



Peppol

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Migration guide for Service Providers

Peppol Policy for use of Identifiers from v4.0.0 to v4.1.0

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1 Introduction

OpenPeppol released the new version 4.1.0 of the “Policy for use of Identifiers” document. The previously active version was 4.0.0, published in January 2019¹.

The official source of the document is at <https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery/>

This document highlights the changes between these two versions and points to the affected Peppol components.

The Revision History of version 4.1.0 also lists version “4.0.1” – that version was never published. The changes from 4.0.0 to 4.0.1 are included in the description of this document.

1.1 Audience

This document describes changes to a Peppol policy and guidelines for use of identifiers within the Peppol network. The intended audience for this document are organizations wishing to be Peppol enabled for exchanging electronic documents, and/or their ICT-suppliers. More specifically it is addressed towards the following roles:

- ▶ ICT Architects
- ▶ ICT Developers
- ▶ Business Experts

2 Changes between the versions

The Revision History of version 4.1.0 list the following changes compared to version 4.0.0:

- 1) Extended the allowed characters for Participant Identifier values in POLICY 1
- 2) Adopted to new branding
- 3) Updated the reference to the Code lists

Of these listed changes, only 1) is of relevance to existing implementations. Number 2) just concerns the layout of the document and number 3) was a bug fix to correlate it with the existing usage.

2.1 Extended the allowed characters for Participant Identifier values

This text change affects only Participant Identifier values. Other identifiers values are NOT affected.

Text in version 4.0.0:

Participant Identifiers should adhere to the following constraints:

¹ News item: <https://peppol.eu/release-of-peppol-as2-v-1-2-specification-and-peppol-policy-for-use-of-identifiers-v-4/>

- MUST be at least 1 character long (excluding the identifier scheme)
- MUST NOT be more than 50 characters long (excluding the identifier scheme)
- MUST only contain letters and numeric digits from the invariant character set of ISO-8859-1

Text in version 4.1.0:

Participant Identifiers should adhere to the following constraints:

- MUST be at least 1 character long (excluding the identifier scheme)
- MUST NOT be more than 50 characters long (excluding the identifier scheme)
- MUST only contain letters (a-z), numeric digits (0-9), the minus sign (-), the period character (.), the underscore character (_) or the tilde character (~) from the invariant character set of ISO-8859-1¹³

The differences are:

- The addition of the explicit character range for the character classes “letters” and “numeric digits”. The main reason for this is consistency across the definition of character sets (e.g. for the Transport Profile Identifiers). One might wonder why only the lowercase characters “a-z” are contained and not also the uppercase version “A-Z”. This is due to the fact that Policy 2 of the Policy for use of Identifiers explicitly mentions that “All Participant Identifier values have to be treated case insensitive...”.
- New characters are allowed to occur in Participant Identifier values:
 - minus sign (“-“)
 - period character (“.”)
 - underscore character (“_”)
 - tilde character (“~“)

Footnote 13 reads “Based on the unreserved characters of [RFC3986]”. This refers to chapter 2.3 of RFC 3986, “Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax” which denotes all the characters that don’t need special escaping when used in a URI. As Participant Identifier values are directly used in URLs (e.g. for an SMP query) it was a careful decision not to introduce new characters that require special escaping – neither in URLs nor in XML.

2.1.1 Affected Components

Participant Identifiers are an integral part of the Peppol eDelivery network and are used basically everywhere. This includes the following network components and specified interfaces (of course excluding vendor specific parts):

- SMK/SML - the Participant Identifier is the unique key for technical identifiers
 - Must be supported in the SOAP interface to the SML
 - Must be supported in the storage system (database) of the SML

- SMP – the ID of a Service Group is a Participant Identifier. It is also the key for the Business Cards that are used to fill the Peppol Directory.
 - Must be supported in the storage system of the SMP
 - Must be accessible in URLs by Access Points
 - Must be usable for Business Cards
- Sending and receiving Access Points
 - Must be usable in the SMP lookup
 - Must be usable for the AS4 message properties “originalSender” and “finalRecipient”
- Peppol Business Message Envelope (SBDH)
 - Must be usable for identifying the sender and receiver of the business document
- Peppol Directory – the Participant Identifier is the unique key
 - Must be usable in the indexing API
 - Must be usable in the user interface search
 - Must be usable in the search API
 - Must be usable in the provided export data

3 Migration Period

The new Peppol Policy for use of Identifiers comes into effect on 10 December 2021. The migration period for Service Providers is 3 months, meaning all changes need to be in effect on 10 March 2022.

It should be noted that the 0204 Participant Identifier scheme is already in operation with the new characters. Any Service Providers servicing end users with this scheme may continue to do so.