

No. 4176

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA
and
AUSTRIA**

**Parcel Post Agreement. Signed at Ottawa, on 26 September
1957**

Official text: English.

Registered by the Union of South Africa on 20 February 1958.

**UNION SUD-AFRICAINE
et
AUTRICHE**

**Arrangement relatif à l'échange de colis postaux. Signé à
Ottawa, le 26 septembre 1957**

Texte officiel anglais.

Enregistré par l'Union Sud-Africaine le 20 février 1958.

No. 4176. PARCEL POST AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRIA. SIGNED AT OTTAWA, ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1957

Agreement made between the Postal Administration of the Union of South Africa of the one part and the Postal Administration of the Republic of Austria of the other part.

Whereby it is agreed to effect a regular direct exchange of ordinary postal parcels between the Union of South Africa and Austria as follows :

Article 1

ORGANIZATION OF A DIRECT EXCHANGE OF PARCELS

(1) Parcels under the designation of postal parcels, may be exchanged between the contracting administrations, either direct or through the intermediary of one or more other administrations.

(2) This exchange shall be effected between the contracting administrations by surface means.

Article 2

CONDITIONS OF EXCHANGE

(1) Parcels may be forwarded in either closed mails or in open transit and shall be reforwarded by the most rapid land and sea routes which are used for their own mails by the countries undertaking the transit.

(2) The parcels shall be despatched in bags, and mails shall only be made up on such offices of exchange as may be mutually agreed upon by the administrations concerned.

(3) Unless specially provided for in these arrangements, the conditions as to posting, transmission and delivery of parcels (including the levy of customs duty and other charges) and redirection within the limits of the country of destination shall be governed by the regulations of the country concerned.

¹ Came into force on 1 January 1958, in accordance with article 24.

Article 3

TRANSIT PARCELS

(1) The contracting administrations shall grant freedom of transit for parcels to or from third countries with which they have a parcel post service.

(2) Unless a third country which may be involved in the transmission stipulates further limitations, transit parcels shall be subject to the provisions of this Agreement.

(3) The contracting administrations shall mutually arrange for the method of transit conveyance of transit parcels, and each administration shall furnish the other with a statement of those countries to or from which it is able to secure the transit of parcels. These statements shall include the shares due to each of the countries taking part in the transit conveyance of parcels to the countries concerned.

Article 4

SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

(1) Each contracting party reserves the right, in the event of exceptional circumstances arising, to suspend the exchange of parcels temporarily either wholly or in part in one direction or the other.

(2) The contracting party which intends to make use of this right is bound to notify the fact immediately, if need be by telegram, to the other contracting party.

(3) This procedure may also be applied, by analogy, to transit parcels.

Article 5

WEIGHT AND DIMENSIONS

(1) The maximum dimensions of each parcel shall not exceed three feet six inches (1.07 m.) in length or six feet (1.83 m.) in length and girth combined.

(2) The maximum weight of each parcel shall not exceed eleven pounds or 5 kilograms.

(3) For the correct computation of the weight, the opinion of the administration of origin shall be taken as final unless an obvious error has been made.

(4) The foregoing limits of size and weight shall be subject to alteration by mutual arrangement between the contracting administrations.

Article 6

POSTAGE RATES

(1) Prepayment of postage on all parcels is obligatory except in the case of redirected parcels.

(2) The postage rates shall be composed only of the sum of the territorial and maritime rates of origin, transit and destination.

(3) The territorial and maritime charges for each country of origin, transit or destination will be at such rates as may be agreed upon from time to time by the contracting parties.

(4) The administration of origin undertakes to pay to each of the administrations taking part in the transportation, including that of destination, all costs connected with the conveyance of the mails, excepting charges for redirection mentioned in Article 15.

Article 7

RESPONSIBILITY

(1) Unless special agreement exists, administrations are not responsible in principle for the loss, spoliation or damage of parcels. Administrations, however, will make enquiry in cases which are submitted to them in this connection.

(2) The sender of a parcel shall be responsible for ensuring that it is securely packed in such a manner as to protect the contents from damage.

