Annotations to „National Supplementary Requirement to the Peppol Interoperability Framework"

Mandatory support of the Message Level Response (MLR)

Changes

Version	Date	Author	Chapter	Amendments
1.0	22.03.2022	KoSIT		Release

1 Annotations to rules

(1) The OpenPeppol Business Interoperability Specification „BIS Message Level Response" (BIS MLR, [MLR]) MUST be supported in its current version by all Service Providers exchanging Peppol Datasets.

This rule refers to the official version of the Peppol BIS MLR. It means that there can be no national deviation from the standard BIS MLR. At the time of writing this document, the current version is 3.0. Should a new version of the BIS MLR be released in the future, it must be supported by all acting Service Providers.

By limiting this to the exchange of Datasets, SMP operators that do not also operate an Access Point are exempt from this requirement.

(2) Each sender of a Peppol message MUST be able to receive Datasets of type BIS MLR.

This rule requires every sender to also be a receiver. This calls for registration in an SMP. The corresponding Participant ID must support at least the BIS MLR Dataset Type (Document Type).

(3) For all use cases specified in [MLR] in which the use of a Peppol MLR is possible, it MUST be checked whether the sender of the original Peppol message is able to receive a Peppol MLR message. If this is the case, it MUST send a Peppol MLR message to said user.

In the current version of the BIS MLR (3.0), section 2.2.1 lists the use cases for which an MLR can be returned:

- *XML schema validation error*

- *Standard Compliance violations (e.g. empty elements not being allowed by UBL 2.1)*

- *Validation error of type fatal error*

- *Validation error of type warning. Warnings alone must NOT cause rejection of the business document (but they may be reported in addition to fatal errors)*

- *Wrong version of business document (Will be handled like validation error of type fatal error)*

Chapter 2.2.2 also refers to use cases for which no MLR should be returned. Reference is made either to confirmation in scope of transport acknowledgement (e.g. AS4 Error Message) or to the corresponding response in scope of Business Level (e.g. BIS Invoice Response).

The error message in the MLR message must be written in English as a minimum requirement.

The phrase "MUST be checked" indicates that the receiving end needs to perform an SMP lookup based on the data from the Peppol Envelope (SBDH) to check whether the sending end of the original message (C1) supports the reception of BIS MLR or not. If the sender of the original message supports BIS MLR, then the original request must first be acknowledged with a positive AS4 Receipt in scope of transport acknowledgement before subsequently initiating the new message exchange with the BIS MLR. Otherwise, the Access Point of the original message (C2) may first receive the BIS MLR before the transmission of the original document has been acknowledged. See also the following diagram:
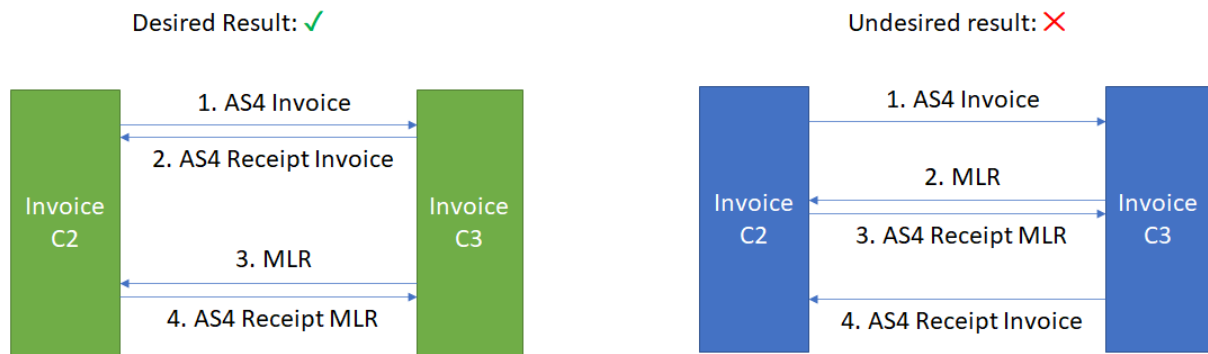
Diagram 1: Message exchange sequence

This sequence of message exchange also applies to a good-case BIS MLR.

(4) If a Peppol message has been accepted and forwarded by the receiving Access Point (good case), NO Peppol MLR message SHOULD be sent.

