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External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management

SAP Ariba Sourcing

SAP Ariba Contracts

SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance

SAP Ariba Supplier Information and Performance Management (new architecture)

SAP Ariba developer portal

SAP Ariba APIs

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External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management

This guide is for a customer developer creating a client application that approves or denies SAP Ariba strategic sourcing solutions approval tasks.

You use the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management with **external approval tasks**, which are approval tasks that have the **External System Approval** option set to **Yes**, in sourcing projects, contract workspaces, control-based engagement risk assessment and issue management projects, and in all types of supplier management projects, including both the internal and external supplier request.

Note

Data returned in response to External Approval API queries are returned in the basic language associated with the realm's locale setting. For example, if your realm setting is in Germany, your data will be returned in German.

By default, the External Approval API returns values for multi-select custom fields in sourcing project headers as a single string and delimits each value with a comma and space. However, the External Approval API returns values for multi-select custom fields in all other project headers as elements in an array. The **Return multi-select custom sourcing header fields as elements in an array** parameter can be set to **Yes** so that the API also returns multi-select custom header field values in sourcing header fields as an array. For more information about this parameter, see [Return multi-select custom sourcing header fields as elements in an array \[page 27\]](#). For information about managing parameters, refer to [Intelligent Configuration Manager Administration](#).

This guide applies to:

- SAP Ariba APIs
- SAP Ariba Developer Portal
- SAP Ariba Sourcing
- SAP Ariba Contracts
- SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance
- SAP Ariba Supplier Information and Performance Management (new architecture)
- SAP Ariba Supplier Risk

Note

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management is not supported for SAP Ariba Supplier Information and Performance Management (classic architecture) projects, including SPM and SQM projects.

Prerequisites

For this API to process an approval task, the **External System Approval** setting for the task must be set to **Yes**. Refer to [External Approvals for Project Approval Tasks Setup \[page 15\]](#).

Rate Limits

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management v2 have the following rate limits (maximum permitted query rate) applied to it:

- 20 requests per second
- 400 requests per minute
- 12000 requests per hour
- 40000 requests per day

Note

When used for external approvals of engagement or issue tasks, the API does not support retrieving attachments for associated documents (Step 5 in the topic [Development of a Client Application That Approves Sourcing, Contracts, or Supplier Management Documents \[page 7\]](#)).

Related Guides

[Help for the SAP Ariba Developer Portal](#)

Endpoints Included in the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management

Query the endpoints in the External Approval API to retrieve information about external approval tasks.

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management includes the following endpoints:

Endpoint	Description
GET /changes	Returns a list of external approval tasks that have changed state. Activities that change the state of a task include submitting the task or completing the approval flow. See Events That Activate a Change to an Approval Task [page 19] for more information.
GET /pendingApprovables	Returns a list of external approval tasks that are active and pending approval.
GET /task/{entity_id}	Retrieves details about the specified external approval task. <i>entity_id</i> is the task ID, as returned in the response from the GET /changes or GET /pendingApprovables request.

Endpoint	Description
GET /{entity_type}/{entity_id}	Retrieves details about the specified approvable document. <i>{entity_type}</i> specifies the type of item to be approved; if supplier-inviter mapping is available, retrieves that information, too.
POST /action	Posts the action to be taken for the approval task on behalf of the user in the approval flow. Options are to approve, deny, and include comments.
GET /Document/{documentId}/attachments/{docAttachmentId}	Downloads an attachment. <i>{documentId}</i> is the document ID from which you want to download the attachment, as returned in the response from the GET /Workspace/{workspaceId} request. <i>{docAttachmentId}</i> is the attachment ID, as returned in the response from the GET /document/{documentId} request.

Workflow for the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management

1. An approval task with the **External System Approval** option set to **Yes** is submitted. The task is explicitly submitted by a user, or by SAP Ariba if the task is an **Approval For Award, Approval For Publish** task, or a task triggered as part of a supplier management workflow.
For additional requirements and recommendations for the task, see [External Approvals for Project Approval Tasks Setup \[page 15\]](#).
2. The API client requests the IDs of approval tasks using one of the following methods:
 - By retrieving the IDs of approval tasks that have changed state, including tasks that have been activated (submitted). The results can be filtered based on the solution area and type of approval task.
 - By retrieving the IDs of approval tasks that need to be approved (pending approval). The results can be filtered by user ID or document type.
3. The client requests details about a task, which include the ID of the document, sourcing event, or project to be approved.
For sourcing events, the client can use task details [to determine the tasks that are Award For Publish and Award For Publish tasks. \[page 18\]](#)
4. Using ID information from the task details, the client requests details about the document, sourcing event, or project to be approved. When requesting details about a sourcing event, the client uses the [\\$select query parameter \[page 22\]](#) to get details about specific parts of the event, such as line items or invited suppliers.

Note

If the sourcing event contains cost groups, the external approval API response also includes cost group information such as total cost and document IDs of the cost groups.

5. The client can also download associated attachments, if present.
6. The client application identifies eligible approvers for a document.
7. The document is presented to authorized approvers.
8. Approvers approve or deny the document.
9. The client application sends a request to approve or deny the document based on the approvers' actions.

