



March 26, 2026

---

# CACPA code STP formatting best practices

**Creditor agent and creditor account number formatting best practices for payments within or destined to Canada**

2025 CANADIAN PAYMENTS ASSOCIATION

This best practice document is copyrighted by the Canadian Payments Association. All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part, without express written permission by the Canadian Payments Association.

Payments Canada is the operating brand name of the Canadian Payments Association (CPA). For legal purposes we continue to use "Canadian Payments Association" (or the Association) in information related to rules, by-laws, and standards.

[payments.ca](https://payments.ca)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Introduction  | 4  |
| 2. Glossary of terms   | 4  |
| 3. Canadian financial institution identification                 | 6  |
| 4. CACPA code  | 6  |
| 4.1 Structure of CACPA Code                                      | 6  |
| 5. Creditor Information  | 7  |
| 6. Creditor account number clearing capacity                     | 8  |
| 7. Combination of CACPA code and creditor account number for STP | 9  |
| 8. Endorsing financial institutions                              | 11 |

# 1. Introduction

This industry best practice document is intended to help drive operational efficiencies and increase Straight Through Processing (STP) by providing precise formatting requirements for payments sent to or within Canada that identify the Creditor Agent (including the Branch Number/Transit Number) or the Creditor Account Number.

It is strongly recommended that all domestic and international payment originators follow these practices to prevent misdirected or delayed payments. This document provides specific guidance on the correct use of the CACPA code to identify a Payee Canadian financial institution and on the proper formatting of the Creditor Account Number.

This best practice document is not intended to create legal rights and obligations, but rather to express participants' common understanding of how to handle payment routing. Customers are encouraged to contact their financial institution for information regarding their rights and responsibilities vis-à-vis sending and receiving Lynx payment messages domestically as well as the Lynx leg of an international payment.

# 2. Glossary of terms

**"Association"** means the Canadian Payments Association;


**"Branch Number / Transit Number "**: A five-digit number that identifies a specific branch of a Canadian Financial Institution;

**"CACPA Code"**: Nine-digit numerical code assigned by the Association. The code consists of a leading zero, which precedes the specific three-digit Canadian financial institution, followed by the Branch Number / Transit Number on the national clearing system. It serves as a routing code in Canada;

**"Creditor" or "Payee"** means the person or entity, including a Receiving Participant, to whom the amount specified in a Payment Message is to be paid or credited, whether or not that person is the ultimate beneficiary of the amount;

**"ISO 20022"** means the standard that describes the agreed methodology used by the financial industry to create consistent message standards. ISO 20022 uses a modelling methodology to capture financial business areas, business transactions, and associated message flows in a syntax-independent way;

**"Member"** means a member of the Association;

**"Originator"** means the first sender of the first Payment Message in any Lynx funds transfer (e.g. instruction sent by  to a Lynx Participant to pay or to cause another Lynx Participant to pay);

**"Participant"** means a Member who is approved to participate in Lynx in accordance with the Lynx By-law;

**"Payment Message"** means an electronic message that contains Settlement Instructions and the information necessary for the Receiving Participant to make the amount of the payment finally and irrevocably available to the Payee;

**"Receiving Participant"** means a Participant that receives a Payment Message from another Participant;

**"Sending Participant"** means a Participant that sends a Payment Message to another Participant;

**"Straight Through Processing"** is an automated electronic payment or securities trade process that completes from start to finish without manual intervention.

**Note: Definitions of the Lynx by-law and rules apply to this document.**

### 3. Canadian financial institution identification

For efficient, automated payment routing in Canada, accurate identification of the Canadian Financial Institution (FI) and its specific branch account (transit number) is crucial. To address this requirement, the targeted approach involves utilizing the **CACPA code**.

### 4. CACPA code

These codes are ISO 20022 clearing system identification codes used in Swift payments, identifying individual financial institutions in Canada and their respective Branch Numbers / Transit Numbers, as noted above.

The CACPA code is placed in the Clearing System Member Identification element (FinInstnId/ClrSysMmbld/Mmbld) within ISO 20022 messages, such as the Financial Institution (FI) Credit Transfer (pacs.009), Customer Credit Transfer (pacs.008) or Credit Return (pacs.004) messages, to facilitate payment routing within Canada.

For Swift payments sent to Canada, providing the CACPA code to identify a Canadian FI is recommended to ensure STP and that the payment is sent to the correct Branch Number / Transit Number and payee account.

Since the CACPA code includes both the financial institution and the specific branch account (transit number), supplementing this element with a Bank Identifier Code (BIC) or name and address is optional. Canadian financial institutions can process payments with only the CACPA code, provided it is accurate and complete.

#### 4.1 Structure of CACPA Code

CACPA codes are a nine-digit number with the following structure:

- Structure: **0** (Leading Zero) + **III** (three-digit Institution Number) + **BBBBB** (five-digit Branch Number/Transit Number)
- Example Code: 005001722 (where Institution = 050 and Branch Number / Transit Number = 01722)

This 9-digit code provides details of the Canadian financial institution and the banking Branch Number /Transit Number where the creditor or payee's account is held.

### Example:

```
<CdtrAgt>
  <FinInstnId>
    <ClrSysMmbld>
      <ClrSysId>
        <Cd>CACPA</Cd>
      </ClrSysId>
    <Mmbld>005001722</Mmbld>
  </ClrSysMmbld>
</FinInstnId>
</CdtrAgt>
```

## 5. Creditor Information

In a Payment Message, the full name and address of the Creditor (payee) is mandatory under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 16<sup>1</sup> as well as the FINTRAC<sup>2</sup> Travel Rule for electronic funds and virtual currency transfers<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, all international payments (CBPR+)

---

<sup>1</sup>Payment transparency: Countries should ensure that financial institutions include required and accurate originator information, and required payee information, on payments or value transfers and related messages. This information should be structured to the extent possible and should remain with such payment or value transfer or related message throughout the payment chain.

