

Mercedes-Benz

Electronic Data Interchange Manual (EDI)


13. Invoice and credit data VDA4938

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Invoice and credit data according to VDA 4938

Mercedes-Benz AG, other group member companies and their subsidiaries are working hard to design more effective administrative processes. To this end, our aim is to only receive invoices in electronic form in the future.

To establish a standardized and efficient process between suppliers and recipients that will be beneficial to both sides in terms of costs and quality, we have implemented the VDA 4938 T2 Recommendation (UN/EDIFACT INVOIC D.07A) universally throughout Mercedes-Benz AG.

Objectives of the invoice EDI

The following main objectives are achieved by transmitting invoice data by EDI:

- Rapid transmission of invoice data from the service provider to the service recipient
→ basis for punctual payment
- Avoidance of renewed data entry by the invoice recipient and thus avoidance of incorrect entries and the resulting payment delays
- No loss of documents along the postal route, and consequently less time spent on dunning procedures
- Standardized processes for all plants & subsidiaries of Mercedes-Benz AG in Germany and our plants in Hungary, Romania, Poland and the associated third-party companies.

Notes on the use of invoice EDI at Mercedes-Benz

EDI agreement between the invoicing party and invoice recipient

An EDI agreement on paper must be signed between each company of the supplier and each legal entity of the purchaser before productive operations begin. The agreement is always made from the point of the view of the purchaser – Mercedes-Benz AG orientates itself on the VDA Recommendation (likewise contained in VDA4938 T2).

Recipient plant of invoice EDI

The invoice processing of many plants/companies largely takes place in a Shared Service Center. Consequently, the following procedure is used for invoice EDIs.

The invoices must be transmitted in separate data transmission packages per company.

Within the respective legal entity (e.g. Mercedes-Benz AG plants), these can be grouped together.

In doing so, a differentiation is made between Odette ID in the UNB code (e.g. Mercedes-Benz AG 00013000577MB000000INVOIC) and the plant in segment RFF+PE (e.g. 010 Untertürkheim). See also the plant list in item 13.6.

The factory detail in this segment is a necessary component of the VDA messages.

Scope of the electronic data interchange

To achieve invoice EDIs of maximum efficiency, one invoice should be created per delivery note. All the invoices to a company must be gathered in a single data package and sent to that company on a daily/weekly basis.

Structure of message VDA 4938

The invoice data is transmitted via EDI according to "VDA Recommendation 4938 – T2".

Detailed information can be found in the current appendix "Strukturdokument_VDA_4938_V1.4_DE.xls"

Core data fields per accounting area

Depending on the accounting object, the following segment contents is required by Mercedes-Benz AG in addition to the other mandatory fields:

General data		General data	
Bezeichnung/ denomination	Position/ position	Segment (Nr.)/ segment (No.)	Zulässige Festwerte/ allowed fix values
Dokumentenart Document name code	Kopf/header	BGM (3)	380, 381
Rechnungsdatum Billing date	Kopf/header	DTM (4)	137

Liefer-/Leistungsdatum Services rendered date	Kopf/header	DTM (7)	1
Materialbezogene Daten a) Produktionsmaterial		Material-related data Production material	
Bezeichnung/ denomination	Position/ position	Segment (Nr.)/ segment (No.)	Zulässige Festwerte/ allowed fix values
Verarbeitungsinformation Processing Information	Kopf/header	GEI (11)	PM
Sachnummer Kunde Buyer's Article number	Position/line item	LIN (44)	IN
Werk Plant	Position/line item	RFF (69)	PE
Abladestelle Place of discharge	Position/line item	LOC (67)	11
Lieferscheinnummer Despatch note document ident.	Position/line item	RFF (62)	AAU

b) Andere Materialien		Other materials	
Bezeichnung/ denomination	Position/ position	Segment (Nr.)/ segment (No.)	Zulässige Festwerte/ allowed fix values
Verarbeitungsinformation Processing Information	Kopf/header	GEI (11)	OM
Sachnummer Kunde Buyer's Article number	Position/line item	LIN (44)	IN
Werk Plant	Position/line item	RFF (69)	PE
Abladestelle Place of discharge	Position/line item	LOC (67)	11
Lieferscheinnummer Despatch note document ident.	Position/line item	RFF (62)	AAU

Bestellnummer Purchase Order number	Position/line item	RFF (62)	ON
c) Dienstleistungen		Services	
Bezeichnung/ denomination	Position/ position	Segment (Nr.)/ segment (No.)	Zulässige Festwerte/ allowed fix values
Verarbeitungsinformation Processing Information	Kopf/header	GEI (11)	S
Bezeichnung Item description	Position/line item	IMD (46)	
Werk Plant	Position/line item	RFF (69)	PE
Bestellnummer Purchase Order number	Position/line item	RFF (62)	ON

Test procedure

The technical setup between the supplier and T-Systems (service provider of Mercedes-Benz AG) and the content-related tests with FAO/G can already be begun while the EDI agreement is being signed. Tests are required for each accounting area before productive operations start.

The test data must be identified through use of test indicator "1" in the UNB segment, data element 0035 (see also the accompanying 13.2 Appendix 1 of the EDI agreement).

Communication process during data interchange

For every invoice/credit transmission, the service provider of Mercedes-Benz AG sends CONTRL and APERAK messages as a standardized receipt acknowledge message and error communication for accounting documentation purposes.

This procedure creates a standardized exchange of confirmations/feedback, especially of error messages and warnings, during the processing of accounting documentation according to VDA 4938 T2 (APERAK, see Appendix VDA 4938 T5).