Your single source of reference data
In today’s global financial landscape, having a proper data management strategy is a must. Financial institutions, corporates and financial services providers need a reference data partner they can rely on to give them the peace of mind that they’re in safe hands.
The reference data reality

As a participant in the financial world, there’s a lot of pressure to offer the best level of service to your customers, keep an excellent reputation, all whilst reducing costs.

Achieving operational excellence is therefore an objective in both your financial and compliance activities. Access to accurate reference data is paramount.

However, collecting and maintaining reference data on an individual basis can be challenging. As well as collecting data from multiple sources, you also need to clean, validate, cross-reference and maintain the data. This is where a reference data provider can help.
Achieve objectives
Institutions working with a reference data provider are typically striving to meet a number of key business objectives:
- Reduce costs associated with heavy manual processes
- Prevent costly and time-wasting errors
- Improve operational efficiency by integrating trustworthy data
- Get consistent data to centralise data management functions

Manage risks
Inaccurate reference data management policies can cause a myriad of issues:
- Operational failures deriving from imprecise reference data create critical delays to payments or deliveries
- Lacking a standardised, accurate reference data management approach leads to potential non-compliance with regulators
- Manual reference data management processes may lead to human driven fraud
- The risks of failure come at a high cost including reputational damage, and increased business and compliance threats

Expect the best
Reputation is everything. Working with a trustworthy reference data provider is essential, giving you peace of mind that their solution can:
- Deliver accurate data to meet your needs
- Maintain relevant and recent data
- Guarantee the integrity of the source of their data
- Discover new data and future-proof your data requirements
- Validate, cleanse, cross-reference and standardise data
- Provide quality data collection, management and processing solutions
Discover SWIFTRef

SWIFTRef is SWIFT’s unique reference data and financial information service. It is based on the same high levels of security, resilience and support as the SWIFT network.

Thanks to its industry role, SWIFT is uniquely placed to collect reference data from data originators and financial community members. And as the ISO Registry for BIC and IBAN formats and the prime issuer of LEIs, SWIFT is itself a key originator of reference data.

Sourced exclusively from authorised data owners, SWIFTRef includes the most accurate available data.

It offers financial institutions, corporates and financial services providers a single and unique source of payments reference data.
120,000+
ISO-registered BICs from financial institutions and corporates worldwide

250
Countries & regions with holiday information, country & currency codes

70+
IBAN countries including 34 SEPA

1,340,000+
LEI’s

250,000+
Records in local languages

810,000+
Standing Settlement Instructions

1,000,000
National Bank Identifiers
Your business relies on accurate and up-to-date reference data to feed your payments and other financial transactions, helping you achieve operational efficiency.

Whether you are a financial institution or a corporate, for payments professionals collecting accurate reference data from many sources, standardising it and maintaining it remains a significant challenge. This is particularly the case if you are operating on a global scale.

With SWIFTRef data, your payment systems will be able to easily validate payment instructions and select appropriate routing for messages. This allows you to optimise automation and achieve higher straight-through processing rates. The number of payments requiring repair and investigation will drastically reduce, improving the efficiency of your back office, driving down costs and reducing operational risk.

**Bank Identifiers**
The dynamic payments landscape sees many business reorganisations, mergers and acquisitions, which cause bank details to change frequently. SWIFTRef provides you with the most accurate and up-to-date bank identifiers and attributes that you will need for both your domestic and cross-border payments.

**Payments systems and market infrastructures membership**
Each payment system or market infrastructure has its own membership list and setup including specific members’ identifiers, routing data, format and structure. SWIFTRef provides you with the normalised view of financial institutions’ membership to clearing systems, market infrastructures and SWIFTNet services, ensuring the fastest route to your payment’s end destination.

