

What's in an ISO® 20022 message?

ISO 20022-formatted messages capture individual data elements in XML tags. For example, <Nm>John Doe</Nm> could represent the name of the person initiating a payment. The tagging of each data element makes it easy to develop programs to automatically identify and process the information. Let's look at how much detail may be included in an ISO 20022-formatted postal address.



Non-ISO 20022 address fields

Many systems currently use free text lines, or open fields, with character limits on each line for an address. This allows address information to appear anywhere within the free-formatted lines. Here's an example:

120 South LaSalle Street, (Address Line 1; up to 35 characters)
Chicago 60690-0834 (Address Line 2; up to 35 characters)
Illinois (Address Line 3; up to 35 characters)

A person may be able to understand what is meant, but an automated system might make a mistake interpreting this, resulting in a processing error or other complications.



ISO 20022-formatted address elements

ISO 20022-formatted addresses have discrete elements for specific address information. This makes it easier to identify individual address components, such as the street name, building number, state or country, as well as a specific department within an organization.

Postal Address <PstlAdr>		
Address Type	<AdrTp>	(4 characters)
Department	<Dept>	(up to 70 characters)
Sub Department	<SubDept>	(up to 70 characters)
Street Name	<StrtNm>	(up to 70 characters)
Building Number	<BldgNb>	(up to 16 characters)
Building Name	<BldgNm>	(up to 35 characters)
Floor	<Flr>	(up to 70 characters)
Post Box	<PstBx>	(up to 16 characters)
Room	<Room>	(up to 70 characters)
Post Code	<PstCd>	(up to 16 characters)
Town Name	<TwnNm>	(up to 35 characters)
Town Location Name	<TwnLctnNm>	(up to 35 characters)
District Name	<DstrctNm>	(up to 35 characters)
Country Sub Division	<CtrySubDvsn>	(up to 35 characters)
Country	<Ctry>	(2 characters)
Address Line	<AdrLine>	(up to 70 characters, repetitive)



Example: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Here's how the address of the Procurement Services business unit in the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago would look in an ISO 20022 syntax:

```
<PstlAdr>
  <Dept>Procurement Services</Dept>
  <StrtNm>South LaSalle Street</StrtNm>
  <BldgNb>120</BldgNb>
  <PstCd>60690-0834</PstCd>
  <TwnNm>Chicago</TwnNm>
  <CtrySubDvsn>IL</CtrySubDvsn>
  <Ctry>US</Ctry>s
</PstlAdr>
```

This level of detail reduces errors in interpreting information and improves automation and reconciliation.