

DIRECTIVE 2014/55/EU 16 April 2014

on electronic invoicing in public procurement

Entry into force May 2014

Transposition by May 2017

SUMMARY

EU Rationale

- Many Standards for e-Invoicing exist
- None of them necessarily prevails
- Many MS pick one or invent their own

Therefore:

- A common SEMANTIC data standard should be developed
 - The EUROPEAN NORM – EN
- Benefits are only maximised when the generation, sending, transmission, reception and processing of an invoice can be fully automated
- This requires full interrop on CONTENT, FORMAT and DELIVERY

Actions

- The European Parliament had called for making electronic invoicing in public procurement mandatory by 2016 and that The Commission should request that the relevant European standardisation organisation draft a European standard, and
- Identify a limited number of syntaxes which comply with the standard and then provide appropriate syntax bindings
- Government departments should be obliged to receive and process electronic invoices which comply with the standard and with any of the syntaxes on the list.
- Suppliers are not mandated BUT it should not prevent Member States from mandating.
- MS shall adopt, publish and apply at the latest by 27 November 2018.
- MS may postpone for non-central government departments by 30 months – May 2021

PC434

- The standards development activity set up to develop the standard
- A number of workstreams:
 - Defining the Semantic Standard and checking its suitability for use
 - Deciding on the syntaxes to be used and defining the bindings
 - Guidelines for transmission
 - Extensions beyond the Core
 - Testing the standard
 - Looking at Business Rules which may apply to the use of syntaxes

Where are we now?

- The EN has been drafted and issued for consultation. Was circulated and responses returned on 3rd March
- Work goes on in other workstreams whilst the standard is being discussed after consultation
- Plenary meeting in Lisbon next month to discuss progress
- A few open issues, around:
 - Syntaxes, Extensions, Business Rules and of course the EN itself.

What should the UK be doing?

- Govt should be transposing and preparing both central and subsidiary organisations to adopt the norm.
- PDFs are not going to satisfy the requirement. Full interrop is required.
- The Forum should be offering expertise to advise, educate and support bodies which need help to implement the change.
- Part of the PC434 deliverable is the Guidance Paper on use of the new standard.