



## **CEN Workshop progress on Interoperability issues**

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## **CEN WS Phase 3 is preparing recommendations on Service Provider Interoperability**

- **Expert Group recommended CEN takes forward standardisation work on e-invoicing in Europe – CEN has accepted the challenge!**
- **Work on Interoperability is one stream of activity others include SME adoption, Compliance Matrix/Best Practice, and e-invoice Gateway/communication.**
- **A CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) on Interoperability is planned and first drafts have been prepared.**
- **Propose we use this work as a platform for today's discussions**
  - **Breakout session B Legal**
  - **Breakout session C Technical Interoperability**

## Definition of Interoperability

- **The final CWA will include a comprehensive definition of interoperability, based on the Expert Group final report and prior CEN deliverables.**
- **Layers of Interoperability:**
  1. **Business and organizational interoperability (includes legal)**
  2. **Process interoperability (includes content standard)**
  3. **Technical interoperability (includes connectivity and messaging)**
- **Total focus on Interoperability between Service Providers in a four corner model with relationships with end-customers being in the competitive domain and out of scope**

## Key deliverables

1. **Conformance Criteria for Interoperability between Electronic Invoicing Services to be contained in the CWA already referred to.**
2. **Model Interoperability Agreement, based on a bilateral relationship between Service Providers.**

**Both are now in draft and need your input.**

## **Conformance Criteria for Interoperability**

**CC1 Market participants should use and conform to agreed terminology for generally used expressions in the field of electronic invoicing and the market for electronic invoicing services**

- Suggest to base it on existing CEN terms

**CC2 Market participants should provide services and solutions that facilitate, in an easy to use and cost effective manner, the trading parties' compliance with legal and regulatory provisions**

- Will cover support for customer compliance, responsibility and moment of invoice creation, use of electronically signatures, compliance with EDI rules and liability issues.

## Conformance Criteria for Interoperability

**CC3 Agreements between Service Providers need to include a trusted framework or code of practice that protects the interests of trading parties, including SMEs. Key provisions will include:**

- **No commercial or other re-use of handled data for benefit of service provider(s), except as permitted by the customer.**
- **Protection of a trading party's data under all applicable data protection legislation**
- **Confidentiality undertakings by service providers and their subcontractors**
- **Transparency and clear information to be provided by service providers to their customers when describing their services and procedures**

## Conformance Criteria for Interoperability

**CC4 Market Participants should use and support open and non-proprietary standards for invoice content, including in due course to be capable of using the UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice as a reference data model supported by commonly used syntactical expressions.**

- **Common data model based on CII**
- **Subsets and syntax variation will happen**
- **More clarity needed...**

## **Conformance Criteria for Interoperability**

**CC5 Parties who develop and deploy technology used in electronic invoicing should maximize the interoperability between their technology and other technology applications.**

**CC6 Market Participants should use and support open and non-proprietary technology standards for connectivity and messaging between platforms in order to achieve the objectives of interoperability.**

- **Work needed to clarify and expand these draft CC's – Input needed!**

## Conformance Criteria for Interoperability

**CC7 Market participants should over time adopt practices that foster convergence of European and preferably global processes for the addressing and routing of e-invoice and related messages. This should include solutions for electronic invoice and related messages that may be used without regard as to whether the trading parties have elected to use a service provider, and with a focus on practical, short term solutions that can be implemented over five years, as well as the achievement of longer term solutions**

- To be subject of a separate stream of work

## **Conformance Criteria for Interoperability**

**CC8 Market Participants should use and conform to the CEN E-Invoicing Compliance Guidelines and associated Compliance Matrix once they are adopted and/or evolved by industry consensus.**

**CC9 No requirement, whether explicit or implicit, should be placed on trading parties to use either a two, three or four party model and trading parties should remain free to select the model most appropriate for that trading party's business.**

## Conformance Criteria for Interoperability

**CC10 Service Providers operating in a 4 corner model should use and promote the final form of the Model Interoperability Agreement as attached to the final CWA, or a substantially similar agreement.**

- **This agreement is for use among service providers operating in a four corner model. It is technology neutral so as to encourage maximum adoption.**
- **The Model Interoperability Agreement has a main body of text with all required clauses and an appendix called Description of Services covering identification of parties, message transmission and process and agreement on document processing (Payload).**
- **Needs testing among the Service Provider community.**
- **What about a multi lateral rulebook instead of bilateral agreements ?**

## **Conformance Criteria for Interoperability**

**CC11 Different interoperability solutions and ecosystems should themselves be interoperable with other interoperability solutions or eco-systems across Europe and globally.**

**CC12 A possible criteria on recovery of costs between Service Providers (to be discussed)**

**Further work needed.**

## **Possible topics for breakout session B - Legal**

- **CC2 – How should Service Providers support legal compliance and what agreements are needed.**
- **CC3 – Code of practice/ethics**
- **CC8 – Adoption of the CEN invoicing compliance guideline/matix – feasible?**
- **CC10 – Need for a standard Model Interoperability Agreement?**

## **Possible topics for breakout session C – Technical Interoperability**

- **CC2 – Practical aspects of electronic signatures**
- **CC5 – Platform Interoperability**
- **CC6 – Messaging and connectivity**

**Thank you.**

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