

GUIDANCE ON REASON CODES FOR NCT INST R-TRANSACTIONS

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Version History

Version	Date	Edited by	Comments
0.1	2020-02-19	NPC	First version of the document, draft
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1.0	2020-08-20	NPC	Decided version at the Scheme Management Committee (SMC) 20 th of August 2020
1.1	2021-04-30	NPC	Agreed by NCT & NCT Inst 29 March 2021.
			Layout update and 'answer' changed to
			'response' throughout the document.



1 NCT R-transaction definition

The content of this document applies to the NPC Inst Credit Transfer (NCT Inst) rulebook effective as of 19 February 2021.

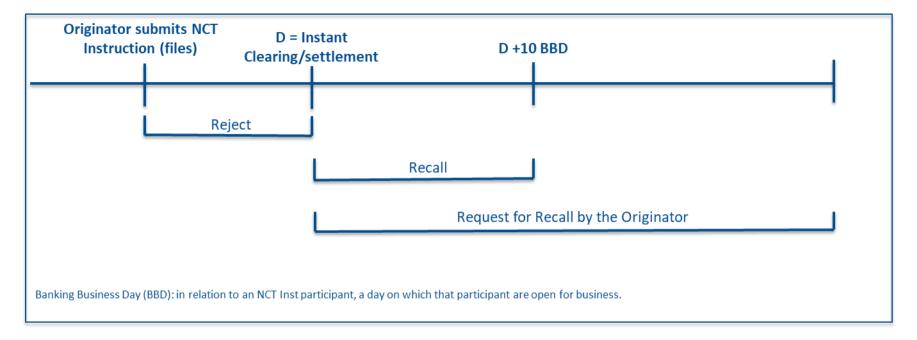
Some NCT Inst transactions require exception handling, because one of the parties involved does not or cannot process the transaction in the normal way. This exception handling involves the sending of messages called R-transactions because their names all start with an R: Rejects, Recalls, Request for Recall by the Originator (RFRO) and Returns. The definitions of the various R-transactions are outlined in the Exception Processing Flow section of the NCT Inst Rulebook.

The type of R-transaction used depends on the point in time in the processing chain at which the R-transaction is initiated or sent as well as on the party initiating or sending the R-transaction. The process of exception handling starts at the point in the process where the problem is detected.

It is important to note that an NCT Inst scheme participant must channel Rejects, Recalls, RFROs through the same Clearing and Settlement Mechanism (CSM1) used for the clearing and settlement of the initial NCT Inst transaction, unless otherwise agreed between the NCT Inst scheme participants.

The R-transactions and the NCT Inquiries foreseen within the NCT Inst scheme must be processed within the timeline described below. It is pointed out that the Beneficiary Bank is in breach with the NCT Inst Rulebook if it does not send **its response** to a Recall or a RFRO within **15** Banking Business Days following the receipt of the Recall or the RFRO from the Originator Bank.





2 Issues reported in the use of NPC Inst R-transactions reason codes

Some NCT Inst scheme participants, when acting as a Beneficiary Bank, are not applying the correct R-transaction reason codes. Therefore, all scheme participants are reminded to use the correct NCT R-transaction reason codes described in the NCT rulebook.

Section 3 of this document provides guidance to the NCT Inst scheme participants about the reason codes to be used to report specific NCT Inst transaction issues, NCT Inst inquiries and related responses.

NCT Inst scheme participants should avoid the use of general codes when a more precise reason can be given which is not legally forbidden in the country of the Beneficiary Bank.



