



CLARIFICATION PAPER ON SEPA CREDIT TRANSFER AND SEPA INSTANT CREDIT TRANSFER SCHEME RULEBOOKS

EPC131-17 / Version 3.1 / Date of Publication: 25 April 2025

Public



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Clarification Paper

on SCT and SCT Inst Scheme Rulebooks

EPC131-17

Version 3.1

Date issued: 25 April 2025



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Payments Council**

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Abstract

This document addresses operational issues arising from the implementation of the SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) rulebook and the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst) rulebook.

This document applies to the 2023 and 2025 SCT and SCT Inst rulebooks and replaces the version 3.0 of EPC 131-17.



Table of Contents

0 Document Information	4
1 Introduction	6
2 General questions & answers on the SCT and SCT Inst scheme rulebooks.....	6
2.1 Receipt of an SCT/SCT Inst transaction by the Beneficiary PSP or CSM which includes characters not covered by the Latin character set	6
2.2 Non-euro denominated accounts held by SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants	6
2.3 Mandatory Customer-to-PSP (C2PSP) Implementation Guidelines	7
2.4 Liability for a potential currency loss in case of a Recall or Request for Recall by the Originator for a SCT/ SCT Inst transaction which was subject to a currency conversion at the Beneficiary PSP	7
2.5 Auto-conversion practices: can an SCT/ SCT Inst transaction be converted into a non-euro currency before reaching the Beneficiary PSP?	8
2.6 Clarification on specific attributes to identify counterparties in SCT/ SCT Inst transactions	8
2.7 Provision of addresses in Customer-to-PSP and inter-PSP messages	8
2.8 (Ultimate) Debtor Organisation ID: clarification on amended usage rule as of the 2025 SCT and SCT Inst IGs	10
2.9 Differences between Recall and Request for Recall by the Originator	12
2.10 Possibility to credit a technical account following a positive response to a SCT (Inst) Recall.....	14
2.11 Request for Recall by the Originator	14
2.12 Start of the prescribed rulebook timelines in which to launch and to respond to a Recall and to a Request for Recall by the Originator	14
2.13 Transfer back of funds to the Originator	15
2.14 SCT and SCT Inst r-transaction reason codes.....	16
3 Specific points for the SCT scheme rulebook.....	17
3.1 Clarification about the Return reason “By order of the Beneficiary”	17
3.2 Clarification about the SCT inquiry process.....	17
3.3 Implementation of the dataset DS-11 ‘Inter-PSP Fee and/or Compensation Payment Dataset’	19
3.4 Clarifications on how to claim and pay the interest compensation and/or the Inter-PSP fee under the SCT inquiry procedure	20
4 Specific points for SCT Inst scheme rulebook	22
4.1 Payment account reachability for SCT Inst transactions	22



0 Document Information

Issue number	Dated	Reason for revision
V1.0	21/11/2017	Final review by the October 2017 Scheme Management Board meeting.
V1.1	08/05/2018	Additions of the section 2.7, 2.8 and 3.1
V1.2	18/09/2018	Additions of the clarification points a) and c) in section 2.8
V1.3	19/02/2019	Additions of the section 2.8, 2.9 d) and 2.10
V1.4	27/05/2019	Additions of the sections 3.2 and 3.3 applicable to the 2019 SCT scheme rulebook version 1.0
V1.5	01/04/2020	Addition of the section 3.4
V1.6	26/11/2020	Extension of the clarification under section 2.4 for RFRO. Addition of the sections 2.9 and 2.12. Extra clarification for the Beneficiary on the use of the code RRCT in the first paragraph of section 2.11. Small editorial updates as the 2019 SCT and SCT Inst scheme rulebooks are currently in force. Heads-up information about some changes entering into force in November 2021 for the SCT inquiry procedure (sections 3.2 to 3.4 included).
V1.7	06/07/2021	Addition of the sections 2.13, 3.5 and 4.1. Review of and the inclusion of heads-up information about some changes entering into force in November 2021 in the sections 2.8 (on Recalls) and 3.2 (SCT inquiry procedure). Extra information about using the Remittance Information attribute in section 2.11 for a transfer back of funds to the Originator. Change of the term 'Bank' into 'PSP'.
V1.8	16/09/2021	Addition of the section 3.6 containing clarifications on how to claim and pay the interest compensation, and/or the Inter-PSP fee under the SCT inquiry procedure.
V2.0	03/11/2022	Removal of the sections 3.3 and 3.4, and amendments to the sections 2.8, 2.10 and 3.2 as the 2021 SCT rulebooks now formally include these clarifications, or the initial clarifications are no longer relevant as of the 2021 SCT rulebooks. Removal of the section 2.12 following the publication of the 2023 SCT rulebooks in May 2022 and the related IGs in June 2022. The renumbered section 2.12 had been amended stressing that Beneficiary PSPs are obliged to provide the Originator PSP with the correct R-transaction reason code. The newly numbered section 3.3 refers to an accepted 2022 change request which makes this clarification obsolete as of the entry-into-force date of the 2023 SCT rulebook.
V3.0	28/11/2024	Throughout the entire document, the mentioned attributes have been renumbered in line with the new attribute numbering approach as of the 2023 EPC payment scheme rulebooks. Section 2.7 on the provision of addresses in the C-to-PSP and Inter-PSP messages had been amended to clarify the address



Issue number	Dated	Reason for revision
		format usage rules introduced in the 2023 SCT scheme rulebooks. This section also points out the introduction of the hybrid address format as of the 2025 SCT payment scheme rulebooks. Some obsolete information in section 2.8 on the differences between Recall and Request for Recall by the Originator has been removed. Some obsolete information in section 3.3 on the implementation of the SCT rulebook dataset DS-11 has been removed as well. The section 4.1 on payment account reachability for SCT Inst transactions now refers to the amended SEPA Regulation.
V3.1	25/04/2025	Inclusion of the following new sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2.8 on the amended usage rule for the Organisation ID as of the 2025 SCT and SCT Inst IGs. • Section 2.12 on the start of the prescribed rulebook timelines in which to launch and to respond to a Recall and to a Request for Recall by the Originator. • Amendment of the section 2.7 with the entry-into-force of the Funds Transfer Regulation 3 (FTR3).



