PAYMENTS SIGNAL REFERENCE ARCHITECTURE
SYNTHETIC / TRAINING ONLY

Correspondent banking and CBPR+ serial, cover, nostro, screening, and tracking architecture

Connects payment information, bilateral account movement, serial and cover routes, screening holds, beneficiary posting, investigations, and nostro reconciliation.

Version: Payments Signal reference architecture v1
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REFERENCE POSTURE

The diagram compresses a potentially long correspondent chain into one serial or cover component. Bilateral account terms, credit policies, screening obligations, charges, foreign exchange, cut-offs, and posting sequence differ by institution and currency. Current CBPR+ and authorised bilateral documentation remain controlling.

COMPONENTS

01 Ordering customer and debtor agent [actor]
Owner: Ordering customer and debtor-agent payments team
Creates and approves the cross-border payment instruction.

02 Correspondent route and SSI service [service]
Owner: Payment product and reference-data operations
Selects a reachable chain and the standing settlement instructions for the currency and accounts.

03 Cross-border screening and hold control [control]
Owner: Financial crime operations
Screens the parties and payment text at each institution that has a control obligation.

04 Sending bank customer and nostro books [ledger]
Owner: Core banking, treasury operations, and finance
Records the customer position, correspondent claim, charges, and expected settlement evidence.

05 Serial correspondent chain [external-network]
Owner: Correspondent banks in the selected chain
Passes the customer transfer through intermediaries while each link settles across its own bilateral accounts.

06 Cover settlement chain [external-network]
Owner: Reimbursement agents and correspondent banks
Carries the interbank cover separately while the customer-transfer instruction goes directly to the beneficiary agent.

07 Beneficiary agent and customer books [ledger]
Owner: Beneficiary-agent payment operations and core banking
Determines whether the beneficiary may be credited and records the final customer outcome.

08 Investigations, recalls, and reconciliation [operations]
Owner: Cross-border payment operations and nostro reconciliation
Finds the last confirmed instruction, settlement, and ledger state across institutions.

INTERFACES

01 Approved cross-border intent
corr-originator -> corr-routing | message | asynchronous

02 Routed payment for control

corr-routing -> corr-screening | control | synchronous

03 Cleared posting instruction

corr-screening -> corr-sender-nostro | posting | synchronous

04 Serial customer transfer

corr-sender-nostro -> corr-serial | message | asynchronous

05 Cover settlement instruction

corr-sender-nostro -> corr-cover | settlement | asynchronous

06 Serial payment and value

corr-serial -> corr-beneficiary | settlement | asynchronous

07 Cover evidence

corr-cover -> corr-beneficiary | settlement | asynchronous

08 Status, return, and reporting

corr-beneficiary -> corr-investigations | message | asynchronous

09 Recall or investigation outcome

corr-investigations -> corr-originator | message | asynchronous

TRACES AND STRESS CASES

TRACE: CBPR+ customer transfer with cover

1. Approve the cross-border payment - Customer authorised
2. Choose the cover route - Route selected
3. Clear the route and parties - Control cleared
4. Record the sender-side position - Released for network
5. Send interbank cover - Cover submitted
6. Match instruction and cover - Funds received
7. Credit the beneficiary - Beneficiary credited
8. Report and reconcile - Reported and reconciled

STRESS: Customer leg arrives before cover

Settlement: Settlement remains unconfirmed for the beneficiary agent.

Funds: Beneficiary credit follows the bank’s controlled pending-cover policy; no duplicate cover is sent.

Owner: Beneficiary payment operations and nostro investigations

Safe action: Hold or pend under policy, trace the pacs.009 COV by original references, and do not manufacture settlement evidence.

STRESS: Intermediary screening hold

Settlement: Depends on the exact link at which the hold occurred; do not infer final settlement.

Funds: Customer debit and correspondent entries may already exist; the held bank controls onward movement.

Owner: Holding bank financial crime operations with correspondent investigations

Safe action: Preserve the hold, answer requests through authorised channels, and establish settlement and ledger state before any funds action.

STRESS: Recall after settlement

Settlement: Settlement has occurred; a recall request does not reverse finality by itself.

Funds: Funds are with the beneficiary unless recovered under the applicable process and consent or law.

Owner: Cross-border investigations at both agents

Safe action: Send a correlated recall or investigation request, state the completed settlement, and never promise recovery before a confirmed response.