

PAN AMERICAN POSTAL UNION: PARCEL POST

Convention signed at México November 9, 1926

Ratified and approved by the Postmaster General May 3, 1927

Approved by the President of the United States May 5, 1927

Ratification of the United States deposited at México May 28, 1927

Entered into force July 1, 1927

*Terminated by agreement of November 10, 1931*¹

45 Stat. 2434; Post Office Department print

PARCEL POST CONVENTION

Concluded between Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, the United States of America, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The undersigned Plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the countries above mentioned, in exercise of the option conferred by Article 5 of the Universal Postal Convention of Stockholm,² agree, subject to ratification, to the establishment of the parcel post service in accordance with the following provisions:

ARTICLE 1

Object of the Convention

Under the denomination of "parcel post", parcels may be sent from one of the above-mentioned countries to another by the most rapid route, it being obligatory to send them in duly sealed receptacles.

Countries which agree to do so may extend the service to include registered, collect-on-delivery and insured parcels.

ARTICLE 2

Transit

Liberty of transit is guaranteed over the territory of each one of the contracting countries, and the responsibility of the Administrations taking

¹ *Post*, vol. 3.

² Convention signed at Stockholm Aug. 28, 1924, *ante*, p. 443.

part in the transportation is comprised within the limits fixed by Article 7. As a result, the various Administrations may use the intermediary of one or several countries for the reciprocal exchange of parcels.

Parcels will be sent in closed dispatches, the dispatching Administrations being obliged to send a copy of every parcel bill to each one of the intermediary Administrations.

ARTICLE 3

Weight and Dimensions

The maximum weight of each parcel will be 10 kilograms, the Administrations remaining at liberty to limit it to 5, and not to undertake to handle parcels which they consider bulky. It is understood that no country may send parcels with dimensions greater than those fixed by the Regulations of the Convention of Stockholm.

However, the Administrations of the contracting countries may, after obtaining the consent of the intermediary countries, accept parcels with other limits of weight and dimensions.

ARTICLE 4

Postage Rates and Payments

1. The postage on parcels exchanged under this Convention will be composed only of the sum of the rates of origin, territorial transit and destination. If necessary, the maritime rates provided by the Stockholm Agreement will be added.

2. The rates of origin, transit and destination are fixed, for each country, at 50 centimes of a gold franc or their equivalent in dollars for each parcel up to 5 kilograms, and 1 gold franc or its equivalent in dollars for each parcel whose weight exceeds 5 kilograms but not 10 kilograms.

3. However, the contracting Administrations will have the option of increasing these rates up to double their amount, and of applying a fixed surcharge of 25 centimes of a gold franc or their equivalent in dollars to each parcel which they dispatch or receive.

4. Administrations which, in the Universal service, enjoy special authorizations to increase the rates set forth in Section 2, may also make use of the said authorizations in the Pan-American service.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing Sections, no contracting Administration will be obliged to fix a rate lower than that established for this class of articles in its domestic service.

6. The Administration of origin will pay to each one of the Administrations taking part in the transportation, as well as to that of destination, the corresponding charges in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing Sections.

ARTICLE 5

Delivery, Customs, Storage and Other Charges

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

- a) A fixed charge of 50 centimes of a gold franc or their equivalent in dollars at most for the conveyance of the parcel to the residence of the addressee or its delivery in the office, and for the fulfilment before the customs authorities of the necessary formalities or transactions.
- b) A daily charge for storage, for the holding of parcels which have not been withdrawn within a period of 5 days, counting from the date of mailing the relative notice to the addressee. It is optional for the Administrations to increase this period to 15 days.
- c) The customs duties and fees in general, and other nonpostal charges established by their domestic legislation.
- d) The consular fee, when it has not been prepaid by the sender.

ARTICLE 6

Prohibition Against Other Charges

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

ARTICLE 7

Indemnity

1. The indemnity mentioned in Article 36 of the Convention of Stockholm will be paid in accordance with the provisions of that Article, as follows:

- a) For parcels up to 5 kilograms, 25 gold francs or their equivalent in dollars at most.
- b) For parcels from 5 to 10 kilograms, 50 gold francs or their equivalent in dollars at most.

2. For the payment of the indemnity, account will be taken of the value of the parcel stated by the sender in the customs declaration unless the customs officers, upon appraising the parcel, amend the sender's declaration.

In no case may the indemnity exceed the maximum fixed in the preceding Section.

