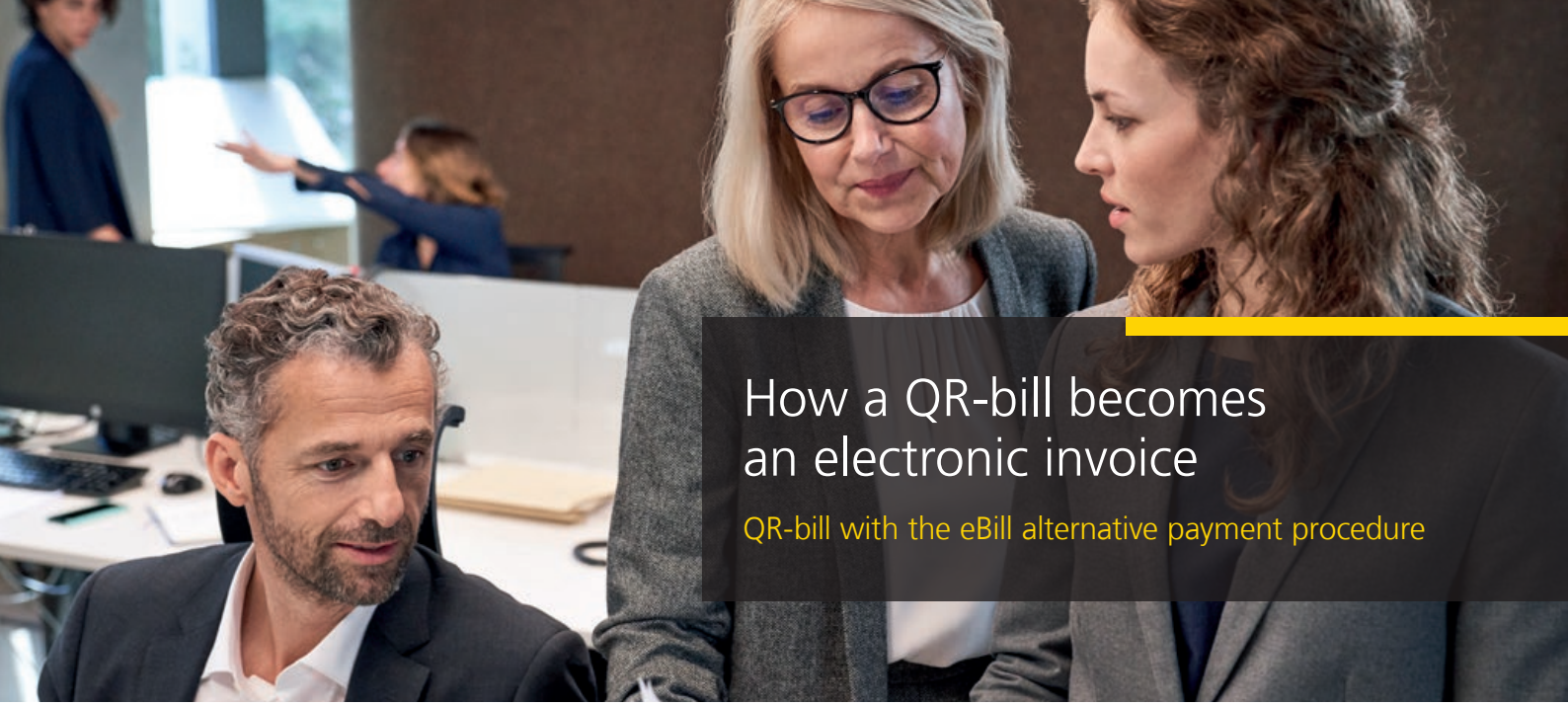


How a QR-bill becomes an electronic invoice

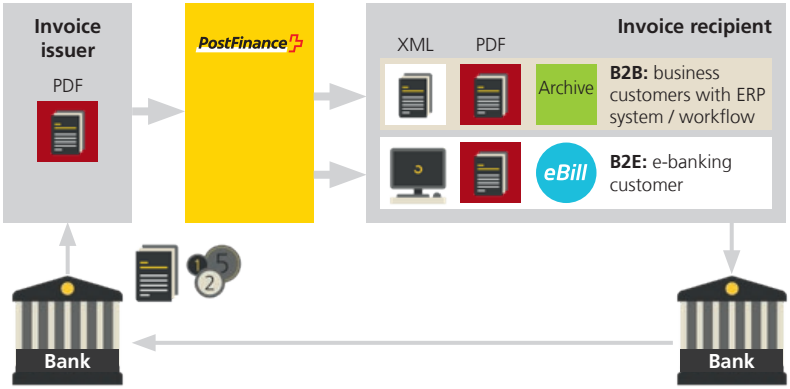
QR-bill with the eBill alternative payment procedure

With the QR-bill and "eBill alternative payment procedure", it's possible to generate an electronic invoice from a QR-bill. On the following pages, we'll show you how to do this.

Background

When PostFinance's "QR-bill PDF" is suitable:
- You can already create QR-bills from your system.
- You would like to send QR-bills to e-banking customers (eBill).
- Your customer (B2B recipient, e.g. hospitals, property and public administrations, etc.) requests that you send electronic invoices.
- You are a software manufacturer and would like to offer your customers eBill or an electronic invoice solution without an interface to PostFinance.

In brief: "How a QR-bill PDF becomes an eBill or electronic invoice"
