

Use of service message APERAK

VDA 4937

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1 Introduction

The complex delivery and billing processes in the automotive industry require an intensive exchange of information and data with EDI messages. All partners involved have a great interest in communicating quickly and clearly in the event of an error and in initiating the necessary corrections. At the same time, it must be ensured that it is logged exactly and transparently why certain documents/messages were not processed.

These requirements arise with paper documents, but even more so with structured electronic messages, where technical error logs are often difficult to translate into substantive errors for the logisticians / business economists / accountants / auditors responsible.

This recommendation aims to ensure the necessary transparency and traceability of the validation results with standardised error logs oriented to the content of the validation. If necessary, the protocols should be able to be transmitted automatically and processed by the sender of the original message. Alternatively, the data is available for visual processing.

2 Process description

2.1 Acknowledgement of receipt

As a rule, all transfers of data should be documented, and the receiving system should ensure that an acknowledgement of receipt is sent by the recipient of the Data. Where the recommended OFTP/OFTP2 exchange protocol is used, end-to-end response should be enabled, as this is the tool by which the recipient's system acknowledges the receipt of the data file. Where other transfer methods are chosen, i.e. VAN (Value Added Networks), additional user intervention is required. If APERAK messages are only to be generated and sent to the sender in the event of an error, the parties might agree that the CONTRL message can be used to establish the acknowledgement of receipt. Most modern EDI systems already include this function so that it only needs to be activated. However, in the scope of this recommendation it is advised to use the APERAK message for this purpose as well.

2.2 Checking of incoming data

The check of the incoming data is performed in three steps:

2.2.1 Syntax check

General syntax check: the message is checked according to the criteria of the respective UN/EDIFACT message type (here: UNSM INVOIC or DESADV) in the respective directory (e.g. 07.A). Deviations in the structure, incorrect segment codes, inconsistent message of segment counters and errors in the structure of the service segments result in a rejection of the message. Depending on the configuration of the target system, a notification to this fact might be generated and sent automatically. Serious errors result in the rejection of the interchange file or of individual interchange messages. It is however possible to generate and send a message, even if the data transfer has been completed successfully and without errors. Such a message serves as an acknowledgement of receipt and can be useful, if the data is not sent directly to the business partner, as, in such a case, the communication log does not include any information regarding receipt of the invoice by the end recipient (see 2.1).

2.2.2 Specific syntax check

The specific syntax check evaluates the data against the criteria in the actual user manual (i.e. Message Implementation Guideline - MIG). In this process, the program checks whether the mandatory information is complete (e.g. in the form of specific qualified segments) and whether the used code values are applicable.

2.2.3 Plausibility/validation check at target (receiving) system

The validity check is performed by the receiving EDI system in order to determine whether the message is plausible and/or valid with regard to the actual message context. In this process, internal issues such as correct total amounts as well as statutory requirements are considered (e.g. in case of invoices, for customers and suppliers based in EU member states where not VAT is to be charged, the VAT ID number must be included). If there are no errors, the message is forwarded for further processing. This also happens with error-free messages that trigger a warning. If there are errors, an APERAK message is generated, containing information regarding the error(s).

Check for correct data content: the target system processes the message. In this process, the target system checks the actual data content (e.g. valid supplier/customer address, order number, etc.). If there are errors, a second APERAK message can be generated, containing information regarding the error(s).

In many programs, step 1 and 2 are no longer clearly separated and are performed simultaneously rather than consecutively. All errors and warnings that occur during the first check (steps 1 and 2) are logged and transmitted in the form of a message. For this reason, and with a view of keeping the implementation costs of the parties as low as possible, we recommend that the check results are communicated only through APERAK messages and that no separate CONTRL messages for the formal syntax check are generated.

The procedures involved in the various checks are summarised in figure 1.

An EDIFACT interchange file consist of an interchange frame (segments UNA (optional) and UNB at the start of the file) and an UNZ segment at the end of the file. Between these segments, 1...n individual messages from UNH to UNT are placed.

