



Guidelines for the implementation of the structured and hybrid address

Version 1.0, valid from 20 November 2024

Change history

All the changes carried out in this handbook are listed below with the version designation, the change date, a brief description of the change and the specification of the chapters affected.

Version	Date	Change description	Chapter
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Table 1: Change history

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General information

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1 Introduction

1.1 Initial situation

In connection with the implementation of the obligation to use structured or hybrid addresses, the storage of master data, the applications used for recording and processing payment orders and the creation and receipt of ISO 20022 messages will have to be adapted depending on the initial situation.

The current timeline is for full migration to be completed by November 2026.

1.2 Aims of the document

This document provides an overview of the current decisions on the introduction of structured and hybrid addresses, as well as recommendations on how to populate such addresses for the various parties involved in payment transactions. The content of this document is intended for interested parties at financial institutions and software providers for payment transaction solutions.

Financial institutions are primarily responsible for advising end customers. SIX Ltd will also make general information material available on its website.

This document focuses on the structure of the addresses of the payer ("Debtor"), the actual debtor ("Ultimate Debtor"), the payee ("Creditor") and the effective beneficiary ("Ultimate Creditor").

The structure of the address of other parties in the payment message or the addresses of the institutions involved in the execution, such as the debtor's financial institution, the creditor's financial institution and any intermediaries, are not discussed in detail. In most cases, the institutions involved in the execution are determined and labelled with a corresponding identifier (e.g. IID or BIC). If the address still needs to be used, the same rules apply.

The elements and validations described refer to the use of messages in accordance with ISO 20022 but can also be applied analogously to other applications (e.g. internal and external GUI), interfaces (e.g. API) or syntax (e.g. JSON).

1.3 Limitations

The financial institution and its service providers and software providers are responsible for the correct implementation and application of the specifications, system requirements or implementation guidelines relevant to the transaction in question and for compliance with the appropriate regulations.

This document is not intended as an implementation guideline, but rather as an implementation aid and a source of information for service providers, software vendors and end users. The applicable implementation guidelines and regulatory requirements are therefore always decisive.

1.4 Reference documents

Ref.	Document	Source
[1]	Swiss Payment Standards 2024 Swiss Implementation Guidelines for Customer-Bank Messages ("SPS")	SIC Ltd
[2]	Implementation Guidelines for the QR-bill ("IG QRR")	SIC Ltd
[3]	Implementation Guidelines for the SIC and euroSIC RTGS services and the SIC IP service ("IG SIC RTGS", "IG euroSIC RTGS", "IG SIC IP")	SIC Ltd
[4]	SEPA Credit Transfer Scheme Rulebook 2023 V 1.0	EPC
[5]	EPC Guidance Document for addresses	EPC
[6]	Guidelines of the Payment Market Practice Group	PMPG
[7]	Swift Guidelines	Swift
[8]	Wolfsberg Group Payment Transparency Standards	Wolfsberg
[9]	Ordinance on Geographical Names (SR 510.625) (German only)	Fedlex

Table 2: Reference documents

2 Use of the address in payment transactions

2.1 General information

In a payment order, the address is an important component of the identification of a party involved. With regard to the introduction of the obligation to use structured or hybrid addresses, the focus is on the parties to which the respective account belongs, i.e. the payer ("Debtor") and the payee ("Creditor") as well as the actual debtor ("Ultimate Debtor") and the effective recipient or the beneficial owner ("Ultimate Creditor"), if one or both parties differ from the respective account holders.

In principle, the residential, company or registered office address is authoritative. Mailing or P.O. box addresses, if any, are not to be used for payment transactions and the associated regulations.

The address is, among other things, used to check the lists of sanctions and serves to prevent money laundering. Another equally important function is fraud prevention, e.g. by checking against master or payment data. The data are also used for various reports submitted to the respective regulators.

Specifying addresses as accurately and unambiguously as possible enables more efficient and faster processing of payment orders. This applies to the entire payment process: from initiation by the customer, through processing by the banks and the market infrastructures involved, to crediting and reconciliation by the recipients.

2.2 Use for payment transactions in Switzerland

2.2.1 General information

By payment transactions in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, the present document means orders processed by the financial institutions with a Swiss or Liechtenstein IID in CHF or EUR. Orders in other currencies are generally considered cross-border. From a regulatory perspective, all orders from Switzerland to Liechtenstein and from Liechtenstein to Switzerland are considered cross-border transactions.