1 Introduction

This document has been created to avoid a fragmented approach in the manner in which the SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT) and the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst) scheme rulebooks are implemented.

In this document the European Payments Council (EPC) provides guidance and, where feasible, recommendations to EPC payment scheme participants on how to handle situations that are not as such described in the rulebooks. This document will be updated from time to time by the EPC, once new questions and issues arise and need clarification.

2 General questions & answers on the SCT and SCT Inst scheme rulebooks

2.1 Receipt of an SCT/SCT Inst transaction by the Beneficiary PSP or CSM which includes characters not covered by the Latin character set

Reference is made to the section 1.4 of the inter-PSP Implementation Guidelines (IGs) of the SCT and SCT Inst scheme rulebooks.

The character set centres on the use of the full set of characters in the message elements. Two considerations are:

- While PSPs must be allowed to use the character set currently in use at national level,
- PSPs throughout SEPA cannot be required to support the full character set used in some SEPA countries.

Therefore:

- The ISO 20022 XML messages allow for the full range of global language requirements (UTF-8).
- PSPs must be able to support the Latin character set commonly used in international communication, as follows:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

/ - ? : () . , ' +

Space

- References, identifications and identifiers must respect the following:
 - Content is restricted to the Latin character set as defined above
 - Content must not start or end with a '/'
 - Content must not contain '//'

However, there may be bilateral or multilateral agreements to support one or more sets of characters beyond the Latin character set referred to above.

More information on this subject can be found in the document [EPC217-08 'Best practices SEPA Requirements for an extended character set'](#) which contains a set of best practices to be used in dealing with local language and special characters used in some SEPA countries.

2.2 Non-euro denominated accounts held by SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants

Section 2.4 of the SCT and the SCT Inst scheme rulebooks specify that all SCT/ SCT Inst transactions are in euro in all process stages. The accounts of the Originator and of the Beneficiary may be denominated in euro or any other currency.



Subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Originator PSP or of the Beneficiary PSP, payment service users can use non-euro denominated accounts for SCT and SCT Inst transactions. This means an SCT scheme participant may only reject or return SCT transactions, or an SCT Inst scheme participant may only reject SCT Inst transactions if the selected account is not designated to send or to receive SCT or SCT Inst payments.

In case of SCT/ SCT Inst r-transactions, the transferred amount will be the original euro amount of the initial SCT/ SCT Inst instruction (except for Recall, see section 2.4 below).

2.3 Mandatory Customer-to-PSP (C2PSP) Implementation Guidelines

The IGs for the customer-to-PSP and PSP-to-customer XML message standards are mandatory. Only when the Originator PSP offers to its Originators the service of accepting and processing electronically bundled Customer-to-PSP Credit Transfer Instructions, the Originator PSP is obliged to accept at least but not exclusively the messages as described in these IGs.

This means that Originators still have the choice either to continue using their accepted C2PSP file set-up or to opt for the C2PSP file based on EPC specifications. On the other hand, the SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants will have to be technically capable of supporting the EPC C2PSP SEPA payment file specifications.

However, there are SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants in the role of Originator PSP that do not offer the service of electronic bulk files of SCT/ SCT Inst instructions to their Originators. An example are consumer-only oriented scheme participants.

Customers of such SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants only transmit SCT/ SCT Inst instructions by entering the instructions one by one directly in the online banking portals. There are even scheme participants that may only accept paper based C2PSP SCT/ SCT Inst instructions.

Only those SCT/ SCT Inst scheme participants that currently offer or wish to offer to their Originators the service of transmitting and processing electronic bulk files of SCT/ SCT Inst instructions, have the obligation to accept C2PSP SCT/ SCT Inst instructions which are based on the credit transfer ISO 20022 XML initiation message standards in the SCT/ SCT Inst C2PSP IGs.

2.4 Liability for a potential currency loss in case of a Recall or Request for Recall by the Originator for a SCT/ SCT Inst transaction which was subject to a currency conversion at the Beneficiary PSP

A SCT (Inst) Recall is always initiated by the Originator PSP, possibly on behalf of the Originator. A Request for Recall by the Originator (RFRO) is initiated by the Originator PSP after an Originator has requested the Originator PSP to reverse a settled SCT/ SCT Inst transaction for a reason other than those foreseen under the SCT (Inst) Recall procedure. Neither the Beneficiary nor the Beneficiary PSP has any influence on it. As a consequence, they should not bear any loss related to it.

The positive response of the Beneficiary PSP to a SCT (Inst) Recall or RFRO request is an ISO Payment Return message with a specific return reason “following cancellation request” (FOCR). The SCT and SCT Inst schemes allow for the Beneficiary PSP to charge a fee for such a positive response. This fee is clearly identified in the ISO Payment Return message, which also contains the amount of the original SCT/ SCT Inst transaction and the actual returned amount. Currency conversion losses may be included in the SCT (Inst) Recall or RFRO fee that may be charged by the Beneficiary PSP.



In exceptional cases, the currency conversion loss can be settled outside the SCT (Inst) Recall or RFRO procedure by rejecting the SCT (Inst) Recall or RFRO request and settling the issue in a bilateral way.

2.5 Auto-conversion practices: can an SCT/ SCT Inst transaction be converted into a non-euro currency before reaching the Beneficiary PSP?

Reference is made to Section 2.4 of the SCT and the SCT Inst scheme rulebooks which states that “all transactions are in euro in all process stages”. In other words, the amount of the transaction must remain unchanged and expressed in euro until it reaches the Beneficiary PSP. This also means that currency conversion of an SCT/ SCT Inst transaction to be credited to a non-euro account can only be carried out by the Beneficiary PSP, and currency conversion of an SCT/ SCT Inst transaction to be debited from a non-euro account can only be carried out by the Originator PSP.

