



*Achieve compliance
with SEPA standards
more easily*

Benefits

- Ensure exhaustive testing coverage, yet reduce the effort by 20%
- Achieve standards interoperability
- Test at your own pace
- Speed up your migration with dedicated support

SEPA Testing Programme

Enabling comprehensive testing that simulates payments under SEPA

At SWIFT, we are actively supporting our customers in their implementation of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) by providing products and services to facilitate interoperability across the industry. This includes a testing programme for the self-assessment compliance to the SEPA standards. The SEPA Testing Programme offers a comprehensive testing approach with a set of integrated tools that can benefit everyone preparing for SEPA.

The SEPA testing challenge

To improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of Euro payments within Europe, banks change their electronic payments systems to consolidate clearing and settlement mechanisms and to offer new SEPA compliant products to customers. They have to adopt the SEPA business rules and implementation guidelines and declare their SEPA compliance and operational readiness to the European Payments Council (EPC).

The migration to SEPA is an unprecedented challenge in terms of implementation and testing. It is vital for all parties involved to perform testing that simulates payments under SEPA conditions. In close cooperation with the industry, SWIFT's SEPA Testing

Programme offers comprehensive test tools to support the different testing phases of the EPC SEPA testing framework, the Self-Assessment Level 'Testing' (EPC SAL I to SAL III).

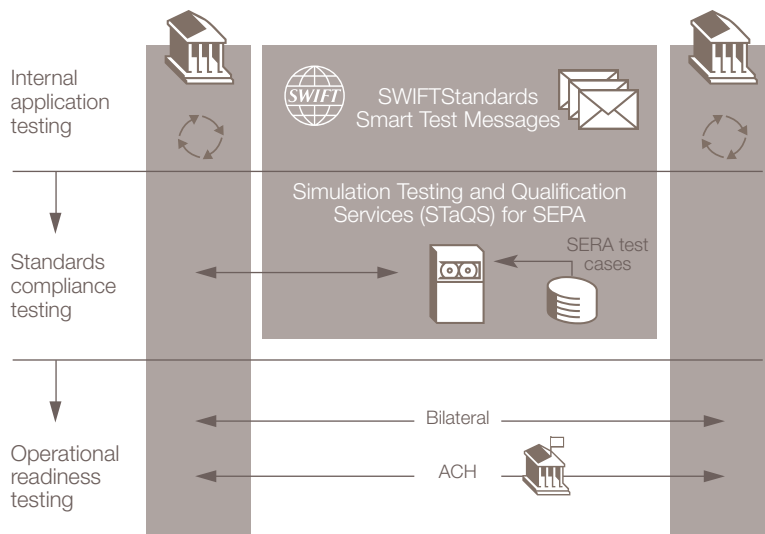
Benefits

Mitigate your operational risk through exhaustive testing

Implementations of SEPA standards vary according to the clearing and settlement channel, and often represent just a subset of all SEPA standards available. The testing programme relies on an exhaustive, robust and consistent testing approach that covers 95% of the SEPA standards. It helps you mitigate your operational risk.

Ensure standards interoperability for any clearing channel

By working closely with all industry players, the EPC, the SEPA Testing Advisory Group (STAG), the European Banking Association (EBA), the European Automated Clearing House Association (EACHA), and most national automated clearing houses (ACHs), the programme guarantees strict compliance with the EPC SEPA standards and reduces the risk of divergent implementation behaviors. The programme is considered as an industry reference that ensures SEPA standards interoperability, independently of the clearing channel used.



The SEPA testing programme

Reduce your costs by testing the SEPA standards once and only once

The cost of SEPA testing for each financial institution is very high due to the number of different counterparties, involving many financial institutions and multiple ACHs.

The programme helps you reduce the testing effort by 20% in terms of test specifications and analysis and enables you to concentrate efforts on more specific business and operational testing related to clearing mechanisms.

Testing at your own pace

You can rely on a testing service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can perform the tests in standalone mode, at your own pace, according to your plans for each individual payments system of your infrastructure.

Leveraging existing investments

You can reuse your existing SWIFTNet infrastructure to perform the SEPA testing, with no further investment.

Components

The SEPA Testing Programme has defined a common methodology to test the compliance of credit transfer and direct debit payments with the SEPA standards.

It offers a comprehensive and exhaustive testing approach with concrete and integrated tools, as follows:

Smart Test Messages for SEPA

Samples of pre-filled test messages with realistic business data for application unit testing.

Simulation Testing and Qualification Service (STaQS) for SEPA

A central testing facility operated by SWIFT that plays the role of sparring partner. STaQS is able to exchange and validate messages according to the SEPA Implementation Guidelines.

Scripted test cases

A set of predefined scripted test cases for the STaQS that cover exhaustively the testing of the SEPA standard. Each customer can follow the roadmap(s) required for its preferred clearing channel(s).

SWIFTNet messaging

SWIFT's FileAct messaging service is used to transfer SEPA messages. This will help you to test your connectivity before the migration to SWIFT's Bulk Payments solution.

Sample SEPA directories

BICPlusIBAN directory maps the relationships between Bank Identifier Codes (BICs) and International Bank Account Numbers (IBANs). SEPA Routing Directory provides the clearing routing path information.

The programme also includes:

Programme Management Office (PMO)

which monitors the community's progress on testing.

Dedicated hand-holding support

The programme gives you the assurance of a continuous and dedicated support in your migration to SEPA.

Other services

In addition to the Programme, SWIFT can help you with:

Accredited partners

SWIFT's global partner programme provides access to accredited vendors, consultants and application providers that are certified for our SEPA offering. Our partners can provide you with SEPA-compatible middleware and applications to complement the SWIFT messaging services.

Specialised training

SWIFT classroom courses are specifically tailored to meet the SEPA business, implementation and testing needs.

For more information please contact your SWIFT account manager or visit www.swift.com

To join the dialogue visit www.swiftcommunity.net