

Structured Addresses. The Deadline Moved, The Work Did Not.

Why translation tools will not be enough.

Banks that came through the end of Swift's coexistence period in November 2025 might reasonably feel the hardest part is behind them, and the news that the structured address requirement has been deferred may well have taken some of the urgency out of the conversation. Swift is still consulting on timing and has said it will confirm the approach before the end of 2026, but the requirement itself has not changed, and the translation tools that many institutions have leaned on so far were never built to meet the standard that this next phase demands.



65%

of the banking IT leaders we surveyed still rely on translation tools.

72%

say richer data requirements have exposed structural gaps in their data.

Deferred

approach to be confirmed by Swift before the end of 2026.

What Changes, And Why It Matters

01 The Readiness Gap

To bridge legacy systems and ISO 20022, a large share of banks turned to translation tools as a sensible short term fix, and 65% of the banking IT leaders we surveyed are still relying on them today. The difficulty is that these tools change the format of a message without improving the data inside it, so address information that sits in legacy systems as free text, with fields missing or inconsistently entered, carries that same weakness straight into the ISO 20022 message.

03 Nothing Is Stopping You Starting Now

Structured and hybrid addresses are already supported across the Swift network today, so any remediation work a bank completes can be deployed immediately rather than held back waiting for a date to be published. That matters because the work involved is data remediation across customer and counterparty records rather than a messaging change, and it is the kind of programme that takes quarters rather than weeks once the scale of the legacy estate becomes clear.

02 What The Deferral Actually Changes

Swift has deferred all payments changes and is consulting with banks, central banks, payment market infrastructures and market practice groups to define the optimal timing and approach for the address requirement, with an update expected by the end of this year. What has not changed is the destination, because once the requirement takes effect, payments carrying fully unstructured addresses will be rejected at the validation stage rather than repaired further down the line, and Swift has been clear that the decommissioning of unstructured addresses is being rescheduled rather than abandoned.

04 The Bigger Picture

The move to structured addresses is not an isolated rule change, and it reflects a wider industry shift towards higher quality, standardised payment data that aligns with initiatives such as the G20 Cross Border Payments Roadmap and FATF Recommendation 16. By enforcing defined fields for the core components of an address, Swift is building a more consistent foundation for payments, one that supports greater straight through processing, more accurate sanctions and AML screening, clearer transparency for every party in the chain, and a higher level of automation across operations.

How Aquila Solves It

Aquila treats address data as something to be validated and enriched before a message is ever created, rather than something to be reformatted on the way out, which is the difference between a message that passes validation and one that merely looks like it should. It integrates with core systems through APIs, sits alongside whatever core banking platform a bank already runs without replacing it, and brings payments, treasury, securities, reconciliations, matching and reporting together so that the same quality controls apply across the whole flow.

Validate And Enrich Before Submission

Address data is checked and improved before it reaches Swift and the risk of failure linked to unstructured inputs falls away.

Transpose And Augment Structured Addresses

Address information in inward payment messages is transposed to outward settlement messages and augmented with structured client details held in Aquila.

Identify Issues In Real Time

Surfacing incomplete or inconsistent data at the point of processing so it can be corrected early.

Integrate Without Replacing Core Systems

Connecting to existing banking and compliance infrastructure through APIs so a bank gains control over its payment data without a major system change.

If you would like to talk through where your address data actually sits today, and what a remediation programme looks like before the new timeline is published, we would be glad to have that conversation.

[Talk To Aqua Global](#)

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Validate. Structure. Submit.

Structured address readiness, ahead of the new timeline.

Validate and enrich before submission. Address data is checked and improved before it reaches Swift, so the risk of failure linked to unstructured inputs falls away.

Identify issues in real time. Incomplete or inconsistent data is surfaced at the point of processing so it can be corrected early.

Transpose and augment structured addresses.

Address information in inward payment messages will be transposed to outward settlement messages and augmented with structured client details held in Aquila.

Integrate without replacing core systems.

Aquila connects to existing banking and compliance infrastructure through APIs, so a bank gains control over its payment data without a major system change.

About Aqua Global

Aqua Global is a software provider that has been assisting financial institutions to automate their transaction lifecycle since 1983, providing seamless, secure and robust message automation.

Headquartered in London with a support hub in Poland and global business partners, Aqua Global has supported banks across over 30 countries around the world. Our solutions support real-time operations, regulatory compliance and scalable automation, and we focus on building long-term partnerships, tackling complex operational challenges, and providing reliable, high-performance systems that assist our clients every day.

The Aquila Platform

Centralised Orchestration



Message Management



ISO 20022 Processing



Payments



Treasury



Securities



Reconciliations



Matching



Incident Management



Payments Orchestration



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