3 Guidance in using NCT Inst R-transaction reason codes

Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
AB05	Timeout Credi- tor Agent	Rulebook or IGs Transaction stopped due to timeout at the Creditor Agent.	R-trans. Reject.	Cases Beneficiary Bank has not re- ceived the initial NCT Inst Trans- action within the time-out dead- line defined by the NCT Inst rule- book, or within a shorter time- line agreed on a bi/multilateral basis.	Connection, processing or valida- tion issue at any step starting from the Originator Bank, across the CSM(s) up to the Beneficiary Bank.	 Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT); Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay.
AB06	Timeout In- structed Agent	Transaction stopped due to timeout at the In- structed Agent.	Reject.	 Any CSM between the Originator Bank and the Beneficiary Bank has not received the initial NCT Inst Transaction within the time-out deadline defined by the NCT Inst rulebook, or within a shorter timeline agreed be- tween NCT Inst scheme partici- pants on a bi/multilateral basis; The CSM of the Beneficiary Bank has not received any con- firmation message at all about the NCT Inst Transaction from the Beneficiary Bank within the time-out deadline defined by the NCT Inst rulebook, or within a shorter timeline agreed be- tween NCT Inst scheme partici- pants on a bi/multilateral basis. 	Connection, processing or valida- tion issue at any step starting from the Originator Bank, across the CSMs up to the Beneficiary Bank and back to the CSM of the Benefi- ciary Bank.	 Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT) Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
AB07	Offline Agent	Agent of message is not online. Ge- neric usage if it cannot be deter- mined who exactly is not online.	Reject.	The connection infrastructure of a CSM between the Originator Bank and the Beneficiary Bank is unavailable to transmit and/or to process any type of NCT Inst scheme-related message.	The connection to and from the CSM is not available.	 Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT); Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay.
AB08	Offline Creditor Agent	Creditor Agent is not online.	Reject.	The connection to and from the Beneficiary Bank is unavailable to transmit and/or to process any type of NCT Inst scheme-re- lated message.	The connection to and from the Beneficiary Bank is not available.	 Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT); Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay.
AB09	Error Creditor Agent	Transaction stopped due to er- ror at the Creditor Agent.	Reject.	Transaction process aborted due to an error at the Beneficiary Bank.	(A part of) the NCT Inst service at the Beneficiary Bank is not availa- ble.	 Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay; or Originator Bank to suggest to the Origi- nator to resubmit the NCT Inst transac- tion or to use an alternative payment in- strument.
AB10	Error Instructed Agent	Transaction stopped due to er- ror at the In- structed Agent.	Reject.	Transaction process aborted due to an error at the CSM.	(A part of) the NCT Inst service at the CSM is not available.	 Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative solution to pay; or Originator Bank to suggest to the Origi- nator to resubmit the NCT Inst transac- tion or to use an alternative payment in- strument.
AC01	Incorrect Ac- count Number	Account identifier invalid or incorrect	Reject <i>,</i> Return.	Reject: • Invalid format of the IBAN;	 Beneficiary gave invalid IBAN; 	Originator to contact the Beneficiary to get the correct IBAN of the Beneficiary.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
		(i.e. invalid IBAN or account number does not exist).		 IBAN not existing at the Bene- ficiary Bank level. Return: IBAN not existing at Ben- eficiary Bank level. 	 Originator used wrong IBAN data from its customers' database; Originator had technical problem during the processing of the NCT in- struction issuance. 	
AC03	Invalid Creditor Account Num- ber	Wrong unique identifier of the Beneficiary ac- count.	RFRO.	Originator has made an NCT Inst transaction which was ad- dressed to a wrong IBAN.	Originator itself selected or entered a wrong IBAN of the Beneficiary when issuing the NCT Inst instruc- tion.	Originator: • Adapt this internal NCT instruction issu- ance processes to avoid the selection of a wrong IBAN in the future; • Pay more attention in selecting/ enter- ing the IBAN when issuing a NCT instruc- tion.
AC04	Closed Account Number	Account closed.	Return, Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO.	The account of the Beneficiary is closed at the Beneficiary Bank. Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection. MS03 could be used as an alternative.	Beneficiary closed his account since the last time the Originator made a NCT instruction to this Beneficiary.	Originator to contact the Beneficiary for the new account.
AC06	Blocked Ac- count	Account blocked.	Return.	Account blocked for any finan- cial transaction.	 Beneficiary Bank has blocked the account due to a Court Order; Beneficiary Bank has blocked the account (e.g., suspicion of misuse, request from the Beneficiary). 	Originator to contact the Beneficiary for alternative account/ solution to pay.
AG01	Transaction Forbidden	Credit transfer for- bidden on this ac- count (e.g., savings account).	Return.	An NCT transaction cannot be booked on this type of account.	Beneficiary gave information of an account on which NCT transactions cannot be booked.	Originator to contact the Beneficiary to agree on another payment instrument.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
AG02	Invalid Bank Operation Code	Operation code/ transaction code incorrect, invalid file format.	Reject <i>,</i> Return.	The identification code of the scheme (i.e. service level or local instrument) specified in the message is incorrect. For specific XML file setting is- sues (i.e. invalid file format), please use FF01 instead.	Originator: technical error or error due to the processing of the NCT transaction or the file containing NCT instructions.	Originator to correct the wrong infor- mation.
AG09	Payment Not Received	Original payment never received	Reject.	The Beneficiary Bank or the CSM has never received the NCTInst transaction which the NCTInst transaction status investigation message refers to.	 a) The NCTInst transaction status investigation message is addressed to the wrong Beneficiary Bank. The cause may be the Originator Bank itself or a CSM. b) The Beneficiary Bank is the intended Beneficiary Bank in the NCTInst transaction. The cause may be a connection or a processing issue. 	 a) Originator Bank or the CSM to address the NCTInst transaction status investiga- tion message to the correct Beneficiary Bank. b) Originator Bank to investigate the con- crete issue and inform the Originator about the failed transaction.
AG10	Agent Sus- pended	Agent of message is suspended from the Real Time Pay- ment system	Reject.	Any agent in the chain following the Originator Bank up to the Beneficiary Bank is (temporarily) suspended. This code must be used when it cannot be determined whether it is the Beneficiary Bank itself or another agent in the chain which is (temporarily) sus- pended.	The overseer of the concerned agent has (temporarily) suspended this agent.	 Originator Bank to determine an alternative route through which its NCT Inst transaction can be sent to the Beneficiary Bank; Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT).



