| Logo of the European Commission | EUROPEAN COMMISSION  DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  TAXATION AND CUSTOMS UNION  Digital Delivery of Customs and Taxation Policies  **Taxation Systems & Digital Governance** |
|  |  |

**SOA Service Specification Document**

**VoW - VIES on the Web**

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# Introduction

## Document purpose

The service specification document is a fundamental artefact of Service Oriented Architecture. It is used to document the details of the data and functionality provided by the service providers to the service consumers. It has a standardised structure such that each SOA service of the service inventory is consistently documented. It gives the service consumers information such as the service contract and orchestration logic. It gives service providers the information necessary for implementing the service in a consistent and interoperable way.

The present document describes the CheckVatService, CheckStatusService and CheckVatTestService services. These specific services are responsible for allowing third-party applications to verify a Value Added Tax (VAT) number and verify the status of each member state service from VIES on the Web (VoW).

## Target audience

This document is addressed to:

* The authorities that are involved in the use of VoW;
* The writers of the Technical Specifications (TS);
* The teams supporting the testing process;
* Member States (MS);
* Directorate-General Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD);
* Any other third-party application willing to consume data from VoW;
* QA Team.

## Scope

This document completes the External Interface Specification of VoW [EIS] and includes the specifications of CheckVatService, CheckStatusService and CheckVatTestService services and the capabilities realised by their operations.

This document provides a functional description of the service operations. The technical implementation of these operations is out of scope.

## Structure

This document is structured into the following chapters:

* **Chapter 1 Introduction**: includes the standard sections for the related documents, the document conventions and the terminology;
* **Chapter 2 Service description**: provides the description of the service described in this document;
* **Chapter 3 Service contract**: provides the description of the service contract;
* **Chapter 4 Annex**: includes some additional information useful for the use of the service described in this document.

## Reference documents

Table 1 enumerates all the reference documents.

| **Ref.** | **Title** | **Reference** | **Version** | **Date** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| EIS | VOW – External Interface Specification | EIS-VOW | 1.20 | 21/08/2024 |

Table 1: Reference Documents

## Applicable documents

Table 2 enumerates all the applicable documents.

| Ref. | Title | Reference | Version | Date | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A01 | Framework Contract | TAXUD/2021/CC/162 | N/A | | 24/06/2021 |
| A02 | Specific Contract n°10 | TAXUD/2022/DE/1024 | N/A | | 24/12/2022 |

Table 2: Applicable Documents

## Document conventions

* Reference documents are shown between brackets [];
* The font Courier New is used to show sample of code or configuration file.

## Abbreviations & acronyms

For a better understanding of the present document, the following table provides a list of the principal abbreviations and acronyms used.

See also the list of acronyms on TEMPO.

| **Acronym** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| DG TAXUD | Directorate-General Taxation and Customs Union |
| EIS | External Interface Specification |
| MS | Member State |
| SfR | Submitted for Review |
| SOAP | Simple Object Access Protocol |
| VOW | VIES on the Web |
| TS | Technical Specifications |
| VAT | Value Added Tax |

Table 3: Abbreviations and Acronyms

## Definitions

For a better understanding of the present document, the following table provides a list of the principal terms used.

See also the glossary on TEMPO.

| **Definition** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| SOAP Fault | If an error occurs during processing, the response to a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) message is a SOAP fault element in the body of the message, and the fault is returned to the sender of the SOAP message. |

Table 4: Introduction - Definitions

# Service description

## Service information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service attributes** | **Values** |
| **ID** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat |
| **Name** | checkVat |
| **Description** | This service is responsible for allowing 3rd party application to verify a VAT number. |
| **WSDL URL** | http://<host>:<port>/<context-root>/checkVatService.wsdl |
| **Type** | Web Service |
| **Version** | V1 |
| **Status** | Approved for Development |
| **Owner** | DG TAXUD |
| **Date on Production** | N/A |

Table 5: Service Information – checkVat

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service attributes** | **Values** |
| **ID** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkStatus |
| **Name** | checkStatus |
| **Description** | This service is responsible for allowing 3rd party application to retrieve the current status of the application and status of each member state service. |
| **WSDL URL** | http://<host>:<port>/<context-root>/checkStatusService.wsdl |
| **Type** | Web Service |
| **Version** | V1 |
| **Status** | Approved for Development |
| **Owner** | DG TAXUD |
| **Date on Production** | N/A |

