FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION ABOUT UBL READY - Version 1.01 – 4 March 2017
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Below are the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) regarding UBL Ready:

1. **What is UBL Ready?**
   UBL Ready is in started in the Netherlands, with the aim to eliminate any differences in interpretation and dialect of UBL e-invoices in order to transfer these UBL electronic invoices as smoothly as possible between different account software and provide automatic record entry/booking proposals.

   Gerard Bottemanne, co-initiator of UBL Ready and UBL Test Bed:
   "Just like with other standards, there is always a possibility of differing interpretations, and it's pesky when an electronic invoice cannot be processed for this reason. With the SEPA issues and the different disparities between banks in mind, I started the initiative of exchanging electronic invoices in UBL. I am particularly excited about the willingness of suppliers of accounting software (Asperion, Exact, MUIS Software, Reeleezee, UNIT4, and Visma (Account View)) to participate in the initiative, their cooperation and their commitment. I hope other suppliers will join in the period ahead. The first response was positive, so I am confident that they will."

   Friso de Jong, co-initiator of UBL Ready, founder of the E-invoicing Platform:
   "I believe this can work as a catalyst to increase the adoption of UBL e-invoicing in SME's. Simply because single contractors and (micro) SME's don't have to invest in or implement anything to start with UBL e-invoicing. Instead they can use their current applications and still reap all the benefits of next generation e-invoicing: UBL e-invoicing."

2. **Why was this initiative created?**
   The initiative was created from the idea that accounting software plays an essential role in SMEs, that most electronic invoices are still being sent in PDF format and that it can be made simpler and more efficient using UBL e-invoices instead.

   At the receiving end, in all PDF invoices are usually processing using manual entry or through OCR (scanning and recognizing documents). This will be replaced by e-invoices in UBL-format, which will be automatically recognized and recorded by the accounting software, and where the content of the invoice will be made visible to the user during the approval of purchasing invoices and reviewing outstanding items, among other items.

3. **What is the goal of UBL Ready?**
   The first objective of UBL Ready and the UBL Test Bed was to investigate whether a group of accounting software packages, within a relatively short time, were able to mutually exchange e-invoices based on UBL, so that this could lead to an immediate entry proposal.

4. **Who is UBL Ready meant for?**
    In the first place, UBL Ready is meant for accounting software and invoicing software. In addition, the UBL Chain Test will focus on parties whose job is to exchange messages, e-invoices in particular. For example: e-invoicing service providers, providers of scanning and recognition tools that also support UBL, and accountants.

    Finally, it is intended for the end user to take full advantage of the cost savings and efficiency improvements that come with e-invoicing in UBL; especially facilitated by their accountant and supplier of accounting software.

5. **Is this an option for government and public organisation for whom e-invoicing becomes mandatory?**
    Most certainly yes. The UBL Chain Test also makes it possible for government organisations to receive UBL, including entry proposals. The only thing these organisations should do, is ask their software supplier to implement this function. This also means that the supplier has to be willing to join the UBL Chain Test.

6. **Why should I become/apply for UBL Ready?**
    The UBL Chain Test has several benefits for participants:

    -   Participation is free: no fee is required.
    -   It is also easy: download the information and implement a UBL import/export module.
    -   Participation means saving money: it is possible to exchange invoices electronically using UBL.
    -   Participation is extra cost efficient for end users: by exchanges (e-)invoices in a way that there is an automated entry proposal. This is where money is really saved. It yields an enormous amount of ease, saving and efficiency. This also comes back to the participants.

    Below are a few more arguments to participate:
    -   In a short time, a great amount of parties has already announced their participation.
    -   This form of e-invoicing will soon be obligatory for government organisations. This means that it will have a definitive place in the daily practise.
    -   For now, we are working with standard technologies: UBL, PDF and e-mail – so no technical difficulties.
    -   All the information to get started is available, including experiences from existing parties who have already implemented UBL.
    -   This initiative helps increase awareness and adoption of e-invoicing. This increase the 'awareness' of e-invoicing and with that, also the possibilities to benefit from it.

    [The full list of benefits UBL and UBL ready to senders (suppliers), receivers (customers) can be found here](#)

7. **How does the UBL Ready relate to PEPPOL and PEPPOL related initiatives?**
    According to the initiators of the UBL Chain Test, both initiatives are completely complementary to each other. UBL Ready focusses on relatively simple situations that allow for message

exchange in UBL (and PDF) through e-mail or another commonplace messaging system.

PEPPOL (-related project) come in handy when the situation is more complex, like exchanging invoices in batches, exchanging through other channels than e-mail, part of larger processes, more complex software systems, cross border invoicing, mandatory e-invoicing using a specific network and so on.

From that perspective, UBL Ready focusses on the SME's that consider their financial software as the 'key' tool in their daily practice, from which they want to send e-invoices to their customers and in which they want easily process e-invoices.

UBL Ready does not propose, promote or advocate an exchange mechanism or transmission network, it only focusses on UBL.

8. **Is UBL Ready a threat to E-invoicing/AP/OCR service providers?**
The UBL Ready believes that while the adoption of e-invoicing increases, the importance of the invoice as a stand-alone element (goal) decreases, and that the e-invoice becomes a signal towards the customer to pay, based on a booking proposal, derived from the (UBL) e-invoice.

