

Peppol

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Peppol Network Policy

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Statement of originality

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Revision History

Version	Date	Description of changes
1.0.0-RC	2025-12-18	Initial version for Member Review
1.0.0	2026-07-02	Final version with Member Review comments resolved

1 Introduction

1.1 Objective

This document contains general rules and specific Service Level Requirements that apply in the Peppol Network. This policy gives guidance on how to use the different specifications correctly and consistently within the technical processes of the Peppol Network.

This policy document is being developed and released in phases to ensure clarity, relevance, and continued alignment with the organisational goals. Additional sections will be added progressively as part of our structured policy development process.

1.2 References

The following standards and specifications are referenced in this document:

[ebMS3Core]	OASIS ebXML Messaging Services Version 3.0: Part 1, Core Features, 1 October 2007, OASIS Standard, http://docs.oasis-open.org/ebxml-msg/ebms/v3.0/core/ebms_core-3.0-spec.pdf
[MLS]	Peppol Message Level Status; https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery
[Peppol_CodeList]	Peppol eDelivery Code Lists; https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery/codelists/
[RFC2119]	RFC 2119 “Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels”; https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2119
[SBDH]	Peppol Business Message Envelope Specification; https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery
[SPIS]	OpenPeppol Service Provider Identification Scheme; https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery
[SPOGMLS]	Service Provider Operational Guideline on MLS (currently under development); https://docs.peppol.eu/edelivery

1.3 Terminology

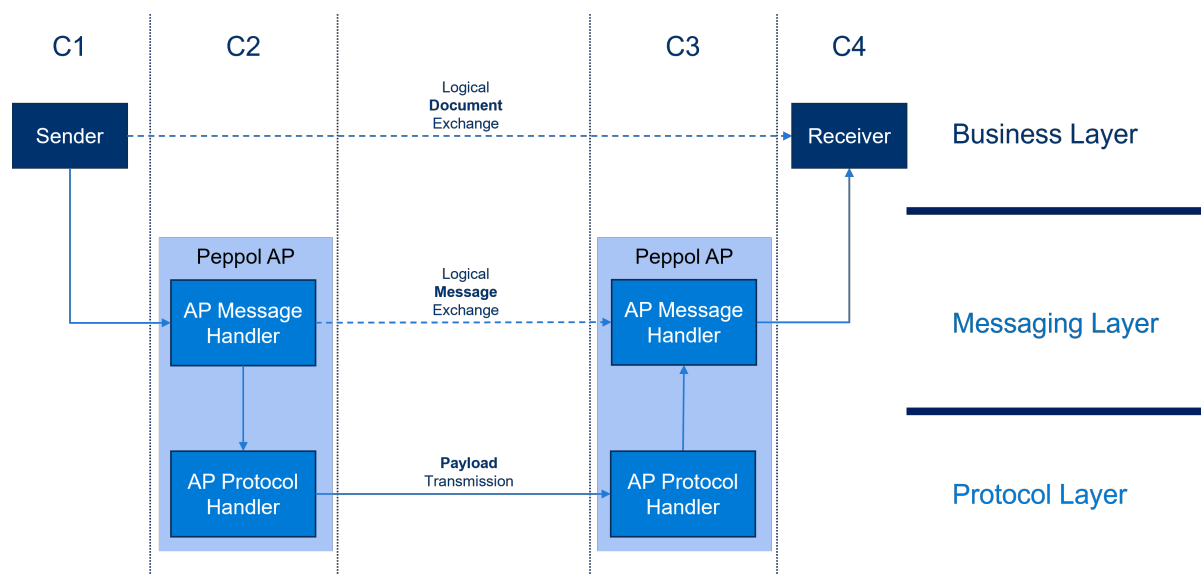
The keywords "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

30 This document refers to the 4-Corner Model only. The content of this document is
 31 applicable to the “5-Corner Model” interpreted as a combination of multiple instances of a
 32 4-Corner Model.

33 All time references in this document are expressed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)
 34 unless stated otherwise.

35 1.4 Peppol Interoperability Architecture - 3-Layer Model

36 The Peppol Interoperability Architecture - 3-Layer Model is an Architectural model that
 37 separates interoperability into three layers combined with the Peppol Interoperability
 38 Architecture – eDelivery (4-Corner) model, as depicted in Figure 1.



