



Adjustments to Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer

Information on planned adjustments to Swiss Payment Standards valid from November 2025

Version 1.0, valid from 5 November 2024

Change history

All changes made to this handbook are listed below with the version number, change date, a brief description of the change and references to the chapters affected.

Version	Date	Change description	Chapter
1.0	05.11.2024	New document Consultation procedure on the adjustments to the SPS 2025	all

Table 1: Change history

General information

Introduction

SIX Interbank Clearing Ltd ("**SIC Ltd**") is involved in committees and commissions that deal with standardisation issues in national and international payment traffic. It helps to ensure that Swiss financial institutions can set up their products and services in a timely manner on solid platforms that are networked in line with the market. This helps to ensure the smooth flow of payment traffic.

For data exchange between customers and banks based on the ISO 20022 definitions in the Payments and Cash Management business area, the Swiss Payment Standards ("**SPS**") are issued and periodically further developed under the leadership of SIC Ltd. The currently valid document is available on the following website: www.six-group.com/en/products-services/banking-services/payment-standardization/standards/iso-20022.html.

Planned adjustments – details

This document describes the planned adjustments to Implementation Guidelines Credit Transfers SPS 2025.

Planned adjustments – procedure

For the purpose of broad coordination and preliminary information, SIC Ltd publishes the planned adjustments to the SPS at an early stage and invites interested parties to submit their comments on these planned adjustments. The form created for this purpose is available at the following link: www.six-group.com/en/products-services/banking-services/payment-standardization/standards/iso-20022.html#scrollTo=consultations and should be sent to the following e-mail address after completion: consultations@paymentstandards.ch. The consultation will take place from 5 November to 25 November 2024.

Following the time window for submitting comments, the finalisation of the amendments will take place, taking into account comments received and other relevant developments (e.g. from the SEPA environment or regarding Swift messages). The publication of the new version is scheduled for February 2025.

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All changes made to this document are listed in a change history with the version designation, the change date, a brief description of the change and the specification of the chapters affected.

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1 General

The consultation procedure presents the planned adjustments the SPS 2025. It is due to be published on 5 November and the deadline for comments is Monday, 25 November 2024.

Once the consultation procedure has been completed, the feedback received will be analysed and the consultation reports will be prepared and published on www.iso-payments.ch. The results of the consultation procedure will be published in December 2024.

The final versions of the following guidelines will be published in February 2025:

- Swiss Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer,
- Swiss Implementation Guidelines for Cash Management,
- Swiss Business Rules.

2 Consultation Procedure

The consultation procedure presents the adjustments to the SPS 2025.

2.1 Adjustment to "Use of address information" (Chapter 3.11)

The adjustment is due to the fact that the Swift MT formats also have to be transferred.

The following address elements can be used in "pain.001":

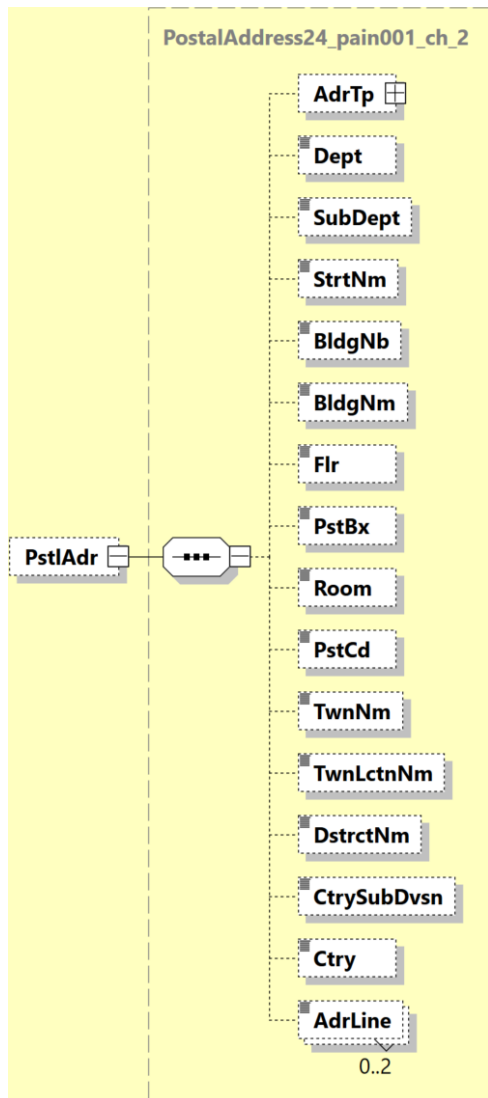


Figure 1: Data elements for address data (generic)

