

8. Methods of Receipt Processing and Submission to FIRS

8.1 Overview

FIRS MBS operates as a clearance model: every invoice must be received, validated, and acknowledged before it is legally recognized. Softrust and Bluelight ensure that this process is **automated, reliable, and auditable** across all entry channels — SmartAPI, file, email, and BlueBox.

<diagram: End-to-end flow — ERP/BlueInvoice/Email/BlueBox → SmartAPI compliance engine → FIRS MBS → response → archive + dashboards>

8.2 Supported Document Types

- **Invoices** – standard sales and service invoices.
 - **Credit Notes** – negative invoices reducing liability.
 - **Debit Notes** – adjustments for additional charges.
 - **Future Expansion** – designed to support regulator extension to other tax documents (e.g., withholding tax certificates).
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8.3 Pre-Submission Processing

Before an invoice is transmitted to FIRS, SmartAPI performs several safeguards:

- **Schema Validation** – invoice checked against canonical schema and regulator schema.
- **Mandatory Field Checks** – e.g., Buyer TIN, issue date, line totals.
- **Normalization** – consistent formatting of dates, currencies, numeric precision.
- **Master Data Cross-Check** – HS codes, tax codes, and TINs validated against SmartAPI's reference libraries.
- **Digital Signature Preparation** – payload hash signed with PKI for non-repudiation.

If validation fails, the invoice is rejected at SmartAPI layer, with structured error messages returned to ERP, Email Connector, or BlueInvoice user interface.

8.4 Submission to FIRS MBS

- **Transport** – invoices transmitted over TLS 1.3 via HTTPS.
- **Security** – signed payload with client certificate or OAuth token.
- **Idempotency** – each submission carries a unique ID to prevent duplicates.
- **Response Handling** – SmartAPI manages synchronous and asynchronous FIRS responses.

Response Types

1. **Acknowledged** – FIRS has received the invoice, processing pending.
2. **Cleared** – Invoice successfully validated, IRN and QR returned.
3. **Rejected** – Invoice invalid, reason code provided.
4. **Pending** – FIRS temporary status; SmartAPI queues for automatic retry.

8.5 Error Handling and Correction

- Errors returned include structured error code, field name, and description.
- Errors logged with correlation ID and timestamp for traceability.
- Finance teams notified via dashboards, emails, or ERP error queues.
- Corrected invoices resubmitted automatically once fixed.

Examples of common errors

- Invalid or missing Buyer TIN.
- Incorrect tax code mapping.
- Inconsistent line totals vs header totals.
- Invalid HS code reference.

8.6 Post-Submission Processing

Every successfully submitted invoice is enriched and archived:

- **Clearance Receipt** – IRN, QR code, timestamp from FIRS.
- **Digital Signature** – proof of authenticity and integrity.
- **Audit Log Entry** – full trace of submission and response cycle.
- **Archival** – bundled into WORM storage for 10+ years.

Invoices are also updated in client ERP (via SmartAPI callback or polling) or sent back by email acknowledgement.

<diagram: Evidence lifecycle — canonical invoice → FIRS submission → receipt/QR → evidence bundle archived>

8.7 Monitoring and Reconciliation

- **Dashboards** show real-time clearance rates, rejections by reason, and pending items.
 - **Daily reconciliation** automatically compares ERP, SmartAPI, and FIRS counts.
 - **Exception queues** flag mismatches for Finance review.
 - **Audit-ready exports** allow retrieval of receipts and evidence bundles at any time.
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8.8 Failover and Resilience

If FIRS MBS is unavailable or unstable:

- SmartAPI retries submissions with exponential backoff.
 - Pending invoices are queued safely until FIRS becomes available.
 - Clients are notified through dashboards and alerts, but no invoices are lost.
 - Optional fallback paths (SFTP or batch submission) can be enabled if required.
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8.9 Why Clients Trust This Process

- **Zero invoice loss** – everything queued and tracked with correlation IDs.
- **Proactive error handling** – rejects caught early, corrected quickly.
- **Audit defense** – every submission tied to receipts, signatures, and evidence bundles.
- **Operational visibility** – dashboards for Finance, IT, and Compliance ensure transparency.

Softtrust and Bluelight don't just "send invoices" — we engineer an **industrial-grade compliance pipeline** that ensures every invoice is validated, cleared, and audit-ready.