

Confirmation of foreign VAT ID numbers

Intro:

Companies that only do business within Germany only need a tax number, for example when issuing an invoice. However, this is not the case for B2B companies that also conduct their business within the EU across national borders. These also require a sales tax identification number (VAT ID number). As soon as both trading companies are in possession of a VAT ID number, the turnover taxation for business within the EU can be handled correctly.

What and how:

To check a foreign VAT ID number, you can use the conventional - non-digital - form of the Federal Central Tax Office, or a corresponding equivalent of the EU or a member state. However, this is usually a time-consuming process as soon as it is necessary to check several VAT IDs. For requests with several VAT IDs to be checked, which should be carried out as quickly and simultaneously as possible. Another digital option is to use the Federal Central Tax Office (https://evatr.bff-online.de/eVatR/index_html) or its EU counterpart (http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/vatRequest.html). This provides a free, registration-free XML-RPC interface that can be accessed between 05:00 and 23:00. It is important to note that this interface can only be used to confirm foreign VAT ID numbers, and that German ID numbers are not handled.

Cpro INDUSTRY SAP Fiori APP

For the use in the SAP Fiori Launchpad, Cpro INDUSTRY provides a SAP Fiori App hosted in the SAP Cloud, which can read customer data from the connected SAP ERP or SAP S/4 Hana system on the basis of standard services, execute a complete or only for relevant and selected customers request to the public interface and clearly present and prepare the data thus requested.

This solution is available in a Cpro smartUstId - Lite version, which runs without implementation and modification on your backend system - but accordingly does not change any data in the system, as well as a Cpro smartUstId - Pro version, which can change the checked data in the backend with additionally imported customer-specific ODATA services.

If the standard functionality provided by SAP is not sufficient, a separate backend extension can be used to check the VAT ID directly in the document (e.g. invoice).

Interface scope

In order to be entitled to use the XML-RPC interface, only a separate German VAT ID is required. This is also required as an input parameter for the request to the interface. There is a choice between a simple confirmation request and a qualified confirmation request. For the simple confirmation request, only your own VAT ID and the VAT ID to be checked are required. The qualified one additionally requires the company name, city, postcode and street. These are compared with the registered data and checked for correctness. Furthermore, it can still be decided whether a confirmation message should be printed and sent. If this is to be printed, the official confirmation message is sent to the requesting company. Each request is followed by an answer which is displayed in the form of XML. The implementation of the interface is not restricted to a specific programming language or system. Thus, the implementation is system-independent and individually possible. For example, the interface can be addressed using an ABAP report and the response can be processed directly in the backend.

Conclusion:

The implementation of the interface and the associated automation of the verification of the VAT ID number is worthwhile as soon as several checks are to be carried out daily. In addition, the use of this interface is free of charge, which is why the upgrade to a digital solution is offered. Monotonous and recurring work steps can thus be virtually automated and replaced with the right implementation.