ISO 20022 Standard			Swiss Payment Standards	
Message Item	XML Tag	Mult	General Definition	Remark
Address Type	AdrTp	0..1	Address Type	Must not be sent.
Department	Dept	0..1	Department	
Sub Department	SubDept	0..1	Sub Department	
Street Name	StrtNm	0..1	Street Name	Use is recommended.
Building Number	BldgNb	0..1	Building Number	Use is recommended.
Building Name	BldgNm	0..1	Building Name	
Floor	Flr	0..1	Floor	
Post Box	PstBx	0..1	Post Box	
Room	Room	0..1	Room	
Post Code	PstCd	0..1	Post Code	Use is recommended.
Town Name	TwnNm	0..1	Town Name	Must be used if <AdrLine> is not used.
Town Location Name	TwnLctnNm	0..1		
District Name	DstrctNm	0..1	District/commune	
Country Sub Division	CtrySubDvsn	0..1	Part of the country (e.g. canton, province, state)	
Country	Ctry	0..1	Country (country code as per ISO 3166, Alpha-2 code)	Use is recommended. Must be used if <AdrLine> is not used.
Address Line	AdrLine	0..7	Unstructured Address Information	Maximum 2 lines allowed. Can be used for address information which cannot be supplied in a structured element. Data already provided in another element must not be repeated. It is recommended to always supply structured address elements in place of this element.

Table 2: Data elements for address data (generic)

The addresses of the parties involved, such as creditor, can either be structured in the element "Name" and in the element "Postal Address" (the recommended sub-elements are: "Street Name", "Building Number", "Post Code", "Town Name" and "Country") or be ~~unstructured~~ hybrid (sub-element "Address Line"). The use of structured addresses is recommended for all payment types.

In general, the sub-element "Postal Address" is only allowed in combination with the element "Name". However, the element "Name" can also be used without the sub-element "Postal Address". In this case, the regulatory and other requirements for the respective payment type or destination must be observed.

From November 2025, the addresses can be supplied in "pain.001" in either of the two following variants:

"Structured" variant:

- "Name"
- "Street Name" and "Building Number" (recommended for CH/LI)
- Other structured elements
- "Post Code" and "Town Name"
- "Country"
- The sub-elements "Town Name" and "Country" must always be supplied.

In "pain.001" for example, it would look like this:

```

<Cdtr>
  <Nm>MUSTER AG</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <StrtNm>Musterstrasse</StrtNm>
    <BldgNb>24</BldgNb>
    <PstCd>3000</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Bern</TwnNm>
    <Ctry>CH</Ctry>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>

```

Until further notice, the specification of the house number (sub-element "Building Number") is permitted in the sub-element "Street Name". In particular for SEPA and cross-border payments (payment types "S" and "X"), the transaction may still be rejected depending on the regulations and processing in the recipient country.

For the element "Name", the restriction of 70 characters still applies for SEPA payment type "S".

"Hybrid" variant (as of November 2025)

- "Name"
- Other structured elements
- The sub-elements "Town Name" and "Country" must always be supplied.
- Two uses of "Address Line" are permitted – 2*70 characters maximum, containing information which cannot be provided in any of the structured fields. Data already provided in another element must not be repeated.

In "pain.001" for example, it would look like this:

```

<Cdtr>
  <Nm>John Smith</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <StrtNm>Keppel Bay</StrtNm>
    <BldgNb>24</BldgNb>
    <PstCd>123456</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Singapore</TwnNm >
    <Ctry>SG</Ctry>
    <AdrLine>Carribean At Keppel Bay</AdrLine>
    <AdrLine>05-66</AdrLine>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
  
```

Notes on their application to cross-border orders:

~~The complete forwarding of the structured and unstructured address elements cannot currently be guaranteed in every case, especially for payment type "X".~~

For the element "Name", the restriction of 70 characters still applies for SEPA payment type "S".

