

Benefits

The SAP® Ariba® e-invoicing solution leverages the power and reach of the Ariba Network to help enable compliant, paperless invoice processing on a global scale.

- Supports withholding tax and common sales tax methods such as VAT, GST, and PST
- Defines business rules at the country level and provides country-specific e-invoice templates that simplify the expansion of global e-invoicing initiatives
- Offers country guides for tax compliance, covering North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific
- Provides options for choosing the best document archiving approach to help companies comply with global e-invoice regulations

The ability to support common tax methods – such as VAT, GST, PST, and withholding taxes – is vital to making e-invoicing practical for global commerce. The Ariba® Network is uniquely qualified to accommodate these global business requirements, facilitating tax compliance and support for other e-invoice regulations for the European Union (EU) and countries around the world. Through the Ariba Network, organizations are processing electronic invoices in more than 140 countries and transactions in more than 70 currencies.

To expedite global e-invoicing rollouts, you can configure up to 40 business rules at the country level and apply them to e-invoice templates, which include default e-invoice configuration by country. These rules are based upon best practices supported by SAP and expert tax research in e-invoicing legislation for specific countries, addressing domestic, cross-border, and intra-EU trade.

Requiring a purchase order or tax amount, displaying the local currency, or applying specific VAT rates are examples of country-specific rules you can configure with SAP® Ariba e-invoice templates.

Country guides for tax compliance further assist buyers and suppliers in deploying a compliant e-invoicing solution. Available for more than 36 countries in North America, EMEA, and Asia Pacific, these guides – written and signed by a leading global tax advisory firm – interpret tax-related invoice mandates and the requirements map for the SAP Ariba e-invoice solution.

The SAP Ariba e-invoice solution has also been reviewed by multiple leading tax advisory firms in the course of customer-specific audits. The results are consistent: The solution provides the right set of business controls to dramatically reduce a company's compliance risk. As compliance requirements may vary by customer, industry, or other factors, it is important that businesses also confirm templates, rules, and implementation guide recommendations with their own advisors. Our approach to documenting the solution's business controls makes it easy for you to engage advisory services and tailor a configuration that meets your unique requirements or interpretation of compliance.

	VAT Compliance Step	Our Process	Other Providers' Process
 Step 1	Controlling mandatory VAT fields	The SAP Ariba solution identified all fields required to create a legal invoice, including VAT fields and trade regulations.	Most solutions control only VAT fields.
 Step 2	Guarantee of authenticity and integrity	Tax authority advisors for SAP Ariba solutions help ensure that invoice issuers provide digital certificates delivered by certification authorities accredited by each local tax authority. For example, a VAT invoice in Spain will be signed with a Spanish digital certificate. In the case of a cross-border transaction between Germany and Spain, the solution applies and verifies both the Spanish and German e-signatures. We partner with TrustWeaver to help ensure the e-signature process. TrustWeaver supports local digital certificate requirements, including countries that require double signatures.	A "one size fits all" approach means that all invoices in all countries will be signed by the same digital certificate delivered by a certification authority of one particular European country.
 Step 3	E-signature and verification report	The SAP Ariba solution verifies and creates the verification report on behalf of our customers. We attach the verification report, e-signatures, and digital certificates to the e-signature of the paperless VAT invoice.	Most solutions deliver the verification report, but not the digital certificate used to create and verify the e-signature.
 Step 4	Storage and archiving of paperless VAT invoices	The SAP Ariba solution combines all documents required for tax auditing, such as a PDF version of the legal invoice and the e-signature to the paperless VAT invoice in a single file. The solution facilitates archiving with a single nonrewritable format that can be incorporated into your workflow and back-end systems.	Most competitors propose that customers adopt their own archiving solution because they do not deliver the legal documents and other information required for audits.

Figure 1: Four Key Steps Required for VAT Compliance

The SAP Ariba e-invoicing solution delivers another valuable capability: support for electronic signatures. Our solution provides e-signatures for 36 countries around the world, including all EU countries that allow the use of e-signatures to prove invoice authenticity and integrity.

About SAP® Ariba® Solutions

SAP® Ariba® solutions support the marketplace for modern business, creating frictionless exchanges between millions of buyers and suppliers across the entire source-to-pay process. Our market-leading solutions enable companies to simplify collaboration with their trading partners, make smarter business decisions, and extend their collaborative business processes with an open technology platform. More than two million companies use SAP Ariba solutions to connect and collaborate around nearly US\$1 trillion in commerce on an annual basis. To learn more about SAP Ariba solutions and the transformation they are driving, visit www.ariba.com.

DOCUMENT ARCHIVING OPTIONS

Archiving electronic invoices is often another requirement to help ensure compliance, especially in the EU. We offer several options for archiving your invoice documents. You can download the cXML file, any attachments, and, optionally, PDF versions of your invoices. Then, you can archive them according to your corporate policies. This self-service option is available to you at no charge.

You can also automatically store your documents with our value-add service, offered in cooperation with a third-party service provider. With this option, you get a secure and scalable digital document archive that eliminates the cost and overhead of maintaining costly legacy archive applications, servers, data centers, security solutions, and support. This value-add service is flexible enough to process all invoice documents based in an SAP Ariba solution, as well as documents from other enterprise systems and workflows.

Achieving global compliance is essential for a successful e-invoicing initiative. With our solution, you have a proven global e-invoice solution that allows you to choose the best approach for complying with many different global e-invoice regulations.

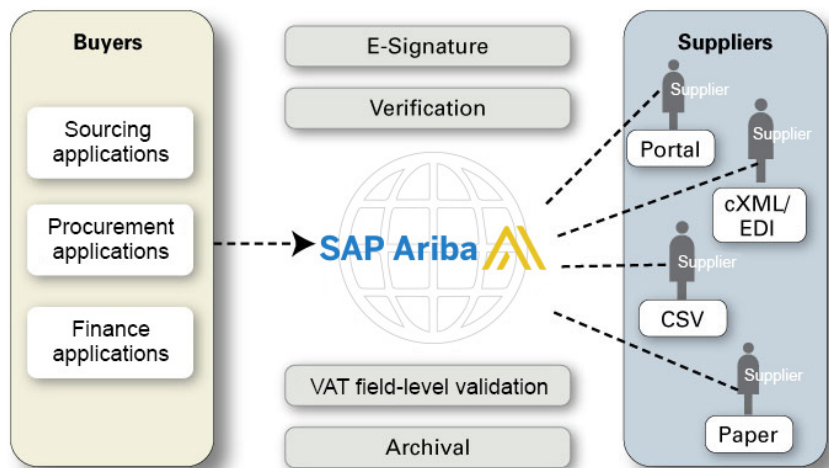


Figure 2: Global E-Invoice and VAT Compliance over the Ariba® Network

THE GOLD STANDARD FOR E-INVOICING

We operate the largest business network of its kind for business commerce collaboration. Global organizations rely on the smart invoice capabilities of SAP Ariba solutions to dramatically reduce invoice exceptions, achieve 98% touchless processing rates, comply with country-specific e-invoice rules and regulations, and collaborate more effectively with suppliers.

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