



ISO 2022 Payments Interoperability Charter

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Version History

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V1.1	28 March 2024	R. Magee	Added Endorsements and Declarations of Support. Publication Version.
V1.2	23 April 2024	R. Magee	Added Declaration of Support from Swiss National Bank & SIX Interbank Clearing (SIC)

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1 Preface

1.1 Introduction

Whilst ISO 2022 provides a common language for payments, it is constantly evolving. It can adapt to new technologies, to support innovation, to changing regulatory requirements, and to new business needs. There are also differences between ISO 2022 implementations running in different Market Infrastructures (MIs) around the world, caused by factors such as variation in message versions being used, in market practice, and in release cycles.

This Charter aims to foster support from MIs to an agreed set of objectives and principles designed to enable evolution and interoperability, including maintaining Usage Guidelines (UGs) aligned to one of the two most recent HVPS+ collections. In this context, 'interoperability' means minimising friction in the movement of payments across borders, and domestically, including translation without truncation.

1.2 The Journey

Many markets are now using the ISO 2022 standard for payments. The complex nature of ISO 2022 implementations, and the multi-year duration of some of migrations, have led to differences in message versions and UGs. Global differences in each of these can prevent interoperability or create processing friction.

Identifying interoperability as the aim, and collaboration on choices as the way to achieve it, a group of MIs that have implemented, or will be implementing, ISO 2022 discussed how they could achieve and gain lasting interoperability. The group, the HVPS+ Harmonisation Charter Taskforce, examined and discussed defining global market practice, how alignment could be achieved, the benefit of transparency of their own plans, and achieving a balance between overhead and benefit when considering frequency of upgrading UGs.

The principles and objectives laid out in this Charter are a direct result of these conversations. It is hoped that any Market Infrastructure (MI) implementing ISO 2022 will find this Charter serves their own implementation, providing guidance for migration and stability for their participants and customers for future interoperability, and removal of impediments to the evolution of their ISO 2022 messages.

2 Context

2.1 Global Market Practice

The following table describes some key authors of market practice, other stakeholders, and the role they play in relation to global market practice.

Player	Description
HVPS+	<p>High Value Payments Plus (HVPS+) is a self-governed and autonomous group, comprised of representatives of MIs from around the globe. Its mission is to drive better market practices and correct use of standards, to achieve full STP and improved customer outcomes. The HVPS+ group maintains a set of HVPS+ Message Usage Guidelines (MUGs or UGs) which acts a template for MIs to base their own message collection on to achieve interoperability and harmonisation.</p> <p>It has sponsored the creation of this Charter, the documentation and alignment of change management cycles (see next section) and is actively involved in the review and refinement of the HVPS+ UGs to improve alignment between HVPS+ and CBPR+.</p>
CBPR+	<p>Cross-border Payments and Reporting Plus (CBPR+) is a workgroup of payments experts whose mission is to create global ISO 2022 Market Practice and Implementation Guidelines to ensure a common roll-out and implementation of ISO 2022 by banks. CBPR+ UGs define how ISO 2022 messages are to be used and validated for cross border payments and cash reporting on the Swift network. CBPR+ is the specification used in the FINplus Closed User Group (CUG) administered by Swift. Country representation on CBPR+ is elected by the local Swift User Groups of the relevant countries. CBPR+ is supported by the Payment Standards Working Group (PSWG), a working group charged with the maintenance of the CBPR+ UGs.</p>
CGI-MP	<p>The Common Global Implementation Market Practice (CGI-MP) initiative aims to simplify various payment related corporate-to-bank implementations by promoting the wider acceptance of ISO 2022 XML. The initiative provides a forum for banks, bank associations, corporates, corporate associations, vendors, and MIs. The CGI group works to achieve its goals through consultation, collaboration, and agreement on common implementation templates for various ISO 2022 financial messages.</p>
CPMI	<p>The Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures (CPMI) is an international standard setter that promotes, monitors, and makes recommendations about the safety and efficiency of payment, clearing, settlement and related arrangements, thereby supporting financial stability and the wider economy. The CPMI also serves as a forum for central bank cooperation in related oversight, policy, and operational matters, including the provision of central bank services.</p> <p>CPMI is running a cross border programme, endorsed by the G20 Leaders, with the goals of improving access, speed, and transparency, and reducing the cost of cross border payments. CPMI has published a data model to promote consistency in the content of cross border payments. This data model is another piece in the jigsaw of interoperability between global market practice instances. CPMI is supported by several working groups, most relevant in this context is the PIE (Payment system Interoperability and Extension) Taskforce.</p>
MIs	<p>Market Infrastructures (MIs), in this context, are systemically important payment systems, often operated by central banks, typically providing real time gross settlement services (RTGS) for high value payments, and usually responsible for the development, maintenance and publication of local ISO 2022 UGs. In this context Swift, as administrator of the FINplus CUG and CBPR+, is also considered an MI. It is the alignment of these UGs (covered in the following sections of the Charter) with HVPS+ that is key to achieving interoperability and harmonisation.</p>

