



DATASHEET • DATA APIS • VAT ID CHECK VIA VIES

Checking VAT IDs on VIES by hand? Now your software does it for you.

The VAT ID Check queries a VAT identification number in VIES, the European Commission's system, and returns validity, company details, check time, the country's VAT rates and a reverse charge assessment. For accounting, shops and customer onboarding: via REST API and MCP.

AT A GLANCE

One at a time with POST /vat/validate, up to 100 numbers with POST /vat/batch.
Every response shows whether the result is fresh from VIES or from an earlier check.

01 · WHAT IT IS ABOUT

Reverse charge on a hunch? Check first, then invoice.

For a VAT-exempt supply to another EU country, your customer's VAT ID has to be valid. Looking it up on the VIES portal takes time, and at best the result ends up as a screenshot in the file. The API brings it straight into your software, with time and source.

INPUT

VAT ID with country prefix, optionally IP and email for a plausibility check

RESULT

vies_valid, company name, address, check time, source, VAT rates, reverse charge

ACCESS

REST API with an API key, MCP tools po_vat_validate and po_vat_rates_get

IN AI-DMS

AI-DMS Ultra checks the sender's VAT ID on every invoice via VIES

**Answer from VIES**

The API queries the official VIES interface of the European Commission. source and layer show where the result comes from.

Format check first

The API first checks the country format. A formally wrong number comes back right away with format_valid false, without a VIES query.

Company name and address

Name and address as the member state releases them via VIES. company_data_status shows whether they were disclosed, geocoding locates the address.

Reverse charge assessed

tax_context.reverse_charge_applicable applies to a number confirmed by VIES. An older result during a VIES outage is explicitly insufficient.

Fresh or stored

cached shows whether the result comes from an earlier check. With force_recheck you force a new query to VIES.

VAT rates and country signal

tax_context names the standard rate, a reduced rate and the currency. Country signals from three public statistics come along.

02 · HOW IT WORKS

Send the number, read the answer. Store the result with the customer.

The check is a POST with a direct response. Store `vies_valid`, `vies_request_date` and `source` with the customer record, and every decision stays traceable later.

1

Create an API key

Under `API & Developer > API Keys`, use `Create New Key` to create an `API Key`. You can copy the key there at any time.

2

Send the VAT ID

POST `/vat/validate` with `vat_id` in the JSON body. For many customers at once: POST `/vat/batch` with `vat_ids`, up to 100 numbers.

3

Read the response

`vies_valid` says valid or invalid, `company_name` and `company_address` carry the company details, `tax_context` the reverse charge assessment.

4

Keep the evidence

Store `vies_request_date`, `source` and `cached` with the customer. If VIES is down, the API returns `VIES_UNAVAILABLE` or an older result.

TECHNICAL DATA

FEATURE	DETAILS
Endpoints	POST <code>/vat/validate</code> , POST <code>/vat/batch</code> , GET <code>/vat/rates</code> , GET <code>/vat/status</code>
Parameters	<code>vat_id</code> , optional <code>force_recheck</code> , geocoding, ip, email; batch: <code>vat_ids</code> with up to 100 numbers
Response fields	<code>vies_valid</code> , <code>format_valid</code> , <code>company_name</code> , <code>company_address</code> , <code>vies_request_date</code> , <code>source</code> , <code>cached</code> , <code>tax_context</code>
VAT rates	GET <code>/vat/rates</code> : standard and reduced rate for the 27 EU member states
VIES status	GET <code>/vat/status</code> shows VIES availability per member state
Access	API key as a Bearer token; MCP <code>po_vat_validate</code> and <code>po_vat_rates_get</code>
Billing	Pay as you go

03 · IN PRACTICE

Where the check helps. Three typical flows.

Business customers in your shop

When a business customer enters a VAT ID, your shop checks it right away. If `reverse_charge_applicable` is true, your software issues a net invoice with a reverse charge note.

Review your customer base

Once a quarter, your accounting team sends all VAT IDs to `/vat/batch`. Numbers with `vies_valid` false go on a list to clear up with the customer.

Incoming invoices in AI-DMS

AI-DMS Ultra checks the sender's VAT ID via VIES. An invalid number shows up on the document as the note "VAT ID invalid according to VIES".

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which database does it check against?

VIES, the VAT Information Exchange System of the European Commission. `source` names where the result came from, `vies_request_date` the time of the query.

What happens if VIES is down?

The API tries a fallback source. If an older result is available, it comes with warning and `cache_source` `database_stale`, and reverse charge counts as unconfirmed. Otherwise it returns `VIES_UNAVAILABLE`.

When are company name and address included?

When the member state discloses them via VIES. For a valid number, `company_data_status` shows it: `disclosed_by_member_state` or `not_disclosed_by_member_state`.

Does PaperOffice also check incoming invoices?

Yes. AI-DMS Ultra reads the sender's VAT ID and checks it via VIES. Invalid or formally wrong numbers appear as a note in the document's audit.

GET STARTED

Check VAT IDs straight from your software

Create an account, generate an API key under [API & Developer › API Keys](#) and check your first number with `POST /vat/validate`.

paperoffice.ai/en/ai-vat-validation-vies-api-eu-tax-id



MORE ABOUT THE MODULE

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