Workflow to View and Act on Approvables in the User Interface Using the Full URL

If you prefer to view and act on an approvable in the user interface rather than programmatically via the API, you can open the URL listed for the approvable in the `fullURL` field in the response to your `GET /changes` or `GET /pendingApprovables` request.

1. The client application requests approvables using the `GET /changes` or `GET /pendingApprovables` endpoint.
2. In the response, the client application or the user locates the `fullURL` field in the details block for the desired approvable.
3. The client application or the user opens a browser to the URL listed in the `fullURL` field.

4. The client application or the user enters authentication credentials for the relevant SAP Ariba solution.
5. The authenticated user views the approval in the solution UI, and acts on the approvable as permitted based on their group memberships.

[Development of a Client Application That Approves Sourcing, Contracts, or Supplier Management Documents \[page 7\]](#)

[Development of a Client Application That Retrieves Award Scenarios for Approval For Award Tasks \[page 10\]](#)

[Developing a Client Application to Retrieve Supplier-Inviter Mapping Information \[page 12\]](#)

[Downloading Attachments by Using the External Approval API \[page 14\]](#)

[External Approvals for Project Approval Tasks Setup \[page 15\]](#)

[Entity_type and Entity_id Values \[page 16\]](#)

[Approval for Publish and Approval for Award Tasks Selection \[page 18\]](#)

[Events That Activate a Change to an Approval Task \[page 19\]](#)

[\\$filter Query Parameter for /Changes \[page 19\]](#)

[\\$select Query Parameter for Sourcing Event Details \[page 22\]](#)

[Item Detail and Item Hierarchy Determination \[page 22\]](#)

[Detailed Information Retrieval About Event Participants \[page 24\]](#)

[Error Messages Returned by the External Approval API \[page 25\]](#)

Development of a Client Application That Approves Sourcing, Contracts, or Supplier Management Documents

Note

In the sample URLs in this topic, replace `{{runtime_url}}` with the desired runtime URL from the **Environment Details** table on the SAP Ariba Developer Portal discovery page for this API.

1. The client requests the IDs of approval tasks with one of the following methods:
 - Using the `GET /changes` endpoint to retrieve the IDs of approval tasks that have changed state, including tasks that have been activated (submitted). For a list of activities that change the state of an approval task, see [Events That Activate a Change to an Approval Task \[page 19\]](#).

The results can be filtered based on the solution area and type of approval task, using the [\\$filter query parameter \[page 19\]](#).

- ```
GET {{runtime_url}}/changes?needTotal={true|false}&realm={realm_name}&offset={offset_value}&limit={limit_value}&lastChangeId={ID}
```

**needTotal** controls whether the response header includes the total count. The name of the header is `X-Total-Count`.

**offset** is an offset from the beginning of the result set, used in pagination. The response contains the `X-Start-Index` and `X-Page-Size` keys for the current page.

**limit** defines the maximum page size. The API ignores this parameter if the value is less than 10.

**lastChangeId** specifies the last change received in the previous response. The response includes all changes since this one. Use this parameter when you send multiple `GET /changes` requests and specify the `lastChangeSequenceId` value from the previous response.

The default value is 0 (start with the first change).

- Using the `GET /pendingApprovables` endpoint to retrieve the IDs of approval tasks that need to be approved. The results can be filtered by user ID or document type (type of item to be approved):

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/pendingApprovables?
realm={realm_name}&user={user_name}&documentType={approvable_type}&offset={offset}&limit={max_records}&resetStartPosition={true|false}
```

**user** Optional. User ID. If specified, only approval tasks assigned to this user are returned.

**documentType** Optional. The type of document (item) to be approved by the tasks. Possible values are `Workspace`, `Folder`, `RFXDocument`, `ContractContentDocument`, `ContractWorkspace`, and `ContractRequest`.

#### Note

To retrieve approval tasks for supplier requests, specify `documentType=RFXDocument`.

**offset** Optional. The starting point within the collection of results to be returned. For example, if you set this parameter to 3, the results begin with the third approval task, omitting the first two.

**limit** Optional. The maximum number of records to be returned in the response. This can be used in combination with `offset` for pagination purposes. For example, if `limit=20` and the results set contains 100 records, the response contains the first 20 records. To retrieve the next set of records in the results set, submit a new query with `offset=21` for the following page, `offset=41` and so on.

The default value is 100 and the valid range is 0 - 100. If you specify a value outside this range, 100 is used for the value.

**resetStartPosition** Optional. Specifies what happens when the value of `offset` exceeds the total records in the results set. Default is `false`. Default behavior returns the full results set, ignoring `offset`. When `resetStartPosition` is `true`, the response returns an empty results set.

#### Note

If you set only the `user` parameter, the response includes all approval tasks for all types of items (documents, events, projects) pending approval by the specified user. If you set only the `documentType` parameter, the response includes approval tasks for the specified type of item pending approval by any user in your site. If you set neither parameter, the response includes all pending

approval tasks. If you set both, the response includes all approval tasks for the specified type of item that are pending approval by the specified user.

### Note

If you prefer to view and act on an approvable in the user interface rather than programmatically via the API, you can open the URL listed for the approvable in the `fullURL` field in the response to your `GET /changes` or `GET /pendingApprovables` request. Skip the remaining steps in this list and execute desired actions on the approvable in the user interface.

- The client requests details for a task, using the `GET /Task/{entity_id}` endpoint. The `entity_id` is the [task ID \[page 16\]](#) from the `GET /changes` or `GET /pendingApprovables` request.
- The client requests details for the document, sourcing event, or project to be approved, using the `GET /{entity_type}/{entity_id}` endpoint specific to the document type of interest.

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/{entity_type}/{entity_id}?realm={realm_name}
```

`entity_type` specifies the type of item to be approved.

