



Hosted solution to screen all transaction formats

Benefits

- Ready to use
Cost-effective
Real-time
No infrastructure

Sanctions Screening

A quick and easy route to compliance with sanctions regulations

Financial institutions face increasing regulatory pressure to maintain strong sanctions compliance programmes. In some cases, correspondent relationships are being terminated by banks over concerns about the risk of noncompliance by their counterparties. Smaller institutions feel the need to enhance their compliance activities in this context, but finding the right solution can be a challenge in terms of cost and human resources.

Successful sanctions compliance requires a combination of processes, systems and human expertise. Institutions need a reliable, resilient filter to screen transactions, and accurate, up-to-date sanctions lists. Filters are expensive to install and maintain, and the constant evolution of sanctions lists adds to the complexity, cost and risk. A hosted service from trusted provider can offer the best solution.

Transaction screening made easy

SWIFT developed Sanctions Screening to address this need for a simple, cost-effective transaction screening solution. Sanctions Screening combines a highly sophisticated screening engine and regular list updates with SWIFT's security, reliability and resilience. Hundreds of institutions worldwide have chosen Sanctions Screening since its introduction in 2012.

Sanctions Screening is a ready-to-use solution that is simple to install and easy to use. With no impact on your infrastructure and no software to maintain, the service is faster to implement and less expensive to operate than an in-house system.

“We chose Sanctions Screening because it is simple to implement and easy to use. Sanctions Screening is very effective, user friendly, works well with our other systems, and is supported by SWIFT’s excellent reputation for security, reliability and customer service.”

Once activated, Sanctions Screening automatically routes messages in certain predefined categories to a centrally hosted filter where they are matched against your choice of sanctions lists. The screening engine checks for possible matches, using logical tests to detect anagrams, inversion of letters, missing letters, misspellings, abbreviations and phonetic similarities.

SWIFT manages the screening engine and is responsible for configuring and maintaining the screening algorithm, including sensitivity thresholds. These settings apply to all Sanctions Screening users, making the filter user-friendly while meeting common needs in terms of regulatory requirements.

Your interactions with the service (configuration, handling of alerts, audits and reporting) are handled through secured internet access to the Sanctions Screening portal, in line with SWIFT's world-class security standards.

Worry-free list management

Sanctions lists evolve on a daily basis on average, and one list update can involve dozens or even hundreds of changes.

With Sanctions Screening, SWIFT fully manages the list update process, including quality checks. The service screens transactions against all major public sanctions lists, including OFAC, United Nations, Europe and HMT. You select which lists you want applied to your transactions.

In addition to public sanctions lists, you can maintain your own private lists. You can also set up an individual "good guys" list to reduce the volume of alerts you receive.

Flexible setup options

Sanctions Screening offers two setup choices so you can choose the one that best fits your needs. Both setup choices are fully hosted by SWIFT.

The Copy-based approach lets you directly screen incoming and outgoing FIN messages, but not other message formats.

The Connector-based approach lets you screen all message formats (such as FIN, ISO 20022 and SEPA), including non-SWIFT messages.

You can customise your workflow and meet more specific requirements. This approach does require having a piece of software embedded within your SWIFT interface.

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"SWIFT's Sanctions Screening is an easy-to-implement, user-friendly and cost-effective service that gives our anti-money laundering programme added assurance."
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Blocking/non-blocking mode

Sanctions Screening lets you handle flagged transactions in line with your overall compliance and operational processes. The filter can be set in blocking or non-blocking mode, by list.

In blocking mode, all suspicious transactions are blocked until you provide a decision to release, abort or flag the transaction. In non-blocking mode, the Sanctions Screening service generates alerts but does not impact the transaction delivery.

Leading-edge technology

The Sanctions Screening core application is sourced from FircoSoft, a market-leading vendor with a proven track record in transaction screening.

In addition, SWIFT has commissioned an independent party to conduct regular reviews of the effectiveness of the Sanctions Screening service. The results of these reviews are available to service users.

Reporting

The service provides you with a full set of reports which includes information required for auditing and reporting such as screening parameters, alert decisions, most relevant matches, as well as sanctions list content.

What our customers say

"We chose Sanctions Screening because it is simple to implement and easy to use. Sanctions Screening is very effective, user friendly, works well with our other systems, and is supported by SWIFT's excellent reputation for security, reliability and customer service."

Kheireddine Mermioui, Head of IT and SWIFT, Arab Maghreb Bank for Investment and Trade (BAMIC ALGER)

"SWIFT's Sanctions Screening is an easy-to-implement, user-friendly and cost-effective service that gives our anti-money laundering programme added assurance. SWIFT provides the tool that enables us to mitigate potential risks in our day-to-day business."

Jorge Osvaldo López García, Deputy Compliance Director, Grupo Financiero Banorte

For more information, please contact your SWIFT account manager or visit www.swift.com/sanctionsscreening.