2.6 Clarification on specific attributes to identify counterparties in SCT/ SCT Inst transactions

The SCT and the SCT Inst scheme rulebooks foresee the following attributes to further identify counterparties in SCT/ SCT Inst transactions (i.e., in addition to their names):

1. AT-P007 The identification code of the Originator Reference Party
2. AT-P004 The Originator identification code
3. AT-E005 The Beneficiary identification code
4. AT-E010 The identification code of the Beneficiary Reference Party

These attributes refer to elements of the ISO 20022 XML message standard to transfer information or codes. The codes inserted in each of these attributes allow a unique and unambiguous way of identifying an organisation or an individual. This can be useful for the automated and straight-through-processing identification of the counterparties involved in the SCT/ SCT Inst transaction.

Codes that can be used in these attributes are among others the Fiscal Code, the VAT Code, the Enterprise Registration Number, the Business Identifier Code, the Organization Code, the Trade Register Number, the Business Register Number, the National Tax ID, the Customer Code (for AT-P007 and AT-P004 only) and the Supplier Code (for AT-E005 and AT-E010 only).

2.7 Provision of addresses in Customer-to-PSP and inter-PSP messages

The Regulation 2023/1113 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on information accompanying transfers of funds and certain crypto-assets and repealing the Regulation 2015/847 (Funds Transfer Regulation 3 – FTR3) specifies that the full address of the Originator needs to be provided in the credit transfer message when the Originator PSP or the Beneficiary PSP is based in a SEPA country that is not part of the European Economic Area (EEA).

Under all four **2023** SEPA payment scheme rulebooks, all SEPA payment scheme participants must ensure that the following aspects about the provision of postal addresses are correctly implemented in their relevant SEPA payment initiation and processing systems:

- The postal address-related usage rules as stipulated in the 2023 SCT scheme implementation guidelines for EEA-to-EEA and EEA-to-non-EEA/non-EEA-to-EEA transactions must be respected (*the below illustrative screenshot refers to the Postal Address element for the **Debtor** in an SCT transaction (pacs.008)*):



2.55	0..1	FIto FICustomer Credit Transfer V08 +Credit Transfer Transaction Information ++Debtor +++Postal Address	<p>SEPA Rulebook AT-P005 Address of the Originator (only mandatory when the Originator PSP or the Beneficiary PSP is located in a non-EEA SEPA country or territory).</p> <p>SEPA Usage Rule(s) If 'Address Line' is used, then 'Postal Address' sub-elements other than 'Country' are forbidden. A combination of 'Address Line' and 'Country' is allowed; it is recommended when either the Debtor Agent or Creditor Agent is a non-EEA SEPA PSP. If 'Address Line' is not used, then at least 'Town Name' and 'Country' must be used.</p> <p>ISO Name Postal Address</p> <p>ISO Definition Information that locates and identifies a specific address, as defined by postal services.</p> <p>XML Tag PstAdr</p> <p>Type PostalAddress24</p>
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Note: The clarifications provided below illustrate the correct delivery of a postal address in SCT transactions but they also apply to SCT Inst transactions.

From the SEPA multiplicity [0..1] (in the above screenshot) it is clear that this is an optional data element. As per the description of the SCT rulebook attribute AT-P005 'The Address of the Originator', this optional element however becomes mandatory when the Originator PSP or Beneficiary PSP is in a non-EEA SEPA country or territory.

When this is the case, it is mandatory to fill in the 'Postal Address' data element in accordance with the current applicable SEPA payment scheme usage rules, and in compliance with applicable EU legislation i.e.:

- If 'Address Line' (AdrLine) is used, then 'Postal Address' sub-elements other than 'Country' (Ctry) are forbidden.
- A combination of 'Address Line' (AdrLine) and 'Country' is allowed; it is recommended when either the Debtor Agent or the Creditor Agent is a non-EEA SEPA PSP.
- If 'Address Line' is not used, then at least 'Town Name' and 'Country' must be used.

When the Originator PSP and the Beneficiary PSP are located in an EEA SEPA country or territory, then the data element 'Debtor/Postal Address' is optional. However, if an Originator or an Originator PSP wishes to fill in this element anyway, they can do so but then they also need to respect the aforementioned SEPA usage rules.

- The SEPA payment scheme participants cannot reject or return SEPA payment transactions that comply with the aforementioned SEPA usage rules.

All four **2025** SEPA payment scheme rulebooks foresee the following with respect to the provision of addresses:

- Payment service users and scheme participants can continue providing addresses in a fully structured format;
- The introduction of the hybrid address format whereby no end-date has been set for this address format as alternative to the fully structured address format; and
- Payment service users and scheme participants can continue providing unstructured addresses up to 22 November 2026 (expected date of the next SWIFT Standard Release date).



The EPC has issued a dedicated EPC Guidance Document ([EPC 153-22](#)) about the provision of addresses under the EPC payment schemes.

2.8 (Ultimate) Debtor Organisation ID: clarification on amended usage rule as of the 2025 SCT and SCT Inst IGs

The Regulation (EU) 2023/1113 on information accompanying transfers of funds and certain crypto-assets (i.e. [Funds Transfer Regulation 3 – FTR3](#)) entered into force as of 30 December 2024. This Regulation repeals the Regulation 2015/847 (i.e. FTR2).