`entity_id` the ID of the item to be approved.

The client uses information from the `GET /Task` query to [determine the `entity\_type` and `entity\_id` \[page 16\]](#) values.

- If the approval task is for a sourcing event, the client uses the [\\$select query parameter \[page 22\]](#) to get details about specific parts of the event, such as line items or invited suppliers.
- Optionally, the client application can download an attachment associated with the document, using the `GET /{entity_type}/{entity_id}/attachments` endpoint.

```
{{runtime_url}}/{entity_type}/{entity_id}/attachments/{attachment_id}?
realm={realm_name}
```

- If the approval flow contains a group instead of individual users, the `approvalRequests/approvers` array in the task details (response to the `GET /Task/{entity_id}` request) contains `group` entries. The client uses one of the following methods to determine the user IDs of the group members:

- By group ID, using the `GET /groups/{group_id}` endpoint. The value for `group_id` is included in response to the `GET /Task/{entity_id}` request, in the path `approvalRequests/approvers/group/id`.

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/groups/{group_id}/members?realm={realm_name}
```

### Note

If a group ID contains special characters such as slashes, it must be `base64urlsafe` encoded before you can pass it as the value of `group_id` in the query URL.

- By group name, using the `GET /usergroups/{group_name}` endpoint. The value for `group_name` is included in the response to `GET /Task/{entity_id}` request, in the path `approvalRequests/approvers/group/uniqueName`.

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/usergroups/{group_name}/members?realm={realm_name}
```

### Note

The value of `group_name` is case sensitive and must maintain all spaces from the `uniqueName`. For example, if the group name is `Contract Managers`, the URL endpoint would be `/usergroups/Contract Managers/members`.

- The client application determines the action for the approval task, either programmatically or by presenting the decision to one or more authorized approvers.
- The client application approves or denies the approval task using the `POST /action` endpoint. (Alternatively, an authorized approver can manually approve or deny the task.)

```
POST {{runtime_url}}/action?
realm={{realm_name}}&user={{userID}}&passwordadapter={{password_adapter_name}}
BODY:
{
 "actionableType" : "{entity_type}",
 "uniqueName" : "{entity_id}",
 "actionName" : "{Approve|Deny|DenyWithResubmit}",
 "options" : {
 "comment" : "Please provide additional information."
 }
}
```

### Note

`actionName` specifies the approval use case, as follows:

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Approve</b>          | Approves the task.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Deny</b>             | Denies the task.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>DenyWithResubmit</b> | Supported only for SAP Ariba Supplier Management solutions approval tasks. This action is equivalent to an approver selecting <b>Request additional info</b> in the user interface for a supplier request or questionnaire. Only the active approval node is restarted (the previously approved nodes in the approval flow remain in the approved state). Use the <code>comment</code> field to communicate what additional information is needed. |

All action names are case sensitive.

## Development of a Client Application That Retrieves Award Scenarios for Approval For Award Tasks

If you are an SAP Ariba Sourcing user and have an external system that evaluates award scenarios which are submitted for **Approval For Award** tasks, you can use the following workflow to retrieve award scenarios.

### Note

In the sample URLs in this topic, replace `{{runtime_url}}` with the desired runtime URL from the **Environment Details** table on the SAP Ariba Developer Portal discovery page for this API.

1. Event administrators create events from templates with **Approval For Award** tasks that have the **External System Approval** option set to **Yes**. An event administrator submits a scenario for awards, which causes the **Approval For Award** task to be submitted.
2. The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management API client retrieves a list of sourcing **Approval For Award** tasks.

Example:

```

{{runtime_URL}}/changes?needTotal=true&realm=mySite&$filter=ApprovableType eq
'Sourcing' and
ApprovableSubType eq 'ApprovalForAward'

```

3. For each task in the response, the client extracts the task ID (the `approvableUniqueName`).

Example:

```

[
 {
 "changeParameters": "{ \"approvalRequestBaseId\": \"AAAAADPCWN6Zv\" }",
 "approvers": "[{ \"type\": \"User\", \"uniqueName\": \"smith\" }]",
 "approvableUniqueName": "TSK5555",
 "realm": "mySite",
 "changeSequenceId": "11",
 "entityDetailMetadata": "",
 "changeType": "ApprovalRequestActivated",
 "restResourceName": "Task"
 },
 ...
]

```

4. The client uses the `approvableUniqueName` to get the header information for each **Approval For Award** task.

Example:

```

{{runtime_URL}}/Task/TSK5555?realm=mySite

```

5. The client determines if the task is active by checking if `status` is `Active` and `altStatus` is `In Approval` in the task response.

