



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**SIST-TS CEN/TS 16931-2:2017**  
**01-oktober-2017**

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**Elektronsko izdajanje računov - 2. del: Seznam sintaks v skladu z EN 16931-1**

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

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

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

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION  
SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE  
TECHNISCHE SPEZIFIKATION

**CEN/TS 16931-2**

June 2017

ICS 35.240.20; 35.240.63

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.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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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 16931-6<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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.

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification provides in Clause 7 the list of syntaxes that complies with and allows to express syntactically the core invoice model as specified in EN 16931-1:2017, according to the selection criteria provided by the Standardization Request [1].

The selection of the syntaxes also derived from the Standardization Request [1]. It states that, to limit costs on public authorities, the list should ideally not exceed five syntaxes. Four syntaxes were taken into account and assessed according to criteria provided by the Standardization Request [1].

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 16931-1:2017, *Electronic invoicing - Part 1: Semantic data model of the core elements of an electronic invoice*

ISO/IEC 19845:2015<sup>2</sup>, *Information technology — Universal business language version 2.1 (UBL v2.1)*

UN/CEFACT *Cross Industry Invoice in XML Schemas 16B (SCRDM - CII)*<sup>3</sup>

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 16931-1:2017 apply.

## 4 Approach

EN 16931-1:2017 defines a semantic model of the core elements of an electronic invoice. The purpose of the core semantic invoice model is to facilitate computer applications to generate electronic invoices and then for other applications to receive and process those invoices automatically. These electronic invoices are electronically transmitted and received, without the need for prior bilateral agreement on the content or elements of the invoice. However, in order to exchange electronic invoices, the model elements need to be represented in a “syntax”. A syntax specification allows the computer systems to identify the content (element values) as part of a data stream.

CEN/TC 434 identified a short list of syntaxes based on the syntaxes mentioned in the Standardization Request [1]: UN/CEFACT XML, UN/EDIFACT [8], OASIS UBL, and Financial Invoice (based on ISO 20022) [9].

Table 1 shows the technology stack of the four syntaxes and respective versions by illustrating the base syntax, the names and versions of e-Invoicing messaging standards as well as the code-list versions.

<sup>2</sup> Available also as OASIS UBL v2.1 at <http://docs.oasis-open.org/ubl/os-UBL-2.1/UBL-2.1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Available at [http://www.unece.org/cefact/xml\\_schemas/index](http://www.unece.org/cefact/xml_schemas/index)

## CEN/TS 16931-2:2017 (E)

Table 1 — Technology stack for syntaxes and versions

<b>Base syntax</b>	XML 1.0	ISO 9735 (all parts) [8] (UN/EDIFACT) S4	XML 1.0	XML 1.0
<b>e-Invoicing messaging standard</b>	Cross Industry Invoice	INVOIC	Invoice and Credit Note	Financial Invoice
<b>e-Invoicing messaging standard version</b>	based on directory XML Schemas 16B (SCRDM - CII)	based on directory D14B	2.1	v01
<b>Code list versions</b>				
Codelists based on UN/CEFACT	D16B [4] or up	Applicable to all syntaxes		
Codelists based on ISO	2015 or up	Applicable to all syntaxes		
Other (new) codelists	2016 or up	Applicable to all syntaxes		
UN/CEFACT recommendation 20 Revision 12	Applicable to all syntaxes			
UN/CEFACT recommendation 21 Revision 9	Applicable to all syntaxes			

## 5 Assessment criteria

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The Standardization Request [1] provides a set of criteria (detailed in Table 2) that establishes the basis for the assessment of the syntaxes. Each of the syntaxes has been assessed according to these criteria.

Table 2 — The Standardization Request Set of Criteria (Requirements)

ID	Requirements
1	Comply with the core invoice semantic data model specified in EN 16931-1:2017
2	Be international, open and free to use
3	Have a governance and sustainability model
4	Be part of a coherent set of standards and technical specifications to support the broader e-procurement process or the broader e-invoicing supply chain
5	Be widely used in the EU or worldwide
6	Be used in production environments (and not just test) by both the public and the private sector
7	Reflect well-accepted technology and aim to incorporate the latest technological developments considered to be state of the art
8	Have guidelines, code lists, validating tools freely available to ease implementation by ICT vendors and suppliers
9	Have a set of official, freely available syntax-dependent artefacts for validation (the XML Schema or Schematron) to support tool independent validation
10	Have an official updating and versioning strategy that takes due account of backward compatibility, as well as appropriate guidelines for customisation that explain how to extend and restrict the syntax



Guidance has been taken from agreed Commission objectives that have been documented in Communications such as COM (2013) 453 Final.

## 6 Assessment Results

### 6.1 UN/CEFACT XML Assessment

The assessed version is XML Schemas 16B (SCRDM - CII).

UN/CEFACT XML business message standards are developed within UN/CEFACT<sup>4</sup>. This guarantees an international focus, openness in the process and free usage, as this is the mission of UN/CEFACT and the policy of UNECE as a global forum<sup>5</sup>. For all their published specifications and standards, the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are owned by the UN that guarantees they are open free use by everyone.

UN/CEFACT, a subsidiary intergovernmental body of the UNECE Committee on Trade, is mandated to develop a programme of work of global relevance to achieve improved worldwide coordination and cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. It encourages close collaboration between governments and private business to secure the interoperability for the exchange of information between the public and private sector.

UN/CEFACT XML and all underlying standards (i.e. Core Component Methodology, Library, Message Assembly, XML Naming and Design Rules) are maintained on a regular basis by UN/CEFACT, within the United Nations framework of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The maintenance process is documented, applied and governed. All relevant procedural documents are available. Open participation for all interested stakeholders is ensured through the national delegations, nominated by each UN Member. In addition, UN recognized organisations are able to participate in the development and maintenance process.

The UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice (CII) published as part of UN/CEFACT XML embeds a semantic data model. This semantic data model has been adapted to European needs and formed the basis for the CWA 16356 (all parts) (UN/CEFACT CII Implementation Guide), commonly known as MUG [5][6]. The semantic model of CWA 16356 (all parts) [6] was one of the sources for building the core invoice model contained in EN 16931-1:2017.

The European Commission has considered UN/CEFACT XML an important technical solution in the strive for digitalisation. In 2009, the European Commission Expert Group on e-invoicing recommended the adoption of the UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice by both the private and public sector in the Final Report of the European Commission Expert Group on e-invoicing [4].

Based on the evaluation, it is concluded that UN/CEFACT XML Schema 16B (SCRDM - CII) is on the list of syntaxes, which comply with EN 16931-1:2017.

### 6.2 UN/EDIFACT Assessment

UN/EDIFACT comprises a set of internationally agreed standards, directories, and guidelines for the electronic interchange of structured data based on ISO 9735 (all parts) [8].

The assessed version is D14B [10].

UN/EDIFACT, as much as UN/CEFACT XML, is developed and maintained by UN/CEFACT and the information related to governance, support, etc. provided in 6.2 applies to UN/EDIFACT equally.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unece.org/cefact/>

<sup>5</sup> [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu), [www.unece.org/cefact.html](http://www.unece.org/cefact.html)