To comply with Article 4 (1) of FTR3, the SEPA Usage Rule for the ISO 20022 message elements ‘Debtor/Identification/**Organisation Identification**’ and ‘Ultimate Debtor/Identification /**Organisation Identification**’ had to be updated as follows (see bold text):

*“Either ‘AnyBIC’, ‘LEI’ **and/or** one occurrence of ‘Other’ is allowed.”.*

The list below provides an overview of the various possibilities that can be accommodated by the updated SEPA Usage Rule, for both the Originator and Originator Reference Party (the FTR3 uses the term ‘Payer’):

1. Only AnyBIC
2. Only LEI
3. Only one occurrence of ‘Other’
4. AnyBIC + one occurrence of ‘Other’
5. LEI + one occurrence of ‘Other’
6. AnyBIC + LEI
7. AnyBIC + LEI + one occurrence of ‘Other’

In addition, the table below provides the scheme participants with the range of information that must be provided about the Originator to be in line with Article 4 (1) - and possibly about the Originator Reference Party, subject to feasibility and availability of information -, considering that they may be either a legal or natural person:

Entity Type	Required Information as per Article 4 (1)
Payer (Natural Person)	i. Name ii. Payment Account Number iii. One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Address, including the name of the country</i> • <i>Official personal document number and Customer identification number</i> • <i>Date and place of birth (N/A if natural person is acting in a business capacity)*</i> iv. LEI (if available) or any equivalent official identifier (if provided by the payer and foreseen by the payment message format) (only if a natural person is acting in a business capacity)*. <p>*Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the natural person is acting in a business capacity it could have an LEI or an equivalent official identifier.



Entity Type	Required Information as per Article 4 (1)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In ISO 20022, a distinction is made between an 'Organisation ID' and 'Private ID'. Reference is made to the structure below: <div data-bbox="671 376 1262 745" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <pre> v [checked] E OrgId ** v [checked] s xs:sequence * [checked] E AnyBIC [checked] E LEI > [checked] E Othr ** v [checked] E PrvtId ** v [checked] s xs:sequence * > [checked] E DtAndPlcOfBirth > [checked] E Othr ** </pre> </div> If the natural person acts in a business capacity, then the 'Organisation ID' (OrgId) will have to be used. If the natural person is not acting in a business capacity, then the 'Private ID' (PrvtId) block will have to be used. For a legal person, the OrgID block always needs to be used. The SEPA Usage Rule for 'Private Identification' remains unchanged i.e. 'Either 'Date and Place of Birth' or one occurrence of 'Other' is allowed".
Payer (Legal Entity)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name Payment Account Number One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address, including the name of the country Official personal document number and Customer identification number LEI (if available) or any equivalent official identifier (if provided by the payer and foreseen by the payment message format).

The table below provides the scheme participants with the range of information that must be provided about the Beneficiary to be in line with Article 4 (2) - and possibly about the Beneficiary Reference Party, subject to feasibility and availability of information -, considering that they may be either a legal or natural person.

Entity Type	Required Information as per Article 4 (2)
Payee (Natural Person)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name Payment account number LEI (if available) or any equivalent official identifier (if provided by the payer and foreseen by the payment message format) (only if a natural person is acting in a business capacity)* (see note above)
Payee (Legal Entity)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name Payment account number



Entity Type	Required Information as per Article 4 (2)
	iii. LEI (if available) or any equivalent official identifier (if provided by the payer and foreseen by the payment message format)

It is to be noted that the SEPA Usage Rule *“Either ‘AnyBIC’, ‘LEI’ or one occurrence of ‘Other’ is allowed”* did not need to be updated in the 2025 SCT and SCT IGs for the ISO 20022 elements ‘Creditor/Identification/ Organisation Identification’ and ‘Ultimate Creditor/ Identification /Organisation Identification’.

2.9 Differences between Recall and Request for Recall by the Originator

The SCT and SCT Inst scheme rulebooks contain dedicated sections explaining the procedures for Recall and Request for Recall by the Originator (RFRO). Some SCT (Inst) scheme participants and payment end-users misunderstand the concrete objectives of both r-transactions, in which cases and how they can be used.

The table below compares the two r-transaction types and highlights the differences:

	<u>Recall</u>	<u>RFRO</u>
Phase 1: initiation of the r-transaction		
Concrete Customer-to-PSP (C2PSP) means for an Originator to initiate the r-transaction	By any C2PSP means	
Inter-PSP message to initiate the r-transaction	Camt.056	
Party that can initiate or request the initiation of the r-transaction	1. Originator; 2. Originator PSP.	Originator
Time criterion to respect to initiate the r-transaction	The Originator PSP must initiate the Recall within the period of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Banking Business Days for the reasons ‘Duplicate sending’ and ‘Technical problems resulting in an erroneous SCT (Inst)’; • 13 months for the reason ‘Fraudulent originated SEPA Credit Transfer/SCT Inst’ following the execution date of the initial SCT or SCT Inst transaction subject to the Recall. 	The debit date of the original SCT (Inst) transaction falls within the 13 months preceding the date at which Originator PSP receives the RFRO.
Possible reasons for which the r-transaction can be used	1. Duplicate;	1. Wrong IBAN; 2. Wrong amount;



	<u>Recall</u>	<u>RFRO</u>
	2. Technical problem leading to an erroneous SCT (Inst) transaction; 3. Fraud.	3. By request of the Originator without any reason specified.
Timespan for the Beneficiary PSP to answer to the r-transaction	Within 15 Banking Business Days after the Beneficiary PSP has received the r-transaction. The Beneficiary PSP is in breach with the SCT (Inst) scheme rulebook if it has not responded to the r-transaction within this specific timespan. If the Beneficiary PSP has received no response from the Beneficiary to this r-transaction within this timespan, the Beneficiary PSP must send a negative answer with the reason “No response from the Beneficiary” to the Originator PSP.	
Phase 2a: negative answer/response to the r-transaction		
Inter-PSP negative answer/response message	Camt.029	
Party instructing the negative answer/response	1. Beneficiary in case it refuses the r-transaction, claims to have never received the initial SCT (Inst) transaction, disputes the monetary amount requested by the Originator or the Originator PSP, or has already transferred back the funds; 2. Beneficiary PSP if the claimed amount cannot be debited from the account of the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary did not respond, or the initial SCT (Inst) transaction has never been received.	
Phase 2b: positive answer/response to the r-transaction		
Inter-PSP positive answer/response message	Pacs.004	
Party instructing the positive answer/response	1. Beneficiary; 2. Beneficiary PSP if legally possible (or on the basis of an agreement with the Beneficiary).	Beneficiary
Phase 2c: no answer/response from the Beneficiary PSP		
Request for status update	Pacs.028	
Timespan for the Beneficiary PSP to answer to the request for status update	See “Timespan for the Beneficiary PSP to answer to the r-transaction” under Phase 1.	
Inter-PSP negative answer/response message to the request for status update	See phase 2a.	
Inter-PSP positive answer/response message to the request for status update	See phase 2b.	



