



SWIFT ISO 20022 Address Data Requirements | Changes effective Q1 2027

September 2026

A large, stylized orange graphic consisting of two parallel diagonal bars that intersect, forming a shape similar to a wide 'Z' or a series of connected chevrons, positioned below the date.

In brief

As part of the global ISO 20022 migration, banks are moving away from fully unstructured postal address data in payment instructions. By Q1 2027, clients processing cross-border and other in-scope domestic market payments will be required to provide address details in either a fully structured or hybrid structured format. The deadline has been postponed from the initial date of 14 November 2026.

The new requirements apply across a range of payment channels, including TT, RTGS payments in selected countries, SEPA/SEPA instant, bank portals, and Host-to-Host/ERP file integrations. For payments processed using the ISO 20022 standard, beneficiary address information must include the Town/City and ISO two-letter Country Code in structured fields, for both domestic and cross-border payments.

Where a hybrid structured address format is used, up to two Address Line fields may be permitted for remaining address details, with each Address Line limited to 70 characters.

Payment instructions that do not include the required address data may be rejected, delayed or not processed by banks.

In detail

What's changing?

Banks are updating their payment channels, file templates and Host-to-Host file requirements to support the ISO 20022 structured address mandate.

The key change is that payment address details can no longer rely only on free-text address lines. Instead, the address must be provided in one of the following formats:

Payment Type	Field Requirements
Fully structured address	Each address component is included in its own designated field, such as street name, building number, postal code, town/city and country code.
Hybrid structured address	Town/City and ISO two-letter Country Code are included in structured fields, while up to two additional Address Lines may be used for remaining address details. Each Address Line is generally limited to 70 characters.

For ISO 20022 files and flows that are in scope, Town/City and ISO two-letter Country Code are mandatory structured fields. This applies to both cross-border payments and in-scope domestic market payments processed through applicable ISO 20022 channels.

For clients using ISO payment files, banks may require structured or hybrid address details to be included in specific file fields and tags, including Name, Postal Address, Town/City, Country Code and permitted Address Line fields. Clients should review their current ISO payment file mapping to confirm that these fields are available and correctly populated.

In detail (cont.)

Payments and channels in scope

The requirement applies to cross-border payments and in-scope domestic market payments processed through applicable ISO 20022 payment channels.

Payment/ File Type	Scope
Telegraphic Transfer (TT)	Applicable for all markets
RTGS	Applicable to selected countries, including the UK, Germany, Hong Kong, South Africa, Australia, Macau, Malaysia, the Philippines, the US, Japan and China
SEPA payments and SEPA Instant	Applicable for Europe
ISO 20022 payment files and flows	Town/City and ISO two-letter Country Code must be included in structured fields, regardless of whether the payment is cross-border or domestic.

Required address data

Clients should ensure that payment instructions include, at a minimum:

Bank File Field Name	Field Requirements
Town/City	The beneficiary's Town/City should reflect the beneficiary's current location, regardless of the town or city of the bank account receiving the transfer.
ISO two-letter Country Code	The ISO two-letter Country Code should reflect the beneficiary's current country of location, regardless of the country where the receiving bank account is held.
Structured or hybrid address format	Must be adopted for applicable payment and reporting instructions

Key takeaways

Actions before Q1 2027

- Identify payment flows that include address information and ensure the Town/City Name and Country are captured in the required structured data fields.
- Review and update beneficiary master data to ensure Town/City and Country information is complete and correctly populated for all new and existing beneficiaries.

Key takeaways (cont.)

- Update treasury payments, Host-to-Host integration payment file mapping to support structured or hybrid address formats.
- Engage with banking partners to confirm any bank-specific implementation timelines, file format requirements and testing windows.
- Complete testing before the end of year to be ready once implementation is effective to reduce the risk of file rejection or payment disruption.

How can we help

Let's talk

To better understand how this development impacts your finance operations, please contact:



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Thank you

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