Table 6: Service Information – checkStatus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Service attributes** | **Values** |
| **ID** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVatTest |
| **Name** | checkVatTest |
| **Description** | This service is responsible for allowing 3rd party application to verify the integration with the web service. There is no (syntax/semantic) validation of VAT numbers: the WS has pairs of MS-Number for which predefined responses will be available. For all the other cases, The WS will responds with a “Service\_Unavailable” error. |
| **WSDL URL** | http://<host>:<port>/<context-root>/checkVatTestService.wsdl |
| **Type** | Web Service |
| **Version** | V1 |
| **Status** | Approved for Development |
| **Owner** | DG TAXUD |
| **Date on Production** | N/A |

Table 7: Service Information – checkVatTest

## Service classification

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scope** | Public. The services are visible and can be used by the public. | |
| **EC Process Glossary** | Policy Domain | N/A |
| Policy Sub-Domain | N/A |
| Process Category | N/A |

Table 8: Service Classification

## Service consumers

* **Current service consumers**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Potential service consumer ID | Description |
| **Marketplaces** | All the systems managed by a marketplace requiring the verification of a VAT number. |
| **Member States** | All the Member States that can potentially use these services for their own needs. |

Table 9: Current service consumers

# Service contract

This section defines the service contracts. The service contract specifies the purpose, functionality, constraints, and usage terms of a service. A service contract is made up of functional and non-functional aspects.

The Service Interface Specification deals with the functional aspect of the service contract describing the provided capabilities (operations) in business terms.

Non-functional aspects and corporate policies applied to the service are also part of the service contract.

## Service interface specification

### CheckVat

The complete *checkVatService.wsdl* is provided in the linked resources of the present document.

#### Operation checkVat

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operation attributes** | **Values** |
| **Name** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat/checkVat |
| **Description** | The action checkVat allows to verify the VAT number corresponding to a country. |
| **Pre-conditions** | The request must be well formed. |
| **Inputs** | checkVatRequest   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code (e.g. AT, BE, FR); * vatNumber: the VAT number to verify. |
| **Outputs** | checkVatResponse   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code of the request; * vatNumber: the VAT number of the request; * requestDate: the date when the request has been made (example format: 2020-01-01+02:00); * valid: indicate if the VAT number is valid or not: * name (Optional): the name of the trader; * address (Optional): the address of the trader which contains the street name, post code and city. |
| **Exceptions** | N/A |
| **Post-conditions** | N/A |
| **Notes** | N/A |

Table 10: Specification of checkVat

#### Operation checkVatApprox

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operation attributes** | **Values** |
| **Name** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat/checkVatApprox |
| **Description** | The action checkVatApprox allows to verify the VAT number corresponding to some criterion like Trader name, Trader address, Trader Company type, Trader City, Trader Street and Trader Postal Code. |
| **Pre-conditions** | The request must be well formed. |
| **Inputs** | checkVatApproxRequest   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code (e.g. AT, BE, FR); * vatNumber: the VAT number to verify; * traderName (Optional): the name of the trader; * traderCompanyType (Optional): the company type of the trader (format: *[A-Z]{2}\-[1-9][0-9]?*); * traderStreet (Optional): the street of the trader; * traderPostcode (Optional): the postal code of the trader; * traderCity (Optional): the city of the trader; * requesterCountryCode (Optional): the MS ISO Code of the requester; * requesterVatNumber (Optional): the VAT number of the requester. |
| **Outputs** | checkVatApproxResponse   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code of the request; * vatNumber: the VAT number of the request; * traderName (Optional): the name of the trader; * traderCompanyType (Optional): the company type of the trader (format: *[A-Z]{2}\-[1-9][0-9]?*); * traderStreet (Optional): the street of the trader; * traderPostcode (Optional): the postal code of the trader; * traderCity (Optional): the city of the trader; * traderNameMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the name. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderCompanyTypeMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the company type. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderStreetMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the street. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderPostcodeMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the postal code. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderCityMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the city. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * requestIdentifier: the identifier of the request.   This is in the output only if the requester country code and VAT number have been provided as inputs. |
| **Exceptions** | N/A |
| **Post-conditions** | N/A |
| **Notes** | N/A |

Table 11: Specification of checkVatApprox

### CheckStatus

The complete *checkStatusService.wsdl* is provided in the linked resources of the present document.