While the type of processing and assessment of the payment is determined by the domicile of the financial institution, the currency of the payment and the network used, the domicile of the respective party is decisive for the classification of the address. For example, a domestic payment in CHF can also be made to a creditor with a foreign residential or domicile address – or the debtor/account holder maintains their account with a bank in Switzerland, but their domicile is abroad. For this reason, addresses may be used for accounts held in Switzerland or Liechtenstein that follow a specific address system of the respective domicile.

2.2.2 Swiss Payment Standards

When a payment order is issued with a pain.001, the addresses of the "Creditor", "Ultimate Creditor" and "Ultimate Debtor" are in focus. This information must be provided as fully and accurately as possible by the sender of the message.

During processing by the financial institution, the address of the account holder ("Debtor") is supplemented with the address from the financial institution's master data. For this reason, the *Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer* (pain.001) recommend not providing a "Debtor" address.

2.2.3 QR-bill

Only the addresses of the "Creditor", "Debtor" and "Ultimate Debtor" are used for the QR-bill. Otherwise, the corresponding guidelines which prevail within the framework of the *Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer* (pain.001) apply.

In order to fulfil the requirements of the Money Laundering Ordinance, the address of the "Ultimate Debtor" must be registered in full and correctly when making a deposit at a bank or a post office counter. It should be noted in particular that all Swiss addresses must have both a street name and a house number.

In addition, the name of the place and country of domicile must be specified for "Creditor" and "Ultimate Debtor".

2.2.4 LSV⁺/BDD

Direct debit orders within the framework of LSV⁺ and BDD are still largely processed using legacy formats such as the SIC message type D10 or the DTA format TA875. The procedure will also be discontinued in November 2028. Although the ISO 20022 message type pain.008 is also used in some cases, there are no plans to switch to structured or hybrid addresses. For LSV⁺/BDD the unstructured address is still permitted.

2.2.5 SIC and euroSIC RTGS services and SIC IP service

The SIC and euroSIC RTGS services and the SIC IP service are offerings of the central infrastructure for the Swiss financial centre whose most important task is to ensure the efficient processing of payments for a wide variety of business cases.

The relevant IGs (IG SIC RTGS, IG euroSIC RTGS, IG SIC IP) are formulated in an open manner to allow for all business cases. The use of the structured address is possible both on the basis of a cross-border payment in accordance with CBPR+ and in accordance with the current and future requirements of the Swiss Payment Standards ("SPS") [1] and SEPA. However, owing to the ongoing support of legacy formats, the use of the address itself is not enforced.

However, the lack of explicit specifications or validations does not mean that the specification of the address can generally be dispensed with. The institution participating in the SIC or euroSIC services is always responsible for compliance with mandatory requirements, such as the Anti-Money Laundering Ordinance, or self-imposed quality rules, such as the Wolfsberg Group Standards.

2.3 Use for payment transactions in accordance with SEPA

2.3.1 SEPA Credit Transfer

The use of the addresses is described as attributes AT-P005: "Address of the Originator" and AT-E004: "Address of the Beneficiary" in the *SEPA Credit Transfer Scheme Rulebook* [4]. The AT-P005 attribute is mandatory for payments from a country outside the European Economic Area, such as Switzerland.

2.3.2 SEPA Direct Debit

The SEPA Credit Transfer regulations also apply to SEPA Direct Debit.

The attributes concerned are described in the *SEPA Credit Transfer Scheme Rulebook*, namely AT-P005: "Address of the Originator" and AT-E004: "Address of the Beneficiary".

The AT-E004 attribute is mandatory if either the debtor's or the creditor's financial institution is located in a country outside the European Economic Area, such as Switzerland.

2.4 Use for cross-border payment transactions

2.4.1 General information

In order to meet the increasing demands from regulators and customers for more diverse and better structured data in payment transactions, Swift has decided to migrate payment messages on its network from Swift MT messages to ISO 20022 messages, which Swift refers to as MX, from March 2023.

2.4.2 Payment instructions

The existing MT messages for "Instructions" (categories 1 and 2 of the MT messages) are to be replaced by November 2025.

Migration to ISO 20022 messages enables the use of structured address elements. As the same 2019 message versions are used in the Swift network, as well as in SPS and IG SIC RTGS from 2022, the transfer of not only all existing but also new elements is possible.

