STP GUIDE

UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia, a.s.

BEST PRACTICE FOR PAYMENTS – UNICREDIT BANK CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA, A.S.

Straight-Through Processing (STP) enables fully automated payment execution without manual intervention. High-quality, well-structured payment data is essential — particularly during the global transition to ISO 20022, which introduces richer and more consistent message formats. Although ISO 20022 enhances interoperability and supports automation, simply using the standard does not guarantee STP. Poor data quality, inconsistent formatting, or missing mandatory fields can still lead to delays or returns.

ISO 20022 is being adopted worldwide precisely because it improves STP through structured and harmonized payment information, supporting automation and reducing exceptions in processing. However, migration timelines differ among markets and infrastructures, which may cause temporary discrepancies in data handling between clearing systems and SWIFT CBPR+.

By following UniCredit's requirements and recommendations, you help ensure smoother, faster, and more reliable processing — reducing repair costs and supporting predictable payment execution.

SCOPE

This *Guide to Straight Through Processing* applies to:

- **Commercial payments and financial institution transfers** processed by UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- **pacs.008** — FI to FI Customer Credit Transfer
- **pacs.009** — Financial Institution Credit Transfer
- **pacs.009 COV** — Cover payment for pacs.008

Note regarding payments routed through euro clearing systems

ISO 20022 migration across Europe is proceeding on differing schedules, with various market infrastructures implementing the standard at different times. This can temporarily lead to inconsistent data availability or formatting between SWIFT CBPR+ and domestic clearing systems.
To support STP, UniCredit CZ/SK expects institutions sending payments via clearing to:

- Prioritize **CBPR+-compliant structured data**,
- Use the **correct message type for the intended business function**, as highlighted in harmonized ISO 20022 guidance,
- Ensure messages contain complete and properly structured information.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

For clarity, this document focuses on formatting and data-quality requirements that must be met for a transaction to be considered **STP-eligible** at UniCredit CZ/SK.

1. Full compliance with CBPR+ rules is mandatory.

CBPR+ specifies the global usage guidelines for ISO 20022 cross-border payment messages (pacs.008/pacs.009). These standards are required for smooth interoperability during and after the migration period.

2. Mandatory CBPR+ elements are generally STP-eligible

Unless explicitly stated otherwise, all mandatory fields—such as debtor/creditor name, account, and structured address—are required and do not prevent straight-through processing.

3. Optional CBPR+ elements may trigger manual intervention

Where optional fields are used inconsistently, partially, or incorrectly, this may require review by UniCredit operations teams.

4. Structured data must be used wherever available

ISO 20022's strength lies in its structured elements, which support automation and reduce ambiguity:

- Use structured postal addresses instead of free-text lines.
- Provide legal entity identifiers (LEI) or other identifiers when required.
- Avoid placing essential information in unstructured remittance fields if a structured element exists.

Globally, structured data is one of the core ISO 20022 principles for improving cross-border payment quality and reducing manual repair efforts.

5. Unstructured text must not contain information intended for dedicated data fields

Improper placement of addresses, regulatory information, or identification details in unstructured text prevents automated processing and may result in delays.

PACS.008
FI TO FI CUSTOMER CREDIT TRANSFER

Tag	Field Name	Requirements
Debtor and Creditor Identification		
<Dbtr>	Debtor	Optional fields for name and address are permitted
<Cdtr>	Creditor	
Agents in the payment chain		
<PrvsInstgAgt1>	Previous Instructing Agent 1	Only Tag **<BICFI>** qualifies for STP
<PrvsInstgAgt2>	Previous Instructing Agent 2	
<PrvsInstgAgt3>	Previous Instructing Agent 3	
<InstgAgt>	Instructing Agent	
<InstdAgt>	Instructed Agent	
<IntrmyAgt1>	Intermediary Agent 1	
<IntrmyAgt2>	Intermediary Agent 2	
<IntrmyAgt3>	Intermediary Agent 3	
<DbtrAgt>	Debtor Agent	
<CdtrAgt>	Creditor Agent	
Account Identification Tags (multiple XML tags)		
<IBAN>	IBAN	Valid **IBAN/BBAN*** qualifies for STP
<Othr>	Other	Tag <Id> must contain valid account number; for IBAN please use tag **<IBAN>** instead
Further		
<RmtInf>	Remittance Information	Permitted
<RgltryRptg>	Regulatory Reporting	Permitted

PACS.009 AND PACS.009 COV
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION CREDIT TRANSFER

Tag	Field Name	Requirements
Debtor and Creditor Identification		
<Dbtr>	Debtor	Only Tag **<BICFI>** qualifies for STP
<Cdtr>	Creditor	
Agents in the payment chain		
<PrvsInstgAgt1>	Previous Instructing Agent 1	Only Tag **<BICFI>** qualifies for STP
<PrvsInstgAgt2>	Previous Instructing Agent 2	
<PrvsInstgAgt3>	Previous Instructing Agent 3	
<InstgAgt>	Instructing Agent	
<InstdAgt>	Instructed Agent	
<IntrmyAgt1>	Intermediary Agent 1	
<IntrmyAgt2>	Intermediary Agent 2	
<IntrmyAgt3>	Intermediary Agent 3	
<DbtrAgt>	Debtor Agent	
<CdtrAgt>	Creditor Agent	
<InstgRmbrsmntAgt>	Instructing Reimbursement Agent	pacs.009 cov: Only Tag **<BICFI>** qualifies for STP
<InstdRmbrsmntAgt>	Instructed Reimbursement Agent	
Account Identification Tags (multiple XML tags)		
<IBAN>	IBAN	Valid **IBAN/BBAN*** qualifies for STP
<Othr>	Other	Tag <Id> must contain valid account number; for IBAN please use tag **<IBAN>** instead
Further		
<RmtInf>	Remittance Information	Permitted
<RgltryRptg>	Regulatory Reporting	Permitted

*Please ensure that the account number is always provided either in **IBAN** format **or** in the correct **BBAN** structure:

- **IBAN**: must be complete and valid
- **BBAN** format:

  prefix – account_number / bank_code

  - **prefix** – **optional**, up to 6 digits (if the account has a prefix, then it is mandatory)
  - **account_number** – **mandatory**, up to 10 digits
  - **bank_code** – **mandatory**, always 4 digits
  - Please note that „**/**“ is mandatory and „**-**„ is mandatory if a prefix is present.
  - Please note that the BBAN format is **not** followed by BIC code

Examples:

8010-0123456789/0300

9000012345/5500

Disclaimer:
The information contained in this STP Guide is non-exhaustive and is subject to modification without prior notice. Updates may arise from changes to SWIFT standards, regulatory requirements, or internal system development. UniCredit makes no representation or warranty as to the continued accuracy or completeness of this document.