Sending and receiving
B2B e-invoices via Interconnect

This document explains the requirements and steps for sending and/or receiving
B2B e-invoices via Interconnect.

1. Introduction

Interconnect partners are partners of PostFinance Ltd, who also
act as e-invoicing providers and with whom PostFinance Ltd
maintains technical connections for the transfer of B2B e-invoicing.

2. Sending and receiving via Interconnect

2.1 Receiving via Interconnect partners

B2B e-invoices can be received from invoice issuers who are
connected to a PostFinance Interconnect partner, provided that
the supplier/invoice issuer agrees and meets the requirements
with their provider/Interconnect partner.

The supplier/invoice issuer knows the recipient ID and transmits
the data to an Interconnect partner which knows the interface
with the PostFinance e-invoice solution.

There are no additional requirements for the recipient. They
receive the e-invoices from PostFinance in the same format and
via the same channel as all other e-invoices.

2.2 Sending to Interconnect partners

E-invoices intended for invoice recipients with a connection to a
PostFinance Interconnect partner are sent to the partner.

PostFinance provides the Interconnect partner with the invoices
within 24 hours, using the delivery method arranged with the
partner.

Please note: Two addressing processes are supported for
delivery to Interconnect partners.

2.2.1 One-stage addressing process
The invoice recipient's ID at their e-invoiceprovider can be entered
directly in the "eBillAccountID/RecipientID" field, provided that
it is a 17-digit ID from a Swiss provider. The invoice is allocated
to the correct provider according to the prefix.

This process can currently be used for the following Swiss
Interconnect partners:
- Prefix 4109 for Abacus Research AG, Abanet
- Prefix 4130 for Swisscom (Schweiz) AG,
  Handelsplatz Conextrade
- Prefix 4150 for Pentag Informatik AG

From the format version yellowbill Invoice 2.0.3 onwards, a
different ID can be entered in the "AlternativeRecipientID"
as an alternative. The invoice is allocated to the correct provider
according to the pattern of the ID. Further details, in particular
which patterns are supported, are provided in the technical
specifications.

2.2.2 Two-stage addressing process in yellowbill Invoice 2.0
The subscriber number which PostFinance has assigned to the
provider is entered in the eBillAccountID field. This ID always has
the prefix 4110.

The following information must also be entered:
Bill/Header/ReceiverParty/Network/NetworkName:
Name of the end recipient's provider

Bill/Header/ReceiverParty/Network/NetworkID:
Subscriber number of the recipient at their provider

For further details see our manual (chapter 5.7)
https://www.postfinance.ch/content/dam/pfch/
doc/480_499/499_41_en.pdf

The information on which ID is required for which partner and
with which partner the one-stage or two-stage addressing
procedure is used can be found in the Excel file "Recipient
addressing", on our website under the technical specifications:
https://www.postfinance.ch/en/support/documents/
downloads-documents.html
(→ Sending and receiving invoices → Technical specifications).

2.3 Procedure

The following checklist will help you ensure the e-invoice transfer between Interconnect partners goes as smoothly as possible:

Receive invoices		Send invoices	
Communicate recipient ID (subscriber no.)	Inform your supplier that you would like to receive their invoices electronically via PostFinance and inform them of your PostFinance subscriber number	Correct addressing	Make sure that the addressing of the invoice recipient is correct (see points 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of this document). If necessary, ask your software supplier whether the addressing can be carried out correctly in 1 and/or 2 stages.

Send and receive invoices	
Clarify what to include on the invoice	Clarify with your customer (invoice recipient) whether customized/special invoice content must be included (e.g. additional references, discount information, etc.)
Transfer test invoices	In consultation with your supplier/customer, send/receive one or more test invoices to/from the PostFinance customer integration system. If you experience any problems during the tests, do not hesitate to contact our support center (billing-support@postfinance.ch). Repeat this step until the invoice can be processed correctly by the recipient.
Send/receive real invoices	When the tests have been successfully completed, it is possible to start transferring real e-invoices.

2.4 List of partners

Use the following link to find the current list of Interconnect partners:
https://www.postfinance.ch/en/business/products/invoices/send-invoices/send-e-invoices.html
(→ Partners).

3. Special requirements

For B2B e-invoice transfers, there are special requirements for the invoice data content, depending on the recipient or industry.

You can find the content requirements known to us in our documentation. Please take these into account when exchanging e-invoices with Interconnect partners:

https://www.postfinance.ch/en/support/documents/downloads-documents.html
(→ Send and receive invoices → Technical specifications → yellowbill Invoice 2.0.5 technical specifications (ZIP): File 01 Biller Input / 02 Excel-Documentation / Spezialanforderungen).

Clarify with the invoice recipient whether the details in the invoice must be net or gross regarding surcharges and discounts.

You can find details in our documentation:
https://www.postfinance.ch/en/support/documents/downloads-documents.html
(→ Send and receive invoices → Technical specifications → yellowbill Invoice 2.0.5 technical specifications (ZIP): File 01 Biller Input / 02 Excel-Documentation / yellowbill Invoice_ V2.0.(5) / Zu- und Abschläge).

We also use our yellowbill_Invoice format as standard in Interconnect as well as in the existing channels in accordance with the manual. If you want to use other formats (e.g. ZugFerd / SAP iDoc, etc.), contact billing-solutions@postfinance.ch or your PostFinance technical advisor.

4. Support

If you need general technical support with the implementation, do not hesitate to contact our Billing Support.

Contact Billing Support
Telephone   +41 31 667 99 00
E-mail   billing-support@postfinance.ch