Invoice issuers submit invoice data to PostFinance in the form of a QR-bill in PDF format. They can either upload them in the eInvoicing portal or submit them via web services or SFTP. The QR-bill is automatically converted into an electronic invoice and forwarded to the recipient.

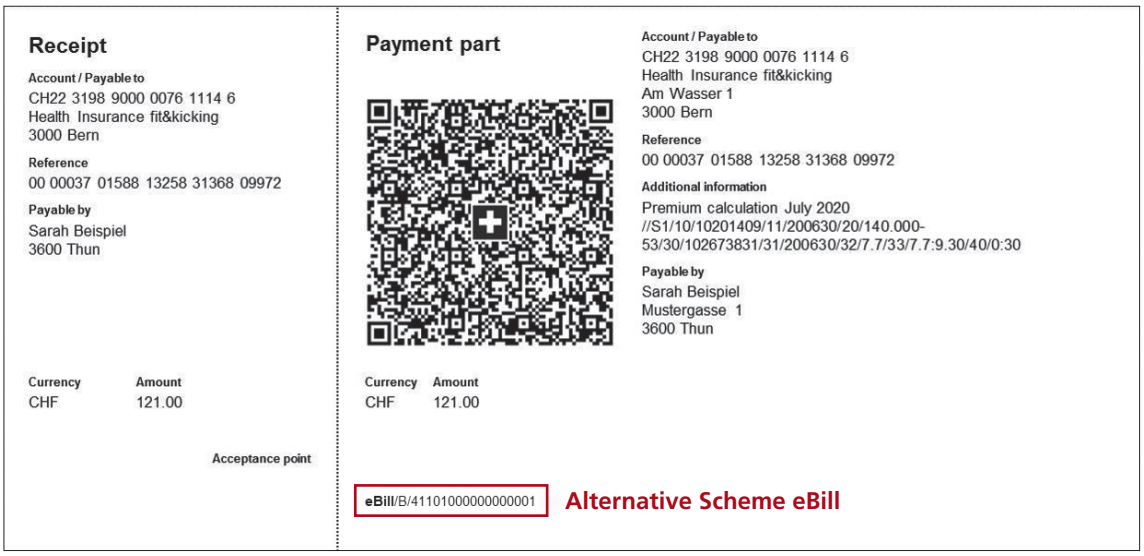


Minimum preconditions for sending to eBill
- The invoice issuer must be registered as an invoice issuer with PostFinance. In order to send electronic invoices to eBill, the invoice issuer must also be registered with eBill. Both registrations can be carried out on the PostFinance eInvoicing platform.
- The invoice issuer creates QR-bills in PDF format, including the "eBill alternative procedure" in the QR code.
- The filename of the PDF document must comply with the following naming convention: <BillerID>_<TransactionID>.pdf (example: 411010000000001_123abc.pdf).
  The TransactionID must be max. 30 characters long (alphanumeric) and could be an invoice number, document number, etc.