2.10 Possibility to credit a technical account following a positive response to a SCT (Inst) Recall

When the Beneficiary PSP reports to the Originator PSP a positive answer to a SCT (Inst) Recall, the Originator PSP credits the account of the Originator with the amount of the positive answer to the (SCT Inst) Recall (see process step CT-02.06 in both SCT rulebooks).

However, the Originator PSP may have already transferred back the recalled amount to the account of the Originator in accordance with article 73 (1) of PSD2 stipulating that “...*In the case of an unauthorised payment transaction, the payer’s payment service provider refunds the payer the amount of the unauthorised payment transaction immediately, and in any event no later by the end of the following business day...*”.

Each Originator PSP can decide to re-credit an account other than the account of the Originator (i.e. a technical account of the Originator PSP) in case it has already re-credited the Originator for that (SCT Inst) Recall request.

2.11 Request for Recall by the Originator

The aim of this clarification is to highlight to SCT and SCT Inst scheme participants the possibility of a Request for Status Update under RFRO.

Even though the list of RFRO reason codes (see the attribute AT-R071) includes ‘The Request for Status Update’ as a reason code, the ISO 20022 message **pacs.028** is used to initiate ‘The Request for Status Update’.

The ISO 20022 message **camt.056** is used for the other RFRO reason codes (i.e. ‘Wrong unique identifier of the Beneficiary account’; ‘Wrong amount’ and ‘By request of the Originator without any reason specified’).

2.12 Start of the prescribed rulebook timelines in which to launch and to respond to a Recall and to a Request for Recall by the Originator

The SCT rulebooks stipulate the following timelines by when at the latest a Recall must be initiated, and by when at the latest a response to a Recall/ Request for Recall by the Originator (RFRO) must be received by the Originator PSP:

Following the execution date of the initial SCT (Inst) transaction:	Originator PSP	Beneficiary PSP
Initiation of a Recall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 10 Banking Business Days for the reasons ‘Duplicate sending’ and ‘Technical problems resulting in an erroneous SCT (Inst)’; • Within the period of 13 months for the reason ‘Fraudulent originated SCT (Inst)’. 	Not applicable.
Response to a Recall	Not applicable.	Within 15 Banking Business Days following the receipt of the Recall.



Initiation of a RFRO	Not specified.	Not applicable.
Response to a RFRO	Not applicable.	Within 15 Banking Business Days following the receipt of the RFRO.

Questions may arise about the exact starting dates for counting the prescribed maximum period for initiating Recalls, and for counting the prescribed maximum period for responding to Recalls and RFROs. In other words:

- For the initiation of the SCT (Inst) Recall: is the start date to count from the execution date of the SCT (Inst) transaction itself, or the Banking Business Day that follows this execution date.
- Is the date of receipt of the SCT (Inst) Recall or RFRO to be considered as Day 0 (and thus followed by the prescribed maximum period of 15 Banking Business Days), or is it already Day 1 of the prescribed 15 Days.

The EPC points out that it will apply the maximum interpretation of these timelines, i.e.

- For the initiation of the SCT (Inst) Recall: the maximum allowed period of the 10 Banking Business Days/ 13 months starts with the Banking Business Day that **follows** the execution date of the SCT (Inst) transaction itself.
- For the response to the SCT (Inst) Recall and to the RFRO: the maximum period of 15 Banking Business Days to respond starts with the Banking Business Day that **follows** the Banking Business Day at which the SCT (Inst) Recall or the RFRO was received. The Beneficiary PSP may always respond earlier to the Originator PSP if it can or wishes to.

2.13 Transfer back of funds to the Originator

When the Beneficiary’s account has been credited through an SCT (Inst) transaction and the Beneficiary wishes to transfer back funds to the Originator, the Beneficiary can do this by initiating a new SCT (Inst) transaction indicating the IBAN of the payment account of the Originator as the account to be credited through this transaction. The Beneficiary may provide the purpose code “RRCT” (Reimbursement Received Credit Transfer). The Beneficiary can use the Remittance Information attribute (AT-T009) to include the reference which the Originator mentioned him/herself in his/her initial SCT (Inst) instruction, in the SCT (Inst) transaction to transfer back funds to the Originator.

This forms no issue for Beneficiaries having a payment account with a SCT (Inst) scheme participant which is allowed to pass on the IBAN of the payment account of the Originator to the Beneficiary through the transaction reporting tools in the PSP-to-customer space (e.g., account statements).

However, the Beneficiary may have a payment account with a SCT (Inst) scheme participant which is not allowed to pass on the IBAN of the payment account of the Originator to the Beneficiary (e.g., due to national data protection legislation).

In such cases, a transfer back of funds is still possible on the condition that the Beneficiary PSP and the Beneficiary have made a specific arrangement. The Beneficiary submits an alternative identifier to the IBAN of the Originator used in the original SCT (Inst) transaction, for the new SCT (Inst) instruction.



The C2PSP SCT and SCT Inst IGs include specific usage rules on how to submit such alternative identifiers for electronically bundled SCT/ SCT Inst transactions in ISO 20022 XML format.

In this scenario, the element "IBAN" under "Creditor Account/ID" (pain.001 message) cannot be used and is shaded red, and instead "Other/ID" under "Creditor Account/ID" should be used. A number of conditions must be met to use "Other/ID":

- The following two usage rules are to be respected:
 - There is a bilateral agreement between the Beneficiary and the Beneficiary PSP of the original transaction; **and**
 - The delivery of a reference as agreed with and given by the Beneficiary PSP of the original transaction (e.g., the 'Account Servicer Reference' of the camt.052/053/054), which is now the Originator PSP of the Transfer Back transaction.
- To be used only if the category purpose code is RRCT.