39

40 *Figure 1. Peppol Interoperability Architecture – “3-Layer Model”*

- 41 • The **Protocol Layer** is where the Transmission between Access Points (AP)
 42 takes place i.e. a payload is transmitted between the APs including Dynamic
 43 Discovery (SML, SMP), Peppol Protocol (AS4) and PKI.
- 44 • The **Messaging Layer** is where the payload that is defined as Peppol
 45 Documents (standardised or acknowledged by OpenPeppol) is logically
 46 exchanged i.e. Sending AP Message Handler creating and validating the Peppol
 47 Document and exchanging the Peppol Document through the Protocol Layer with

48 Receiving AP Message Handler validating¹ the Peppol Document and forwarding
 49 the Peppol Document data.

50 • The **Business Layer** is the logical Business Exchange between the Business
 51 Sender (C1) and Business Receiver (C4) utilising the Messaging Layer and
 52 Protocol Layer to perform the technical exchange.

53 2 Policy for Usage of XML

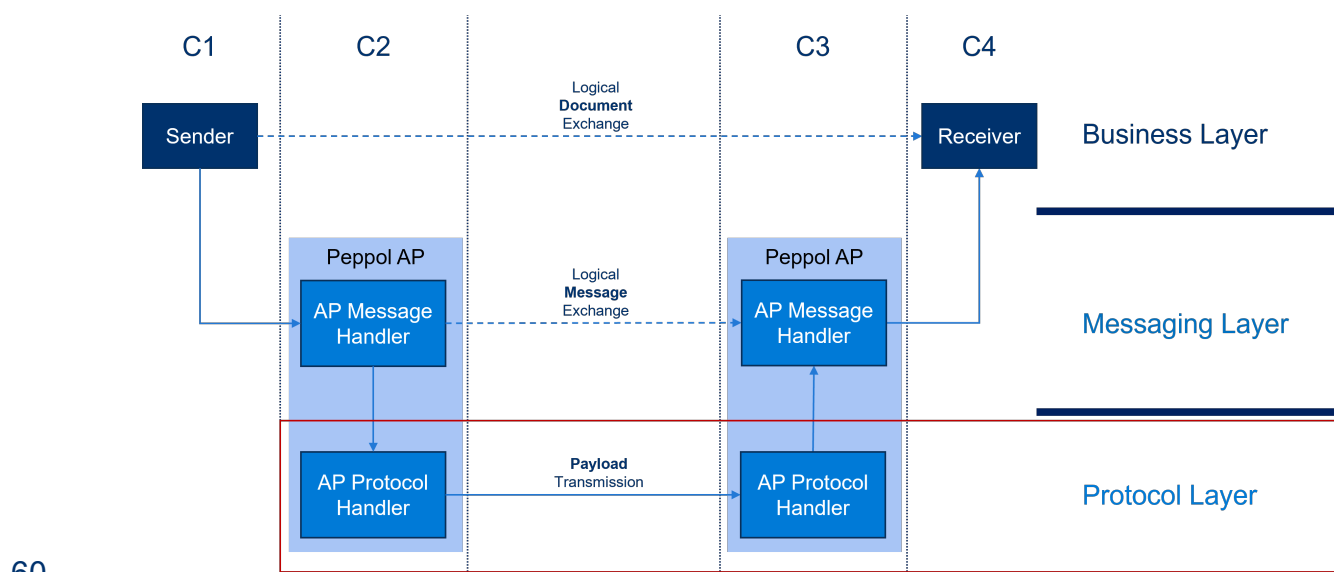
54 The rules in this section apply to all XML messages exchanged in the Peppol Network on
 55 any layer.

56 2.1 Policy Rules

57 Rule XML-1 – Selection of Character Set

58 Every XML document MUST use the “UTF-8” character set.

59 3 Policy for Payload Transmission



60
 61 *Figure 2. Peppol Interoperability Architecture – “3-Layer Model”*

¹ In this context the term “validating” is meant broader than pure XML validation using XML Schema and Schematron. Validation refers to all rules applicable under the Peppol Architectural Framework.

62 The following set of Policy Rules apply to the Protocol Layer in the Peppol
 63 Interoperability Architecture - 3-Layer Model, where the Payload is:

- 64 • The technical representation of the Peppol Business Message Envelope
- 65 containing the exchanged message on the Protocol Layer.

