VAT & Company-Number Validator

User Guide

Odoo 18 / 19 · Community Edition

Data Quality & Migration

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1. Overview

VAT & Company-Number Validator checks the VAT numbers and Companies House numbers on your contacts against the official services — EU VIES, HMRC VAT checking and UK Companies House — using your own API keys (BYOK). Invalid numbers on invoices are caught before they cause problems.

Each check returns a valid / invalid verdict and, where available, the officially registered name, which is stored on the partner and in a validation log. A scheduled action can periodically re-validate previously failing records.

Who is it for?

Finance and master-data teams who must keep customer/supplier VAT and company numbers correct for UK and EU invoicing and compliance.

Technical name	gb_vat_company_number_validator
Category	Data Quality & Migration
Depends on	base, contacts
Edition	Odoo 18 / 19 Community (no Enterprise required)
Licence	LGPL-3

2. Installation

The module installs like any standard Odoo application. You need a user with the Administration / Settings access right to add an app.

- Activate Developer Mode (Settings ▸ General Settings ▸ Developer Tools) if the Apps menu is hidden.
- Open Apps and click Update Apps List so Odoo re-scans the add-ons path.
- Search for “VAT & Company-Number Validator” (technical name **gb_vat_company_number_validator**).
- Click Install. Odoo loads the models, security groups, menus and any scheduled actions.
- Refresh the browser; the new top-level menu VAT Validator appears.

Dependencies

This app depends on base, contacts. Odoo installs any missing dependency automatically.

3. Configuration

Provide your own service keys; validation then runs from the partner record.

Keys (BYOK)

Enter your own credentials for the VAT (VIES/HMRC) and Companies House lookups. The module never holds an accreditation — it uses your keys.

Validation Logs — VAT Validator ▸ Validation Logs

Every check is recorded in vat.validation.log with the reference, verdict and returned name.

Re-validation cron

A scheduled action (_cron_revalidate_invalid) re-checks partners whose previous VAT result was invalid or error.

4. Step-by-step Usage Walkthrough

Validate from a single partner or in bulk across many.

Step	What you do
1. Open partner	On a contact, run Validate VAT (action_validate_vat). The verdict (Valid / Invalid) and official VAT name are stored on the partner.
2. Company number	Run Validate Company Number (action_validate_company_number) to check the Companies House number and pull the registered name.
3. Bulk validate	Use the Validate Partners wizard (action_run) to check many partners at once.
4. Review logs	Open Validation Logs (action_view_validation_logs) to see every check and its result.
5. Auto re-check	Let the scheduled action re-validate invalid/error records periodically as registries update.
6. Fix data	Correct numbers flagged invalid and re-run; the partner's check state updates to Valid.

Status lifecycle

Each check yields Valid, Invalid or Error; the cron re-tries invalid/error records later.

5. Feature Reference

VAT validation (BYOK)

Checks EU VIES / HMRC VAT numbers using your own keys and stores the officially returned name.

Companies House check

Validates UK company numbers and retrieves the registered company name.

Validation log

Full audit of every check (vat.validation.log) with reference, verdict and returned name.

Bulk validation

A wizard to validate many partners in one run.

Re-validation cron

Scheduled re-check of records that previously failed, as registries change.

Partner fields

Verdict and matched-name fields stored directly on the contact for easy filtering.

6. Tips, Troubleshooting & FAQ

Q. Do I need an accreditation?

A. No. The module is BYOK — it uses your own VIES/HMRC and Companies House access, so no accreditation is held on your behalf.

Q. What does Invalid mean?

A. The official service did not confirm the number. Correct it on the partner and re-validate.

Q. Where is the official name stored?

A. On the partner (matched/official name fields) and in the validation log entry.

Q. Can I validate everyone at once?

A. Yes. Use the Validate Partners wizard to run checks in bulk.

Q. Will it keep numbers up to date?

A. The re-validation cron periodically re-checks records that previously failed, catching registry changes.

Q. Which countries are supported?

A. EU VAT via VIES, UK VAT via HMRC, and UK company numbers via Companies House.

7. Support

We provide application support and integration guidance for this module. If you hit an issue, please include your Odoo version (18 or 19), the module version, and a short description with a screenshot.

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Licence	LGPL-3

Thank you for choosing VAT & Company-Number Validator. This guide documents the features as implemented in the module; menu labels and field names match what you see in Odoo.