UK e-Invoicing Mandate 2029 – Your FIVE Step Checklist

Causeway

From April 2029, all VAT invoices must be issued electronically. Detailed standards will follow in 2026, but the shift to structured digital exchange and away from paper, images and PDFs across B2B and B2G is confirmed.

For Tier 1 contractors and housebuilders, this goes beyond compliance. It will test automation, supplier readiness and systems resilience across complex supply chains.

1 Leadership & Ownership

Is this a compliance task – or a business priority?
e-Invoicing affects finance, IT, operations and the supply chain. It should be owned at senior level and treated as a cross-business transformation initiative, not just an AP upgrade.

2 Invoice Landscape & Process Maturity

**Do you fully understand your starting point?**
Map your current invoice profile – paper, PDF, structured digital – and identify where manual intervention still exists. Automation opportunity depends on clarity of today's process.

3 Data Quality & Automation Readiness

Can your data support true touchless processing?
Structured exchange only delivers value if invoice data is complete, consistent and matchable. Missing references, inconsistent units, and poor formatting undermine automation benefits.
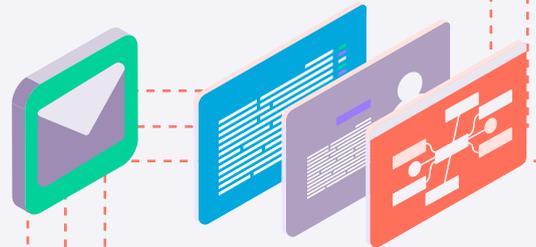
4 Systems & Architecture

**Is your technology ready for standardised exchange?**
The UK will likely adopt a decentralised four-corner model using structured formats. ERP capability, integration design and interoperability must be assessed now – not left until 2028.

5 Futureproofing & Strategic Opportunity

Are you designing for evolution, not just 2029?
Real-time reporting is deferred, not abandoned. e-Invoicing is a foundation capability – enabling broader automation, reporting and financial resilience beyond compliance.
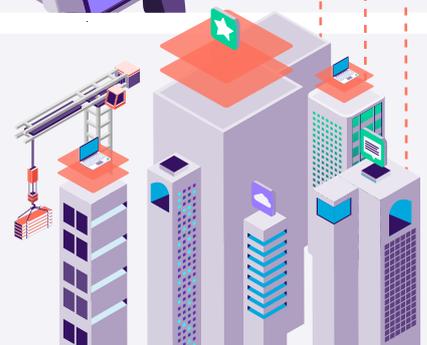
This readiness assessment provides a quick sense-check of your current exposure and readiness.

1 Leadership & Ownership

- ☐ Do you have clear senior ownership of e-Invoicing, with a named sponsor and leaders treating it as a company-wide priority rather than just an AP task?

2 Current Invoice Landscape & Process Maturity

- ☐ Do you have a clear picture of how invoices come in today — the mix of paper, PDF and digital, the monthly volumes, and where manual steps still exist?

3 Data Quality & Automation

- ☐ Do your invoices consistently contain the data needed for straight-through processing — like project references, PO numbers, delivery details and accurate units of measure?

- ☐ Does matching happen automatically and when issues do occur, are they truly exceptions rather than the norm?

4 Systems & Technical Architecture

- ☐ Are your systems ready for digital invoices — able to import and export structured data, supported by stable integrations, and backed by clear, controlled digital archiving?

5 Strategic Opportunity

- ☐ Are you using e-Invoicing as a springboard for wider P2P automation — connecting GRNs, POs and delivery notes, improving reporting through structured data, and preparing for future needs like real-time reporting?

How ready are you, right now?

High Readiness
Structured digital invoicing embedded, automation stable, supplier base aligned.

Moderate Readiness
Partial digital adoption; data or supplier gaps require structured programme.

Low Readiness
Heavy reliance on PDF/manual processes; governance and architecture unclear.

Final considerations

If mandatory technical standards were confirmed tomorrow:

- Would you feel confident in your current set up?
- Or would you require a rapid transformation programme?
- Would your systems scale confidently?
- Would finance see risk – or opportunity?

Get in touch with us today to learn more about how to transform your e-Invoicing with CausewayOne
causeway.com / solutions@causeway.com

Causeway