ARTICLE 8

Parcels Pending Delivery

The period during which parcels must be held at the disposal of the addressees in the offices of destination is fixed at 30 days. The said period may be increased to 90 days by agreement among the Administrations con-

cerned, it being understood that in every case the return will be made without previously consulting the sender.

ARTICLE 9

Fraudulent Declarations

In cases where it is proved that the sender of a parcel, by himself or by agreement with the addressee, has falsely declared the quality, weight or measure of the contents, or in any other way has tried to defraud the fiscal interests of the country of destination, avoiding the payment of import duties by concealing articles or declaring them in such a way as to show the evident intention of nullifying or reducing the amount of those duties, the Administration concerned is authorized to dispose of those articles in accordance with its domestic laws, and neither the sender nor the addressee will have any right to delivery, return or indemnity.

ARTICLE 10

Parcels for Second Addressees

The senders of parcels addressed to Banks or other organizations for delivery to second addressees will be obliged to state, on the labels or wrappers thereof, the exact names and addresses of the persons for whom such parcels are intended.

ARTICLE 11

Abandoned or Returned Parcels

Abandoned parcels, or those returned to origin which can not be delivered to the senders, will be sold by the Administration concerned. If the proceeds of the sale are lower than the charges due on the parcel, the deficit will be divided in equal shares between the Administrations of origin and destination.

ARTICLE 12

Propositions in the Interval Between Meetings

The present Convention may be modified in the interval which transpires between Congresses, following the procedure established in Chapter III of the Postal Convention of Stockholm. In order to become effective, the modifications must obtain:

1. Unanimity of votes, if it is a question of introducing new provisions or modifying the present Article or Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
2. Two-thirds of the votes in order to modify the other provisions.

ARTICLE 13

Equivalents

For the application of the provisions of Article 4, Section 2, it is established in the present Convention that each contracting country will determine the legal equivalent of its money with respect to the dollar or the gold franc.

ARTICLE 14

Matters Not Provided for

1. All matters not provided for by this Convention will be governed by the stipulations of the Parcel Post Convention of Stockholm and its Regulations of Execution.

2. However, the contracting Administrations may agree to fix other details for the carrying out of the service.

3. The right of the contracting countries to retain the regulatory procedure adopted for the fulfilment of conventions among themselves is recognized, provided that such procedure is not contrary to the provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 15

Effective Date and Duration of the Convention

1. The present Convention will become effective on July 1, 1927, and will remain in force without time-limit, each one of the contracting parties reserving the right to abrogate it by means of notice given by its Government to that of the Republic of Uruguay one year in advance.

2. The deposit of ratifications will be effected in the city of Mexico as soon as possible; the relative certificate will be made up in regard to the ratification by each country, and the Government of Mexico will send a copy of the said certificate, thru diplomatic channels, to the Governments of the other signatory countries.

3. The stipulations of the Parcel Post Convention sanctioned in Buenos Aires on September 15, 1921,³ are abrogated, beginning with the date on which the present Convention becomes effective.

4. In case that the Convention is not ratified by one or several of the contracting countries, it will none the less be valid for the countries which have ratified it.

In faith of which, the Plenipotentiaries of the countries enumerated sign the present Convention in Mexico, D. F., on the 9th day of November, 1926.

³ *Ante* p. 318.

For Argentina:

RAÚL D. LÓPEZ

For Bolivia:

GABRIEL A. PARRODI

LUIS ARCE LACAZE

For Brazil:

OCTAVIO DE TEFFÉ

For Colombia:

CARLOS ALBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

For Costa Rica:

ÁNGEL J. LAGARDA

LINO B. ROCHÍN

For Chile:

ENRIQUE BERMÚDEZ

For the Dominican Republic:

FRANCISCO GARCÍA DE CASTAÑEDA

For Ecuador:

ARMANDO E. ASPIAZU

RODOLFO BECERRA SOTO

For El Salvador:

HÉCTOR REYES

EUDORO URDANETA

For Spain:

PEDRO DE IGUAL Y MARTÍNEZ DABÁN

ANTONIO CAMACHO SAN JURJO

For the United States of America:

JOSEPH STEWART

EUGENE R. WHITE

For Guatemala:

EMILIO ARROYAVE L.

For Honduras:

MIGUEL CARIAS ANDINO

OTTO REINBECK

For Mexico:

EDUARDO ORTIZ

COSME HINOJOSA

JOSÉ V. CHÁVEZ

For Panama:

JOSÉ IGNACIO ICAZA

For Paraguay:

CARLOS MELÉNDEZ

For Peru:

AUGUSTO S. SALAZAR

WALTER F. FORD

For Uruguay:

CÉSAR MIRANDA