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A framework for the emerging network infrastructure of e-Invoice service providers throughout Europe

S.R. CWA 16050:2009

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NSAI
1 Swift Square,
Northwood, Santry
Dublin 9

T +353 1 807 3800
F +353 1 807 3838
E standards@nsai.ie
W **NSAI.ie**

Sales:
T +353 1 857 6730
F +353 1 857 6729
W standards.ie

Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

CEN

WORKSHOP

AGREEMENT

CWA 16050

December 2009

ICS 35.240.60

English version

A framework for the emerging network infrastructure of eInvoice service providers throughout Europe

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

The formal process followed by the Workshop in the development of this Workshop Agreement has been endorsed by the National Members of CEN but neither the National Members of CEN nor the CEN Management Centre can be held accountable for the technical content of this CEN Workshop Agreement or possible conflicts with standards or legislation.

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Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

CWA 16050:2009 (E)

Contents

Foreword

This CWA has been prepared by the CEN/ISSS Workshop on 'eInvoicing Phase 2' (WS/eInv2)

The CWA has been approved at the final workshop plenary meeting on 10 September 2009.
This CEN Workshop Agreement is publicly available as a reference document from the National Members of CEN: AENOR, AFNOR, ASRO, BSI, CSNI, CYS, DIN, DS, ELOT, EVS, IBN, IPQ, IST, LVS, LST, MSA, MSZT, NEN, NSAI, ON, PKN, SEE, SIS, SIST, SFS, SN, SNV, SUTN and UNI.

This CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) is part of a set of CWAs that has been prepared by Phase II of the CEN/ISSS Workshop on Electronic Invoicing in the European Community.
The objective of this Phase of the Workshop is to help to fill gaps in standardization for the use of electronic invoice processes, to identify the various practices in member states, to integrate the emerging technical and practical solutions into effective good practices, and to define and disseminate these good practices for e-invoices in close coordination and cooperation with private industry, solution providers and public administrations.

Five initial Projects have been established with a view to supporting the:
1. Enhanced adoption of electronic invoicing in business processes in Europe;

2. Compliance of electronic invoice implementations with Council Directive 2001/115/EC and Directive on the Common System of Value Added Tax 2006/112/EC as well as Member States national legislation as regards electronic invoicing.;

3. Cost-effective authenticity and integrity of electronic invoices regardless of formats and technologies;

4. Effective implementation of compliant electronic invoice systems in using emerging technologies and business processes; and

5. Emerging network infrastructure of invoice operators throughout Europe.

This CWA was developed by the working group on the project 5. listed above.

In addition, the Workshop has strived after the responsibility for the standards aspects of the European Commission's expert group on electronic invoicing, complementing and linking with the relevant Commission groups, and ensuring the relevant global standards activities are correctly informed and primed. In this activity, it aims to ensure collaboration with other CEN/ISSS groups, European Commission Expert Group on eInvoicing (EEI) Network and Standards subgroup and UN/CEFACT (TBGs1, 5 and 15.)

Companies supporting the current CWA

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AITI, Association of the Italian Corporate Treasurers, Italy
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1. Scope

When implementing electronic business and administration related documents within the supply chain, including (in particular) electronic invoicing - as well as others, many organizations decide to utilize the services from (eInvoice) service providers[1]. There are several benefits from using service provider's services, some are the same for large enterprises as well as for SME's, while others are different. The major reason for SME's to use service provider services is the possibility to concentrate on their core business and utilize service provider expertise and facilities for electronic invoicing without investing too much themselves in dedicated personnel, equipment and software. Large enterprises are looking also for outsourcing and rationalizing electronic invoicing tasks. In addition to that they often want to have a single entry point for their exchange of electronic invoices.

The present document gives:
- guidance on good practices for service providers in their activities on information exchange and routing,
as well as
- issues related to eInvoice addressing to facilitate the electronic invoice exchange between the service provider networks.

The present document is applicable to Business-to-Business[2] eInvoicing in general, whether the invoice is handled with out without human intervention and it is mainly addressing the service provider functions as part of the eInvoice transaction chain. There is a lot of legislative issues and regulations related to eInvoicing and service provider operation.

Topics like
- general legal issues,
- taxation(VAT),
- electronic signatures and
- archiving techniques
are noted, but discussion is out of the scope of this CWA.

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[1] Service provider is an organization providing third party services for Customers and Suppliers by e.g. implementing eInvoicing

[2] Also indicated by B2B, B2b or b2B where the 'b' refers to an SME and the 'B' to a larger size business entity. Business to Government is considered equivalent to B2B and not mentioned separately here

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