

Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November
2006 on the common system of value added tax

TITLE XI

**OBLIGATIONS OF TAXABLE PERSONS
AND CERTAIN NON-TAXABLE PERSONS**

CHAPTER 3

Invoicing

Section 5

[^{F1}Paper invoices and electronic invoices]

[^{F1}Article 233

1 The authenticity of the origin, the integrity of the content and the legibility of an invoice, whether on paper or in electronic form, shall be ensured from the point in time of issue until the end of the period for storage of the invoice.

Each taxable person shall determine the way to ensure the authenticity of the origin, the integrity of the content and the legibility of the invoice. This may be achieved by any business controls which create a reliable audit trail between an invoice and a supply of goods or services.

‘Authenticity of the origin’ means the assurance of the identity of the supplier or the issuer of the invoice.

‘Integrity of the content’ means that the content required according to this Directive has not been altered.

2 Other than by way of the type of business controls described in paragraph 1, the following are examples of technologies that ensure the authenticity of the origin and the integrity of the content of an electronic invoice:

- a an advanced electronic signature within the meaning of point (2) of Article 2 of Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a Community framework for electronic signatures⁽¹⁾, based on a qualified certificate and created by a secure signature creation device, within the meaning of points (6) and (10) of Article 2 of Directive 1999/93/EC;
- b electronic data interchange (EDI), as defined in Article 2 of Annex 1 to Commission Recommendation 1994/820/EC of 19 October 1994 relating to the legal aspects of electronic data interchange⁽²⁾, where the agreement relating to the exchange provides for the use of procedures guaranteeing the authenticity of the origin and integrity of the data.]

Status: EU Directives are being published on this site to aid cross referencing from UK legislation. After IP completion day (31 December 2020 11pm) no further amendments will be applied to this version.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Council Directive 2010/45/EU of 13 July 2010 amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the rules on invoicing.](#)

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- (1) [^{F1}[OJ L 13, 19.1.2000, p. 12.](#)]
- (2) [^{F1}[OJ L 338, 28.12.1994, p. 98.](#)]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Council Directive 2010/45/EU of 13 July 2010 amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the rules on invoicing.](#)