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
AG11	Creditor Agent Suspended	Creditor Agent of message is sus- pended from the Real Time Payment system.	Reject.	The concerned Beneficiary Bank to which the NCT Inst transac- tion has been sent to, is (tempo- rarily) suspended.	The overseer of the Beneficiary Bank or the CSM of the Beneficiary Bank has (temporarily) suspended the Beneficiary Bank.	Originator to contact the Beneficiary for details of an alternative Beneficiary Bank.
AM02	Not Allowed Amount	Amount exceeds the maximum au- thorized amount for NCT Inst.	Reject.	The amount of the NCT Inst in- struction/ transaction exceeds the scheme default maximum amount or a bi/multilaterally agreed higher NCT Inst instruc- tion/ transaction amount.	 The concerned Originator Bank and/or the Beneficiary Bank has no bi/multilateral agreement on a higher maximum amount with any other NCT Inst scheme participant; The Originator submits an NCT Inst instruction for an amount higher than the bi/multilaterally amount agreed between the Origi- nator Bank and the concerned Ben- eficiary Bank. 	 Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to split up the desired total amount in two or more NCT Inst instructions with amounts lower than the NCT Inst scheme default (or the bi/multilaterally agreed higher) maximum amount. Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to use the NCT instrument
AM04	Insufficient Funds	Insufficient funds on the account.	Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO.	There are not enough funds on the Beneficiary's account to debit the full amount of the Re- call or of the RFRO. Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection or other na- tional agreements. CUST could be used as an alternative.	Insufficient funds on the Beneficiary's account.	Originator (and Originator Bank if it con- cerns a Recall due to an error made by the Originator Bank itself) to contact the Beneficiary directly to obtain back the funds outside the Recall - or the RFRO procedures of the NCT scheme.
AM05	Duplication	Duplicate pay- ment.	Reject, Re- turn.	CSM or Beneficiary Bank consid- ers that an identical NCT trans- action had been sent or pro- cessed very recently.	Originator/ Originator Bank: tech- nical or human error.	Originator/ Originator Bank to check if the transaction is really duplicated.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the Rulebook or IGs	Type of R-trans.	Exhausted list of use- Cases	Possible root cause	Suggested action
AM09	Wrong Amount	Wrong amount.	RFRO.	Originator has made an NCT in- struction for an amount higher than intended.	Originator: technical or human er- ror.	Originator to adapt this internal NCT in- struction issuance processes to avoid transferring wrong amounts in the future.
AM23	Amount Ex- ceeds Settle- ment Limit	Transaction amount exceeds settlement limit.	Reject.	The Originator Bank has insuffi- cient (pre-funded) interbank NCT Inst settlement guarantees available to meet its settlement obligation for this specific NCT Inst transaction.	 Sudden peak of NCT Inst transactions for this NCT Inst scheme participant in its role of Originator Bank; Originator Bank is unable to top up its interbank NCT Inst settlement guarantee; The monitoring service on the remaining NCT Inst settlement guarantees of the Originator Bank fails and the Originator Bank does not note this failure. 	 Originator Bank to replenish its interbank NCT Inst settlement guarantees as soon as possible; Originator Bank to suggest to the Originator to re-issue an NCT Inst transaction at a later stage or to use another instrument (e.g., NCT); Originator to contact the Beneficiary for an alternative solution to pay.
ARDT	The Transac- tion Has Al- ready Been Re- turned	Already returned transaction.	Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO; Negative re- sponse to NCT Inquiry "Claim Non- Receipt".	 Negative response to a Recall or to a RFRO: the Beneficiary has already transferred back the funds to the Originator (via SCT, NCT Inst or another payment means). Negative response to NCT In- quiry "Claim Non- Receipt": The Beneficiary Bank had not been able to process the initial NCT transaction. 	• Not applicable. See the provided Return reason code for the NCT transaction.	• No action. See the suggested actions for the NCT Re- turn reason code.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
BEO4	Missing Credi- tor Address	Account address invalid.	Return.	Address of the Beneficiary is not provided in the NCT transaction.	Either the Originator Bank or the Beneficiary Bank in the transaction is based in a non-EEA SEPA country.	Originator Bank to ask the Originator to provide the address of the Beneficiary.
CNOR	Creditor Bank Is Not Registered	Beneficiary bank is not registered un- der this BIC in the CSM.	Reject, Return.	Beneficiary Bank is not/ no longer registered as a NCT scheme participant under this BIC at the CSM.	Beneficiary Bank not/ no longer de- clared as (indirect) participant to this CSM.	Originator to ask the Beneficiary how that Beneficiary can receive NCT transactions via another Bank.
CUST	Requested By Customer	a. By request of the Originator without any rea- son specified. b. Refusal by the Beneficiary.	a. RFRO. b. Negative response to a Recall or to a RFRO.	a. Originator wishes to recover the funds of an earlier settled NCT transaction. b. Beneficiary does not want to honour the Recall or the RFRO.	 a. The Originator does not give a specific reason to recover the funds. b. Beneficiary claims to be entitled to the received funds. 	a. No action. b. Originator (and Originator Bank if it concerns a Recall due to an error made by the Originator Bank itself) to contact the Beneficiary directly to obtain back the funds outside the Recall or the RFRO pro- cedures of the NCT scheme.
DNOR	Debtor Bank Is Not Registered	Originator bank is not registered under this BIC in the CSM.	Reject.	Originator Bank is not/no longer registered as a NCT scheme par- ticipant under this BIC at the CSM.	The Originator Bank sends NCT transactions by mistake to its for- mer CSM.	 Originator Bank to rout its NCT transaction to its current CSM; Contact Originator to agree on another means of payment with the Beneficiary.
DUPL	Duplicate Pay- ment	Duplicate Sending.	Recall.	Originator or Originator Bank detects itself a duplicate NCT transaction and tries to recover the funds of this duplication.	Originator/ Originator Bank: tech- nical or human error.	Originator and/or Originator Bank: no ac- tion apart of setting up measures pre- venting the duplicate initiation and/or ex- change of NCT transactions from happen- ing in the future.
FF01	Invalid File For- mat	Operation/ trans- action code incor- rect, invalid file format.	Reject	Issues with XML-file specific settings:XML file was not duly filled out or is not correct;	 Originator; Originator Bank; CSM. 	Repair the XML file.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
				 There is a syntax error in the file; Originator Bank or its CSM did not complete an XSD check before submitting the file. 		
FOCR	Following Cancellation Request	Positive response to the Recall.	Positive re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO.	Beneficiary Bank or the Benefi- ciary accepts the Recall request or the RFRO to reimburse the funds to the Originator or to the Originator Bank.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
FRAD	Fraudulent Origin	Fraudulent origi- nated credit trans- fer.	Recall.	Originator or Originator Bank detects a fraudulent NCT trans- action and tries to recover the funds.	 Originator claims to be a victim of a fraudulently executed NCT trans- action; Fraudsters manipulated the NCT applications or systems of the Origi- nator Bank to execute afterwards fraudulent transactions. 	Originator and/or Originator Bank: no ac- tion apart of setting up measures pre- venting such fraudulent NCT transactions from happening in the future.
LEGL	Legal Decision	Legal reasons.	Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO.	Beneficiary Bank is not allowed to reimburse the funds following the Recall or the RFRO from the Originator Bank.	The funds cannot be reimbursed for legal reasons.	Originator (and Originator Bank if it con- cerns a Recall due to an error made by the Originator Bank itself) to contact the Beneficiary directly to obtain back the funds outside the Recall or the RFRO pro- cedures of the NCT scheme.
MD07	End Customer Deceased	Beneficiary de- ceased.	Return.	Beneficiary deceased Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection. In this case MS03 can be used as alterna- tive.	Not applicable.	No action.