3 Structure of the structured and hybrid address

3.1 Address with ISO 20022 messages

In the ISO 20022 data model, the address is defined as the "PostalAddress" component used in payment messages. It consists of various sub-elements that are either specifically defined, e.g. "Floor – Max70Text – [0..1] – Floor or storey within a building", or described in an open manner, e.g. "AddressLine – Max70Text – [0..7] – Information that locates and identifies a specific address, as defined by postal services, presented in free format text".

The terms "unstructured", "structured" or "hybrid" address do not originate from ISO 20022, but describe which elements are used to describe the address in a specific implementation. The "unstructured" address consists of a freely usable sub-element <AdrLine>, possibly combined with the sub-element <Ctry>. An address labelled as "structured" consists only of elements that contain a delimited and clearly defined part of the information of an address. The "hybrid" address described in this document consists of a selection of defined elements and a maximum of two sub-elements <AdrLine>, where the address information may not appear more than once (e.g. the street name may be provided in either the sub-element <StrtNm> or the sub-element <AdrLine>, but not in both).

The respective market practice or implementation guidelines describe the rules for implementation. The specification of the place name (sub-element <TwnNm>) and the country (sub-element <Ctry>) is therefore always mandatory for the rules and guidelines prevailing in Switzerland and Liechtenstein, although exceptions apply for certain services (LSV+/BDD) or message versions (pain.001.001.03).

3.2 Structured address with ISO 20022 messages

The ISO 20022 standard offers the possibility of transmitting address details following a defined structure. This enables a more efficient check and a clear identification of an address. This prevents confusion between street, place and country names. It is particularly important for recognising false hits, the so-called "false positives".

With the new ISO 20022 message versions (V2019), additional elements have been added which allow addresses with additional characteristics to be mapped correctly (see below). These message versions have been used since 2022 for the Swiss Payment Standards ("SPS"), the SIC system (RTGS, Real Time Gross Settlement, Instant payments) and since 2023 also for cross-border payments via Swift (CBPR+, Cross Border Payments and Reporting Plus). Since March 2024, it has also been possible to use them for SEPA transactions.

Example of a structured address in Switzerland

```
<Ctr>
  <Nm>Nani Madamexample</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <StrtNm>Citystreet</StrtNm>
    <BldgNb>2</BldgNb>
    <PstCd>8999</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Seldwyla</TwnNm>
    <Ctry>CH</Ctry>
  </PstlAdr>
</Ctr>
```

3.3 Hybrid address with ISO 20022 messages

Based on various comments received as market feedback, the Swift Payment Market Practice Group (PMPG) has concluded [6] that not all address systems in use throughout the world can be mapped to the elements used in ISO 20022 messages (V2019). In addition, it is challenging for various participants in payment transactions, such as financial institutions or end customers, to adapt the data model of their master data in a timely manner.

In order to support the move away from the unstructured addresses and to meet the minimum requirements of the Wolfsberg Group, i.e. to make the mandatory delivery of the place name (sub-element <TwnNm>) and the country (sub-element <Ctry>) subject to validation, the following extension has been developed.

In addition to the defined elements, the hybrid address with a maximum of two sub-elements (<AdrLine>) can be used to provide further information on the address. This also makes it possible to include complete address details for address systems that are not covered or only covered in part by the defined elements. However, it is not permitted to include information in the sub-elements <AdrLine> that is already supplied in a defined field or that contradicts information in a defined field.

When using the hybrid address, it is also mandatory to provide the city name in the sub-element <TwnNm> and the country in the sub-element <Ctry>.

Example of a hybrid address

```
<Cdtr>
  <Nm>Ippan Shimin</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <PstCd>987-4321</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Shin-Seldwyla</TwnNm>
    <Ctry>JP</Ctry>
    <AdrLine>Toori no hidari sumi ni</AdrLine>
    <AdrLine>Reddotawa no tonari</AdrLine>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
```

3.4 Current decisions on the introduction of the structured and hybrid address

3.4.1 Switzerland – SIC and euroSIC RTGS services and SIC IP service (as of October 2024)

Presently, the unstructured and structured addresses are supported in the SIC and euroSIC RTGS services and in the SIC IP service until the SIC release of 20 November 2026. The SIC platform releases of November 2025 will also enable the hybrid address.

Furthermore, it is planned that the unstructured addresses will no longer be permitted starting from November 2026.

