

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its 2023.2 session, the Postal Operations Council (POC), in accordance with article 113.1.13 of the General Regulations as well as article 17 of the POC Rules of Procedure, examined and approved certain proposed amendments to the Universal Postal Convention Regulations (and their Final Protocol) and to the Postal Payment Services Regulations, as set out in Annex 1.

The following tables show the numbers and titles of the relevant articles, as further detailed in Annex 1 (presented in numerical order). The amendments will enter into force on the dates indicated below.¹

Convention Regulations and Final Protocol

Volume I Rules in common

<i>Article</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>
08-002	Implementing provisions for providing electronic advance data	1 September 2025
17-010	Transfer of mails	1 March 2024
20-001	Items subject to customs control	1 September 2025

Volume II Letter Post Regulations

<i>Article</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>
31-122	Remuneration for returned undeliverable letter-post items	1 January 2025

¹ In accordance with article 18 of the POC Rules of Procedure, the International Bureau has renumbered the paragraphs under the provisions referred to herein with a view to correctly reflecting their order in the consolidated version of the Regulations.

Final Protocol

<i>Form</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>
Article R VIII	Items subject to customs control	The date of this circular ²
Article R XLIV	Formalities to be complied with by the sender	The date of this circular ²

Postal Payment Services Regulations

<i>Article</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>
RP 901	Confidentiality of data	1 July 2024
RP 1001	Combination of technologies	1 July 2024
RP 1106	Procedures for remuneration between designated operators	1 July 2024
RP 1201	Quality of service for postal payment orders sent by electronic means	1 July 2024
RP 1202	Collective brand	1 July 2024
RP 1301	Conditions of interoperability and centralized settlement	1 July 2024
RP 1401	Network security	1 July 2024
RP 1501	Track and trace	1 July 2024
RP 1607	Frequency of connections to system	1 July 2024
RP 1709	Treatment of irregular postal payment orders	1 July 2024
RP 2509	Instalment	1 July 2024

Yours faithfully,

Ricardo Guilherme Filho
Director of Legal Affairs

² Such reservations shall enter into force with immediate effect following formal notification of their adoption, through this circular, to all member countries.

Convention Regulations

Volume I

Rules in common

Article 08-002

Implementing provisions for providing electronic advance data

Paragraphs 5 and 6 have been amended as follows:

5 When dispatching items for which electronic advance data is to be provided for ~~security-based and customs clearance and security~~ reasons, the designated operator of origin shall ensure that each dispatched item's unique S10 barcoded identifier has been electronically linked (nested) to the S9 barcoded label of the receptacle containing that item, and that this information is included in the PREDES (UPU ~~Technical~~ EDI Messaging Standard M41) electronic dispatch messaging sent to the designated operator of destination. In case of national security requirements related to closed transit, the designated operator of origin shall take reasonable measures to provide the aforementioned S9-S10 information complementing the PRECON (UPU EDI Messaging Standard M10) message sent to the designated operator of transit.

6 When dispatching receptacles for which electronic advance data (EAD) is required for certain destination countries, and in cases where these receptacles have to transit through countries with national security-based requirements for transit EAD, the designated operator of origin shall take reasonable measures to ensure that all such ~~country-specific~~ EAD requirements (as referred to in paragraph 1) have been ~~duly~~ met and that the relevant CARDIT message is transmitted, including any applicable regulations (AR) flag, in compliance with UPU EDI Messaging Standard M48.

Article 17-010

Transfer of mails

Paragraph 3 has been amended as follows:

3 The following rules apply to the exchange of electronic messages corresponding to delivery bill information:

~~3.1 A CARDIT message shall be sent by the origin designated operator to the carrier.~~

