

EPC Newsletter

SEPA STANDARDS

Going all the Way

EPC guidelines on customer reporting of SEPA Credit Transfers and SEPA Direct Debits

05.11.09 BY ERIC VERONNEAU

To encourage fully automated straight-through-processing (STP) of SEPA transactions along the entire payment processing chain, the EPC recently published recommendations on how to map SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) and SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) Rulebook requirements to payments reporting between banks and customers. These recommendations complement the EPC recommendations on the initiation of SEPA payments (SEPA Implementation Guidelines applying to the customer-to-bank messages) and the Rulebooks which define the mandatory rules for the processing of SEPA transactions between banks as well as the payment-related data elements to be reported to customers. As a result, the data required by the Schemes can now be moved end-to-end from customer to bank, from bank to bank and from bank to customer in a manner compliant with the ISO 20022 initiation, bank-to-bank and cash management messages. Eric Veronneau introduces the EPC recommendation on customer reporting.



Harmonised use of bank-to-customer messages facilitates end-to-end processing of SEPA transactions

Ultimately, the "outcome" of a payment transaction must be communicated by a bank to the customer. Such communication takes place, for example, via account statements informing bank customers about payment transactions processed on their account. The EPC recommendations on customer reporting of SEPA Credit Transfer and SEPA Direct Debit transactions now available are based on the ISO 20022 cash management messages (camt) which allow for uniform mapping of SEPA transactions on the account statement.

The ISO 20022 Cash Management Messages (camt)

The ISO¹ 20022 camt family contains three messages which are specifically dedicated to the information that banks provide to their customers regarding payment transactions processed on their account. Those messages are:

- camt.054, Bank to Customer Debit/Credit Notification
- camt.053, Bank to Customer Statement
- camt.052, Bank to Customer Account Report.

These three messages are applicable to any kind of payment transactions including credit transfers or direct debits, for example, to be reported to the account owner; e.g. the bank customer. To ensure that current reporting practices of banks can be accommodated, the EPC recommendations on how to map SCT and SDD Rulebook requirements to the ISO cash management messages were developed following approval of these messages by ISO and feature all of the required data sets.

The EPC recommendations on customer reporting for SEPA Credit Transfers and SEPA Direct Debits

The EPC recommendations on customer reporting allow for the uniform mapping of SCT and SDD Rulebook requirements to the ISO 20022 cash management messages whilst respecting the fact that practices with regard to reporting on payment transactions are currently very diverse across different banking communities and customer segments.

The EPC recommendations therefore enable competitive services to be provided by banks with regard to customer reporting based on their individual agreements with customers which may range from restricted information in mass payments to tailor-made reporting, from instantaneous transaction per transaction information to global periodical transaction reporting. As a result, banks are able to adjust outgoing reports based on the ISO messages according to the needs of their customers whilst ensuring that all data carried with a SEPA transaction are transported.

The EPC strongly recommends that scheme participants apply the SEPA Implementation Guidelines for the initiation of SEPA transactions and follow the EPC recommendations on customer reporting to their customer-to-bank and bank-to-customer communication channels, respectively.

Eric Veronneau is a member of the EPC SEPA Payment Schemes Working Group (SPS WG) and of the EPC SPS WG Standards Task Force.

1. International Organisation for Standardisation (www.iso20022.org). The SEPA data formats enabling the exchange of information along the payment processing chain (customer to bank, bank to bank, bank to customer) are a subset of the global ISO 20022 messages standards.

Related Links:

[Latest SEPA C2B Implementation Guidelines for SCT](#)

[Latest SEPA C2B Implementation Guidelines for SDD Core](#)

[Latest SEPA C2B Implementation Guidelines for SDD B2B](#)

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