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Code	ISO definition	Reason in the Rulebook or IGs	Type of R-trans.	Exhausted list of use- Cases	Possible root cause	Suggested action
M502	Not Specified Reason Cus- tomer Gener- ated	By order of the Beneficiary.	Return.	Refusal by Beneficiary at presen- tation of the NCT transaction to the Beneficiary Bank.	The Beneficiary Bank acts on behalf of the Beneficiary following an in- struction from the Beneficiary for not accepting funds from a specific account, Originator or via a specific payment scheme.	Originator to contact the Beneficiary di- rectly how the Originator should settle any financial obligation towards the Ben- eficiary.
MS03	Not Specified Reason Agent Gener- ated	Reason not speci- fied.	Reject, Re- turn.	Only to be used in case national legislation (e.g., data protection laws) does not allow the use of AC04, RR01, RR02, RR03 and RR04. Note: limit the use of the rea- son code MS03 and select the appropriate reason code in the list.		Originator to contact the Beneficiary di- rectly how the Originator should settle any financial obligation towards the Ben- eficiary.
NOAS	No Answer from Customer	No response from Beneficiary.	Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO.	Originator or Originator Bank tries to recover funds from a previously executed NCT trans- action.	 Beneficiary Bank is not able to reach the Beneficiary; The Beneficiary does not reply to the authorization demands from the Beneficiary Bank to reimburse the funds to the Originator or the Originator Bank. 	Originator (and Originator Bank if it con- cerns a Recall due to an error made by the Originator Bank itself) to contact the Beneficiary directly to obtain back the funds outside the Recall -or the RFRO procedures of the NCT scheme.
NOOR	No Original Transaction Re- ceived	Original Credit Transfer never re- ceived.	Negative re- sponse to a Recall or to a RFRO; Negative re- sponse to NCT Inquiry "Claim Non- Receipt".	Beneficiary Bank or Beneficiary denies having received the initial NCT transaction.	 Recall or RFRO: this request has been addressed to the wrong Bene- ficiary Bank or Beneficiary. Negative response to NCT Inquiry "Claim Non- Receipt": The Benefi- ciary Bank has not received the ini- tial NCT transaction. 	Originator Bank to address the Recall, the RRO or the NCT Inquiry to the correct Beneficiary Bank or Beneficiary.



