

The changes implemented in the SEPA pacs.008 file will have a multi-faceted impact on users, affecting the way they provide information for credit transfers. Here's a breakdown of the key areas and how they might influence the user experience:

#### **Enhanced Creditor and Debtor Information:**

- **More Specific Addresses:** Users will now be required to provide more detailed postal address information for both the creditor (who receives the payment) and the debtor (who initiates the payment). This includes district names, town location names, and potentially even country subdivisions. This increased granularity can improve the accuracy and efficiency of payment deliveries, especially in areas with similar street names or for international transactions.
- **Improved Creditor Identification:** The introduction of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) for the creditor organization allows for more precise identification compared to just relying on the name. This is particularly beneficial when dealing with businesses that share similar names or operate in a global landscape.

#### **Streamlined Data Submission:**

- **Simplified Proxy Details:** The removal of the need to specify proxy types for creditor and debtor account proxies simplifies the data submission process. This reduces the number of fields users need to fill out, potentially saving time and minimizing errors during data entry.
- **Reduced Non-Essential Data:** By eliminating the requirement for elements like building name, floor number, post box number, and department details, the data burden on users is lessened. This streamlines the process and avoids collecting information that may not be crucial for successful payment completion.

#### **Adapting to Identifier Changes:**

- **BIC/BEI Deprecation:** The previous use of Business Identifier Codes (BIC) or BEI (Bank Entity Identifier) for various parties (creditor, debtor, agents) is no longer applicable. Users will need to adapt to using alternative identifiers, such as LEI for creditor organization or potentially IBAN (International Bank Account Number) for specific accounts. This might require updating internal systems and user interfaces to accommodate the new data format.

**Overall Impact:**

The goal of these changes appears to be a balance between achieving greater precision in payment information, particularly for creditor location and identification, and reducing the need for less critical data points. This can potentially improve the overall efficiency and accuracy of SEPA credit transfers. However, there will be an adjustment period for users who will need to become familiar with the updated data requirements and potentially modify their internal processes to accommodate the new format. Software providers and financial institutions can play a crucial role in supporting users during this transition by offering clear guidance and updating their systems to reflect the latest SEPA standards.