

On Tuesday 18th December, CEN and the European Commission signed, on an exceptional basis, a License Agreement for the sponsored access to two CEN technical publications on e-Invoicing, namely the European Standard [EN 16931-1:2017](#) 'Electronic Invoicing - Semantic data model of the core elements of an electronic invoice' and Technical Specification [TS 16931-2:2017](#) - Electronic invoicing - Part 2: 'List of syntaxes that comply with EN 16931-1'.

They support the implementation of the [Directive 2014/55/EU](#) on "Electronic Invoicing in public procurement" by specifying the essential elements that an electronic invoice shall consider and identifying the list of syntaxes to express them for the purpose of compliance with the relevant legal provisions.

Both specifications have been made directly available to the public, via the CEN's National Standardization bodies on: 2019-01-15. Interested users can find a list of the national access points for EN 16931-1:2017 [here](#) and for TS 16931-2 [here](#).

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The CEN's members will continue to distribute the other eInvoicing deliverables, other than EN 16931-1:2017 and TS 16931-2:2017, under their usual commercial practices and can e.g. enter into similar license agreement at national level with national authorities.

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NSAI
Standards

Irish Standard Recommendation
S.R. CEN/TS 16931-2:2017

Electronic invoicing - Part 2: List of syntaxes that comply with EN 16931-1

S.R. CEN/TS 16931-2:2017

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:

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I.S. xxx: Irish Standard — national specification based on the consensus of an expert panel and subject to public consultation.

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This document replaces/revises/consolidates the NSAI adoption of the document(s) indicated on the CEN/CENELEC cover/Foreword and the following National document(s):

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Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

National Foreword

S.R. CEN/TS 16931-2:2017 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document CEN/TS 16931-2:2017, Electronic invoicing - Part 2: List of syntaxes that comply with EN 16931-1

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Users are invited to apply the following statement on each issued electronic invoice: "This invoice complies with I.S. EN 16931-1:2017 and S.R. CEN/TS 16931-2:2017".

This document does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE
TECHNISCHE SPEZIFIKATION

CEN/TS 16931-2

June 2017

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English Version

**Electronic invoicing - Part 2: List of syntaxes that comply
with EN 16931-1**

Facturation électronique - Partie 2: Liste de syntaxes
conformes avec EN 16931-1

Elektronische Rechnungsstellung - Teil 2: Liste der
Syntaxen, die die EN 16931-1 erfüllen

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 17 April 2017 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

CEN members are required to announce the existence of this CEN/TS in the same way as for an EN and to make the CEN/TS available promptly at national level in an appropriate form. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force (in parallel to the CEN/TS) until the final decision about the possible conversion of the CEN/TS into an EN is reached.

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CEN/TS 16931-2:2017 (E)

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European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16931-2:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 434 “Electronic invoicing”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive 2014/55/EU [2].

This document is part of a set of documents, consisting of:

- EN 16931-1:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 1: Semantic data model of the core elements of an electronic invoice
- CEN/TS 16931-2:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 2: List of syntaxes that comply with EN 16931-1
- CEN/TS 16931-3-1:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 3-1: Methodology for syntax bindings of the core elements of an electronic invoice
- CEN/TS 16931-3-2:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 3-2: Syntax binding for ISO/IEC 19845 (UBL 2.1) invoice and credit note
- CEN/TS 16931-3-3:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 3-3: Syntax binding for UN/CEFACT XML Industry Invoice D16B
- CEN/TS 16931-3-4:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 3-4: Syntax binding for UN/EDIFACT INVOIC D16B
- CEN/TR 16931-4:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 4: Guidelines on interoperability of electronic invoices at the transmission level
- CEN/TR 16931-5:2017 Electronic invoicing - Part 5: Guidelines on the use of sector or country extensions in conjunction with EN 16931-1, methodology to be applied in the real environment
- CEN/TR 16931-6¹ Electronic invoicing - Part 6: Result of the test of the European standard with respect to its practical application for an end user - Testing methodology

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to announce this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

¹ In preparation.

CEN/TS 16931-2:2017 (E)

Introduction

The European Commission states that “The mass adoption of e-invoicing within the EU would lead to significant economic benefits and it is estimated that moving from paper to e-invoices will generate savings of around EUR 240 billion over a six-year period” [3]. Based on this recognition “The Commission wants to see e-invoicing become the predominant method of invoicing by 2020 in Europe.”

As a means to achieve this goal, Directive 2014/55/EU [2] on electronic invoicing in public procurement aims at facilitating the use of electronic invoices by economic operators when supplying goods, works and services to the public administration (B2G) as well as support for the trading between economic operators themselves (B2B). In particular, it sets out the legal framework for the establishment and adoption of a European standard (EN) for the semantic data model of the core elements of an electronic invoice (EN 16931-1:2017).

The core invoice model as described in EN 16931-1:2017 is based on the proposition that a limited, but sufficient set of information elements can be defined that supports generally applicable invoice-related functionalities.

In line with Directive 2014/55/EU [2], and after publication of the reference to EN 16931-1:2017 in the Official Journal of the European Union, all contracting public authorities and contracting entities in the EU will be obliged to receive and process an e-invoice as long as:

- it is in conformance with the semantic content as described in EN 16931-1:2017;
- it is represented in any of the syntaxes identified in CEN/TS 16931-2, in accordance with the request referred to in paragraph 1 of article 3 of the Directive 2014/55/EU;
- it is in conformance with the appropriate mapping defined in the applicable subpart of CEN/TS 16931-3.

This CEN Technical Specification provides the conclusions following the assessment of the following four syntaxes:

- UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice XML message as specified in XML Schemas 16B (SCRDM - CII);
- UN/EDIFACT INVOIC message as present in the United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT) [8] directory version D.14B [10];
- UBL invoice and credit note messages as defined in ISO/IEC 19845:2015;
- Financial Invoice FinancialInvoiceV01 message [9] based on ISO 20022.

The assessment was based on the criteria provided by the Standardization Request [1] issued in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Directive 2014/55/EU [2].

EN 16931-1:2017 and its ancillary standardization deliverables will enable semantic interoperability of electronic invoices, and help remove market barriers and obstacles to trade deriving from the existence of different national rules and standards – and thus contributing to the goals set by the European Commission.

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