Countries should ensure that financial institutions monitor payments or value transfers for the purpose of detecting those which lack required originator and/or payee information and take appropriate measures.

Countries should ensure that, in the context of processing payments or value transfers, financial institutions take freezing action and should prohibit conducting transactions with designated persons and entities, as per the obligations set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 1267 (1999) and its successor resolutions, and resolution 1373(2001), relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and terrorist financing, and resolutions relating to the prevention, suppression and disruption of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and its financing.

<sup>2</sup> The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC)

<sup>3</sup> The travel rule is the requirement to ensure that specific information (listed below) is included with the information sent or received in an EFT or a VC transfer. Information received under the travel rule cannot be removed from a transfer.

The travel rule is not a separate record keeping requirement, however, fulfilling it will help you meet your VC and EFT record keeping and reporting requirements.

EFT – travel rule

FEs, MSBs, FMSBs and casinos must include the travel rule information when they initiate an EFT for which an EFT record must be kept.

The required travel rule information for EFTs is:

- the name, address and account number or other reference number (if any) of the person or entity who requested the transfer (originator)

processed within Canada require the creditor's full legal name and full address, in addition to the creditor account number, to ensure regulatory compliance.

## 6. Creditor account number clearing capacity

Since the CACPA code includes both the Canadian FI details and the Branch Number / Transit Number of a specific Canadian FI, the Creditor account number may or may not include the branch account (transit number) details.

While some Canadian financial institutions require both the Branch Number / Transit Number and the Creditor's account number, others may only need the Creditor's account number.

To prevent rejections or manual repair, the Sending Participant or Originator must verify the required account number structure (i.e., whether the Branch Number / Transit Number should be included) directly with the payee or the payee's financial institution.

Once obtained, the account number should be placed in the Creditor Account field.

Formatting requirements for account numbers in Payment Messages can be found in Lynx Rule 10, Appendix II<sup>4</sup>.

### Example:

```
<CdtrAcct>  
<Id>
```

---

information);

- the name and address of the payee; and
- if applicable, the payee's account number or other reference number.

FEs, MSBs, FMSBs and casinos must also take reasonable measures to ensure that the travel rule information is included when they receive an EFT, either as an intermediary or as the final recipient.

When sending an incoming or outgoing EFT (after receiving it as an intermediary), FEs, MSBs, FMSBs, and casinos must include the travel rule information they received or obtained through reasonable measures.

VC – travel rule

FEs, MSBs and FMSBs must include the travel rule information when they send VC transfers, and must take reasonable measures to ensure that this information is included when they receive VC transfers which require a VC record to be kept.

The required travel rule information for VC transfers is:

- the name, address and the account number or other reference number (if any) of the person or entity who requested the transfer (originator information); and
- the name, address and the account number or other reference number (if any) of the payee.

<sup>4</sup> Effective November 24, 2025 Appendix II will be Appendix I.

```
<Othr>  
  <Id>1234567</Id>  
</Othr>  
</Id>  
</CdtrAcct>
```

## 7. Combination of CACPA code and creditor account number for STP

A combination of an accurate CACPA code and Creditor account number enables Straight Through Processing of both domestic and international payments in Canada.

The CACPA code helps route the payment to the correct Branch Number /Transit Number, while the correct account number ensures efficient processing for final credit to the payee.

The requirement is to provide the correct CACPA code and Creditor details, including the account number, full name, and address, to ensure seamless, efficient processing and streamline STP across Canadian financial institutions.

### Example (with Creditor information using Hybrid Postal Address format):

```
<CdtrAgt>  
  <FinInstnId>  
    <ClrSysMmbld>  
      <ClrSysId>  
        <Cd>CACPA</Cd>  
      </ClrSysId>  
      <Mmbld>005001722</Mmbld>  
    </ClrSysMmbld>  
  </FinInstnId>  
</CdtrAgt>  
<Cdtr>  
  <Nm>CREDITOR FULL NAME</Nm>  
<PstlAdr>
```

```
<TwnNm>Toronto</TwnNm>
<Ctry>CA</Ctry>
<AdrLine>1010 Full Street Name </AdrLine>
<AdrLine>Ontario M1D 3S3 </AdrLine>
</PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
<CdtrAcct>
  <Id>
    <Othr>
      <Id>1234567</Id>
    </Othr>
  </Id>
</CdtrAcct>
```

**Example (with Creditor information using Structured Postal Address format):**

```
<CdtrAgt>
  <FinInstnId>
    <ClrSysMmbld>
      <ClrSysId>
        <Cd>CACPA</Cd>
      </ClrSysId>
      <Mmbld>005001722</Mmbld>
    </ClrSysMmbld>
  </FinInstnId>
</CdtrAgt>
<Cdtr>
  <Nm>CREDITOR FULL NAME</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <StrtNm>Full Street Name</StrtNm>
    <BldgNb>1010</BldgNb>
    <PstCd>M1D 3S3</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Toronto</TwnNm>
    <CtrySubDvsn>Ontario</CtrySubDvsn>
    <Ctry>CA</Ctry>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
<CdtrAcct>
```

```
<Id>  
<Othr>  
  <Id>1234567</Id>  
</Othr>  
</Id>  
</CdtrAcct>
```

## 8. Endorsing financial institutions

- ATB Financial
- Bank of Montreal
- BNP Paribas
- The Bank of Nova Scotia
- Bank of America
- Bank of Canada
- Central 1 Credit Union
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec
- ICICI Bank Canada
- Laurentian Bank of Canada
- National Bank of Canada
- Royal Bank of Canada
- State Street
- The Toronto-Dominion Bank