Additional preconditions for sending B2B to business customers (not via eBill)
- Addressing the invoice recipient is possible only using the recipient ID (billRecipientID, 17-digit).
- In addition to the alternative eBill procedure, the SWICO code must be mapped in the QR code in accordance with the SWICO syntax definition. For details, see www.swico.ch/de/wissen/normen-standards/qr-rechnungen
  In B2B business, the invoice recipient requires this information for automated invoice processing in the creditor workflow.
- PostFinance recommends always displaying the whole SWICO code. It is the customer/software partner's responsibility to ensure that the additional information transmitted in this way meets the invoice recipient's requirements.

PDF with QR code and eBill alternative payment procedure

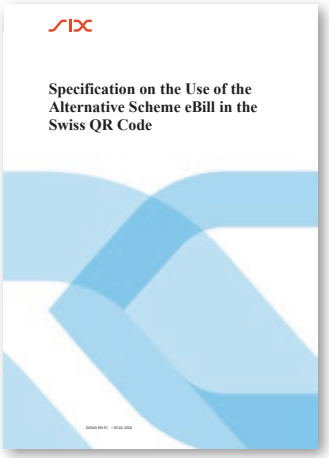
Example QR-bill with QR-IBAN payment method and eBill alternative payment procedure:



What is the QR-bill with eBill alternative payment method?

The "eBill alternative payment procedure" is used to convert QR-bills into an eBill/electronic invoice format. This ensures that the invoice data can be interpreted as thoroughly as possible. The eBill alternative procedure in the QR code primarily contains the invoice type and the identification of the invoice recipient (e.g. eBillAccountID).

Additional information: SIX specifications



Technical specifications of the "eBill alternative payment procedure"

The data in this element (containing four attributes) enables the forwarding of QR-bills with the "alternative payment procedure" as an electronic invoice/eBill.

Element	Structure of the element (4 attributes)	Examples	Description
AltPmt ①	eBill/<type>/<emailAddress>/ <referencedBill>	When using emailAddress: Invoice: eBill/B/peter@muster.ch	Only for eBill/e-banking recipients (B2E) Private customers
②	eBill/<type>/<enterpriseIdentificationNumber>/ <referencedBill>	When using *enterpriseIdentificationNumber:* Invoice: eBill/B/CHE123456789	Only for B2B and eBill/e-banking recipients (B2E) Business customers
③	eBill/<type>/<billRecipientID>/ <referencedBill>	When using recipient ID (billRecipientID): Invoice: eBill/B/41101000000000001	For B2B and eBill/e-banking recipients (B2E)

The following business case types can/must be mapped in the attribute <type>:
- Invoices and rolled over invoices: **B**
- Reminders: **R**
- Credits are not currently possible

Note
As there is no information on the due date in the "eBill alternative payment procedure", the following rules apply on a permanent basis:
– Invoice date = date of submission
– Due date: set date of submission + 30 days.

If you attach the "additional information" (Swico codes www.swico.ch/de/wissen/normen-standards/qr-rechnungen) to the QR-bill, a due date can be included.

Which variant of the "alternative payment procedure" do I need in order to send an eBill/ electronic invoice to my invoice recipient?

With reference to the table above, we recommend the following:
– If you want to reach *only eBill recipients in e-banking,* you can use *element* ❶ "Only for eBill/ e-banking recipients (B2E)".
– If you would like to reach *electronic invoice/B2B recipients and eBill/e-banking customers,* we recommend you use *elements* ❷ *or* ❸.

Examples of QR-bills

eBill alternative payment procedure with e-mail

eBill alternative payment procedure with EBillAccountID

QR code testing

You can check your newly created QR-bill and the QR code directly online on the PostFinance test platform at testplattform.postfinance.ch/corporates. You can register once and free of charge under "Login".

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