#### Operation checkStatus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operation attributes** | **Values** |
| **Name** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkStatus/checkStatus |
| **Description** | The action checkStatus allows to verify the status of each member state service. |
| **Pre-conditions** | The request must be well formed. |
| **Inputs** | checkStatusRequest |
| **Outputs** | checkStatusResponse   * statusInformationResponse   + vow:     - available: status of the application;   + memberStates: encapsulates the list of member states;     - memberState: (Multiple)       * availability: the availability of the member state (AVAILABLE, UNAVAILABLE or MONITORING DISABLED);       * countryCode (Attribute): the MS ISO Code (e.g. AT, BE, FR). |
| **Exceptions** | N/A |
| **Post-conditions** | N/A |
| **Notes** | N/A |

Table 12: Specification of checkStatus

### CheckVatTest

The complete *checkVatTestService.wsdl* is provided in the linked resources of the present document.

#### Operation checkVat

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operation attributes** | **Values** |
| **Name** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat/checkVat |
| **Description** | The action checkVat allows to verify the integration of the original service checkVat. The WS has pairs of MS-Number for which predefined responses will be available. For all the other cases, the WS will responds with a “Service\_Unavailable” error. |
| **Pre-conditions** | The request must be well formed. |
| **Inputs** | checkVatRequest   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code (e.g. AT, BE, FR); * vatNumber: the VAT number to verify. |
| **Outputs** | checkVatResponse   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code of the request; * vatNumber: the VAT number of the request; * requestDate: the date when the request has been made (example format: 2020-01-01+02:00); * valid: indicate if the VAT number is valid or not: * name (Optional): the name of the trader; * address (Optional): the address of the trader which contains the street name, post code and city. |
| **Exceptions** | N/A |
| **Post-conditions** | N/A |
| **Notes** | N/A |

Table 13: Specification of checkVat

#### Operation checkVatApprox

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Operation attributes** | **Values** |
| **Name** | urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat/checkVatApprox |
| **Description** | The action checkVatApprox allows to verify the integration of the original service. The WS has pairs of MS-Number for which predefined responses will be available. For all the other cases, the WS will responds with a “Service\_Unavailable” error. |
| **Pre-conditions** | The request must be well formed. |
| **Inputs** | checkVatApproxRequest   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code (e.g. AT, BE, FR); * vatNumber: the VAT number to verify; * traderName (Optional): the name of the trader; * traderCompanyType (Optional): the company type of the trader (format: *[A-Z]{2}\-[1-9][0-9]?*); * traderStreet (Optional): the street of the trader; * traderPostcode (Optional): the postal code of the trader; * traderCity (Optional): the city of the trader; * requesterCountryCode (Optional): the MS ISO Code of the requester; * requesterVatNumber (Optional): the VAT number of the requester. |
| **Outputs** | checkVatApproxResponse   * countryCode: the MS ISO Code of the request; * vatNumber: the VAT number of the request; * traderName (Optional): the name of the trader; * traderCompanyType (Optional): the company type of the trader (format: *[A-Z]{2}\-[1-9][0-9]?*); * traderStreet (Optional): the street of the trader; * traderPostcode (Optional): the postal code of the trader; * traderCity (Optional): the city of the trader; * traderNameMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the name. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderCompanyTypeMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the company type. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderStreetMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the street. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderPostcodeMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the postal code. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * traderCityMatch (Optional): result of the approximate matching for the city. 1 = Valid, 2 = Invalid and 3 = Not processed; * requestIdentifier: the identifier of the request. |
| **Exceptions** | N/A |
| **Post-conditions** | N/A |
| **Notes** | N/A |

Table 14: Specification of checkVatApprox

### Error codes

Below is a table to map each HTTP code with corresponding possible error codes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| HTTP codes | HTTP codes description | Possible errors | Possible errors description |
| 200 | Means that the request is considered as technically valid. The result of the request can be the processing of the VAT number or the rejection of the request due to filtering, traffic limiting, invalid data, … | VAT\_BLOCKED | The VAT number is blocked due to a specific filter on this number. |
| MS\_UNAVAILABLE | The request has been processed but the Member State service to validate the request is unavailable. Please retry later on. |
| TIMEOUT | The request has been processed but the Member State service did not answer in the expected time. |
| INVALID\_INPUT | Some data are invalid in the request. |
| INVALID\_REQUESTER\_INFO | The data filled for the requester information are not valid. |
| INVALID REQUESTER MEMBER STATE | The iso code of the requester Member State is not valid. |
| MS\_MAX\_CONCURRENT\_REQ | The request has been rejected because the maximum concurrent request for this Member State has been reached. Please retry later on. |
| GLOBAL\_MAX\_CONCURRENT\_REQ | The request has been rejected because the maximum concurrent request for the application has been reached. Please retry later on. |
| IP\_BLOCKED | Your IP address has been rejected due to a filter. |
| 400 | Means that the request is considered as technically invalid. The request has not been processed. Occurred when the content-type of the request is not “text/xml” | N/A |  |
| 500 | An unexpected error occurred when processing the request. | IO\_ERROR | An unexpected exception occurred when parsing the reply. |
| TECHNICAL\_ERROR | An unexpected exception occurred when processing the request. |