The code RRCT is a (inter-PSP) category purpose code (i.e. AT-T008) and a new (end-to-end) purpose code (i.e. AT-T007) to tag the pain.001 message as an SCT (Inst) transaction to transfer back funds of an earlier settled SCT (Inst) transaction.

In case the Beneficiary PSP wants to offer such facility to its Beneficiaries, the field for the new category purpose code RRCT in the pain message is a mandatory field (i.e. AT-T008).

Moreover, in order to allow the Originator of the original SCT (Inst) transaction to understand that the received SCT (Inst) transaction is related to a transfer back of earlier transferred funds, the (end-to-end) purpose code in the Customer-to-PSP pain.001 message (i.e. AT-T007) is made mandatory. It needs to be completed with either the new purpose code RRCT or another code meaningful for identifying the SCT (Inst) transaction as a transfer back of funds. This code being mandatorily present in the pain.001 message also must be present in the related inter-PSP pacs.008 message.

2.14 SCT and SCT Inst r-transaction reason codes

The SCT/SCT Inst scheme rulebook attribute AT-R004 'The Reason Code for Non-Acceptance of the SEPA Credit Transfer/SCT Inst' outlines the possible reasons for the non-acceptance of a SCT/SCT Inst transaction.

This rulebook attribute explicitly points out that the documents EPC135-18 '[Guidance on reason codes for SCT R-transactions](#)' and EPC059-18 '[Guidance on reason codes for SCT Inst R-transactions](#)' **prescribe** which ISO code the CSM and the Beneficiary PSP should use for each of the reasons mentioned for the r-transaction types SCT/SCT Inst Reject and SCT Return.

Some SCT/SCT Inst scheme participants, when acting as a Beneficiary PSP do not provide the Originator PSP with the correct R-transaction reason code. All Beneficiary PSPs are reminded that they are **obliged** to use the correct R-transaction reason codes described in the documents EPC135-18 and EPC059-18.

Originators and Originator PSPs can consult documents EPC135-18 and EPC059-18 to correctly interpret the reason codes given in the R-transaction related to their unsuccessful initial SCT/SCT Inst transaction. These documents also provide the Originators and the Originator PSPs with suggested actions for each SCT/SCT Inst R-transaction reason code.



3 Specific points for the SCT scheme rulebook

3.1 Clarification about the Return reason “By order of the Beneficiary”

Section 4.3.2.2 of the SCT scheme rulebook for Returns specifies that the Return procedure must not be used in cases where the Beneficiary’s account has already been credited and the Beneficiary wishes to return the funds. Instead, the procedure of initiating a new Credit Transfer applies.

On the other hand, the attribute AT-R004 ‘Reason code for non-acceptance of the SEPA Credit Transfer’ in section 4.6.1 lists as a possible Return reason “By order of the Beneficiary”.

Comparing this part of section 4.3.2.2 with the permitted Return reason, this may be interpreted as a contradiction in the SCT scheme rulebook.

However, the use of this specific Return reason is justified when the Beneficiary PSP acts on behalf of the Beneficiary following an instruction from the Beneficiary, whereby the Funds have not yet been credited on the payment account of the Beneficiary, but the inter-PSP settlement for this Credit Transfer has already taken place.

3.2 Clarification about the SCT inquiry process

The table below provides the SCT scheme participant with clarifications on several topics which the SCT scheme participant may be confronted with.

Concrete process questions		
1)	Is the SCT scheme participant obliged to use the ISO 20022 XML message-based SCT inquiry process in case the Beneficiary PSP can be reached through another channel (e.g. via a message format or channel agreed-to at national level)?	<p>All SCT scheme participants must support the ISO 20022 XML messages as defined in the SCT inter-PSP IGs both in the role of an Originator PSP and a Beneficiary PSP.</p> <p>If the Originator PSP has an agreement to send an SCT inquiry message about a SCT transaction through another channel or message standard with the Beneficiary PSP, it can use that alternative channel.</p> <p>Once a given SCT inquiry has been launched via an ISO 20022 standard-based XML message based on the SCT scheme inter-PSP IG specifications, any future response message related to that SCT inquiry must also be sent as an ISO 20022 standard-based XML message following the SCT scheme inter-PSP IG specifications. There cannot be a mixture of ISO 20022 standard-based XML messages and other message standards to handle a SCT inquiry. This would hinder certain automated process steps and complicate the audit trail.</p>
2)	Can a single SCT Inquiry cover an entire bulk file of SCT transactions?	<p>The inquiry message for the reasons ‘Claim of Non-Receipt’ and ‘Claim for Value Date Correction’ concerns a single initial SEPA Credit Transfer only. If several initial SEPA Credit</p>



Concrete process questions	
	<p>Transfers are concerned, then several SCT inquiry messages must be sent.</p> <p>The inquiry message for the reason 'Request for Status Update' can refer to one single SCT inquiry, or to several SCT inquiries.</p>
3)	<p>How must an Originator PSP interpret the inter-PSP positive response to a claim of non-receipt inquiry from the Beneficiary PSP?</p> <p>The Beneficiary PSP confirms that it has credited the initial SCT transaction on the account of the Beneficiary and provides the Originator PSP with the date on which this SCT transaction has been credited.</p>
4)	<p>As of when can the Originator PSP send a request for a status update about an original SCT inquiry to the Beneficiary PSP? Is there a maximum number of requests for a status update that can be sent?</p> <p>The Beneficiary PSP is obliged to respond to the original SCT inquiry within the 10 Banking Business Days after it has received this SCT inquiry. Not respecting this deadline is a breach against the SCT rulebook.</p> <p>It is at the discretion of the Originator PSP to send such (multiple) request(s) for a status update after 10 Banking Business Days after the receipt of the SCT inquiry.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the use of the request for a status update should be minimized as it creates workload for the Beneficiary PSP to handle each request.</p>
5)	<p>Does the Beneficiary PSP have to respond to a request for a status update if it has already responded to the original inquiry?</p> <p>No, the Beneficiary PSP does not have to respond to such request as it has already responded to the initial inquiry.</p> <p>The inter-PSP response from the Beneficiary PSP and the request for a status update from the Originator PSP may have crossed each other.</p>
6)	<p>The Beneficiary PSP is obliged to respond to the original SCT inquiry within the 10 Banking Business Days after it has received this SCT inquiry. Does this mean that any charge and/or interest compensation that the Beneficiary PSP may ask should also be settled within this deadline?</p> <p>The aim of the SCT inquiry is to get information about the concrete fate of the original SCT transaction, i.e. has the Beneficiary PSP well received it and/or has it applied the correct value date.</p> <p>All subsequent actions to correct the current status of the SCT transaction should be done as soon as possible to reduce further friction for the Originator and the Beneficiary.</p> <p>However, these subsequent actions may not be realized within this period of 10 Banking Business Days depending on the complexity of the concrete correction itself, the number of inter-PSP parties to be involved, and the internal approvals that each SCT scheme participant may require to authorise this correction.</p>



