

January 30, 1924.
December 12, 1925.

Parcel post convention between Latvia and the United States. Signed at Riga, January 30, 1924, and at Washington, December 12, 1925; approved by the President, December 15, 1925.

PARCEL POST CONVENTION BETWEEN LATVIA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Parcel post convention with Latvia.
Preamble.

The undersigned, Ed. Kadikis, Postmaster General of the Republic of Latvia, and Harry S. New, Postmaster General of the United States of America, have, by virtue of authority vested in them, for the purpose of making arrangements for the exchange of parcel post between the above-mentioned countries, agreed upon the following articles:

Article I.

Scope of convention.

The provisions of this convention shall relate only to parcels of mail matter to be exchanged by the system herein provided for, and shall in no way affect the arrangements now existing under the Universal Postal Convention, which will continue in force as heretofore; and all the agreements hereinafter contained shall apply exclusively to mails exchanged under these articles.

Article II.

Articles admitted to the mails.

There shall be admitted to the mails exchanged under this convention: Articles of merchandise and mail matter (except letters, post cards, and written matter) of all kinds that are admitted under any conditions to the domestic mails of the country of origin, except that no parcel may exceed 10 kilograms (22 pounds) in weight, nor the following dimensions: Greatest length in any direction, 105 centimeters (3 feet 6 inches); greatest length and girth combined, 180 centimeters (6 feet); and parcels must be so wrapped or packed as to permit their contents to be easily examined by postmasters and customs officers, excepting only those articles whose admission in this manner is forbidden by the laws of the country of destination, due notice of which shall be mutually given by the postal authorities of Latvia and the United States, respectively.

Articles prohibited.

The following articles are prohibited: Publications which violate the copyright laws of the country of destination; poisons and explosive or inflammable substances; live or dead animals except dead insects and reptiles when thoroughly dried; fruits and vegetables which easily decompose, and substances which exhale a bad odor; lottery tickets, lottery advertisements and lottery circulars; all obscene or immoral articles; articles which may in any way damage or destroy the mails or injure the persons handling them; intoxicating liquors.

Freedom from inspection, etc.

All admissible articles of merchandise mailed in one country for the other or received in one country from the other shall be free from detention or inspection of any nature whatsoever, except such as is required for the collection of customs duties; and shall be forwarded by the most speedy means to their destination, being subject, however, in their transmission, to the laws and regulations of each country, respectively.

Article III.

1. No letter or communication of the nature of personal correspondence shall accompany any parcel, or be attached thereto. Letters not to accompany parcels.
2. If such communications be found, they will be placed in the ordinary mail if separable, and, if the communications be inseparably attached, the whole package containing them will be rejected. Rejection if found.
If, however, any such should be inadvertently forwarded, the country of destination may collect on the letter or letters double rates of postage, according to the Universal Postal Convention.
3. No parcel shall contain packages intended for delivery at an address other than the one borne by the parcel itself. No inclosure for other address.
If such inclosed packages be detected, they shall be sent forward singly, charged with new and distinct parcel post rates.

Article IV.

- The following rates of postage shall be required to be fully prepaid with postage stamps of the country of origin, viz:
- In LATVIA:** Rates of postage.
- For a parcel not exceeding 1 kilogram, 1.90 lats.
- For a parcel over 1 kilogram and not exceeding 3 kilograms, 3.30 lats. In Latvia.
- For a parcel over 3 kilograms and not over 5 kilograms, 4.40 lats.
- For a parcel over 5 kilograms, 4.40 lats for the first 5 kilograms, adding 0.60 lats for each additional kilogram or fraction thereof. In United States.
- In the UNITED STATES:**
- For a parcel not exceeding 1 pound (455 grams) in weight, 12 cents; and for each additional pound (455 grams) or fraction of a pound, 12 cents. Delivery.
- The parcels shall be promptly delivered to addressees at the post office of address in the country of destination free of charge for postage; but the country of destination may, at its option, levy and collect from the addressees for delivery a charge not exceeding 25 centimes in Latvia and 5 cents in the United States, on each single parcel of whatever weight

Article V.

1. The sender shall, at the time of mailing the parcel, receive from the post office where the parcel is mailed a certificate of mailing prepared in accordance with the postal regulations of the country of origin. Receipt of posting.
2. The sender of a parcel may have the same registered by paying, in addition to the postage, the registration fee regularly charged in the country of origin. Registry.
3. An acknowledgment of the delivery of a registered parcel shall be returned to the sender whenever requested; but either country may require of the sender prepayment of a fee therefor not exceeding 25 centimes (5 cents). Acknowledgment of delivery.
4. The addressee of a registered parcel shall be advised of the arrival of the parcel by a notice from the post office of destination. Notice to addressee.

Article VI.

1. The sender of each parcel shall make a customs declaration which shall be attached to the parcel, upon a special form provided for the purpose, giving a general description of the parcel and a detailed statement of the contents and value, date of mailing, and signature and place of residence of the sender. Customs declaration.

Collection of customs duties.

2. The parcels in question shall be subject in the country of destination to all customs duties and all customs regulations in force in that country, and the customs duties properly chargeable thereon shall be collectible from the addressee on the delivery of the parcel, in accordance with the laws and regulations of the country of destination.

Article VII.

Mutual payments by postal authorities.

The Post Office Department of the United States shall pay to the Postal Administration of Latvia 10 cents for each parcel forwarded from its offices to Latvia, and the Postal Administration of Latvia shall pay a similar amount to the Post Office Department of the United States for each parcel forwarded from its offices to the United States. The accounts shall be balanced every quarter and a general balance of such quarterly settlements struck yearly, which amount shall be paid by the Post Office Department of the debtor country.

