

SPANISH-AMERICAN POSTAL CONVENTION

*Convention and final protocol signed at Madrid November 13, 1920
Ratified and approved by the Postmaster General of the United States
May 3, 1922
Approved by the President of the United States May 8, 1922
Entered into force January 1, 1921
Terminated by convention of September 15, 1921*¹

42 Stat. 2141; Post Office Department print

SPANISH-AMERICAN POSTAL CONVENTION SIGNED AT MADRID, THE 13TH OF NOVEMBER, 1920, BETWEEN SPAIN, ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CHILE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, THE UNITED STATES, THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, GUATEMALA, HAITI, HONDURAS, MEXICO, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA.

The undersigned, assembled in Madrid, duly authorized by their respective governments, and in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Principal Convention of the Universal Postal Union,² have mutually agreed, subject to ratification, on the following provisions for the regulation and improvement of their postal relations.

ARTICLE I

1. All the countries signing this Convention shall constitute a single postal territory.

2. Prepayment of postage is obligatory on all classes of mail to be transmitted from one to another of the countries constituting this Union, letters alone being granted a slight concession relative to insufficient prepayment.

3. Each of the contracting countries agrees to transport freely and gratuitously through its territory and by means of the services maintained by its postal administration or utilized for the direct despatch of its own mails, the mails received from any of these countries destined to any other.

However, the expenses for land or maritime transportation of the mails shall be borne by the country of origin in case there is required for their

¹ *Post*, p. 309.

² Convention signed at Madrid May 26, 1906, *ante*, vol. 1, p. 505.

subsequent forwarding the intermediary of countries other than those adhering to this Convention.

4. It is decreed as a fundamental principle that, in the postal relations between the contracting countries, the rates which each administration has established in its domestic service shall apply.

5. The provisions of this Convention extend to letters; post cards, single and with reply paid; printed matter of all classes; commercial papers; and samples.

ARTICLE II

1. Letters

(a) Every letter which does not bear stamps corresponding to the first postage rate of an ordinary letter shall be considered as not prepaid and shall not be forwarded by the office of origin.

(b) The office of origin alone shall be authorized to determine the rating of letters insufficiently prepaid, which shall be for double the amount of the insufficiency, according to the weight. The office of destination shall collect from the addressee the amount of the rating imposed by the office of origin, which amount shall belong to the office of destination.

2. Post Cards

For post cards, both single and with reply paid, the domestic rates of each country shall apply.

3. Books, Periodicals, Printed Matter and Commercial Papers

The weight of packages containing books, periodicals, printed matter or commercial papers, shall not exceed 4 kilograms, with the exception of works printed in a single volume, the maximum weight of which may not exceed 5 kilograms. The dimensions of these packages shall not exceed 45 centimeters in any direction.

Packages presented in the form of a roll shall be transmitted through the mail provided that their size does not exceed 1 meter in length by 15 centimeters in diameter.

Commercial papers shall be prepaid at the minimum rate fixed by the regulations of the country of origin.

4. Samples

Samples shall be freely transmitted through the mail provided they have no commercial value and their size does not exceed 30 centimeters in length by 20 centimeters in width and 10 centimeters in depth or thickness. If in the form of a roll, the greatest dimensions shall be 30 centimeters in length by 15 in diameter.

Samples shall not bear postage lower than that specified in the regulations of the country of origin.

ARTICLE III

Responsibility for the Loss of Registered Articles

1. In the case of the loss of a registered article, the sender shall have the right to an indemnity equal to that fixed by the domestic regulations of the country of origin for a similar case, but not exceeding 50 francs gold.

2. The payment of the indemnity by the despatching administration shall be made at the latest within a period of 12 months, counting from the day following that on which the claim is first filed. The administration responsible for the loss shall reimburse the administration of origin without delay and within the period indicated, the amount of the indemnity which it may have paid to the sender. This payment shall be made in the money of the creditor country, or the equivalent in the money of another country which may be mutually agreed upon by the administrations concerned.

ARTICLE IV

In everything which does not conflict with the provisions of this Convention, the regulations of the Universal Postal Union shall govern.

ARTICLE V

This Convention shall take effect on the first of January, 1921, for the countries which on that date may have ratified it, and those which have not done so shall participate in its provisions whenever they notify the other contracting parties of their ratification.

This Convention shall have an indefinite duration, but any one of the parties may withdraw from the Convention upon one year's previous notice given to the other signatory administrations.

Done in Madrid, the 13th of November, 1920.

For the Delegation of Spain:

CONDE DE COLOMBÍ
 JOSÉ DE GARCÍA TORRES
 GUILLERMO CAPDEVILA
 JOSÉ DE ESPAÑA
 MARTÍN VICENTE
 ANTONIO CAMACHO
 JUSTO G. HERVÁS
 J. ORTEGA MUNILLA
 BERNARDO ROLLAND
 MANUEL G. ACEBO

For the Delegation of the United States
 of North America:

OTTO PRAEGER
 S. M. WEBER
 ELIZABETH LEE WOODS

For the Argentine Republic:

A. BARRERA NICHOLSON
 EUGENIO TROISÍ
 NATALIO R. FIRPO

For the Delegation of Bolivia:

LUIS RODRÍGUEZ

For the United States of Brazil:

ALCIBIADES PEÇANHA
 JOSÉ HENRIQUE ADERNE

For the Delegation of Colombia:

W. MACLELLAN
 GABRIEL ROLDÁN

For the Republic of Costa Rica:

MANUEL M. DE PERALTA

For the Republic of Cuba:

JUAN IRURETAGOYENA

For the Delegation of Chile:
FLORENCIO MÁRQUEZ DE LA PLATA
M. COUSIÑO

For the Dominican Republic:
LEOPOLDO LOVELACE

For Ecuador:
LUIS ROBALINO DÁVILA
LEÓNIDAS A. YEROVI

For the Republic of El Salvador:
ISMAEL G. FUENTES

The United States of America—for the
Philippine Islands:
JOSÉ TOPACIO

For the Republic of Guatemala:
JUAN J. ORTEGA
ENRIQUE TRAUMANN

For the Republic of Haiti:
LUIS MA. SOLER

For the Republic of Honduras:
RICARDO BELTRÁN Y RÓZPIDE

For the United Mexican States:
COSME HINOJOSA
JULIO POULAT
ALFONSO REYES

For Nicaragua:
M. IGO. TERÁN

For the Republic of Panamá:
J. D. AROSEMENA

For Paraguay:
FERNANDO PIGNET

For Peru:
D. C. URREA
O. BARRENECHEA Y RAIGADA
Chargé d'Affaires of Peru

For Uruguay:
ADOLFO AGORIO

For the United States of Venezuela:
PEDRO EMILIO COLL
S. BARCELÓ

FINAL PROTOCOL

Before signing the foregoing Convention, the signatory delegates have agreed to the following additional protocol:

1. The notices of ratification of this Convention shall be received in Madrid.

2. This protocol shall have the same validity as if it had been inserted in the text of the Convention to which it refers, a copy of the same to be signed and deposited in the Archives of the Spanish Government and a copy to be supplied to each party.

Done in Madrid the 13th day of November, 1920.

CONDE DE COLOMBÍ
LEOPOLDO LOVELACE
JUAN IRURETAGOYENA
FLORENCIO MÁRQUEZ DE LA PLATA
M. COUSIÑO
LUIS ROBALINO DÁVILA
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