3.4.2 European Payments Council – SEPA

SEPA has supported both the structured and unstructured addresses since March 2024 [5]. With the 2025 release, it is planned that the hybrid address will also be supported from 5 October 2025. It is also planned to no longer support the unstructured address from November 2026. The final regulations and IG will be published in November 2024. The validation of this rule in inter-PSP

traffic (traffic between payment service providers) is the responsibility of the respective CSM (clearing and settlement mechanism) provider and may be different.

3.4.3 Swift – Cross Border (CBPR+)

Presently, Swift CBPR+ supports the unstructured address (not for the "Ultimate Creditor" and the "Ultimate Debtor") and the structured address. Swift has announced that it will also support the hybrid address as of November 2025 and discontinue support for the unstructured address as of November 2026. The exact validation rules can be found in *MyStandards*. (Note: General adjustments to the validation of addresses will be made in November 2025, e.g. "Ultimate Creditor".)

Only the structured address can be used for the parties "Ultimate Creditor" and "Ultimate Debtor", which have only been available with the new messages since their introduction (March 2023).

4 Implementation in Switzerland

4.1 General information

The minimum requirements in Switzerland are based on the specifications from the infrastructure (e.g. SIC) and the respective networks (e.g. Swift), as well as self-imposed quality guidelines.

The respective standards, schemes or market practices may also enable the substitution of the address by another form of identification (e.g. BIC), provided this complies with regulatory requirements.

The financial institutions are free, within the framework of regulatory requirements, to deviate from these regulations or to tighten them, in particular so as to meet additional requirements or to facilitate simplifications in processing.

For cash deposits at the post office counter, the specifications of PostFinance in its role as provider of the universal service mandate are decisive.

4.2 Customer-financial institution

4.2.1 Basis

SPS, IG QRR [2], IG SIC RTGS [3] and IG SIC IP [3] are decisive for the implementation of the obligation to use the structured or the hybrid address in Switzerland.

Where applicable, these documents also include the regulations for SEPA and cross-border payments with Swift (CBPR+).

The definitions and rules can also be applied to other customer channels such as online banking, API-based offers and solutions created or operated by software partners or software providers.

Additionally, the IG QRR must be observed when placing a paper-based order.

4.2.2 Implementation with SPS

The Payments Committee Switzerland ("**PaCoS**") has decided that, in addition to the structured address already permitted today, the SPS will also allow the hybrid address from SPS 2025 (from November 2025). However, the institutions can restrict the use of the hybrid address to certain payment types or channels as part of their offering.

To make the migration easier for end customers, it is possible to continue using the unstructured address in pain.001 until November 2026.

The following description is based on the *Implementation Guidelines for Credit Transfer* (version 2.1.1) pursuant to SPS 2024 and the pain.001.001.09 described therein.

The minimum requirement for the designation of the parties involved in the payment ("Creditor", "Ultimate Creditor", "Ultimate Debtor") is, in addition to the name (not part of the address), the specification of the place name in the sub-element *<TwnNm>* and the country in the sub-element *<Ctry>*. As the address of the "Debtor" is taken from the master data of the debtor's financial institution during processing, there is no need to specify the address for this party and there are no minimum requirements.

For addresses in Switzerland, the street, the house number and the postcode are also expected. In accordance with the *Ordinance on Geographical Names (SR 510.625)* [9], all buildings have a corresponding address. These three sub-elements are optional and are not checked for content by the payer's bank during payment input and processing. Missing or incorrect data can lead to the rejection of the payment during processing, e.g. due to an unsuccessful address reconciliation.

In order to facilitate the migration to the structured address, the following tolerance provision has been granted for end customers in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Until further notice, the specification of the house number (sub-element <BldgNb>) in the sub-element <StrtNm> is permitted and such a payment will not be rejected when the order is placed. In the case of SEPA and cross-border payments, however, the transaction may be rejected depending on the regulations and handling in the recipient country.

This tolerance makes it possible to transmit a correct and complete address despite the lack of separation. It is recommended to adapt the systems used in the medium term and to fully implement the ISO 20022 structure for all elements and to provide the house number separately from the street name in the sub-element <BldgNb>.