66 3.1 Policy Rules

67 Rule PT-1 – Payload Size

68 The Payload Size MUST be measured as the size of the uncompressed, unencrypted and
 69 unsigned Peppol Business Message Envelope instance in bytes.

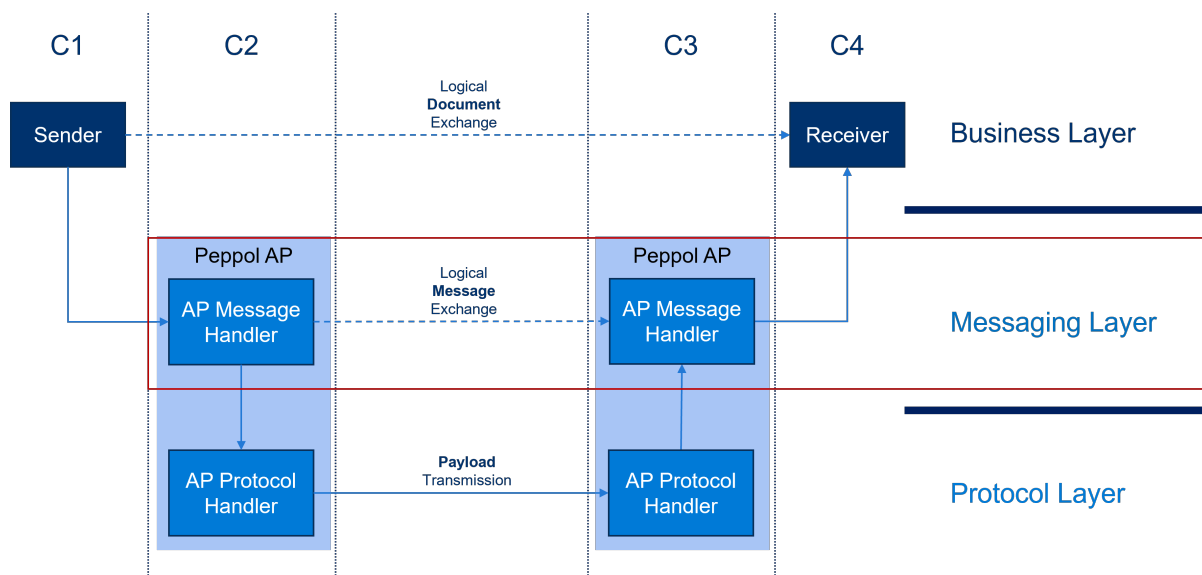
70 Note: If compression and/or encryption is used during transmission, size measurement
 71 must occur before such transformations are applied.

72 Definition – Megabyte

73 1 Megabyte is equal to 1 000 000 bytes.

74 Note: This definition clearly separates the term Megabyte (MB) from the term Mebibyte
 75 (MiB) which refers to $2^{20} = 1\,048\,576$ bytes.

764 Policy for Message Exchange



77
 78 *Figure 3. Peppol Interoperability Architecture – “3-Layer Model”*

79 The following set of Policy Rules apply to the Messaging Layer in the Peppol
 80 Interoperability Architecture - 3-Layer Model, where the Message is either

- 81 • Peppol standardised document exchanged from C2 to C3
82 or
83 • Peppol standardised Message Level Status (MLS) exchanged from C3 to C2.

84 **4.1 MLS Policy Rules**

85 This section contains all the rules related to the Peppol Message Level Status (MLS)
86 specification [MLS].

87 All the rules provided in this section apply to all Peppol Service Providers in the Peppol
88 Network offering the exchange of Peppol Document Types.

89 **Rule MLS-1 – MLS support in the Peppol Network**

90 Every Peppol Service Provider offering the exchange of Peppol Document Types **MUST**
91 support sending and receiving MLS messages.

92 Note: This requires the Service Provider to register MLS receiving capabilities in an SMP
93 (this relates to rule MLS-2 below).

94 **Rule MLS-2 – Minimum MLS Receiving Capabilities**

95 Every Peppol Service Provider offering the exchange of Peppol Document Types **MUST**
96 register MLS receiving capabilities in an SMP using its SPIS Main ID in an SMP.
97 Additional SPIS identifiers **MAY** be registered for MLS receiving, provided that they are
98 derived from the SPIS Main ID and use only the SPIS Use Case ID “MLS”.