Article VIII.

Method of transportation.

1. The parcels shall be considered as a component part of the mails exchanged directly between Latvia and the United States of America, to be despatched to destination by the country of origin at its cost and by such means as it may have at its disposal; but they shall be forwarded at the option of the despatching office either in boxes prepared expressly for the purpose, or in ordinary mail sacks marked "parcel post" and securely sealed with wax or otherwise, as may be mutually provided.

Return of empty sacks.

2. Each country shall return empty to the despatching office, by the next mail, all such boxes or sacks.

Packing.

3. Although parcels admitted under this convention will be transmitted as aforesaid between the exchange offices of the two countries, they should be so carefully packed as to be safely transmitted both to the exchange office of the country of origin and to the receiving office of the country of destination.

Descriptive list of packages.

4. Each despatch of a parcel post mail shall be accompanied by a descriptive list in duplicate of all packages sent; this list shall show distinctly the number of each parcel, the name of the sender, the name of the addressee and the address of destination; or, in the case of ordinary parcels, they may be advised simply by the total number of such parcels sent in the despatch. This list shall be inclosed in one of the boxes or sacks of such despatch.

Article IX.

Exchange offices.

Exchanges of mails under this convention from any place in either of the participating countries to any place in the other shall be effected through the post offices of Liepāja and New-York, or through such other offices as may subsequently be designated for this purpose, under such regulations relative to details of exchange as may be mutually determined to be essential to the security and expedition of the mails and the protection of the customs revenue.

Article X.

Receipt of mail.

1. As soon as the mails have reached the exchange office of destination, that office shall check the contents of the mail.

Substitute parcel bill.

2. In the event of the parcel bill not having been received a substitute bill shall at once be prepared.

Correction of errors.

3. Any errors in the entries on the parcel bill which may be detected shall, after verification by a second officer, be corrected

and noted for report to the despatching office on a bulletin of verification and forwarded in a special envelope.

4. If a parcel noted on the bill be not received, after the non-receipt thereof has been verified by a second officer the entry on the bill shall be canceled and the fact reported at once, as above provided. If a parcel be received in damaged or imperfect condition, full particulars thereof shall be reported in the same manner.

5. If no bulletin of verification or note of error be received by the despatching office, a parcel mail shall be considered as duly delivered and correct in every particular.

Nonreceipt of parcel.

Damaged parcels.

Presumption of delivery.

Article XI.

If a parcel cannot be delivered as addressed, or is refused, it shall be returned from either country directly to the despatching office of exchange, at the expiration of 30 days from its receipt at the office of destination; and the country of destination may collect from the sender for the return of the parcel a sum equal to the postage when first mailed and pay to the office of destination for each returned undeliverable parcel the amount provided by Article VII.

Inability to deliver.

Provided, however, that parcels prohibited by Article II and those which do not conform to the conditions as to size and weight prescribed by the same article shall not be returned to the country of origin but may be disposed of, without recourse, in accordance with the customs laws and regulations of the country of destination.

Return of prohibited parcels.

Packages which are marked to be abandoned if undeliverable should not be returned, but should be disposed of in accordance with the regulations of the country of destination.

Disposal of abandoned articles.

When the contents of a parcel which cannot be delivered are liable to deterioration or corruption, they may be destroyed at once if necessary, or, if expedient, sold without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right person, the particulars of each sale being communicated by one post office to the other.

Perishable articles.

Article XII.

Whenever any loss, damage or rifling shall occur to any shipment of registered parcels, except in case of force majeure, the Postal Administration of the country in whose service the loss, damage or rifling occurs shall, on proof of loss, damage or rifling, be liable to the sender of the parcel for an amount by way of indemnity corresponding to the actual amount of the loss, damage or rifling, but such indemnity shall not exceed 50 francs for any one registered parcel. The method of fixing responsibility for the loss, damage or rifling, and of paying and adjusting the claims for indemnity, shall be that prescribed by article 10 of the Universal Postal Convention of Madrid and Article XXIX of the Regulations for its execution, regarding indemnity for registered articles in the Postal Union mails.

Indemnity for loss etc., of registered parcels.

It is understood that claims for indemnity shall not be valid unless made within one year from the date of the mailing of the registered parcel concerned.

Time limit for presenting claims.

Article XIII.

The Postal Administration of each contracting country reserves the right, after properly notifying the Postal Administration of the other country, to increase or reduce its tariffs fixed by Article IV, V, and XI of this Convention.

Change of tariffs.

Ante, p. 2217.
Supra.

*Article XIV.*Further regulations,
etc.

The Postal Administration of Latvia and the Postmaster General of the United States shall have authority jointly to make such further regulations of order and detail and to provide for such changes and modifications from time to time as may be found necessary to carry out the present Convention.

*Article XV.*Effective date and
duration.

This Convention shall become effective as of January 1, 1924, and shall continue in force until terminated by mutual agreement; but it may be annulled at the desire of either Department upon six months' previous notice given to the other Department.

Signatures.

Done in duplicate and signed at Riga on the 30th day of January, 1924 and at Washington on the 12th day of December, 1925.

[SEAL.]

ED TRADISKY

Postmaster General of the Republic of Latvia.

[SEAL.]

HARRY S. NEW.

*Postmaster General of the United States of America.*Approval by the
President.

The foregoing Parcel Post Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Latvia has been negotiated and concluded with my advice and consent and is hereby approved and ratified.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

[SEAL.]

CALVIN COOLIDGE.

By the President:

FRANK B KELLOGG

Secretary of State.

WASHINGTON, December 15, 1925.