Interest compensation and fees for SCT inquiries		
7)	In which situations can a Beneficiary PSP charge a fee for handling the SCT inquiry?	The published inter-PSP IGs for the SCT scheme rulebook point out that only for positive inter-PSP responses to an SCT inquiry, the Beneficiary PSP can charge a fee from the Originator PSP.
8)	In which situations is a Beneficiary PSP allowed to ask for interest compensation for the SCT inquiry?	Only in case a positive €STR rate is applied to correct the value date.
9)	How should the Originator PSP settle the interest compensation and/or any other fees requested by the Beneficiary PSP?	Via the dataset DS-11 <i>Inter-PSP Fee and/or Compensation Payment Dataset</i> (see the sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.11).
10)	In case of an SCT inquiry “Claim for Value Date Correction”, the Beneficiary PSP is allowed to claim first the receipt of an interest compensation and possibly also a fee for handling the SCT inquiry, before it will execute the value date correction. When the Beneficiary PSP communicates back to the Originator PSP that it has well received the interest compensation and the new value date of the SCT transaction, can the Beneficiary PSP ask a second fee for handling this specific SCT inquiry?	The Beneficiary PSP reports at just one occasion the total amount in fees for handling such SCT inquiry: either at the moment it communicates the claim to receive first the interest compensation before executing the value date correction, or at the moment it communicates that the value date correction has been done.

3.3 Implementation of the dataset DS-11 ‘Inter-PSP Fee and/or Compensation Payment Dataset’

The SCT scheme rulebook includes the dataset DS-11 ‘Inter-PSP Fee and/or Compensation Payment Dataset’ (see the sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.11 of the 2021 rulebook). The Originator PSP can use this dataset to pay the Beneficiary PSP a fee (in case of a positive response to an SCT inquiry for the reasons ‘Claim of Non-Receipt’ and ‘Claim for Value Date Correction’) and/or interest compensation (resulting from a positive response to an SCT inquiry for the reason ‘Claim for Value Date Correction’) to finally resolve a SCT inquiry.

Several SCT scheme participants had clarification requests and implementation concerns about DS-11.

This Clarification Paper provides the SCT scheme participant with the following main specifications:

- SCT scheme participants may agree (e.g. on a bilateral or community/country basis) to use another practice outside the SCT scheme to settle such payments. To ensure a minimal standard at SEPA level, all scheme participants must implement the DS-11



pac.008 message (i.e. at least the DS-11 ‘Credit Transfer Transaction Information’ block in case of a DS-02/DS-11 mix) as described in section 2.19 of the SCT IGs.

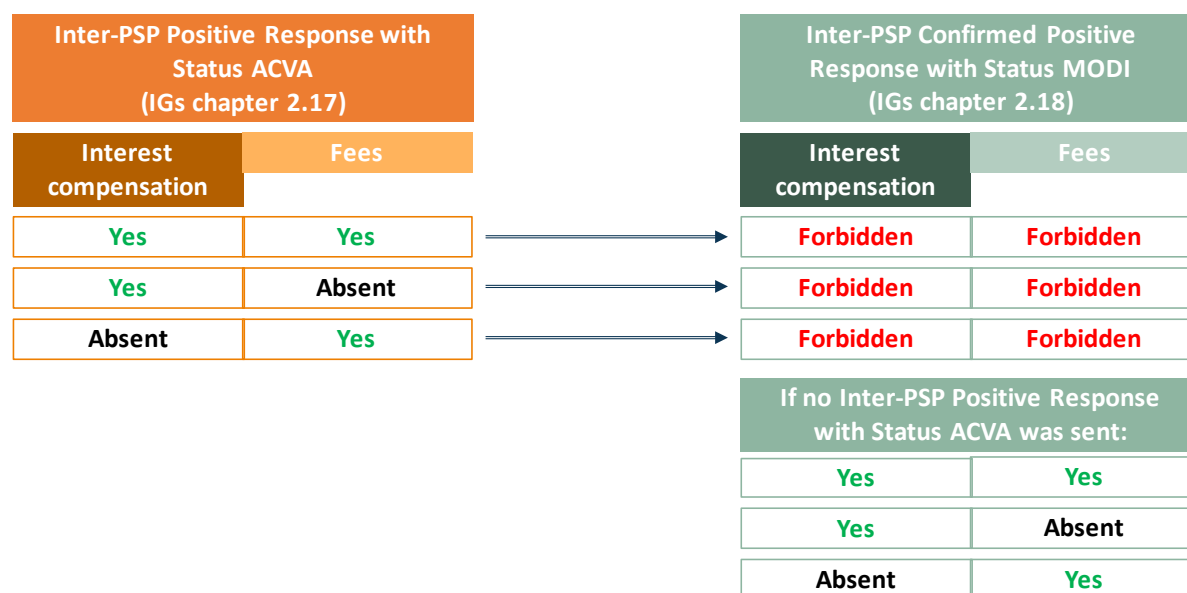
- The Originator PSP can send a mix of SCT transactions based on the dataset DS-02 ‘The Inter-PSP Payment Dataset’ and DS-11 in a single pac.008 message.
- The Beneficiary PSPs may agree on a bilateral basis with their CSM on how the DS-02/DS-11 transactions will be sent to them (e.g., via dedicated DS-02/DS-11 files or mixed files).
- DS-11 is used to settle the SCT inquiry fee and/or interest compensation payments for a single SCT inquiry case **or** for multiple SCT inquiry cases.