The structured address can also be used with the pain.001.001.03 based on SPS 2021. However, not all defined address elements (e.g. <BldgNm>, <Flr>, <PstBx>, <Room>, <TwnLctnNm>, <DstrctNm>) are available. In addition, pursuant to SPS 2021, <TwnNm> and <Ctry> are not mandatory fields. This will continue to be tolerated as an exception until 20 November 2026 (SIC platform release). For SEPA and cross-border payments, a transaction without <TwnNm> and <Ctry> can be rejected by the relevant network. In addition, transactions with missing information that could be delivered in the new address elements may be rejected by the recipient.

Instructions and examples for the various addressing systems and their requirements in other countries are available on the Swift PMPG website: www.swift.com/swift-resource/250266/download.

4.2.3 Implementation for the QR-bill

The QR-bill already supports the structured address as part of the usual address elements in Switzerland. With IG QRR version 2.3, which will come into force in November 2025, only the structured address will be supported. There are no plans to introduce the hybrid address for the QR-bill.

For the time being, the specification of the house number (sub-element <BldgNbOrAdrLine2>) in the sub-element <StrtNmOrAdrLine1> is allowed and will not be rejected when the order is placed. When issuing the QR-bill, however, it is important to ensure that the debtor's address is complete and correct, despite this tolerance. These data must be fully available to and recognisable by the system when making a deposit at the counter.

It is recommended that the systems used be adapted in the medium term and that the information be populated in the elements provided for this purpose.

4.2.4 Recommendations for communication with customers

Financial institutions are primarily responsible for communicating with customers and advising them. Customers should therefore be advised to switch to the structured address now and make use of the above-mentioned tolerances if necessary.

If addresses are used that do not fit into the structured address due to the address system, it will be possible to switch to the hybrid address from November 2025. The adjusted transition period until 20 November 2026, during which the unstructured addresses can still be used, serves this purpose, inter alia. However, it should be noted that not all financial institutions will support the hybrid version.

The use of the unstructured address has been extended until November 2026, giving customers more time to switch to the structured or hybrid address. Please note that the desired execution date of a payment with an unstructured address must be before 20 November 2026 in order for it to be executed.

This extension applies to all payment types, such as payments within Switzerland, including instant payments and payments in SIC to and from Liechtenstein, SEPA payments and cross-border payments via Swift.

4.3 Financial institutions

4.3.1 Interbank transactions

For interbank transactions, the regulations and implementation guidelines of the respective infrastructure (e.g. SIC), schemes (e.g. SEPA) and networks (e.g. Swift) must be applied. It is generally recommended to switch to the structured address now, if possible. If there are addresses that do not fit into the structured address due to the address system in question, it will be possible to switch to the hybrid address from November 2025. This is particularly important for financial institutions with customers domiciled abroad. The adjusted transition period until 20 November 2026, during which the unstructured addresses can still be used, serves this purpose.

The exact requirements for the address in the services of SIC (RTGS service, SIC IP service) will be published on the SIX homepage (*Payment Standards in Switzerland*) in spring 2025 in the *Implementation Guidelines for ISO 20022 Interbank Messages* and will be binding for all SIC and euroSIC participants as of 22 November 2025: www.six-group.com/en/products-services/banking-services/payment-standardization/standards/iso-20022.html#scrollTo=sic. Please note that there may be differences between the two services regarding the validation.

The rulebook and the general implementation guidelines for the SEPA release of 5 October 2025 will be published on the EPC homepage in November 2024. For the specific implementation, the information provided by the respective provider (CSM) is decisive, and is expected to be published in spring 2025 and communicated to the relevant financial institutions: www.europeanpaymentscouncil.eu.

For the Swift network, the specifications for implementation have already been published in the *MyStandards* tool under *Usage Guidelines for Cross-Border Payments and Reporting Plus (CBPR+)*: www.swift.com/myswift.

4.3.2 Implementation in the banking systems

It is recommended that the systems used for order entry, such as online or mobile banking, internal entry systems and other internal systems be converted to the structured address now. It is important to ensure that, in addition to the actual payment transaction applications, delivery systems that can issue payment orders are also included.

If addresses have to be used which do not fit into the structured address due to the address system, it will be possible to switch to the hybrid address from November 2025. The adjusted transition period until 20 November 2026, during which the unstructured addresses can still be used, serves this purpose.

It should also be noted that existing standing orders and templates, as well as orders flagged after the transition period (i.e. whose "Requested Execution Date" is after the end of the transition period of 20 November 2026) must be adjusted. Furthermore, these systems should already be prevented from accepting new orders with the unstructured addresses.