Example:

```

{
 "id": "TSK5555",
 "title": "Approval for RFP Award1",
 ...
 "beginDate": 1577433906636,
 "status": "Active",
 "altStatus": "In Approval",
 "displayStatus": "In Approval",
 ...
}

```

6. If the task is active, the client extracts the document ID for the event from the task response. The path to the document ID for the event is:

`document/content/documents/id`

The element in the `documents` array for the event also contains the following name/value pairs:

```

"type": "Event"
"entityType": "RFXDocument"

```

For an example, see [Entity\\_type and Entity\\_id Values \[page 16\]](#).

7. The client retrieves details for the event (RFXDocument) and requests scenario information by including the query string `$select=scenario`.

Example:

```
{{runtime_URL}}/RFXDocument/Doc88888888?realm=mySite&$select=scenario
```

8. If the response contains a nonempty `link` element, the event contains 50 or more items. The client sends another request using the `link` value to retrieve the next page of data. The client repeats this step until the response contains an empty `link` element.
9. (Optional) To get more information about items in the scenario, such as descriptions or the hierarchical structure, the client retrieves the RFXDocument details again and requests details for items by including the query string `$select=items`. The client uses the `itemId` field to correlate information in the response, such as the [item hierarchy \[page 22\]](#).
10. (Optional) To get more information about awarded participants, such as address or registration status, the client retrieves the RFXDocument details again and requests details for participants by including the query string `$select=invitedSuppliers`. The client uses the `supplierUniqueName` and `orgSystemId` in the `scenario` information to correlate participants with `invitedSupplier` information as described in [Item Detail and Item Hierarchy Determination \[page 22\]](#).
11. The client uses the `/action` endpoint of the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management to approve or deny the Approval for Award task.

## Developing a Client Application to Retrieve Supplier-Inviter Mapping Information

Use this procedure to develop a client application to retrieve supplier-inviter mapping information. The `inviter` element of the `invitedSuppliers` array in the response of `GET /entity_type/entity_id` endpoint provides information about the buyer user who invited the supplier to the event.

### Prerequisites

- To create an application and request access to use the SAP Ariba APIs relevant to this feature, you must have access to the SAP Ariba Developer Portal. For details refer to [Steps to Start Using the SAP Ariba APIs in Help for the SAP Ariba Developer Portal](#).
- All queries made to this API must be authenticated using OAuth authentication. For details refer to [SAP Ariba Developer Portal Authentication in Help for the SAP Ariba Developer Portal](#).

### Context

To retrieve the `invitedSuppliers` array, query the endpoint

```
GET /entity_type/entity_id
```

with the `$select=invitedSuppliers` parameter set.

## Note

In the sample URLs in this topic, replace `{{runtime_url}}` with the desired runtime URL from the **Environment Details** table on the SAP Ariba Developer Portal discovery page for this API.

## Procedure

1. Obtain the following information:

**entity\_type** Type of document from which you want to retrieve the supplier-inviter information.

**entity\_id** ID of document from which you want to retrieve the supplier-inviter information.

## Note

You can configure the client application to dynamically retrieve the document type and document ID information by implementing the `GET /changes` or `GET /pendingApprovables` endpoints.

## Note

Version 1 of external approval API does not support the `$select` parameter. If you are using external approval API, version 1, implement the endpoint without specifying the `$select=invitedSuppliers` parameter.

For information about these endpoints, see [External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management](#).

For information about enhancements to these endpoints, see [PL-23648: External Approval API for Strategic Sourcing and Supplier Management, Version 2: Data filter enhancements](#).

2. Implement the following endpoint with the `$select` parameter set to `invitedSuppliers`:

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/entity_type/entity_id?
realm=realm_name&$select=invitedSuppliers
```

where `entity_type` denotes the document type and `entity_id` denotes the document ID.

Request example:

```
GET {{runtime_url}}/RFXDocument/Doc12345?realm=MyRealm&$select=invitedSuppliers
```

The `inviter` element of the `invitedSuppliers` array provides information about the buyer user who invited the supplier to the event.

Response example:

```
...
 "invitedSuppliers": {
 ...
 "inviter" {
 "uniqueName": "user1"
 "passwordAdapter": "passwordadapter1"
 },
 ...
 }
}
```

...

where `uniqueName` and `passwordAdapter` contain the name and the password adapter, respectively, of the user that invited the supplier to the event.

## Downloading Attachments by Using the External Approval API

This procedure describes how to use the External Approval API to download attachments.

### Prerequisites

- To create an application and request access to use the SAP Ariba APIs relevant to this feature, you must have access to the SAP Ariba Developer Portal. For details refer to [Steps to Start Using the SAP Ariba APIs in Help for the SAP Ariba Developer Portal](#).
- All queries made to this API must be authenticated using OAuth authentication. For details refer to [SAP Ariba Developer Portal Authentication in Help for the SAP Ariba Developer Portal](#).

### Context

The `GET /Document/<documentId>/attachments/<docAttachmentId>` endpoint of the External Approval API enables you to download an attachment.

#### Note

In the sample URLs in this topic, replace `{{runtime_url}}` with the desired runtime URL from the **Environment Details** table on the SAP Ariba Developer Portal discovery page for this API.

### Procedure

1. Use the `GET /Workspace/{workspaceId}` endpoint to obtain the document ID (`documentId`) in the response.

Example:

