

PAYMENTS READINESS

THE NEXT PHASE OF ISO 20022

ISO 20022 Is Already Improving STP Rates.
Here's what you need to know as we head toward 2027.

1 THE PROOF

Financial institutions are already seeing higher straight-through processing rates from richer, structured data. In 2027, stronger addressing and data-quality requirements will make readiness even more important.

72%

of financial institutions expect or report higher STP rates because richer, standardised information creates fewer exceptions for missing or incomplete data.

21% report higher STP rates through less manual processing.

2 WHY STRUCTURED DATA MATTERS?

A clearer route from payment friction to smoother processing.



LEGACY OR POOR-QUALITY DATA

- Missing or incomplete fields
- More exceptions
- Manual investigation and repair
- Payment delays or rejects



RICH, STRUCTURED ISO 20022 DATA

- More complete payment information
- Fewer data exceptions
- Less manual intervention
- Higher straight-through processing

3 THE NEXT PHASE OF ISO20022: WHAT CHANGES?

The next phase moves the industry beyond basic message-format compliance. Financial institutions will need to place greater emphasis on structured addressing, payment-data quality, legacy-system modernisation and traceability.



01

Structured addressing becomes mandatory

Unstructured postal addresses will no longer be accepted in many cross-border payment flows. Financial institutions must send fully structured or hybrid address data. Poor-quality address data may increase repairs, delays and rejects.



02

Data quality and validation take centre stage

The focus shifts from basic ISO 20022 compliance to the quality of the data carried in ISO 20022 messages. Rich, structured data enables sanctions screening, AML controls and straight-through processing. Manual enrichment will create growing operational challenges.



03

Migration away from legacy MT messaging continues

Additional legacy message types will continue to be retired as the industry progresses towards fuller ISO 20022 adoption. Financial institutions must modernise legacy systems and data flows to avoid increasing operational complexity.



04

Regulatory and compliance expectations increase

Regulators and market infrastructures are placing greater emphasis on transparency, data completeness and payment traceability. Structured ISO 20022 data supports evolving financial-crime prevention and payment-transparency requirements.

4 WHAT IS THE RISK OF WAITING?

Poor-quality, insufficiently structured payment data, or internally managed bank data, can lead to:



MORE PAYMENT REPAIRS



MORE MANUAL INTERVENTION



LOWER STP RATES



HIGHER OPERATIONAL PRESSURE



GREATER COMPLIANCE COMPLEXITY

5 WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

Make this upgrade drive payment performance.

- **Validate** structured and hybrid address data before payments are submitted.
- **Enrich** payment instructions with complete, accurate and standardised data.
- **Automate** validation workflows to reduce manual repair and exception handling.
- **Utilise** quality ISO20022 structured address to reduce false positives in payment screening.
- **Use ISO 20022** as a data-quality opportunity, not only a compliance exercise.

Better Data. Fewer Exceptions. Stronger STP.

Prepare payment data and validation processes now to unlock more of the value of ISO 20022 ahead of November 2026.

Learn more

Our payments solutions and data enable global businesses to achieve higher straight-through processing rates to support seamless and more cost-effective cross-border payments experiences.

For more information, visit risk.lexisnexis.com/financial-services/payments-efficiency

Download the whitepaper

Download our True Impact of Failed Payments report to explore the latest trends, understand the true financial impact of failed payments, and learn practical strategies for creating more seamless and cost-effective cross-border payment experiences:

risk.lexisnexis.com/global/en/insights-resources/research/the-true-impact-of-failed-payments-report

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Source: Datos Insights survey of 150 global financial institutions on cross-border payments, Q3 2025; True Impact of Failed Payments 2026, pages 25 and 28.