



ATC – responsible, passionate, innovative.

Client information: The e-invoice comes

Dear client,

The concept of electronic invoice (in short: E-invoice) is already on everyone's lips. In April of this year, we provided you with client information on the Growth Opportunities Act, which also included information on the e-invoice [News - ATC Tax GmbH & Co. KG \(atc-services.de\)](https://www.atc-services.de/news)

For a quick overview you have linked a short info video [Tax videos - ATC Tax GmbH & Co. KG \(atc-services.de\)](https://www.atc-services.de/tax-videos)

We would like to introduce you to the essential information on e-invoicing in more detail below.

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1 What is an e-invoice?

E-invoices are invoices that can be issued, transmitted, received and processed in a structured electronic format. The content of the invoices remains unchanged; it merely changes the format of the invoice to allow for standardised electronic processing.

E-invoices can be either fully structured or produced in a hybrid format. A fully structured e-invoice contains all information in a machine-readable format such as XML. A hybrid format consists of two parts, which are ultimately combined into one file - a structured data part (e.g. XML file) for automated processing and a human-readable file part (e.g. PDF document) intended for human visual inspection.

The invoice format of the e-invoice must comply with the European standard EN 16931. Invoice formats such as the X-invoice or invoices in ZUGFeRD format are applicable, for example, according to this standard.

Invoices that do not comply with the requirements of that standard shall be so-called other invoices as from 1 January 2025. These are, for example, the usual invoices in PDF format or those in paper form.

2 From 1 January 2025, e-invoicing will become mandatory

At the end of March 2024, the Federal Government and the opposition agreed on the Growth Opportunities Act – and with it also agreed on the new VAT rules for electronic invoices.

In the future, e-invoicing for domestic corporate customers (business-to-business/B2B) is to become gradually mandatory.

From 01.01.2025, therefore, domestic traders may in principle only issue, transmit and receive e-invoices between themselves. The archiving of the received e-invoice must also be ensured. Paper and PDF invoices are then passé. However, since this involves some effort for the issuers of invoices, the legislator has provided for **transitional provisions for the years 2025 to 2027**, which we have once clearly presented to you in the following chart.

The objectives are clear: standardising and optimising data quality for the planned modernised VAT reporting. This will also increase efficiency and transparency throughout the supply chain, while helping to prevent fraud and tax evasion.

At ATC, we believe that e-invoicing represents a significant opportunity for your business. Standardization ensures more efficient processes, fewer sources of error and better data flow between the parties involved. This allows your employees to focus on other tasks and save time and costs by avoiding queries about incorrect invoices.

exceptions

Other invoices may still be issued to:

- Low-value invoices under EUR 250 in accordance with §33 UStDV
- Tickets according to § 34 UStDV
- The provision of services to a non-contractor (consumer)
- Tax-exempt services pursuant to § 4 Nos. 8 to 29 UStG
- Services provided by/to companies domiciled abroad

3 An overview of the planned implementation

From January 1st, 2025

the obligation to receive, process and archive e-invoices for domestic taxable transactions applies to all companies in the B2B sector. It must be possible to send e-invoices.

Until December 31st, 2026

With the agreement of the recipient, paper, PDF and electronic invoices that do not comply with the new format may continue to be sent on December 1st, 2026.

From January 1st, 2027

the obligation to send e-invoices for domestic taxable transactions applies to all companies in the B2B sector with a turnover in 2026 of **more** than EUR 800 thousand.

Until December 31st, 2027,

companies in the B2B sector with a turnover in 2026 (Section 19(3) UStG) of **less** than EUR 800 thousand in 2027 may continue to submit other invoices with the consent of the recipient.

From January 1st, 2028

is the obligation to send e-invoices in the B2B sector for all companies.

4 What to do now?

The imminent introduction of the legal obligation to use e-invoices requires timely preparation, with particular emphasis on technological adaptation. It is important that your IT infrastructure and software solutions support the entire e-invoice process, from receipt, creation and processing to archiving and transmission.

Analyze your internal processes and take stock of your IT-infrastructure. Check in a timely manner whether your ERP and invoicing systems are in line with the new requirements or need to be adapted – contact your software providers.

If adjustments are needed, implement appropriate software solutions, define new processes and train your employees so that everyone is familiar with the new system.

Set up a central e-mail address for receiving e-invoices, if this has not already been done, and inform your business partners and suppliers about it.

Archive and process the e-invoices according to the newly defined processes.

Please feel free to contact us. We at **ATC** are at your side and support you from the analysis to the complete implementation of the new processes.

5 Software solutions for e-invoicing

Various providers such as Lexoffice, Lexware, sevDesk, Accountingbutler and probably your software provider are already preparing for the e-invoice. Therefore, if you already use software solutions, our recommendation remains to contact your provider and clarify whether and how the e-invoicing obligation is implemented. If you do not yet have any software solutions in use, we recommend that you select your necessary software solutions carefully and according to your requirements. Feel free to contact us if you need support.

5.1 Recommendations of DATEV

Our software provider DATEV eG already offers solutions for receiving, archiving, creating and sending e-invoices.

Among other things, we recommend:

DATEV companies online

For the receipt of invoices, as well as the archiving and payment of invoices. More information can be found [here](#).

DATEV Procurement next

For the preparation of e-invoices – from more than 10 outgoing invoices per month. More information can be found [here](#).

DATEV e-invoicing platform

For the preparation of e-invoices – for less than 10 outgoing invoices per month. More information can be found [here](#).

5.2 Online information events

In cooperation with other tax consulting firms, we offer the online information events on e-invoices for our clients presented below. The focus here is particularly on the DATEV solutions.

Please note that the online information are only offered in German.

If you are interested in such an online information event, please contact us and send an e-mail to info@atc-services.de.

DATEV - Fit for e-invoicing

Thematic priorities: Legal requirements, various use cases and an insight into the programs.

<u>Dates:</u>	27.08.2024	10 a.m. to 12 noon
	23.09.2024	10 a.m. to 12 noon

DATEV - Procurement next

Thematic priorities: Overview and handling of procurement next.

<u>Dates:</u>	10.10.2024	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
	03.12.2024	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Your ATC Team