For B2G (Business-to-Government) invoicing, integration with the French Chorus Pro platform is required
- **VAT requirements:** Invoices must include French VAT information (Numéro de TVA intracommunautaire) correctly formatted
- **Chorus Pro compliance:** Public sector invoices must comply with Chorus Pro specifications
- **Language:** Invoice content typically in French for domestic transactions
- **Legal requirements:** Compliance with French invoicing regulations (Code Général des Impôts)
- **Data retention:** French legal requirements for invoice archiving and retention

French E-Invoicing Reform (Mandatory B2B E-Invoicing)

France is implementing a mandatory B2B e-invoicing and e-reporting regime:

Implementation Timeline

- **Phase 1 (2026):** All businesses must be able to receive e-invoices
- **Phase 2 (2026-2027):** Phased rollout of mandatory e-invoice sending based on company size:
- **Large companies:** First to implement
- **Mid-size companies:** Following phase
- **Small businesses:** Final phase

PPF (Plateforme de Dématérialisation Partenaire)

- **HubBroker as PPF:** Service providers like HubBroker can act as Certified Partner Platforms (PPF)
- **Mandatory registration:** All businesses must register with either the public platform or a certified PPF
- **Peppol compliance:** Peppol network is recognized as compliant infrastructure for the French mandate



Benefits of Using HubBroker as Service Provider

- **Single connection:** Connect once to reach all Peppol participants globally
- **Format handling:** HubBroker manages format conversions and validations
- **Compliance:** Ensures invoices meet Peppol, French legal, and Chorus Pro requirements
- **Directory management:** HubBroker handles SMP registration and updates
- **PPF certification:** HubBroker can serve as your certified Partner Platform for French mandate compliance
- **Support:** Technical assistance for onboarding and troubleshooting in French context
- **Monitoring:** Track invoice status and delivery confirmations
- **B2G gateway:** Facilitates connectivity to Chorus Pro for public sector invoicing
- **Future-proof:** Ready for mandatory B2B e-invoicing requirements

Implementation Steps

- Choose your Peppol ID (typically SIRET-based: 0009:FRxxxxxxxxxx)
- Sign agreement with HubBroker as your Peppol access point provider and PPF
- Register for French mandate compliance through HubBroker
- Configure integration between your systems and HubBroker
- Test transactions in HubBroker's test environment
- Go live and start exchanging e-invoices domestically and internationally

French E-Invoicing Landscape

France has a rapidly evolving e-invoicing ecosystem with:

- **Public sector:** Mandatory e-invoicing via Chorus Pro since 2020
- **B2B mandate:** Upcoming mandatory e-invoicing for all B2B transactions
- **Chorus Pro:** Central platform for public sector e-invoice reception
- **PPF network:** Certified partner platforms authorized to handle e-invoices
- **Anti-fraud measures:** E-invoicing reform includes VAT fraud prevention objectives
- **E-reporting:** Mandatory reporting of transaction data to tax authorities
- **EU alignment:** Compliance with European e-invoicing standards and VIDA initiative

B2G (Business-to-Government) Specific Requirements

For invoicing French public entities:

- **Chorus Pro mandatory:** All public sector invoices must go through Chorus Pro
- **Registration required:** Suppliers must register on Chorus Pro platform

- HubBroker integration: HubBroker can route invoices to Chorus Pro on your behalf
- Format requirements: Specific format requirements for Chorus Pro compatibility

Preparing for the French Mandate

To prepare for mandatory B2B e-invoicing:

- **Early adoption:** Begin using Peppol now to gain experience
- **System readiness:** Ensure ERP/accounting systems can handle e-invoices
- **PPF selection:** Choose HubBroker as your trusted PPF partner
- **Staff training:** Prepare teams for the transition to mandatory e-invoicing
- **Process updates:** Adapt internal workflows for electronic invoice processing

The Peppol network enables seamless domestic French e-invoicing while also providing the capability to exchange invoices with international partners across Europe and beyond using the same infrastructure and processes. With France's mandatory B2B e-invoicing on the horizon, adopting Peppol through HubBroker ensures compliance and future-readiness.