Article 8

PROHIBITIONS

(1) Parcels may not contain substances of a dangerous, destructive, explosive or offensive nature, or contraband articles or substances, or liquids (unless securely packed in proper cases) nor may they contain a letter or any article, the transmission of which by parcel post is prohibited by the country of destination.

(2) The contracting administrations shall exchange a list of the articles which are prohibited in their country.

(3) Any parcel, the contents of which are found to be prohibited in terms of the foregoing, shall be disposed of in accordance with the internal regulations of the country concerned.

(4) If a parcel be found to contain a letter such letter shall be surcharged with double the letter rate of postage and the amount of surcharge shall accrue to the country of destination.

Article 9

CANCELLATION OF CUSTOMS AND OTHER NON-POSTAL CHARGES

(1) The contracting administrations undertake to use their influence with the competent authorities of their respective countries in order to obtain the cancellation of customs and other non-postal charges on parcels returned to the country of origin, abandoned by the senders, destroyed or forwarded to a third country.

(2) Similar action is undertaken in respect of parcels lost, rifled or damaged in their service.

Article 10

ADDRESSING OF PARCELS

(1) Every parcel shall bear the name and address of the person for whom it is intended, given with such completeness as will enable delivery to be effected.

(2) Addresses in pencil shall not be allowed, provided that parcels bearing addresses written in copying pencil on a surface previously damped shall be accepted.

(3) The addresses shall be written on the parcel itself or on an adhesive label so firmly attached to it that it cannot become detached.

(4) The sender of a parcel shall be advised to enclose in the parcel a copy of the address together with a note of his own address.

Article 11

CUSTOMS DECLARATIONS

(1) Every parcel shall be accompanied by one or more Customs Declarations duly completed together with a despatch note.

(2) Administrations shall inform each other of their requirements in respect of Customs Declarations.

Article 12

PARCEL BILLS

(1) Parcels exchanged between the contracting administrations shall be entered by the despatching office of exchange on parcel bills in the manner agreed upon by the administrations concerned. The parcel bills shall be forwarded with the parcels to the office of exchange of the country of destination.

(2) The parcel bills despatched by each office of exchange shall be numbered consecutively, commencing with No. 1 for the first despatch of each calendar year, and these numbers shall be termed parcel bill numbers.

Article 13

ERRORS AND IRREGULARITIES

Every error, irregularity or discrepancy between a parcel bill and the parcels entered thereon, which may be detected upon the arrival of a mail at the receiving office of exchange shall be reported by means of a verification note, which shall be forwarded by return mail to the despatching office of exchange. The non-receipt of a verification note within a reasonable period shall be taken as an indication that the mail has been received in order.

Article 14

MISSENT PARCELS

(1) Missent parcels shall be forwarded to destination by the most direct route at the disposal of the office transmitting them. When this retransmission involves the return of parcels to the office from which they were received, the rates credited in the parcel bill from that office shall be cancelled and the retransmitting office of exchange shall simply record the parcels on the return parcel bill and call attention to the error by means of a verification note.

(2) In other cases, if the amount credited is insufficient to cover the expense of retransmission which is due to the retransmitting administration, the latter shall credit the administration to which it hands over the parcel, with the conveyance charges due for onward transmission; furthermore, it shall make the uncovered amount a charge against the exchange office which has missent the parcel. The exchange office concerned shall be informed of the reason for such claim by means of a verification note.

Article 15

REDIRECTION

(1) Postal parcels redirected in consequence of a mistake by the sender or of the removal of the addressee from one country to another to which postal parcels are sent shall be subjected by the delivering administration to a charge, to be paid by the addressee, representing the rates due to the latter administration, to the redirecting administration and to each intermediary administration, if there be any. The redirecting administration shall recover its quota by charging it to the first intermediary administration or to the administration of the new destination.

(2) If, however, the amount chargeable for the further conveyance of a redirected parcel be paid at the time of its redirection, the parcel shall be dealt with as if it had been addressed direct from the retransmitting country to the country of destination, and delivered without any charge to the addressee for postage.

