

No. 17212

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Agreement relating to international express mail service
(with implementing regulations). Signed at Washington
on 6 April 1976 and at London on 29 June 1976**

Authentic text: English.

Registered by the United States of America on 24 November 1978.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD**

**Accord pour l'échange d'un service international de courrier
express (avec règlement d'application). Signé à Wash-
ington le 6 avril 1976 et à Londres le 29 juin 1976**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 24 novembre 1978.

AGREEMENT¹ FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL BETWEEN THE [POSTAL] ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

The Postal Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States Postal Service, desiring to conclude an Agreement for the exchange of International Express Mail between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

Have agreed as follows:

Article A1. OBJECT OF AGREEMENT

The Postal Administration of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States Postal Service have agreed to regulate the arrangements that have now been in operation for 4 years for the collection, transportation and delivery of International Express Mail. This Agreement is made in accordance with Article 6 of the Universal Postal Convention (Lausanne 1974).²

Article A2. DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement and the annexed detailed Regulations, the following expressions shall have the meaning assigned to them:

2.1 “United Kingdom” means the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but excludes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

2.2 “United States, or (USA)” means the United States of America.

2.3 International Express Mail is defined by the United Kingdom as Datapost and by the United States as Express Mail.

Article A3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION

Both Administrations agree to maintain a standard identification for International Express Mail. The orange and blue colors (Pantone 287 and 151 as equivalent) and a logo will be used in all external and internal communications. Each Administration will continue to use its own identification as applicable to its own domestic service.

Article A4. SERVICES

The services operating between the Administrations shall comprise:

4.1 Regularly Scheduled Service

4.1.1 This service shall be available to towns, cities and locations in the country of destination as advised by the administration of that country. Standards of service will be laid down and advised to each other.

4.1.2 Service must be to known addressees on a regular repetitive basis, on one or more days of the week. Service will not be less frequent than once a week, nor on varying days from week to week. No change need be made to existing services under this arrangement.

¹ Came into force on 1 July 1976, in accordance with article A16 (1).

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1005, p. 53.

- 4.1.3 Upon signing a contract/agreement the dispatching Administration will advise the receiving Administration, 10 days before commencement of the service, details of the service requirement including contract/agreement number, delivery address, flight to be used and the standard of delivery desired.
- 4.2 On Demand Service
- 4.2.1 The service shall operate on a nonscheduled basis.
- 4.2.2 Each Administration shall advise the other of the towns, cities and locations to which items can be sent on an On Demand basis.
- 4.2.3 Each Administration shall advise the other of the method of identifying packages, i.e., contract number, agreement number or serial numbering system.
- 4.2.4 Prior notice of sending items is not required.
- 4.2.5 Standards of service shall be defined to each town, city or location in relation to the international air flights being used and advised to the sending Administration.
- 4.3 Merchandise Service
- 4.3.1 It is anticipated that a merchandise service will be introduced.
- 4.3.2 Detailed arrangements will be mutually agreed between the Administrations at a later date.

Article A5. CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

- 5.1 To be admissible in the service between the two Administrations International Express Mail must:
- 5.1.1 Not exceed a weight of 15 kilos, and be enclosable in an International Express Mail bag.
- 5.1.2 Otherwise conform at the time of posting with all applicable conditions as laid down in this Agreement and the accompanying Regulations.

Article A6. PROHIBITIONS

The present service is restricted to business and commercial papers, but it is anticipated that merchandise will be carried in the near future. The forwarding of articles of which the importation or circulation is prohibited in the country of destination shall be prohibited in the merchandise service.

- 6.1 Apart from these exclusions, items which may be exchanged by International Express Mail shall be agreed to by both Administrations.
- 6.2 International Express Mail shall also be subject to all restrictions on conveyance by air that may from time to time be promulgated by competent regulatory bodies.

Article A7. DELIVERY

- 7.1 Packages shall be delivered to the address as quickly as possible, having regard to the poster's instructions and to the provisions applicable in the country of destination.
- 7.2 Each Administration undertakes to take all possible steps to expedite to the utmost the Customs clearance.