99 Example: A Peppol Service Provider with the Seat ID “POP987654” must register the
100 Peppol Participant ID “0242:987654” for receiving at least the MLS document type (see
101 references to [SPIS] and [MLS] for details).

102 The above stated rule allows such Service Providers to register more specific MLS
103 receiving capabilities with additional participant identifiers, as long as they comply with
104 the SPIS specification and the SPIS Use Case ID “MLS”.

105 **Rule MLS-3 – Default MLS usage**

106 The receiving Peppol Service Provider **MUST** always provide a negative MLS response
107 when applicable according to the MLS specification. A positive MLS response **MUST** be
108 provided only if the sending Peppol Service Provider has opted in for receiving positive MLS
109 messages.

110 That means, if no `MLS_TYPE` parameter is provided in the Business Message Envelope
111 (SBDH) it must be interpreted as `FAILURE_ONLY`. This refers to the SBDH parameter
112 `MLS_TYPE` as defined in [MLS] chapter 4.2.

113 Note: An MLS message must not be used in response to a preceding MLS message
114 (see [MLS] chapter 2.2).

115 **Rule MLS-4 – Timely MLS sending**

116 If an MLS message is sent, it MUST be sent as soon as the status is known.

117 That means, that artificial or intentional delays in MLS message transmission are not
118 permitted. If MLS transmission is temporarily impossible (for whatever reasons), the
119 message should be queued and retried as soon as conditions permit.

120 **4.2 MLS Timing Definitions**

121 Each MLS message has operational milestones. These milestones define the basis for
122 the MLS Service Level Requirements (see section 4.3).

123 **Definition – MLS Milestone M1**

124 The MLS milestone M1 is the date and time when the transmission of the Peppol Document
125 is initiated at C2.

126 When using the AS4 transmission protocol, the relevant data field is the AS4
127 UserMessage element `MessageInfo/TimeStamp` from the original document
128 transmission.

129 Note: The AS4 Timestamp element is mandatory in the ebMS 3.0 XML Schema. All
130 values must use the UTC time zone (see [ebMS3Core] section 5.2.2.1).

131 **Definition – MLS Milestone M2**

132 The MLS milestone M2 is the date and time when the transmission of the MLS message is
133 initiated at C3.

134 When using the AS4 transmission protocol, the relevant data field is the AS4
135 UserMessage element `MessageInfo/TimeStamp` from the MLS transmission.

136 Note: The AS4 Timestamp element is mandatory in the ebMS 3.0 XML Schema. All
137 values must use the UTC time zone (see [ebMS3Core] section 5.2.2.1).

138 **Definition – MLS Milestone M3**

139 The MLS milestone M3 is the date and time when the MLS message is received on the
140 Access Point (C2).

141 Note: This date and time can only be taken by the MLS receiving Service Provider itself.
142 To be in line with the milestones MLS-M1 and MLS-M2 it is recommended to also use
143 the UTC time zone for this milestone.

144 **4.3 Service Level Requirements for MLS**

145 This section deals with specific SLRs for Message Level Status (MLS).

146 **SLR MLS-1 – Latest MLS Sending**

147 The sending of an MLS message is constrained by the following rule with a monthly
148 measurement period:

- 149 1) 99.5% of all MLS messages of a Peppol Service Provider for business documents with a
150 Payload Size (see rule PT-1) of less than 10 Megabytes MUST have a maximum
151 duration of 20 minutes between MLS Milestone M1 and MLS Milestone M2.

152 Note: This refers to the MLS milestones defined in section 4.2.

153 Note: This SLR is described more extensively in the “Service Provider Operational
154 Guideline on MLS” (see [SPOGMLS]).

155 **SLR MLS-2 – Latest MLS Reception**

156 The receiving of an MLS message is constrained by the following rule with a monthly
157 measurement period:

- 158 1) 99.5% of all MLS messages of a Peppol Service Provider for business documents with a
159 Payload Size (see rule PT-1) of less than 10 Megabytes MUST have a maximum
160 duration of 25 minutes between MLS Milestone M1 and MLS Milestone M3.

161 Note: This refers to the MLS milestones defined in section 4.2.

162 Note: This SLR is described more extensively in the “Service Provider Operational
163 Guideline on MLS” (see [SPOGMLS]).