

## PAN AMERICAN POSTAL UNION: PARCEL POST

*Convention and final protocol signed at Buenos Aires September 15, 1921*<sup>1</sup>

*Ratified and approved by the Postmaster General of the United States February 24, 1922*

*Approved by the President of the United States February 28, 1922*

*Ratification of the United States deposited at Buenos Aires June 14, 1922*

*Entered into force January 1, 1923*

*Terminated by convention of November 9, 1926*<sup>2</sup>

42 Stat. 2174; Post Office Department print

[TRANSLATION]

PARCEL POST CONVENTION CONCLUDED BETWEEN ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CHILE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, MEXICO, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PANAMA, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA.

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the above named countries, in the exercise of the authority conferred by Article 21 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid,<sup>3</sup> agree, under the reservation of ratification, in establishing the service of parcel post, according to the following articles:

1

### *Object of the Convention*

1. Under the denomination of parcel post, parcels with or without declared value may be sent from one of the above named countries to another of them, by the most rapid route.

2. The maximum weight of each parcel will be 10 kilograms, any administration being at liberty to limit it to 5 kilograms, and not to handle bulky packages, or those with declared value, or collect on delivery.

<sup>1</sup> For text of regulations for execution of the convention, see 42 Stat. 2180.

<sup>2</sup> *Post*, p. 629.

<sup>3</sup> Convention signed at Madrid Nov. 30, 1920, *ante*, p. 282.

## 2

*Transit*

1. Liberty of transit is guaranteed in the territory of each of the signatory countries, and the responsibility of the Administrations which intervene in the transit is pledged, within the limits determined by Article 7. In consequence, the several Administrations which participate in this Convention may reciprocally send parcel post packages through one or several of them as intermediary.

2. Transmission of parcels will be effected through the open or closed mails.

## 3

*Bonifications*

1. The Administration of origin will pay to each of the Administrations which may intervene in transit a territorial transit charge fixed at 20 cents gold for each parcel which does not exceed five kilos, and at 40 cents gold for those which exceed that weight.

2. The Office of origin will pay to that of destination 20 cents gold for each parcel that does not exceed five kilos, and 40 cents gold for those which exceed that weight.

3. There are not included in the imposts the charges for maritime transit which must be collected in accordance with the Parcel Post Convention of Madrid.

## 4

*Tariffs and Postage*

1. There is established as a fundamental principle the right, which each country reserves, to fix within the maximum of 30 cents gold per kilo, the tariffs on the parcels which it dispatches independently of the bonifications set forth in the preceding article for the offices of intermediation and of destination.

2. The freedom of action which this provision establishes includes the adoption of the system of weight which is legally in force in each country, and the subdivision of the postage by fractions of weight.

3. The system adopted for the application of tariffs does not alter the procedure established in the previous article for the payment of bonifications, which will be effected exclusively in the two divisions of five and ten kilos, whatever may be the actual weight of the parcel.

4. Postage on parcels must be fully prepaid.

5. The conditions governing the handling of parcels with value declared, bulky parcels, or Collect on Delivery will be arranged between the countries which agree to put those services in force.

## 5

*Customs Duties and Delivery Charges*

The Administration of destination may collect from the addressees of parcels:

1. The customs duties.
2. A charge fixed at ten cents gold, as a maximum, for the delivery of the parcel to the addressee, and for the fulfillment of all formalities, whether of customs or others not specially provided for.
3. A charge for storage, for holding parcels which have not been withdrawn (by the addressee) within ten days from the date of sending the corresponding notice of arrival to the addressee.
4. A surcharge of ten cents gold, as a maximum, for the delivery of each parcel at the residence of the addressee.
5. The charge provided by the consular tariff when it has not been prepaid by the sender.

## 6

*Prohibitions*

The parcels of which the present Convention treats may not be subjected to any other charges than those established in the preceding article.

## 7

*Responsibilities*

The indemnities of which Article 16 of the Parcel Post Convention of Madrid treats will be paid in accordance with the details of that provision in the following form: five dollars as a maximum, per parcel up to five kilos in weight, and ten dollars as a maximum for those which exceed five kilos.

## 8

*Propositions in the Interval Between Congresses*

For the application of Article 24 of the Parcel Post Convention of Madrid, the following conditions are established:

1. Unanimity of votes for propositions which introduce new provisions or modify those of the present article or those of articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
2. Two thirds of the votes to modify the other provisions.

## 9

*Monetary Unit*

To give effect to the provisions of Section 1, Article 4, it is understood that the unit dollar which is established by the present Convention will have

for each contracting country the value of the legal equivalent fixed in that country in its own money.

10

*Matters Not Provided for.*

All matters not specially provided for by this Convention will be governed by the provisions of the Parcel Post Convention of Madrid.

11

*Force and Duration of the Convention*

1. This Convention shall come into force on January 1, 1923, but before that date the countries which have ratified it may put it into effect. It will remain in force without limitation of time. Each of the contracting countries reserves the right to retire from the Union by means of notice given by its Government to the Government of the Republic of Uruguay one year in advance.

2. The deposit of ratifications shall be in the city of Buenos Aires as soon as possible. The record of the deposit of ratification by each country will be certified and the Government of the Argentine Republic will send through diplomatic channels one copy of this record to the Governments of the other signatory countries.

3. From the date on which the present Convention comes into force the stipulations of the South American Parcel Post Convention, agreed to in Montevideo on February 2, 1911; and those of the Special Conventions between the signatory countries are abrogated.

4. In case the Convention shall not be ratified by one or more of the contracting countries, it shall not lose its validity for those countries which have ratified it.

In faith of which the plenipotentiaries of the above named countries subscribe the present Convention, in Buenos Aires, September 15, 1921.

For Argentina:  
 AMADEO E. GRANDI  
 EDUARDO F. GIUFFRÀ

For Bolivia:  
 LUIS SANSUSTE

For Costa Rica:  
 CARLOS F. VALENZUELA

For Cuba:  
 ALBERTO DE LA TORRE Y SOUBLETTE

For Chile:  
 TULLIO MAQUIEIRA  
 JORGE SAAVEDRA AGÜERO  
 PEDRO A. RIVERA

For the Dominican Republic:

For Ecuador:  
 MANUEL BUSTAMANTE

For El Salvador:  
 GUSTAVO A. RUIZ

For the United States of America:  
 O. K. DAVIS  
 EDWIN SANDS

For Brazil:  
 LABIENNO SALGADO DOS SANTOS  
 JOSÉ HENRIQUE ADERNE

For Colombia:  
 CARLOS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ

For Guatemala:  
ALBERTO DODERO  
JULIO ALVAREZ

For Mexico:  
JOSÉ V. CHÁVES  
JULIO JIMENEZ RUEDA

For Nicaragua:  
BARTOLOMÉ M. PONS

For Panama:  
ESTANISLAO S. ZEBALLOS

For Paraguay:  
JUAN B. GAONA (HIJO)

For Peru:  
CÉSAR SANCHEZ AIZCORBE  
FRANCISCO ENRIQUE MÁLAGA GRENET

For Uruguay:  
DANIEL MUÑOZ  
JUAN RAMPÓN

For Venezuela:  
CARLOS CUERVO MÁRQUEZ

## FINAL PROTOCOL

### I

Argentina declares that she is not able to comply with the provision of Section 2, Article 5, until her domestic legislation, which is contrary to this provision, may be modified, which reform will be undertaken.

### II

Argentina retains the right to levy a surcharge of one franc fifty centimes per parcel, on account of territorial transit, on parcels which must be transported by the Trans Andes railroad.

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[For text of regulations for execution of the convention, see 42 Stat. 2180.]