Interchange frame	Message frame	Message	Comment
UNA			Service string advice (recommended)
UNB			Interchange header
	UNH (#1)		Header of 1st message
		BGM	Content of message
		...	
	UNT		Trailer of 1st message
	UNH (#2)		Header of 2nd message
		BGM	Content of message
		...	
	UNT		Trailer of 2nd message
	...		
UNZ			Interchange file trailer

Errors might concern the actual data exchange, i.e. the interchange file, or individual messages contained in the interchange file.

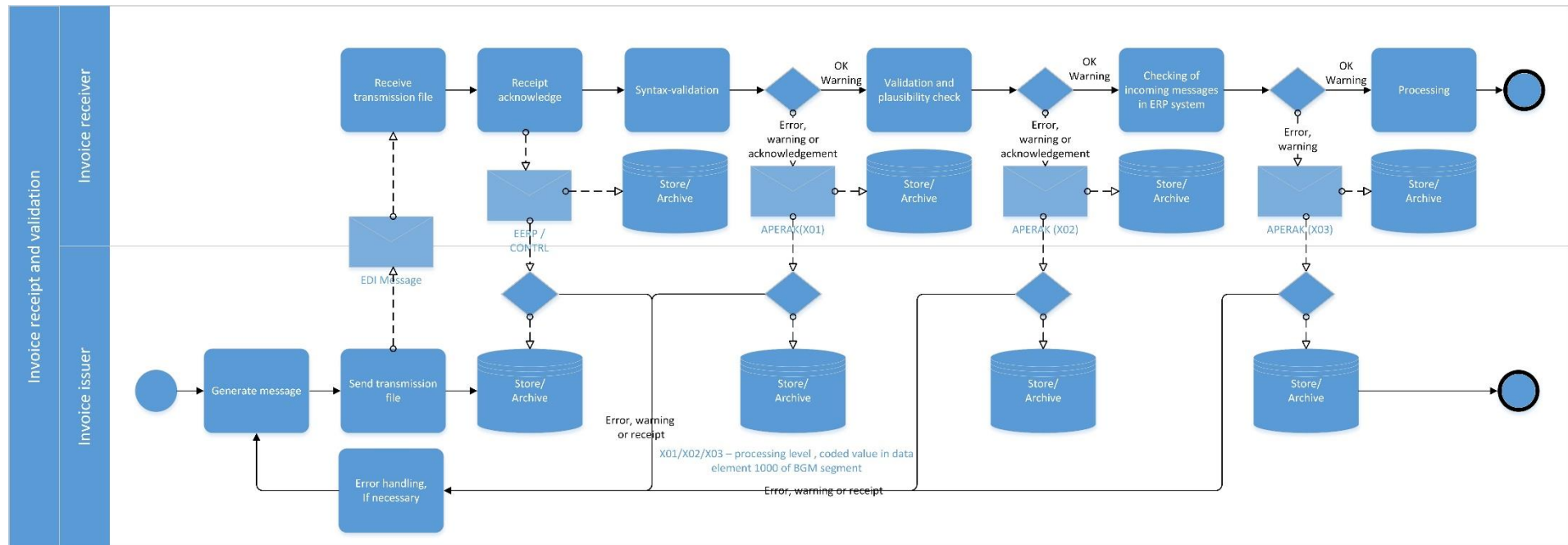


Fig. 1 - Process steps of message check

3 Examples of syntax check result communication

3.1 Correct data interchange - APERAK message serving as acknowledgment only

In certain cases, it might be useful to generate and send a message as a means of acknowledgment of receipt. This is especially the case in networks where there is no direct connection between the sender of the invoice and its recipient. Such a method is for instance used in VANs (Value Added Networks) where messages might be transferred through multiple networks to reach the recipient. In this case, a message may be useful after the first check (e.g. syntax check only) is completed, even if no errors or warnings occurred.