UBL Ready believes that when UBL e-invoicing is deployed on a large scale, the e-invoicing/AP/OCR service providers that **only** focus their services on isolated e-invoicing in the lower / middle SME segment will struggle.

On the other hand, UBL and UBL Ready offers a lot of opportunities during the time frame that UBL e-invoicing becomes a commodity. It encourages further adoption, which leads to an increasing need for additional services, such as dynamic discounting, financial supply chain, real time credit management.

9. **What standard has been chosen?**
The name says it all. And there is only one global UBL standard. Although there have been three versions of UBL in the past 10 years (1.0, 2.0 and 2.1), they are backwards compatible. Right now, UBL 2.0 (from 2006) is best supported when it comes to e-invoices. UBL 2.1 is the most recent version, dating from 2013 and has only 7 new elements compared to UBL 2.0. UBL 2.1 has become and SO/IEC 19845:2015 standard.

UBL Ready participants decide for themselves which version(s) the implement. Some suppliers choose UBL 2.0 and there have been tests with UBL-SI (SimplerInvoicing) and UBL 2.1 as well. Testing of sending and receiving of UBL e-invoicing is partly out of scope of UBL Ready: a UBL Ready participant has to provide proof to UBL Ready that it is able to receive+process and/or generate+send UBL e-invoices. UBL Ready performs an additional interoperability check.

Just like with the exchange mechanisms, UBL Ready has no preference for any of those standards, that is up to the applicant or participant as long as it is interchangeable with at least other UBL Ready participant. And preferably with other parties that have implemented UBL e-invoicing.

It is important in the context of UBL Ready that the differences between the standards are / will be well documented. This will help developers to take this information into account if possible.

Remarks on EN434

From that perspective, UBL Ready has concerns regarding the new European Norm 434 (EN434) on e-invoicing. First of all, the IP on the implementation documents of this new norm lies with CEN: you'd have to pay for it, before you can use it. Second, in addition to EN434 a CIUS has been developed. CIUS stands for Core Invoice Usage Specification. And even though it only has the status of a guideline, not breaking the EN model nor the business rules, it could impose limitations in technical implementations, hampering innovation.

10. **What are the costs to participation?**
    None. The documentation, tools and other relevant information are freely available for at www.ublready.com.

11. **What is expected of UBL Ready participants?**
    Nothing much. We kindly ask applicants, participants to:

    - Agree to let us mention their name and logo on the website
    - Mention on their own website to be a UBL Ready participant
    - receive our newsletter on the latest UBL e-invoicing developments
    - try to attribute to –the adoption of - UBL e-invoicing. For example: by offering demo e-invoices (in UBL and PDF)
    - and in turn reading and processing invoices from other parties.

    Download the Get Started Guide here. And download the demo files here.

12. **Who facilitates UBL Ready?**
    Ultimately, the participants facilitate UBL Ready with their demo files and feedback to support this initiative.

    Furthermore UBL Ready was made possible by building blocks like the E-invoicing Platform, OASIS, IEC/ISO, GBNED. The E-invoicing Platform and GBNED (who initiated UBL Ready), revalidate.

13. **Who are participating right now?**
    UBL Ready started early October and currently has 93 participants, including:

    Accounting/financial software:
    - Visma Software
    - Twinfield
    - Unit4
    - Reeleezee
    - AFAS Software

- Asperion
- Centric
- Informer

E-invoicing service providers:
- TIE Kinetix
- StoreCove
- Go2UBL
- Dynatos
- Kofax
- Icreative/Basware
- Canon
- Simac
- InvoiceSharing

AP automation and Purchase 2 pay providers
- Scan Sys
- Proquro
- NewViews
- 20/20 vision
- Basecone

The full list of UBL Ready participants can be found here: http://ublready.com/ubl-ready-participants/

14. **How does UBL Ready (participants) deal with the PDF and UBL e-invoice**
   UBL Ready has -for several practical reason- chosen to use an invoice set of both a UBL and a PDF e-invoice, whether or not embedded in the UBL e-invoice. That way the UBL e-invoice can be used for fiscal compliance, the PDF e-invoice to properly review the e-invoice contents, and – again- the PDF e-invoice for possible civil claims when a customer does not pay.

15. **Who is responsible for the message that is being sent based in UBL format?**
   This question has to do with fiscal compliance regarding the format being used. In accordance with tax legislation, **you** are responsible for your own administration. The person who sends the e-invoice is responsible for what is being sent. The person who receives the e-invoice is responsible for receiving, checking and processing.

About UBL Ready

UBL Ready is the successor of a Dutch project in 2015, funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, to enable as much providers of financial software (and other providers) to incorporate UBL.

The project was a success, with over 50 implementations comprising over 75% of the generic Dutch SME market. After the project had finished, the need for UBL implementation support remained, and UBL Ready was erected.

UBL Ready builds on the momentum, knowledge achieved and results of the former project, to enable UBL Ready in even more organisations. Just four months after its launch it welcomed its 90th participant.

Recent questions from participants and recent developments in UBL sparked the launch of the international UBL Ready initiative.

www.ublready.com