- ~~3.2 The origin designated operator shall require the carrier to capture electronically the receipt of the receptacles and to send the data using the latest version of the UPU EDI Messaging Standard of RESDIT in a RESDIT "received" event message to confirm receipt of each receptacle of the consignment.~~
- ~~3.3 The origin designated operator shall require the carrier to capture electronically the delivery of the receptacles, and to send a RESDIT "delivered" message.~~
- ~~3.4 A PRECON message shall be sent by the origin designated operator to the designated operator to which the consignment is addressed. This may take place even when there are no CARDIT/RESDIT exchanges in place with transport to this destination.~~
- ~~3.5 The designated operator taking receipt of the consignment shall send a RESCON message to the origin designated operator, in order to acknowledge receipt of the receptacles.~~
- ~~3.6 The origin designated operator shall require the carrier to store the CARDIT data and the RESDIT receipt and delivery events data in its system and to share the data with the associated entity responsible for ground services at the points of origin, transit and destination, including, but not limited, to airports, ports and train stations.~~
- 3.1 Among designated operators (PRECON/RESCON):
- 3.1.1 A PRECON message shall be sent by the origin designated operator to the designated operator to which the consignment is addressed.
- 3.1.2 The designated operator taking receipt of the consignment shall send a RESCON message to the origin designated operator, in order to acknowledge receipt of the receptacles.
- 3.2 Between designated operators and carriers (CARDIT/RESDIT):
- 3.2.1 The origin designated operator shall send a CARDIT message to carrier(s) involved in the transport of the mail to the consignment destination, in accordance with UPU EDI Messaging Standard M48. Depending on the exact process and agreement, there may be more than one CARDIT message per consignment and carrier.
- 3.2.2 Carriers receiving CARDIT are expected to respond with RESDIT messages, in accordance with UPU EDI Messaging Standard M49.
- 3.2.3 Several RESDIT events are expected to be provided by each carrier, to cover the transport stages of the mail. The list of possible RESDIT events is published in UPU code list 100. The events provided by each carrier depend on the exact process and agreement with the sending designated operator, but should be based on the event classification provided in UPU code list 100 (critical, supplementary and optional).

- 3.3 In the event of an inquiry, the designated operators shall share the available information, including that received from the carriers.

Article 20-001

Items subject to customs control

Paragraph 2.2 has been amended as follows:

- 2.2 In accordance with article 08-002, customs data provided in accordance with the instructions on the CN 22 or CN 23 customs declarations, including the names and addresses of the sender and addressee, shall be transmitted electronically, in compliance with UPU EDI Messaging Standard M33 (ITMATT V1), to the designated operator of ~~the country of~~ destination. In case of national security-based requirements for transit electronic advance data, the designated operator of origin shall take reasonable measures to transmit the customs data to the designated operator of transit, only as strictly necessary for transit security-related customs formalities. The designated operator of origin may share all or part of these data with the customs administration in the country of origin for export purposes, ~~and~~ the designated operator of destination may share all or part of these data with the customs administration in the country of destination for customs import purposes, and the designated operator of transit may share the data only as strictly necessary with the customs administration in the country of transit.

Volume II

Letter Post Regulations

Article 31-122

Remuneration for returned undeliverable letter-post items

Paragraph 6 has been amended as follows:

6 For interested designated operators returning dispatches of undeliverable items, all associated statements and accounts are issued centrally by the International Bureau and are made available to creditors and debtors. The mechanism is as follows:

6.1 These designated operators must ensure, with their EDI network provider, that PREDES messages for dispatches of mail subclass UV that they send are forwarded to the International Bureau on a monthly basis.

6.2 When the weight subject to terminal dues is not zero in PREDES for a UV dispatch, the message shall not be considered for UV mail accounting.

6.3 to (No change.)

6.7

Final Protocol

Article R VIII

Items subject to customs control

A new paragraph 2 has been added as follows:

2 Without prejudice to the non-liability of member countries and their designated operators as set forth in article 23.3 of the Universal Postal Convention, and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 2.2 and 2.12 of article 20-001, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands and Spain reserve the right to consider the electronic advance data contained in the ITMATT message as prevailing over the content of the CN 22 or CN 23 customs declaration affixed to the item, and the electronic advance data contained in the ITMATT message as constituting the customs declaration for the item in question.

A new article R XLIV has been created as follows:

Article R XLIV

Formalities to be complied with by the sender

Without prejudice to the non-liability of member countries and their designated operators as set forth in article 23.3 of the Universal Postal Convention, and notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5 of article 17-210, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands and Spain reserve the right to consider the electronic advance data contained in the ITMATT message as prevailing over the content of the CN 23 customs declaration affixed to the item, and the electronic advance data contained in the ITMATT message as constituting the customs declaration for the item in question.