Player	Description
PMPG	The Payments Market Practice Group (PMPG) provides a global forum to drive better market practices which, together with correct use of standards, will help in achieving full straight-through processing and improved customer service. Its mission includes documentation and publication of recommended market practice and proposed best practice. It is comprised of country representatives from communities relevant in the global payments marketplace.
Swift	In the context of this Charter, Swift works with the financial community to identify candidate business areas for establishing global market practice and may facilitate and/or contribute to this work. It is not Swift's purpose to 'own' market practice. Relevant stakeholders, including other standardisation bodies, will also be involved. Swift plays an important role in supporting and coordinating the operation of groups such as HVPS+, CBPR+ and CGI-MP.

2.2 Change Management Cycles

The Change Management cycles for HVPS+ and CBPR+ are described in the '*HVPS+ Change Management Process*' document, available at www.hvpsplus.info. It is relevant in understanding how MIs can upgrade their UGs in alignment with the principles and objectives of the Charter.

3 ISO 2022 Payments Interoperability Principles

3.1 Interoperability Principles

The Charter sets out the following key principles for MIs:

Principle	Description
1. Live implementations should be kept current, aligning to one of the two most recent HVPS+ UG collections.	This means MIs running ISO 2022 should maintain their UGs such that they align with the latest, final, HVPS+ UGs, or the previous collection.
2. Live implementations should avoid any unnecessary variation from HVPS+ UGs to maximise interoperability. Where notable variation is deemed necessary, details and rationale should be shared with the HVPS+ Group.	<p>The emphasis here is on not varying from the HVPS+ UGs unless doing so to achieve improved cross-border interoperability that might be missing from the HVPS+ UGs, or if there is a compelling reason for a local or regional requirement.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is not envisaged that any restrictions or limitations imposed by HVPS+ would ever be removed from a local MI UG, as that could create unresolvable interoperability challenges. *</p>
3. New implementations should align to the most recent HVPS+ UG collection.	<p>When an MI is working on a new implementation of ISO 2022, UGs should be aligned with the latest HVPS+ UG collection.</p> <p>The objective is to avoid commencing a multi-year development and implementation project, starting with two- or three-year-old UGs that will be far out of date by the time they go live.</p> <p>Once live, these implementations should be maintained to align with Principle 1.</p>

* For example, if HVPS+ makes an element mandatory, an MI should not make it optional or remove it, as that could lead to a need to create data when translating for cross-border.

3.2 Information Sharing

Just as cross-group alignment between HVPS+ and CBPR+ has been formally included in the change management cycles for those groups, sharing of information between MIs will also be helpful for individual MI's planning, message development roadmaps, etc.

Although it may be infeasible for MIs to share details of their UGs whilst in development, or even when live, it should be possible for MIs to be transparent about their current message collections (message types and versions), roadmap or long-term schedule for future UG changes, and any market practice or release notes deemed non-sensitive and sharable.

Information shared by MIs will be available centrally at www.hvpsplus.info along with a template to help MIs share relevant information in a consistent format.

At minimum, all MIs supporting this Charter should make available a list of message types and versions in their collection, commentary on alignment (i.e., which HVPS+ UGs is their collection based upon, etc.), and a summary of the next one or two planned UG updates, covering message types, versions, alignment, and key or significant changes.

This information must be kept current and published at least annually.

3.3 Governance

This Charter is developed, published, and maintained by the HVPS+ group, and is accessible on www.hvpsplus.info. HVPS+ will review this Charter annually to ensure it remains current and fit for purpose.

Appendix A Endorsements

Endorsements are not given by MIs or those responsible for maintenance of ISO 2022 message collections, who might directly declare their support for the Charter's objectives and principles.

Endorsements are taken from other relevant and influential parties, who are able to offer useful encouragement to MIs to support the Charter.

The following groups and organisations have given their endorsement to this Charter, indicating their encouragement to MIs to support the Charter's principles and objectives.

- High Value Payment Systems Plus (HVPS+)
- Cross-Border Payments and Reporting Plus (CBPR+)
- Payments Market Practice Group (PMPG)

Appendix B MIs Declaring Support for the Charter

The following MIs have declared their support for the principles and objectives of the Charter:

- Australian Payments Network (HVCS)
- Bank of England (CHAPS)
- Cross-Border Payments and Reporting Plus (CBPR+)
- Eurosystem (T2)
- Federal Reserve Financial Services (Fedwire)
- Payments Canada (LYNX)
- Payments New Zealand (HVCS)
- South African Reserve Bank (SAMOS)
- Swiss National Bank & SIX Interbank Clearing (SIC)
- The Clearing House (CHIPS)