Table 15: Error codes

## Service policies

### Service security and data protection

This subsection includes information related to security and data protection issues required by the service, such as authentication, authorization, confidentiality, and message integrity.

* Service confidentiality classification:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Confidentiality** | **Integrity** | **Availability** | **Personal Data** |
| X | **PUBLIC** | MODERATE | MODERATE | NO |
|  | **LIMITED BASIC** |
|  | **LIMITED HIGH** | CRITICAL | CRITICAL | YES |
|  | **EU RESTREINT** |
|  | **EU CONFIDENTIAL** |
| STRATEGIC | STRATEGIC |
|  | **EU SECRET** |
|  | **EU TOP SECRET** |

Table 16: Service confidentiality classification

* Security Mechanisms:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Value** |
| **End to End Security** | None |
| **Authentication** | No |
| **Authorisation** | No |
| **Integrity** | No |
| **Encryption** | No |
| **Reliable Messaging** | No |

Table 17: Security mechanisms

# Annex

## Example of request/response

### checkVat

Request:

<soapenv:Envelope xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/" xmlns:urn="urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat:types">

<soapenv:Header/>

<soapenv:Body>

<urn:checkVat>

<urn:countryCode>BE</urn:countryCode>

<urn:vatNumber>02831130808</urn:vatNumber>

</urn:checkVat>

</soapenv:Body>

</soapenv:Envelope>

Response[[2]](#footnote-3):

<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">

<soap:Body>

<checkVatResponse xmlns="urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat:types">

<countryCode>BE</countryCode>

<vatNumber>02831130808</vatNumber>

<requestDate>2022-05-19+02:00</requestDate>

<valid>false</valid>

<name>---</name>

<address>---</address>

</checkVatResponse>

</soap:Body>

</soap:Envelope>

### checkStatus

Request:

<soapenv:Envelope xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">

<soapenv:Header/>

<soapenv:Body/>

</soapenv:Envelope>

Response:

<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">

<soap:Body>

<ns1:statusInformationResponse xmlns:ns1="urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkStatus:types">

<ns1:vow>

<ns1:available>true</ns1:available>

</ns1:vow>

<ns1:memberStates>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="AT">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="BE">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="BG">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="CY">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="CZ">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="DE">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="DK">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="EE">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="EL">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="ES">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="FI">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="FR">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="HR">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="HU">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="IE">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="IT">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="LT">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="LU">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="LV">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="MT">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="NL">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="PL">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="PT">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="RO">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="SE">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="SI">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="SK">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

<ns1:memberState ns1:countryCode="XI">

<ns1:availability>Available</ns1:availability>

</ns1:memberState>

</ns1:memberStates>

</ns1:statusInformationResponse>

</soap:Body>

</soap:Envelope>

### checkVatTestService

Request:

<soapenv:Envelope xmlns:soapenv="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/" xmlns:urn="urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat:types">

<soapenv:Header/>

<soapenv:Body>

<urn:checkVat>

<urn:countryCode>BE</urn:countryCode>

<urn:vatNumber>100</urn:vatNumber>

</urn:checkVat>

</soapenv:Body>

</soapenv:Envelope>

Response[[3]](#footnote-4):

<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/">

<soap:Body>

<checkVatResponse xmlns="urn:ec.europa.eu:taxud:vies:services:checkVat:types">

<countryCode>BE</countryCode>

<vatNumber>100</vatNumber>

<requestDate> 2022-12-05T14:11:25.541Z</requestDate>

<valid>true</valid>

<requestIdentifier> </requestIdentifier>

<name> John Doe</name>

<address> 123 Main St, Anytown, UK</address>

</checkVatResponse>

</soap:Body>

</soap:Envelope>

1. Action: I=Insert R=Replace [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This response is an example and may differ on the production environment. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. This response is an example and may differ on the production environment. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)