Postal Payment Services Regulations

Article RP 901

Confidentiality of data

A new paragraph 1.1 has been created as follows:

1.1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, designated operators may, in accordance with their national legislation, provide personal data to the competent authority for the purposes of prevention of money laundering, terrorist financing and financial crime where a suspicious transaction is detected.

Article RP 1001
Combination of technologies

Article RP 1001 has been deleted.

Article RP 1106
Procedures for remuneration between designated operators

The article has been amended as follows:

1 The remuneration shall be set equitably according to the charges applied to the user by the issuing designated operator and taking into account the respective operating and financial costs for the designated operators. In the latter's mutual interest, when exchanges are established the remuneration may differ from one designated operator to another. ~~The remuneration may take account of quality of service measurement for postal payment orders sent electronically.~~

2 ~~The exchange commission applied by designated operators shall represent a reasonable margin, take account of local economic conditions, and enable development of the service. Unless otherwise bilaterally agreed, the remuneration of the paying designated operator shall be 40% of the price paid by the sender for the issuing of a postal payment order.~~

2.1 Without prejudice to the foregoing and unless otherwise bilaterally agreed, the remuneration of the paying designated operator shall not be less than 2 SDR, or its equivalent in the country of the paying designated operator.

~~3 The remuneration shall be set in the service agreement, in accordance with the Agreement and the Regulations.~~

Article RP 1201
Quality of service for postal payment orders sent by electronic means

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

1 The minimum elements of quality of service for postal payment orders sent electronically shall be ~~as follows:~~ in accordance with the quality of service standards adopted by the Postal Operations Council.

~~1.1 updating of the International Bureau database;~~

~~1.2 timely processing of postal payment orders;~~

~~1.3 timely cancellation;~~

~~1.4 percentage of inquiries dealt with on time;~~

~~1.5 percentage of claims dealt with on time.~~

Article RP 1202
Collective brand

Article RP 1202 has been deleted.

Article RP 1301
Conditions of interoperability and centralized settlement

Paragraphs 1 and 3 have been amended as follows:

1 The networks used by designated operators shall be interconnected to enable the exchange of electronic data relating to electronic postal payment orders.

(...)

3 Designated operators shall apply the procedures for treatment of postal payment orders provided for in the Regulations so as to ensure the interoperability of electronic postal payment services.

Article RP 1401
Network security

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

1 Any interconnection of electronic networks for the transmission of electronic postal payment orders shall be subject to compliance with the level of security of the interconnected network used by designated operators.

Article RP 1501
Track and trace

Paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 have been amended as follows:

1 Any system used by designated operators shall contain functional acknowledgements to provide track and trace information for electronic postal payment orders.

2 Any change in the status of an electronic postal payment order shall give rise to the sending of an EDI message, or an update in the Union's centralized exchange system.

(...)

5 The status of a postal payment order or of a request relating to the execution of an electronic postal payment order shall be accessible to the designated operators involved in the execution of this electronic postal payment order.

Article RP 1607

Frequency of connections to system

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

1 Other than for connections automatically taking place through the Union's centralized exchange system, the designated operator shall connect to the system at least once an hour every working day.

Article RP 1709

Treatment of irregular postal payment orders

Paragraphs 1 and 2 have been amended as follows:

1 Any EDI message or information transmitted relating to postal payment orders shall be rejected where the data entered do not satisfy the conditions necessary for the execution of a postal payment order, an inquiry or a request to revoke.

2 The designated operator that sent the message or transmitted the information shall be notified of the rejection as soon as the reason for it has been determined. The data shall be corrected or supplemented by the designated operator that sent the message or transmitted the information and sent back to the other designated operator on the first working day following notification of the rejection. Where a combination of technologies is used, the time limit concerned shall be set in the service agreement and may not exceed three working days.

Article RP 2509

Instalment

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

1 Payment of an automatic instalment may be requested by the paying designated operator immediately after settlement, except in the case of settlements taking place through the centralized clearing and settlement system.