```
GET {{runtime_URL}}/Workspace/WS2474005?
user=myUser&passwordAdapter>PasswordAdapter1&realm=mySite
```

Specify the following required parameters:

- `user`: It is the ID of the user for whom the External Approval API will perform the action. This is a required parameter.

- `passwordAdapter`: It is the password for authenticating the user, such as `PasswordAdapter1`. This is a required parameter.
  - `realm`: It is your site name. This is a required parameter.
2. Use the `GET /document/{documentId}` endpoint to obtain the ID of the attachment (`docAttachmentId`) in the response.

Example:

```
GET {{runtime_URL}}/document/Doc44449999?
user=myUser&passwordAdapter=PasswordAdapter1&realm=mySite
```

Specify the following required parameters:

- `user`: It is the ID of the user for whom the External Approval API will perform the action. This is a required parameter.
  - `passwordAdapter`: It is the password for authenticating the user, such as `PasswordAdapter1`. This is a required parameter.
  - `realm`: It is your site name. This is a required parameter.
3. Use the `GET /Document/{documentId}/attachments/{docAttachmentId}` endpoint to download an attachment.

Example:

```
GET {{runtime_URL}}/Document/Doc44449999>/attachments/AAMAGM3377A?
user=myUser&passwordAdapter=PasswordAdapter1&realm=mySite
```

Specify the following required parameters:

- `user`: It is the ID of the user for whom the External Approval API will perform the action. This is a required parameter.
- `passwordAdapter`: It is the password for authenticating the user, such as `PasswordAdapter1`. This is a required parameter.
- `realm`: It is your site name. This is a required parameter.

To troubleshoot your queries to the External Approval API, refer to [Error Messages Returned by the External Approval API \[page 25\]](#).

## External Approvals for Project Approval Tasks Setup

To use an approval task with the **External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management**, the task must meet the following requirements.

### Requirements

- The **External System Approval** option must be set to **Yes** for the task. The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management provides information about an approval task only if the task has this option enabled.
- The **Allow auto approval** option must be set to **No** for the task in the project template.

- Within an approval node in a task configured for external approval, at least one of the available approvers must also be a user in the external system. To process an external approval correctly, the approving external user must match an existing SAP Ariba user who is an approver in that node.

## Recommendations

Keep the following considerations in mind when configuring approval tasks for the **External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management**:

- SAP Ariba recommends that you include only one node in approval flows for external approval tasks.
- To have an item that is approved both by a client of this API (acting on behalf of a user) and by an interactive user, we recommend that you create separate approval tasks and link them by designating predecessor tasks.

# Entity\_type and Entity\_id Values

External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management queries use *entity\_type* and *entity\_id* values to get details about a specific approval task or item being approved. The data is retrieved based on the visibility conditions specified in the questionnaire or form.

## *entity\_type* Values

Clients can retrieve details about an approval task or item being approved (document, event, or project) using the `GET /{entity_type}/{entity_id}` method with one of the following *entity\_type* values:

| To Get Details About A...                                           | Specify This <i>entity_type</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Task                                                                | Task                            |
| Sourcing event (RFI, RFP, auction)                                  | RFXDocument                     |
| Project Workspace                                                   | Workspace                       |
| Project Folder                                                      | WSFolder                        |
| Questionnaire                                                       | RFXDocument                     |
| Contract                                                            | ContractDocument                |
| Contract line items document (CLID)                                 | ContractContentItem             |
| Contract Request                                                    | Task                            |
| Project documents                                                   | Document                        |
| Folder (including all child folders and documents in the hierarchy) | Folder                          |

## Note

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management categorizes approval tasks as "documents." To distinguish an approval task from a project document, approval tasks are indicated by the name/value pair "documentType": "ariba.collaborate.core.Task".

## entity\_id Values

The method for determining the value to specify for the *entity\_id* parameter varies according to the entity type.

- Task

The *entity\_id* values for tasks in a GET /changes response are contained in approvableUniqueName name/values pairs. For example:

```
"approvableUniqueName": "TSK999999"
```

The *entity\_id* values for tasks in a GET /pendingApprovables response are contained in uniqueName name/values pairs. For example:

```
"uniqueName": "TSK101395"
```

- Document, folder, or project

To determine the *entity\_id* value for a document, folder, or project, a client first retrieves the details for the approval task (GET /Task/{*entity\_id*}). In the response for the task details, the path to the *entity\_id* for the document, folder, or project is:

document/id

For example:

```
{
 "id": "Task1234",
 "title": "Approval for Folder",
 ...
 "document": {
 "id": "Folder1234",
 ...
 }
}
```

- Sourcing events (RFXDocument entity types)

To determine the *entity\_id* value for an event, a client first retrieves the details for the approval task (GET /Task/{*entity\_id*}). In the response for the task details, the path to the *entity\_id* for the event is:

document/content/documents/id

The element in the *documents* array for the event also contains the following name/value pairs:

```
"type": "Event"
"entityType": "RFXDocument"
```

In the following example, the document ID for the event is Doc33333:

```
{
 "id": "TSK11111",
 "title": "Approval for RFP Award1",
 "description": "",
 ...
}
```

```

"document": {
 "id": "WS22222",
 "aribaType": "ariba.sourcing.rfx.SourcingProject",
 "entityType": "SourcingProject",
 "content": {
 ...
 "documents": [
 {
 "id": "Doc33333",
 "name": "RFP Award1",
 "type": "Event",
 "entityType": "RFXDocument",
 ...
 }
]
 }
}

```

### 📌 Note

If the sourcing event contains cost groups, the external approval API response also includes cost group information such as total cost and document IDs of the cost groups:

```

...
{
 "title": "Raw Material Costs",
 "fieldId": "GITACLNCOSGIFZ000001",
 "valueTypeName": "CostGroup",
 "value": {
 "totalCost": {
 "amount": 692.0093000000,
 "currency": "USD"
 },
 "documentId": "Doc14214"
 },
 "supplierValue": {
 "totalCost": {
 "amount": 692.0093000000,
 "currency": "USD"
 },
 "documentId": "Doc14214"
 },
 "attachments": []
}
...

```

## Approval for Publish and Approval for Award Tasks Selection

An External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management client can use information in responses for task details to determine if a task is an Approval For Publish or an Approval For Award task.

In task details:

- An Approval For Publish task for a document or event has the following name/value pair in the path `document / content / status`:  
"status": "Pending Publish Approval"
- An Approval For Award task for a sourcing event has the following name/value pair in the path `document / content / status`:  
"status": "Pending Selection"

For example, the following excerpt from a response for task details shows an Approval For Award task :

```
{
 "id": "TSK888",
 "title": "Approval For Award for Request for Proposal",
 "document": {
 "id": "Doc1234",
 "aribaType": "ariba.sourcing.rfx.RFXDocument",
 "entityType": "RFXDocument",
 "content": {
 "title": "My approval for award task",
 "status": "Pending Selection",
 :
 :
 }
 }
}
```

## Events That Activate a Change to an Approval Task

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management registers a change to an approval task (which a client can retrieve using the `/changes` endpoint) when one of the following events takes place:

| Event                    | Description                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ApprovalRequestActivated | An approval task is submitted.                                                                                                   |
| ApprovableWithdrawn      | The approval task is withdrawn.                                                                                                  |
| ApproverAdded            | An approval node is added to the approval graph.                                                                                 |
| ApproverDeleted          | An approval node is deleted from the approval graph.                                                                             |
| ApprovableEdited         | An approval node from the approval graph is edited.                                                                              |
| ApprovableFullyApproved  | All required approvers approve the document.                                                                                     |
| ApprovableDenied         | An approver denies the approval task.                                                                                            |
| DelegationChanged        | Optional. There is a user profile change for delegation settings. Your installation must be configured to track this event type. |

Change events are logged in the system and kept for 180 days, after which they are purged. To change this timespan, your administrator can change the value of the **ExternalApprovableChangesDaysToKeep** parameter to the desired number of days.

## \$filter Query Parameter for /Changes

The `/changes` endpoint supports an optional `$filter` query parameter to restrict the results by approvable type (project type) and approvable subtype. For example, you can restrict the results to sourcing **Approval for Publish** tasks.

A `$filter` parameter consists of one or more `ApprovableType` expressions, optionally followed by one or more `ApprovableSubType` expressions.

You can use the following operators in expressions:

eq (equal)  
 ne (not equal)  
 or  
 and

You can also use parentheses to group expressions.

For example, the following filter restricts the results to sourcing **Approval for Publish** or **Approval for Awards** tasks:

```
$filter=ApprovableType eq 'Sourcing' and (ApprovableSubType eq 'ApprovalForPublish' or ApprovableSubType eq 'ApprovalForAward')
```

The value of `ApprovableType` determines the valid values for `ApprovableSubType`, as shown in the following table.

`ApprovableSubType` expressions also support the following operators: `ge` (greater than or equal to), `gt` (greater than), `le` (less than or equal to), `lt` (less than). Expressions with these operators are evaluated based on the ASCII order (A-Z, then a-z) of the `ApprovableSubType` values. Entries in the following table are also sorted in ASCII order.

| ApprovableType                                                                                                                          | ApprovableSub-Type       | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Contract                                                                                                                                | Contract                 | Approval tasks for documents in a contracts workspace or entire contract workspaces.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                         | (none)                   | Same result as Contract value for ApprovableSubType.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| SLP - for SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance and SAP Ariba Supplier Information and Performance Management (new architecture) | PreferredSupplier        | Only available in solutions that include SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance.<br><br>Triggered when a user requests a new or changed preferred status level for a supplier and an approval task is defined for the status change.                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                         | SMQuestionnaire          | Triggered when a supplier submits an ad hoc questionnaire (such as a modular questionnaire) that collects data not collected via other workflows.                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                         | SupplierDisqualification | Only available in solutions that include SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance.<br><br>Triggered when a category or supplier manager submits a request to disqualify a previously qualified supplier for one or more specific combinations of commodities, regions, and (optionally) departments                |
|                                                                                                                                         | SupplierQualification    | Only available in solutions that include SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance.<br><br>Triggered when a supplier contact submits responses to the qualification questionnaire, which is used to qualify a supplier for one or more specific combinations of commodities, regions, and (optionally) departments. |
|                                                                                                                                         | SupplierRegistration     | Triggered when a supplier contact submits responses to the registration questionnaire.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| ApprovableType                   | ApprovableSub-Type                                                                                           | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | RFXDocument                                                                                                  | Triggered when an SAP Ariba user or a supplier submits a supplier request (request to create a supplier). The request includes information about the supplier, such as name, address, and primary contact. |
|                                  | (For supplier requests, which use surveys to collect information; surveys are categorized as RFX documents.) |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                  | (none)                                                                                                       | All ApprovableSubType values for SLP.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sourcing                         | ApprovalForAward                                                                                             | Approval for Award task. Triggered when a user submits an award for a sourcing event.                                                                                                                      |
|                                  | ApprovalForPublish                                                                                           | Approval for Publish task. Triggered when a user submits an event for publishing.                                                                                                                          |
|                                  | ApprovalForSourcingProject                                                                                   | Approval task for a full sourcing project.                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                  | (none)                                                                                                       | All ApprovableSubType values for Sourcing.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| SR - for SAP Ariba Supplier Risk | EngagementRequest                                                                                            | Approval task for a control-based engagement risk assessment project.                                                                                                                                      |
|                                  | IssueManagement                                                                                              | Approval task for an issue management project.                                                                                                                                                             |

## Examples

- Restrict results to approval tasks for contract workspaces:  
`$filter=ApprovableType eq 'Contracts'`
- Restrict results to supplier request approval tasks for SAP Ariba Supplier Lifecycle and Performance and SAP Ariba Supplier Information and Performance Management (new architecture):  
`$filter=ApprovableType eq 'SLP' and (ApprovableSubType eq 'RFXDocument')`
- Restrict results to sourcing **Approval for Publish** tasks or approval tasks for full sourcing projects:  
`$filter=ApprovableType eq 'Sourcing' and (ApprovableSubType eq 'ApprovalForPublish' or ApprovableSubType eq 'ApprovalForSourcingProject')`

# \$select Query Parameter for Sourcing Event Details

To retrieve details about sourcing events (information other than header information, such as line items), External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management clients request `RFXDocument` details and include the `$select` query filter.

The `$select` query parameter specifies the type of information to return, such as `items` or `scenario`. If you omit the `$select` query parameter, the web service returns event header information only.

The External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management web service supports the following `$select` values, which correspond to the information array returned:

```
invitedSuppliers
items
itemResponses
scenario
history
```

Clients can also use the `$select` query parameter with task detail queries (task details for a task associated with an `RFXDocument` using the `/Task/{entity_id}` endpoint), but the web service returns only header information for the task and header information for the task's event or document.

## Related Information

[Item Detail and Item Hierarchy Determination \[page 22\]](#)

[Detailed Information Retrieval About Event Participants \[page 24\]](#)

# Item Detail and Item Hierarchy Determination

External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management clients can use information from item details to determine item hierarchies.

Details for items (`items` arrays) in sourcing events are returned in `/RFXDocument/{entity_id}` queries with the `$select=items` parameter.

Each entry in an `items` array contains information about a lot or item in an event, including all term values for the item.

## Item Hierarchies

Each event includes a top-level or root item that acts as a container for all the lots and items in the event. This root item is not numbered, so the value of `displayNumber` for the root item is an empty string (" "). The root item can have rolled up term values for all items in the event.

The following example shows the first 3 entries in an `items` array.

- The first entry contains the root item (`"displayNumber": ""`). This entry does not contain a `parentItem` element.
- The second entry is for the first section in the event (`"displayNumber": "1"`).
- The third entry is for the first line item in the first section (`"displayNumber": "1.1"`)

```
"items": [
 {
 "itemId": "3500",
 "title": "Totals",
 "displayNumber": "",
 "itemType": "Section",
 ...
 },
 {
 "itemId": "3507",
 "title": "My first section",
 "displayNumber": "1",
 "itemType": "Section",
 "parentItem": "3500",
 ...
 },
 {
 "itemId": "3508",
 "title": "My first line item",
 "displayNumber": "1.1",
 "itemType": "Line Item",
 "parentItem": "3507",
 ...
 },
 ...
]
```

## Additional Item Details

Entries for supplier-added items in an event have values for the `displayNumber` element in the following format:

```
[supplierName] n
```

Where:

- `supplierName` is the name of the supplier (supplier organization) that added the lot or line item.
- `n` is an index number indicating the order relative to other supplier-added lots or line items, beginning with 1. The index is independent of items added by the buyer and only indicates the item's order of appearance relative to other items added by this supplier.

For example, the second item in the event added by the supplier `AAA Supplier Company` is shown as:

```
"items": [
 {
 ...
 "itemId": "1234",
 "title": "Another Item added by AAA Supplier Company",
 "displayNumber": "[AAA Supplier Company] 2",
 ...
 }
]
```

# Detailed Information Retrieval About Event Participants

External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management clients can use information from item details to retrieve information about event participants.

Item details (`items` arrays) in sourcing events are returned in `/RFXDocument/{entity_id}` queries with the `$select=items` parameter. An `items` array contains the following elements that identify the participants invited to respond (bid) on an item and their organizations:

- `supplierUniqueName` (the unique name of the participant user)
- `orgSystemId` (the system-assigned ID of the participant's organization)

For example:

```
{
 "title": "My RFP",
 ...
 "items": [
 {
 "itemId": "6088450",
 "title": "My item",
 ...
 "suppliers": [
 {
 "supplierUniqueName": "kzhu",
 "orgSystemId": "sid508"
 }
]
 }
]
 ...
}
```

To get detailed participant information, a client can use the `$select=invitedSuppliers` query parameter to get detailed information about participants invited for an event. A client can then correlate the following element values to determine detailed information about a participant and the participant's organization:

| Element in <code>items</code> , <code>itemResponses</code> , or <code>scenario</code> | Element in <code>invitedSuppliers</code>            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <code>supplierUniqueName</code>                                                       | <code>invitedSuppliers/contacts/uniqueName</code>   |
| <code>orgSystemId</code>                                                              | <code>invitedSuppliers/organization/systemID</code> |

For example, an `items` array in a response for item details (`/RFXDocument/{entity_id}` with `$select=items` query) contains the following entries:

```
"supplierUniqueName": "kzhu",
"orgSystemId": "sid508"
```

These entries correspond to the highlighted elements in the following `invitedSuppliers` array, which was retrieved using an `/RFXDocument/{entity_id}` query with `$select=items`:

```
"invitedSuppliers": [
 {
 "mainContact": {
 ...
 },
 "contacts": [
 {

```

```

 "uniqueName": "kzhu",
 "passwordAdapter": "SourcingSupplierUser",
 "name": "K Zhu",
 "emailAddress": "devnull@devmail.com",
 "organization": "WWW Supplies",
 "orgANId": "an12345",
 "orgName": "WWW Supplies"
 },
 "organization": {
 "name": "WWW Supplies",
 "systemID": "sid508",
 "organizationIDs": [
 {
 "domain": "internalsystemid",
 "value": "1024"
 },
 ...
],
 "address": {
 ...
 }
 },
 ...
 "isResponseTeam": false,
 "invitationId": "kzhu",
 "qualificationStatus": "",
 "isPreferred": false,
 "hasBid": true,
 "declinedToRespond": false
 ...

```

## Error Messages Returned by the External Approval API

Use this information to troubleshoot your queries to the API Name.

| Error Code | Message                                                              | Description                                                                |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 400        | Bad request with some missing parameter                              | A required parameter is missing from the query.                            |
| 400        | Bad Request. The parameters you have passed in request are incorrect | One or more parameters are incorrect.                                      |
| 403        | Forbidden                                                            | Query attempts to access a resource for which it does not have permission. |
| 404        | Entity Not Found                                                     | Query references a resource that is not in the system                      |
| 404        | Entity/Attachment Not Found                                          | Query requests an attachment that is not in the system                     |
| 404        | Group Not Found                                                      | Query references a group that is not in the system                         |
| 404        | User ID not found                                                    | Query references an unknown user ID.                                       |

| <b>Error Code</b> | <b>Message</b>        | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 500               | Internal Server Error | This indicates a system error, such as memory or network issues. Try again after some time or contact SAP Ariba Support. |

# Self-Service Site Configuration Parameters for the External Approval API

## Return multi-select custom sourcing header fields as elements in an array

Specifies the data format used in External Approval API responses for multi-select custom header field values in sourcing header fields.

|               |                                                                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ID            | Application.ASM.ExternalApprovalAPI.CustomFieldMultiSelectValuesAsJSONArray |
| Name          | Return multi-select custom sourcing header fields as elements in an array   |
| Default value | No                                                                          |

When the parameter is **Yes**, the External Approval API returns values for multi-select custom fields in sourcing project headers as elements in an array. When the parameter is **No**, the External Approval API returns values for multi-select custom fields in sourcing project headers as a single string and delimits each value with a comma and space. (The External Approval API returns values for multi-select custom fields in all other project headers as elements in an array.)

The default value is 0, which uses 40 for the value. The maximum values is 40.

A member of the **Customer Administrator** group sets this parameter in the **Intelligent Configuration Manager** workspace.

### Related Information

- [Intelligent Configuration Manager Administration](#)
- [Use of Savings Forms to Track Savings](#)
- [Parameter Management in Intelligent Configuration Manager](#)

# Version History for the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management

Please use the latest version of the External Approval API for Sourcing and Supplier Management.

| API Version | Status     | As of Release |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 1           | Deprecated | May 2020      |
| 2           | Active     | May 2020      |

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