With this rule, the sending of MLR messages will only occur in a "bad case". This is to avoid unnecessary strains on the Peppol network. By obliging the sender to validate messages, invalid messages will not normally be sent. Therefore, it can be assumed that a very low number of Peppol MLR messages will be sent.

Nevertheless, the instruction allows an exception to send an MLR message in a good-case scenario. Receivers of BIS MLR documents must therefore be able to handle all MLR variants.

(5) Any inbound Peppol message, regardless of the Dataset Type used, MUST be ABLE to be responded to with a Peppol MLR message. Only incoming Datasets of type Peppol MLR are exempt from this obligation.

This rule prevents the MLR message from being considered only in the context of invoices. The use of the word "able" means that messages MAY still be received from Service Providers that do not support MLR on the sending end.

By excluding "Peppol MLR" type Datasets, a recursion of exchanged messages is avoided.

(6) The Peppol MLR message MUST be sent with the same Transport Profile (currently Peppol AS4 only) as the original Peppol message was received.

Currently, only the AS4 protocol is mandatory in the Peppol eDelivery network. However, if in the future two or more protocols are again to be used in parallel, then this rule states that the protocols for the original message and the BIS MLR must be identical.

(7) If no matching MLR message has been received within 6 hours of sending the original Peppol message, the source message MUST be considered accepted. If a negative MLR cannot be transmitted within the specified time period, the sender of the original Peppol message MUST be immediately informed by other means.

This rule limits the maximum waiting time of the sender. Since the MLR is only obligatory in the event of an error, the transmitted message will be considered positively transmitted after the expiration of the deadline. This waiting time can be shortened if an MLR message contains a positive message. See also Rule 4.

In the event that an erroneous MLR cannot be transmitted, this usually indicates a technical problem. With this rule, the receiver of the original message has the obligation to inform the sender. Ignoring such an error is not permitted.

2   Migration plan

Migration to using MLR uses a multi-phase model as shown in the following diagram:

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┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│ National commitment of MLR by the German PA           │
└──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
        ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────┐
        │ Receivers MUST send an MLR if the sender has  │
        │              registered MLR.                  │
        │ Senders CAN receive an MLR                    │
        └──────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                    ┌──────────────────────────────────┐
                    │ Senders MUST be able to receive MLR│
                    └──────────────────────────────────┘
 ──────┼──────────────┼──────────────┼──────────────────────►
        A              B              C                      t
```
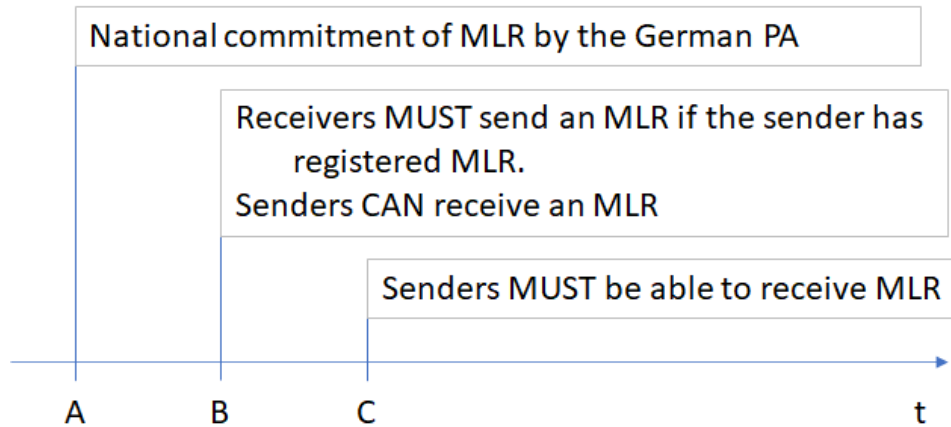
Diagram 2: Migration Model

The X-axis represents time and points A, B and C are milestones.

- *Point A is the date on which the German Peppol Authority will bring the National Annex to the Peppol Interoperability Framework into force. This is 1 September 2022.*

- *Point B is the time at which all receivers must be able to send an MLR message. This is 1 March 2023.*

- *Point C is the time at which all senders must be able to receive an MLR message. This is also 1 March 2023.*