3.4 Clarifications on how to claim and pay the interest compensation and/or the Inter-PSP fee under the SCT inquiry procedure

The section 4.4.2 of the SCT scheme rulebook stipulates that the Beneficiary PSP reports at just one occasion the total amount in interest compensation and/or fees for handling an SCT inquiry for the reason ‘Claim for Value Date Correction’: either at the moment it communicates the claim to receive first the interest compensation and/or the fee before executing the value date correction, or at the moment it communicates that the value date correction has been done.

This business rule has been translated in the technical message specifications of the sections [2.17 Inter-PSP Positive Response to Claim for Value Date Correction \(DS-10\)](#) and [2.18 Inter-PSP Confirmed Positive Response to Claim for Value Date Correction \(DS-10\)](#) of the SCT Inter-PSP IGs.

The following diagram shows how the Beneficiary PSP can use the camt.029 message to claim an interest compensation and/or Inter-PSP fee when responding positively to the relevant SCT inquiry:



Some SCT scheme participants question how the Beneficiary PSP can indicate in the camt.029 message that the inquiry fees and the interest compensation are to be paid in two separate payments or in just one payment, and in case of two payments, how to indicate these payments are to be paid to two different accounts.

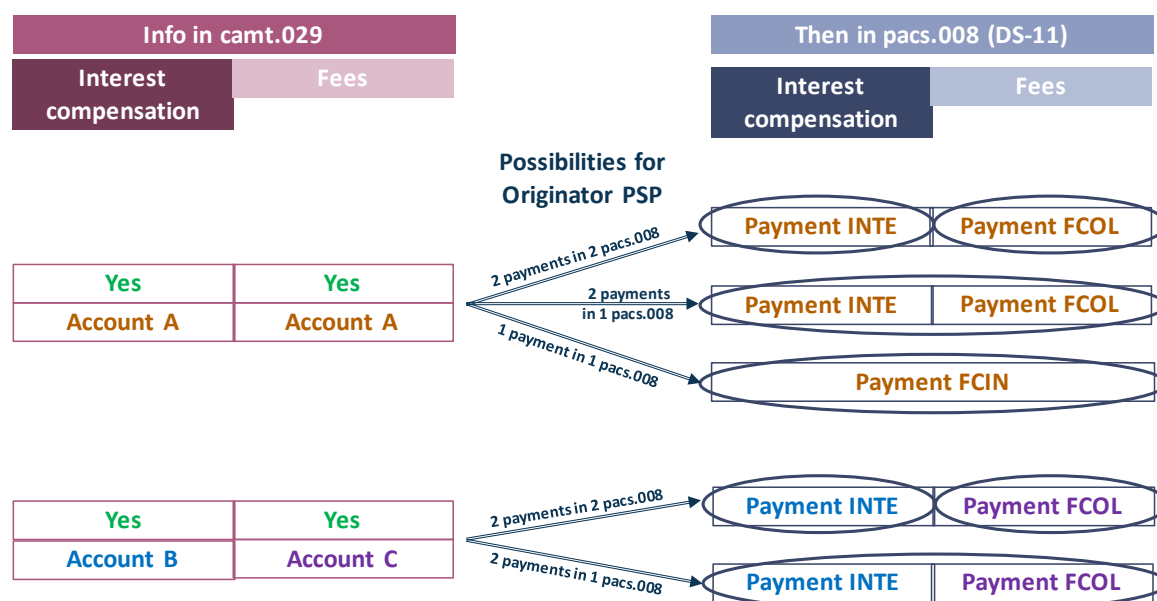
The Originator PSP will make two payments only when the Beneficiary PSP mentions two different accounts in its camt.029 message.



It is the decision of the Originator PSP to make just one payment, even if the Beneficiary PSP mentions in its camt.029 message the same account number for both the inquiry fee and the interest compensation.

When the Beneficiary PSP wants to receive two payments, it must also realise that the Originator PSP may send these two payments in just one pacs.008 message or in two different pacs.008 messages.

The following diagram shows the possibilities for the Originator PSP allowed under the SCT Inter-PSP IGs, to send SCT inquiry fee and interest compensation payments via pacs.008 messages:





4 Specific points for SCT Inst scheme rulebook

4.1 Payment account reachability for SCT Inst transactions

Subject to the laws applicable to them¹, each SCT Inst scheme participant maintains the commercial freedom i) to determine which accounts can be used as payment accounts, and ii) for which of these payment accounts to offer SCT Inst payment services.

However, the SCT Inst scheme offers many customer benefits in terms of ease of use and immediate availability of funds, and allows SCT Inst scheme participants to deliver new and innovative payment services to their clients. One key business benefit of the scheme is that the Beneficiary payment accounts of participating PSPs are reachable within SEPA.

Subject to the laws applicable to them, the SCT Inst scheme participants are strongly encouraged to ensure – at least in their capacity as Beneficiary PSPs – that their customers' euro or national-currency-denominated payment accounts already open to SCT transactions are also open to incoming SCT Inst transactions. Otherwise, this results in unnecessary rejects and frictions for the customers involved and hampers the attractiveness and full reachability of the SCT Inst scheme.

¹ The Article 5a (8) of Regulation (EU) 2024/886 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 260/2012 and (EU) 2021/1230 and Directives 98/26/EC and (EU) 2015/2366 as regards instant credit transfers in euro, also known as the Instant Payments Regulation (IPR), specifies that PSPs based in the EEA offering the payment service of sending and receiving regular euro credit transfers, must also offer the service of sending and receiving instant euro credit transfers as of a certain date. This date depends on the type of PSP and on the Member State in which this PSP is located.