

TIPS R2026.NOV Update regarding the unstructured address for SCT Inst and NCT Inst schemes

TIPS CG – 10 JUNE 2026

In order to align TIPS to both the 2025 EPC SCT Inst Rulebook and SCT Inst IGs as well as the 2025 NPC NCT Inst Rulebook and NCT Inst IGs entering into force on 5 October 2025, it was agreed with the TIPS Working Group members to allocate **TIPS-0087-SYS** and **TIPS-0089-SYS** to the TIPS R2025.OCT release.

Among the requirements introduced by the EPC and NPC, the following one needed to be addressed in the CR:

- The possibility to distinguish and use one between structured, unstructured and hybrid postal addresses for Debtor and Creditor in pacs.008.001.08 (until 22 November 2026 at 03:30 CET. Afterwards only the use of structured and hybrid addresses will be allowed).*

This requirement would have entailed in TIPS three different validations (structured, unstructured and hybrid) to coexist until the 22 November 2026 at 3:30, after that date the checks performed by TIPS would have had to only consider two type of addresses: **structured** and **hybrid**. For this reason, an alignment fulfilling Postal Address requirements would have been postponed to R2026.NOV.

Moreover, both the EPC and NPC issued an update concerning the validity of the aforementioned requirement, announcing the revision of its effective date to **15 November 2026**.

- Taking into account the lessons learned from the R2026.JUN deployment strategy, and considering the concurrent ISO MR update, the EPC/NPC requirement may once again result in a two-step deployment approach - an option that was strongly opposed by market participants in June of this year.
- Therefore, in order to cope with that requirement, the following four deployment options are under consideration:
 - **Option 1**: Implementation of the software upgrade in parallel with the remainder of the release, commencing on Friday 13 November, within the RTGS maintenance window. This approach would replace the separate deployment of this specific component planned for Sunday 15 November as requested by the EPC.
 - **Option 2**: Deployment of a hotfix two weeks thereafter exclusively for alignment purposes on the basis of the assumption that participants will have achieved compliance by 15 November.
 - **Option 3**: Adoption of a two-step deployment approach consisting of an initial deployment on Friday 13 November, followed by a second deployment on Sunday 15 November.
 - **Option 4**: Delayed deployment on Sunday 15 November at 03:30 encompassing the T2, T2S, TIPS and RIX software upgrades.

▪ **Option 1 Software Upgrade to be implemented during RTGS Maintenance Window on 13 November, replacing separate deployment originally planned for 15 November:**

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 - For those who are not using unstructured postal address, an anticipation of the enforcement by a few hours would make no difference.
 - All TIPS actors will synchronize their deployments in the same window of the RTGS systems update, as requested for June.
 - Reduction of operational risks and costs is expected, as a second software upgrade is no longer required.

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 - Institutions currently relying on unstructured postal addresses may experience a higher rate of rejections; however, this risk could be mitigated through a targeted and well-structured information campaign.

▪ **Option 2 Hotfix Deployment two weeks later, assuming participants' compliance by 15 November:**

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 - TIPS Actors could decide on their preferred deployment strategy to ensure the requested compliance, in the absence of a formal enforcement from TIPS.
 - Institutions currently relying on unstructured postal addresses may continue to use it until the deadline of 15 November.

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 - A second update will be necessary to implement the hotfix; however, it will be scheduled within a more appropriate timeframe. This approach would also support the effective enforcement of compliance requirements for new joiners.

▪ **Option 3 Two-Step Deployment: initial rollout on 13 November, followed by second deployment on 15 November:**

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 - No dependency with other TARGET Services and external RTGS update.
 - Enforcement on the usage of Postal Address by TIPS as of the expected deadline.
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 - Increased operational risks and costs is expected, as a second software upgrade is required for TIPS stakeholders.
 - This option was already strongly objected by TIPS stakeholders in preparation of R2026.JUN.

▪ **Option 4 Delayed Deployment on 15 November at 03:30 covering T2, T2S, TIPS, and RIX software upgrades:**

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 - Only one deployment required.
 - All TIPS actors will synchronize their deployments in the same window of the RTGS systems update, as requested for June.
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 - Alignment of all the TARGET Services Governances seems at this stage rather difficult to obtain.
 - Upgrade of external RTGS systems (i.e. RIX) should be shifted accordingly, on Sunday 15.

- **Option 1** would be preferable in the absence of evidence demonstrating the use of the unstructured address by your communities.
- Otherwise, under **Option 2**, participants would be required to ensure compliance with the new scheme specifications as of 15 November and, consequently, to discontinue the use of the unstructured address.
- **Option 3** was not viewed favourably by market participants and 4CB; however, it remains a viable possibility.
- **Option 4** would result in a slightly delayed deployment with respect to the agreed TARGET Services release milestones for TS R2026.NOV.
- In this regard, the **TIPS Consultative Group members are invited to express their views** taking into consideration the respective advantages and disadvantages of the various options.

- As a preliminary assessment, the previously mentioned complexity in the deployment strategy is expected to become more pronounced in next year's November release due to the following initiatives:
 - ISO Maintenance Release 2027 alignment
 - Regular cycle of EPC/NPC scheme rulebooks update (i.e., impacting a wider set of messages and business cases)
 - Common Components update

Thank you for the attention!