Structure of original message			Content of APERAK message
UNA			UNA:+.?'
UNB	Interchange 12345		UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001FINANZ:59+00013:59:X+200724:1622+20150724153322'
	UNH #1		UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
		BGM	BGM+305:::X01+232221+9+AP'
			DTM+137:20150724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Acknowledgment of receipt?: Data interchange 12345 from 24.07.2020 has been received and the syntax check was completed WITHOUT errors or warnings. The messages are forwarded for incoming invoice processing.'
			CNT+55:0'
		Invoice 1001	RFF+INN:12345'
			DTM+171:201507240813:203'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'
			CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
			COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
			NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
			ERC+M000::10'
	UNT		UNT+13+1'
UNZ			UNZ+1+20150724153322'

Segments of APERAK message:

Segment	Content
UNA:+.?'	Service string advice
UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001FINANZ:59+00013:59:X+200724:1622+20150724153322'	Start of interchange, identification of sending and receiving stations, date, time and reference number of interchange file
UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'	Start segment of APERAK message
BGM+305:::X01+232221+9+AP'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X01 = syntax check, message reference number and code as original, Accepted
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Acknowledgment of receipt?: Data interchange 12345 from 24.07.2020 has been received and the syntax check was completed WITHOUT errors or warnings. The messages are forwarded for incoming invoice processing.'	Content in the form of text Acknowledgement of receipt: Data interchange 12345 from 24.07.2020 has been received and the syntax check was completed WITHOUT errors or warnings. The messages are forwarded for incoming invoice processing.'
CNT+55:0'	Number of errors: 0
RFF+INN:12345'	Reference number of checked interchange file: 12345
DTM+171:202007240813:203'	Date/time of checked interchange file

NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+M000::10'	Error code: M000 no errors detected at this level
UNT+13+1'	Message trailer
UNZ+1+20150724153322'	Interchange file trailer

3.2 One message rejected; other message(s) forwarded for processing

Interchange 12345 contains multiple despatch advices. DESADV number 1002 contains errors and is rejected (incorrect number of segments in UNT segment).

Structure of original message			Content of APERAK message
UNA			UNA:+.? '
UNB	Interchange 12345		UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001EDI:59+O0013ABC123:59:X+200724:1622+20200724153322'
	UNH #1		UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
		BGM	BGM+305::X01+232221+9+AP'
			DTM+137:20200724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Check report?::-----:Your message contains 00 error(s) and 00 warning(s).:The message has been forwarded for incoming delivery processing.:X+EN'
		DESADV 1001	CNT+55:0'
			RFF+AAK:1001'
			DTM+171:202007240800:203'
			RFF+INN:12345'
			DTM+171:202007240813:203'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'
			CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
			COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
			NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
			ERC+M000::10'
	UNT		UNT+15+1'
	UNH #2		UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
		BGM	BGM+305::X01+232222+9+RE'
			DTM+137:20200724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Check report?::-----:This message contains a list of the fields with errors in your VDA4987 message?:Your message contains 01 error(s) and 00 warning(s)?:X+EN'
			FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the despatch advice again.:Your message data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your idata.:For instructions regarding VDA 4987 despatch advices and the error report, please refer to?:
			https://www.vda.de/en/services/Publications/vda-4987---despatch-advice-with-edi-v2.6-2021-06.html +EN'
			CNT+55:0'
		DESADV 1002...	RFF+AAK:1002'
			DTM+171:202007240700:203'
			RFF+INN:12345'
			DTM+171:202007240813:203'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'

		CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
		COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
		NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
		ERC+N003::10'
		FTX+AAO++E+UNT[65].0075:Actual value?: 53 - Setpoint
		value?: 65'
		RFF+AWL:65:1'
	...UNT	UNT+18+2'
UNZ		UNZ+2+20200724153322'

Explanation re. APERAK message:

UNA:+.? '	Service string advice
UNB+UNOC:3+O0177X001EDI:59+O0013ABC12 3:59:X+200724:1622+20200724153322'	Start of interchange, identification of sending and receiving stations, date, time and reference number of interchange file
UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'	Start segment of 1st APERAK message
BGM+305::X01+232221+9+AP'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X01 = syntax check, message reference number and code as original, Accepted
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?:----- :Your message contains 00 error(s) and 00 warning(s):The message has been forwarded for incoming delivery processing.:X+EN'	Result in the form of a text message
CNT+55:0'	Number of errors: 0
RFF+AAK:1001'	Despatch advice number
DTM+171:202007240800:203'	Date of despatch advice
RFF+INN:12345'DTM+171:201507240813:203'	Interchange reference number
DTM+171:202007240813:203'NAD+MS+876543 21::91++Berliner Autobau AG'	Date of interchange file
NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'ERC+M000::10'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+M000::10'UNT+14+1'	Error code: M000 no errors detected at this level
UNT+15+1'UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVJ10' GAM21'	End of 1st APERAK message
UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'BGM+305: ::X01+232222+9'	Start segment of 2nd APERAK message
BGM+305::X01+232222+9+RE'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X01 = syntax check, message reference number and code as original
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?:----- :This message contains a list of the fields with errors in your VDA498738 message?:Your message contains 01 error(s) and 00 warning(s):X+DE'	Result in the form of a text message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?:----- :This message contains a list of the fields with	

errors in your VDA4987 message?:Your message contains 01 error(s) and 00 warning(s)?:X+EN'FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the messageinvoice again.:Your despatch advice invoice data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your invoicemessage.:For instructions regarding VDA498738 invoices and the error report, please refer to?:www.berlin-auto.de/vda498738-guide.htm+DE'	
FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the despatch advice again.:Your message data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your idata.:For instructions regarding VDA 4987 despatch advices and the error report, please refer to?: https://www.vda.de/en/services/Publications/vda-4987---despatch-advice-with-edi-v2.6-2021-06.html +EN'	
CNT+55:0'	Number of errors: 1
RFF+AAK:1002'	Despatch advice number 1002
DTM+171:202007240700:203'	Date of the despatch advice
RFF+INN:12345'	Interchange reference number
DTM+171:202007240813:203'	Date of interchange file
NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+N003::10'	Error code: N003 = UNT: Number of segments in the message is wrong with errors in message.
FTX+AAO++E+UNT[65].0075:Actual value?: 53 - Setpoint value?: 65'	Location and description of error
RFF+AWL:65:1'	Position of error in message
UNT+18+2'	End of 2nd APERAK message
UNT+18+2'UNZ+2+20150724153322'	Interchange file trailer

3.3 Entire interchange file rejected

Structure of original message	Content of APERAK message
UNA	UNA:+.? '
UNB	UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001FINANZ:59+00013:59:X+200724:1622+20200724153322'
	UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
UNH #1	BGM+305:::X01+232223+9+RE'

			DTM+137:20200724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Check report?::-----:This message contains
			a list of the errors in your VDA4938 message?:Your message contains
			01 error(s) and 00 warning(s)?:+EN'
			FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and
			transfer the invoice again.:Your invoice data is NOT being processed in
			system XXX!:Please resubmit your interchange file:For instructions
			regarding VDA4938 invoices and the error report, please refer
			to?:www.berlin-auto.de/vda4938-guide.htm+DE'
			CNT+55:1'
		Interchange 123456	RFF+INN:12345'
			DTM+171:20200724:102'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'
			CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
			COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
			NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
			ERC+U019::10'
			FTX+AAO++E+UNB[2].0020:Actual value?: 12345:UNB?: Data
			interchange reference used multiple times'
			UNT+15+2'
	UNT		UNZ+1+20200724153322'
UNZ			

Explanation re. EDIFACT message:

UNA:+.?'	Service string advice
UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001FINANZ:59+0001 3:59:X+200724:1622+20200724153322'	Start of interchange, identification of sending and receiving stations, date, time and reference number of interchange file
UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'	Start segment of APERAK message
BGM+305::X01+232223+9+RE'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X01 = syntax check, message reference number and code as original, rejected
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?::----- --:This message contains a list of the errors in your VDA4938 message?:Your message contains 01 error(s) and 00 warning(s)?:+EN'	Result in the form of a text message
FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the invoice again.:Your invoice data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your interchange file:For instructions regarding VDA4938 invoices and the error report, please refer to?:www.berlin- auto.de/vda4938-guide.htm+DE'	Additional text message
CNT+55:1'	Number of errors: 1
RFF+INN:12345'	Reference number of checked interchange file: 12345
DTM+171:20200724:102'	Date/time of checked interchange file
NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+U019::10'	Error code: U019

FTX+AAO++E+UNB[2].0020:Actual value?: 12345:UNB?: Data interchange reference used multiple times'	Description of error Data interchange reference used multiple times
UNT+15+2'	Message trailer
UNZ+1+20200724153322'	Interchange file trailer

4 Example of communication of content check result

Interchange 12345 contains multiple invoices. Invoice number 1002 contains errors and is rejected (no net amount for item, invoice total incorrect).

Structure of original message			Content of APERAK message
UNA			UNA:+.? '
			UNB+UNOC:3+00177X001FINANZ:59+00013:59:X+200724:1622 +12345'
UNB	Interchange 12345		
	UNH #1		UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
		BGM	BGM+305:::X01+232221+9+AP'
			DTM+137:20200724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Check report?:-----:Your message contains 00 error(s) and 00 warning(s):The message has been forwarded for incoming invoice processing.:X+EN'
			CNT+55:0'
		Invoice 1001	RFF+IV:1001'
			DTM+171:20200724:102'
			RFF+INN:12345'
			DTM+171:202007240813:203'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'
			CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
			COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
			NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
			ERC+M000::10'
	UNT		UNT+15+1'
	UNH #2		UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'
		BGM	BGM+305:::X01+232222+9+RE'
			DTM+137:20200724:102'
			FTX+ABV+++Check report?:This message contains a list of the fields with errors in your VDA4938 message?:Your message contains 02 error(s) and 00 warning(s)!+EN'
			FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the invoice again.:Your invoice data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your invoice.:For instructions regarding VDA4938 invoices and the error report, please refer to?: http://www.berlin-auto.de/vda4938-guide.htm +EN'
			CNT+55:0'
		Invoice 1002...	RFF+IV:1002'
			DTM+171:20200724:102'
			NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'
			CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'
			COM+030 8978 40999:TE'
			NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'
			ERC+G004::10'
			FTX+AAO++E+SG27.MOA[35]:Actual value?: N/A - Setpoint value?: MOA?+203...:No net amount for item'
			RFF+AWL:35'

		ERC+G006::10'
		FTX+AAO++E+SG27.MOA[87]:Actual value?: 10200,00 :Total invoice amount incorrect (SG50.MOA?+77); might be due to incorrect or missing figures in item list'
		RFF+AWL:87:1'
	UNT	UNT+19+2'
UNZ		UNZ+2+12345'

Explanation re. EDIFACT message:

UNA:+.? '	Service string advice
UNB+UNOC:3+O0177X001FINANZ:59+O0013:59:X+200724:1622+12345'	Start of interchange, identification of sending and receiving stations, date, time and reference number of interchange file®
UNH+1+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'	Start segment of APERAK message
BGM+305::X01+232221+9+AP'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X03 = ERP system processing (final check), message reference number and code as original
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?:----- :Your message contains 00 error(s) and 00 warning(s):The message has been forwarded for incoming invoice processing.:X+EN'	Result in the form of a text message
CNT+55:0'	Number of errors: 0
RFF+IV:1001'	Reference number of checked invoice
DTM+171:20200724:102'	
RFF+INN:12345'	Reference number of checked interchange file: 12345
DTM+171:202007240813:203'	Date/time of checked interchange file
NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'ERC+M000::10'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+M000::10'	No errors
UNT+15+1'	End of 1st APERAK message
UNH+2+APERAK:D:08A:UN:GAVM21'	Start segment of 2nd APERAK message
BGM+305::X01+232222+9+RE'	Message type (305 = application error and acknowledgement), X03 = ERP system processing (final check), message reference number and code as original
DTM+137:20200724:102'	Date of message
FTX+ABV+++Check report?:This message contains a list of the fields with errors in your VDA4938 message?:Your message contains 02 error(s) and 00 warning(s)!+EN'	Result in the form of a text message
FTX+ABV+++Please correct the incorrectly completed fields and transfer the invoice again.:Your invoice data is NOT being processed in system XXX!:Please resubmit your invoice.:For instructions regarding VDA4938 invoices and the error report, please refer to?:http?://www.berlin-	

auto.de/vda4938-guide.htm+EN'	
CNT+55:0'	Number of errors: 2
RFF+IV:1002'	Invoice number 1002
DTM+171:20200724:102'	
NAD+MS+87654321::91++Berliner Autobau AG'	Sender of APERAK message
CTA+IC+:Herta Müller'	Sender contact
COM+030 8978 40999:TE'	Phone number
NAD+MR+12345678::92++Supplier Ltd.'	Recipient of APERAK message
ERC+G001::10'	1st error G001 - net amount for item missing
FTX+AAO++E+SG27.MOA[35]:Actual value?: N/A - Setpoint value?: MOA?+203...:No net amount for item'	Error path and description
RFF+AWL:35'	Number of incorrect segment
ERC+G008::10'	2nd error G008 - invoice total incorrect
FTX+AAO++E+SG27.MOA[87]:Actual value?: 10200,00 .:Total invoice amount incorrect (SG50.MOA?+77); might be due to incorrect or missing figures in item list'	Error path and description
RFF+AWL:87:1'	Number of incorrect segment and position of erroneous data element
UNT+19+2'	End of 2nd APERAK message
UNZ+2+12345'	Interchange trailer

5 Comments

The scenario to be adopted should be agreed in advance between the parties. In a scenario where messages are only generated in the event of an error, the parties should agree a timeframe after which the sender of the invoice can safely assume that the recipient has received and processed the data. The recipient of the message is obliged to check and process incoming data without undue delay. The VDA Working Group "Structured Information and Data Exchange" considers a period of 36 hours as adequate. For Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, the period should be extended accordingly.

All arrangements regarding the interchange of invoice data by EDI should be agreed in writing by the parties.

The validity checks need to take into account the content of the message. Incomplete mandatory information required for legal purposes in connection with the trading of goods and services must ALWAYS result in a rejection of the message. Other omissions or incorrect details might trigger a warning or an error, depending on the nature of the omission or error.

A warning is triggered, if some of the information is incorrect but does not impair the processing of the data. Errors always prevent the data from being processed / posted. In such a case, the sender of the data must make the necessary corrections and transfer the data again.

6 Appendix - error codes

The error code list below is used for the standardised communication of errors that have been detected. It includes codes for errors that have occurred in connection with the interchange of invoices. It further includes codes used in other contexts, such as logistics messages. It thus provides a generic tool for the inclusion of such information in APERAK messages.

Syntax:

Digit 1 - classification of object containing error

A - parts/package numbers

D - Date/time details

L - Location details

M - Miscellaneous

N - Message structure

P - Partner data/identification

Q - Quantity details

R - Reference numbers/documents

S - Tax-relevant information incorrect or missing

U - Error in interchange file

V - Validation

Digits 2-4 - error code

For details, see separate codelist.

7 Annexe: EDIFACT Guideline