**Standing Settlement Instructions**
You may need to process thousands of cross-border retail and/or FX and money market-related wholesale payments each day. Access to accurate and up-to-date Standing Settlement Instructions (SSI) is critical. It will ensure a fast and accurate cross-border payments process, help reduce settlement risk and improve your straight-through processing (STP) rates. SWIFTRef provides you with SSI information sourced from the institutions themselves and from the SSI broadcasts shared on the SWIFT network. With our collaborative structure, you can easily update your own SSI information if needed.

**SWIFTRef for payments processing**
- All SWIFT BIC Codes
- Legal Entity Identifiers (LEIs)
- National clearing/sort codes (200+ countries) incl. CHIPS + local language codes
- Clearing & Settlement Mechanisms membership, incl. EBA, TARGET, CIPS, India
- Operational & legal name and addresses
- BIC/IBAN/SEPA data
- Account Structure information
- SWIFT Connectivity Information (FIN, IA, FA)
- Bank Standing Settlement Instructions (SSIs)
- Time-zone information
- Country and currency ISO codes and bank holidays
- Bank Hierarchy Information (BIC Hierarchy)
- SWIFTNET Services info
- Broadcast messages
Quality data at your fingertips
Why SWIFTRef?

The SWIFTRef utility is built on a highly-secure platform, sourcing and maintaining data based on a unique collaborative approach, and strict data collection and maintenance procedures. Access data in near real-time via dedicated software, and with SWIFT’s best-in-class support services to help you get started.
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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>High quality reference data</td>
<td>SWIFTRef sources data solely from authorised data originators to ensure the highest data quality expected by our end-users. A dedicated data collection team constantly researches and improves data quality while ensuring direct follow-up with originators when investigation requests are introduced for missing or incorrect data.</td>
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<td>Always up-to-date</td>
<td>In a typical month, approximately 1,400 BICs undergo one or more changes, national clearing codes of more than 190 countries and territories are updated and approximately 15,000 SSIs change. About 15,000 new LEIs and 1,500 new GIIN codes are also added. With this in mind, maintaining accurate and up-to-date global reference data is a major challenge for organisations. Thanks to our unique collaborative approach and easy-to-use maintenance tools, SWIFTRef can also rely on its data owners to maintain their data in the SWIFTRef utility on a daily basis. This way, SWIFTRef offers you the highest levels of data accuracy.</td>
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<td>Broad range of delivery channels</td>
<td>You can choose from our extensive range of data formats and delivery channels: online lookup service, flat files (in txt or xml) – manually or automatically downloadable (web services) or delivered over FileAct, and SWIFTRef APIs. To best support your ERP requirements and needs, directories are available in SAP™ and ERP compatible formats.</td>
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<td>First class service and support</td>
<td>A multi-lingual helpdesk is available for your day-to-day data queries.</td>
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Contact your SWIFT account manager or visit www.swift.com/swiftref for more information.

About SWIFT

SWIFT is a global member owned cooperative and the world’s leading provider of secure financial messaging services.

We provide our community with a platform for messaging and standards for communicating, and we offer products and services to facilitate access and integration, identification, analysis and regulatory compliance.

Our messaging platform, products and services connect more than 11,000 banking and securities organisations, market infrastructures and corporate customers in more than 200 countries and territories. While SWIFT does not hold funds or manage accounts on behalf of customers, we enable our global community of users to communicate securely, exchanging standardised financial messages in a reliable way, thereby supporting global and local financial flows, as well as trade and commerce all around the world.

As their trusted provider, we relentlessly pursue operational excellence; we support our community in addressing cyber threats; and we continually seek ways to lower costs, reduce risks and eliminate operational inefficiencies. Our products and services support our community’s access and integration, business intelligence, reference data and financial crime compliance needs. SWIFT also brings the financial community together – at global, regional and local levels – to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest or concern.

Headquartered in Belgium, SWIFT’s international governance and oversight reinforces the neutral, global character of its cooperative structure. SWIFT’s international office network ensures an active presence in all the major global financial centres.

For more information about SWIFT, visit www.swift.com.