

# Navigating the German B2B e-Invoicing Mandate with Tradeshift: Get Started Now

Germany is following the global trend, by introducing a new e-invoicing mandate that will transform its business landscape. The mandate will be implemented in phases, with the first deadline set for January 1, 2025.

Read this guide to learn about our Tradeshift services, timelines, and how we support your transition in alignment with the current German regulations.

## Compliant e-Invoicing in Germany with Tradeshift

The [Tradeshift](#) platform offers a competitive edge by streamlining data management, automating invoice generation, and ensuring compliance with local regulations such as the B2B e-invoicing mandate in Germany.



## Key Dates & Requirements

Germany will initiate its e-invoicing mandate by requiring all companies to be capable of receiving e-invoices. Issuing e-invoices is still voluntary.

Jan 1st  
2025

E-invoicing becomes mandatory for companies with annual revenues exceeding €800,000. Businesses need to be able to receive and issue e-invoices that comply with the European Norm 16931, which dictates the structured format for e-invoices.

Jan 1st  
2027

Mandate extends to all businesses in Germany, irrespective of their annual turnover. By this date, every German-based company must issue e-invoices. The definition of electronic invoices will change to specifically refer to structured e-invoices in line with European standards, meaning that formats like PDF sent via email will not be considered compliant e-invoices.

Jan 1st  
2028

## Mandated Document formats:

The German government has announced that for an invoice to be considered valid the document format must comply with the **European standard for electronic invoicing** and the list of corresponding syntaxes set out in Directive 2014/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on electronic invoicing in public procurement (OJ L 133, 6.5.2014, p. 1).

Two document formats **comply with this standard**: XRechnung and ZUGFeRD:

- **The XRechnung format** is a structured, standardized data record in XML format that can be automatically sent and is processed electronically. The following two syntaxes are permitted for XRechnung: Universal Business Language (UBL) and UN/CEFACT Cross Industry Invoice (CII).
- **ZUGFeRD includes two elements**: a PDF file and an embedded XML file. ZUGFeRD is based on the international UN/CEFACT standard Cross Industry Invoice (CII) and the ISO standard PDF/A-3. The latest version ZUGFeRD 2.1 complies with EU Directive 2014/55/EU and the German E-Invoice Regulation.





## How We Help You Comply with the B2B e-invoicing Mandate

- **Technical Integration:** Email inbox setup connected automatically with your Tradeshift account to receive e-invoices in the mandated document formats.
- **Document format support:** Our platform supports the 2 document formats mandated by the German authorities: XRechnung and ZUGFeRD.
- **First Invoice Supplier Onboarding:** Onboarding on the Tradeshift platform is done from the first invoice received from the invoice sender (seller).
- **Document enrichment:** Invoice senders (sellers) have the option to enrich the invoices in case there is missing information all easily handled through the Tradeshift platform.
- **Collaboration tools:** Easily add and receive tasks for document enrichment, see the status of each document and discuss specific situations using the in-platform chat.
- **Regulatory Expertise:** Continuous updates and adaptability to the evolving German e-invoicing laws and global standards.
- **Change Management Assistance:** Tailored support for your internal adjustments and supplier coordination.
- **End-to-End Testing and Validation:** Extensive pre-production testing, availability in Sandbox and validation phases to ensure timely operational readiness.
- **Lifecycle and Payment Status Tracking:** Tools to monitor and report the status of all invoices.

## The use cases supported by Tradeshift:

- **Send compliant invoices:** An invoice sender (seller), will have to create e-invoices in one of the required formats and send them to their buyers via the dedicated email inbox of the receiver (buyer) if they are not yet onboarded. For already onboarded sellers they will use their current dedicated portal or Tradeshift interface.
- **Receive compliant invoices:** An invoice receiver (buyer) will receive the e-invoice in the mandated format directly into their Tradeshift account, will be able to check if there are any missing information and if so will send it back to the sender (seller) for enrichment. Everything is done seamlessly through the Tradeshift platform.

Supporting new **compliance** regulations is 'business as usual' for Tradeshift and part of our commitment to enable buyers and sellers to transact compliantly.

## Benefits of Choosing Tradeshift Compliance Services

- **Minimized Disruption:** Our platform ensures that your transition to new invoicing and reporting standards is smooth and efficient.
- **Global Compliance:** Beyond Germany, our adaptable solution supports regulations in 71 countries, including 12 with full clearance. As of August 19th, 2024 Tradeshift is a registered PDP (PDP immatriculée) in France.
- **Customer Support:** Dedicated support team to assist you through the configuration, testing, and deployment phases.

The German B2B e-invoicing mandate represents a significant shift in how businesses operate within the German market. By choosing Tradeshift as your B2B e-invoice clearance partner, you ensure that your business not only complies with these new regulations but also leverages them to enhance operational efficiencies.

For further details or to discuss your specific needs, please contact us at [sales@tradeshift.com](mailto:sales@tradeshift.com) or reach out to your **Customer Success Manager** if you are already a client.