Code	ISO definition	Reason in the Rulebook or IGs	Type of R-trans.	Exhausted list of use- Cases	Possible root cause	Suggested action
RR01	Missing Debtor Account or Identification	Regulatory Rea- son.	Reject, Return.	Missing Originator account de- tails.	Specification of the Originator's ac- count or unique identification needed for reasons of regulatory re- quirements is insufficient or miss- ing.	Originator Bank to check the transaction and if necessary, repair the transaction by completing the Originator account.
RR02	Missing Debtor's Name or Address	Regulatory Rea- son.	Reject, Return.	 Missing Originator name (address is optional field for EEA NCT transactions); Missing address of the Originator for non-EEA NCT transactions. Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection. MS03 could be used as an alternative. 	Specification of the Originator's name and/or address needed for regulatory requirements is insuffi- cient or missing.	Originator Bank to repair the transaction by completing the Originator's name and/or address information
RR03	Missing Credi- tor's Name or Address	Regulatory Rea- son.	Reject, Return.	Missing Beneficiary's name (ad- dress is optional field). Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection. MS03 could be used as an alternative.	Specification of the Beneficiary's name needed for regulatory re- quirements is insufficient or miss- ing.	Originator Bank to repair the transaction by completing the Beneficiary's name.
RR04	Regulatory Reason	Regulatory Rea- son.	Reject, Return; Negative re- sponse to	Only to be used for Regulatory Reasons other than RR01, RR02 or RR03.	Potential hit due to AML, Embargo or Counter-Terrorist-Financing rea- sons.	Originator to contact the Originator Bank.



Reference: NPC020-01 2020 Version 1.1

Code	ISO definition	Reason in the	Type of	Exhausted list of use-	Possible root cause	Suggested action
		Rulebook or IGs	R-trans.	Cases		
			NCT Inquiry "Claim Non- Receipt".	Note: This code cannot be used in certain countries for reasons of data protection. MS03 could be used as an alternative ex- cept to a negative response to an NCT Inquiry "Claim Non- Re- ceipt" (please refer to the code RJNR).		
TECH	Technical Prob- lem	Technical prob- lems resulting in erroneous NCTs.	Recall.	Originator or Originator Bank	 Technical issue at the applications or systems of the Originator itself when creating the NCT instruc- tion(s) or files; Technical issue at the NCT applica- tions or systems of the Originator Bank itself when handling the NCT instruction(s)/ files or in their con- version into NCT transactions for further interbank processing. 	Originator and/or Originator Bank: no ac- tion apart of setting up measures pre- venting such technical problems from happening in the future.
TM01	Cut Off Time	File received after Cut-off Time.	Reject.	The CSM has not received the initial NCT transaction (files) within the cut-off time deadline defined by that CSM.	Connection, processing or validation is- sue at any step starting from the Origi- nator Bank to the CSM(s).	Originator Bank to re-submit the NCT transac- tions before the next cut-off time.