For payment type "X", the Swift network is generally used for transmission. Since March 2023, financial institutions have also been able to use ISO 20022 messages for this purpose and forward all elements when using the structured and as of November 2025 the hybrid address. ~~However, when using the unstructured address, a maximum of 105 characters (three lots of 35 characters) is possible for the sub-elements "Address Line". In this case, the element "Name" can also be forwarded in full.~~

~~Until the migration is completed (planned for November 2025), financial institutions can continue to use MT messages (e.g. MT 103). These allow a maximum of 132 (structured in accordance with Swift FIN) or a maximum of 140 (unstructured) characters for the name and address, depending on the specification.~~

It is recommended to ask the debtor's financial institution about any further rules before placing the order. The rules may vary depending on currency, destination country or correspondent bank.

For payment type "S", the hybrid address can also be used starting from October 2025.

2.2 Adjustment to the XML schema validation (Chapter 3.6)

The adjustment was made due to various objections from financial institutions.

Validation of the XML schemas

The technical validation of the various XML messages is done with the help of XML schemas. These define the elements to be used, their status (mandatory, optional, dependent), the format of their content and the content itself (in certain cases the permitted codes are listed in the XML schema).

For the Swiss Payment Standards, specific XML schemas are issued as variants of the ISO 20022 XML schemas, for example where non-required elements have been omitted or statuses have been changed. These XML schemas define the data scope valid for Switzerland.

Incorrect messages resulting from a schema violation are rejected by the financial institutions as a rule.

To prevent file rejections during the file submission on the customer side due to a schema error, software providers are instructed to test an ISO-20022 message against the corresponding pain.001 schema in advance.

~~However, the reactions to any errors may differ among the financial institutions. For example, if an element is filled that should not be present pursuant to these definitions, one of the financial institutions may reject the transaction. Another financial institution may implement more complex validations and conclude that it will process the transaction anyway, disregarding the data of the affected element.~~

The names of the XML schemas in the Swiss Payment Standards as well as links to the original XSD files are listed in Annex A of the Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer.

2.3 Adjustment to the character set for the reference elements (Chapter 3.2)

This textual correction was made to prevent or minimise misunderstandings.

Character set for reference elements – old:

Only a restricted character set is permitted for the following reference elements:

- *"Message Identification" (A level)*
- *"Payment Information Identification" (B level)*
- *"Instruction Identification" (C level)*
- *"End To End Identification" (C level)*

The permitted characters for these elements are:

- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
- abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
- 1234567890
- Spaces
- **'()+,.-/:?'**

The special characters in highlighting above are now clearly presented.

Character set for the reference elements – new:

Only a restricted character set is permitted for the following reference elements:

- "Message Identification" (A level)
- "Payment Information Identification" (B level)
- "Instruction Identification" (C level)
- "End To End Identification" (C level)

The permitted characters for these elements are:

- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
- abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
- 1234567890
- Spaces
- The following special characters:

Character	Description	Code
'	Apostrophe	U+0027
(Left parenthesis	U+0028
)	Right parenthesis	U+0029
+	Plus sign	U+002B
,	Comma	U+002C
-	Hyphen-minus	U+002D
.	Full stop	U+002E
/	Slash (Solidus)	U+002F
:	Colon	U+003A
?	Question mark	U+003F

Figure 2: Special characters for the reference elements

2.4 Adjustments to general or payment-type-specific definitions

As a result of the other changes in the SPS 2025, the following adjustments are made to general or field-related definitions.

2.4.1 Adjustment to the element "Name" to 140 characters

The following textual adjustment has been made: for the element "Name", the restriction to 70 characters has been lifted. However, this restriction still applies for the payment type "S" (SEPA).

The following elements and sub-elements under this path have been adapted:

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/GrpHdr/InitgPty/Nm

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/PmtInf/Dbtr/Nm

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/PmtInf/UltmtDbtr/Nm

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/PmtInf/CdtTrfTxInf/UltmtDbtr/Nm

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/PmtInf/CdtTrfTxInf/Cdtr/Nm

Elements/Document/CstmrCdtTrfInitn/PmtInf/CdtTrfTxInf/UltmtCdtr/Nm

Characteristic	CH definition – old	CH definition – new
Name <Nm>	Recommendation: Use. Designation or name by which the sending party of the message is known or commonly used for its identification, maximum 70 characters .	Recommendation: Use. Designation or name by which <i>the respective party of the message (depending on the element)</i> is known or commonly used for its identification.

Table 3: Adjustment to "Name"

Characteristic	Payment type-specific definition – old	Payment type-specific definition – old
Name <Nm>	None	"S": 70 characters maximum

Table 4: Adjustment to "Name"