Article 16

UNDELIVERABLE PARCELS

(1) The sender of a parcel may request at the time of posting that if the parcel cannot be delivered as addressed it may be either (a) treated as abandoned or (b) tendered for delivery at a second address in the country of destination. No other alternative is admissible.

(2) If the sender avails himself of this facility his request must be indicated in the appropriate place in the despatch note on the parcel, and must be in one of the following forms :

“If undeliverable as addressed, abandon,”

“If undeliverable as addressed, deliver to...”

(3) In the absence of a definite request for abandonment, a parcel which is undeliverable at the original address or at the alternative address if one is furnished, shall, upon expiry of the period laid down in the regulations of the administration of destination, be returned to the sender without previous notification and at his expense.

(4) Parcels which cannot be delivered, returned to the sender, or otherwise disposed of or which have been abandoned by the senders, shall not be sent back to the country of origin, but shall be dealt with in accordance with the regulations of the country of destination.

(5) Any parcel, the addressee of which has left for a country to which postal parcels cannot be forwarded from the country of original destination, shall be dealt with as “undeliverable”.

Article 17

DETERIORATION OF CONTENTS

Where the deterioration or imminent corruption of the contents of a parcel is feared they may be sold immediately, without previous notice or judicial formality, for the benefit of the right party, or they may be disposed of in such manner as provided for by the regulations of the country concerned.

Article 18

PARCELS RETURNED TO SENDER

Parcels which have to be returned to the sender shall be entered in the parcel bill with the addition of the word "undeliverable" in the column for remarks. Charges due shall be recovered in a like manner to that prescribed for redirected parcels in Article 15.

Article 19

RETURN OF EMPTY RECEPTACLES

Except where special arrangements exist for reciprocal use, empty receptacles must be returned to the administration to which they belong by the earliest convenient mail. No territorial or maritime transits are payable in respect of these returned "Empties" and they must, as far as possible, follow the route used on the forward journey.

Article 20

GOVERNMENT PARCELS

Government parcels shall be subject in all respects to the conditions applicable to ordinary parcels.

Article 21

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIONS

In ordinary matters relating to the preparation, transmission or correction of parcel bills (which can be dealt with by means of verification notes), the offices of exchange shall be the offices of correspondence, but matters involving accounts and questions other than those of detail shall be settled in communication between the chief offices of the administrations concerned.

Article 22

SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

(1) Based on the monthly statements furnished by its exchange offices, each administration shall prepare a quarterly account, in duplicate, showing the credits for parcels mails received from the other administration.

These quarterly accounts shall be exchanged between the two administrations for verification and acceptance.

(2) The totals of the quarterly accounts prepared and accepted by the two postal administrations shall be included by the administration of the Union of South Africa in a quarterly general account, of which two copies shall be sent to the Austrian administration. Upon verification and acceptance, the Austrian administration shall return one duly accepted copy.

(3) The balance of the general account shall be settled within three months of the date of receipt of the account by the debtor administration. Upon expiry of this period, the amounts shall bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, reckoning from the first day after expiry of the period. The payment should be regarded as having been made from the date on which the relative instrument of payment is issued.

(4) Remittance shall be effected in accordance with the payment agreements in force in each case between the countries of the contracting administrations, or under conditions mutually agreed upon.

(5) Expenses involved in effecting remittances shall be chargeable to the debtor administration.

Article 23

MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT

All matters concerning the exchange of parcels between the contracting administrations not covered by this agreement shall be governed by the internal regulations of the Union of South Africa and Austria, according to the country involved.

Article 24

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be considered as having come into force on the first day of January, 1958, and shall remain in force until terminated by either party giving to the other party twelve months' notice, in writing, to terminate the same.

EXECUTED in duplicate in the English language. Signed at Ottawa this 26th day of September 1957.

For the Postal Administration
of the Union of South Africa :

(Signed) L. C. BURKE
Postmaster-General

For the Postal Administration
of Austria :

(Signed) Dr. SCHAGINGER
Director-General