Article A8. ALLOCATION OF CHARGES

Neither Internal Air Charges or Terminal Charges shall be applied on International Express Mail. In lieu of these charges, a Single Service Charge shall be raised on the number of International Express Mail packages exchanged with the other Administration. The Administration receiving the larger number of packages shall have the right to collect

from the despatching Administration an agreed payment for each additional package received, provided that imbalance exceeds 5% of the total items received.

8.1 The settlement to be calculated annually over the period 1 January to 31 December, and the financial settlement completed by 1 April. The first financial settlement will run from 1 July 1976 to 31 December 1976.

8.2 The agreed payment for each package will be determined by 1 September for the following annual period. The payment will be based on delivery costs as determined by each Administration.

Article A9. CHARGES TO THE PUBLIC

Each Administration shall establish its own tariffs and retain total revenue. These tariffs should be comparable. Neither Administration will make any charges of the sender or addressee, in addition to these agreed to by the Administration of origin and the sender.

Article A10. CUSTOMS DUTY

Each Administration may collect from the addressee of International Express Mail packages the Customs charges or other duty to which the items are subjected in the country of destination.

Article A11. ENQUIRIES

Each Administration is bound to accept enquiries relating to any International Express Mail package forwarded to it from the other Administration. This provision is not intended, however, to provide for routine confirmation of delivery.

Article A12. EXTENT AND LIMITS OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMINISTRATIONS

The Administrations shall not accept responsibility for International Express Mail. Neither the sender nor the addressee of an International Express Mail package shall be entitled to compensation for the loss of an International Express Mail package or for the abstraction of or damage to the contents, except where special insurance arrangements are provided.

Article A13. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SERVICE

When, owing to exceptional circumstances, either Administration finds itself obliged to suspend its International Express Mail service temporarily either wholly or in part, they shall notify the fact immediately, if need be by telex, to the other Administration. The return of an International Express Mail package to origin in consequence of the suspension of a service shall be free of charge to the sender.

Article A14. NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The stipulations of this Agreement do not override the legislation enforced in either country as regards anything for which they do not expressly provide.

Article A15. ALTERATION OF THE AGREEMENT

Either of the contracting parties may propose at any time changes or additions to this Agreement and its detailed Regulations. Changes or additions can be made to the present Agreement by an exchange of letters between the two contracting Administrations.

Article A16. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

16.1 This Agreement shall come into force on the 1 July 1976 and shall remain in operation until the expiration of 1 year from the date on which notice of termination shall have been given by either contracting party.

16.2 The notice of termination shall be without prejudice to the settlement and payment of outstanding accounts after the expiration of that period.

16.3 As from the date of entry into force of this Agreement all previous Agreements and Undertakings relating to the exchange of International Express Mail packages between the United Kingdom and the United States Postal Service shall be revoked.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized for the purpose, have signed this Agreement.

L. H. KINGSBURY
Assistant Director
International Postal Service

[Signed]
H. EDGAR STOCK
Director
Office of International Postal Affairs
U.S. Postal Service
Washington, DC

DETAILED REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL PACKAGES BETWEEN THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Article R1. METHOD OF TRANSMISSION

1.1 The exchange of International Express Mail packages between the two countries shall be effected by the Offices appointed by agreement between the respective Administrations.

1.2 International Express Mail packages so exchanged shall be made-up in closed Mails, accompanied by relevant C12, AV7 and Datapost OE 1015/EMS Manifest forms, enclosed in blue and orange nylon Air Bags, in accordance with the relative provisions of these detailed Regulations.

Article R2. INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED

Each Administration shall communicate to the other:

2.1 All information required in connection with the working of the service.

2.2 As regards Customs or other Regulations, as well as the prohibitions or restrictions relative to the entry and transit of International Express Mail packages in the respective Administrations.

2.3 Any amendments to the information provided for in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above should be notified without delay.

Article R3. GENERAL MAKE-UP OF PACKAGES

To be admitted into the International Express Mail service every package must satisfy the following conditions:

3.1 It must bear in Roman characters on a special International Express Mail label attached to the package in such a way that it cannot become detached, the exact address of the addressee.

3.2 It must be packed and closed in a manner appropriate to its weight and the nature of the contents.

3.3 It must be packed in such a way as to avoid any danger if it contains articles of a kind likely to injure officials called upon to handle it or to soil or damage other packages.

Article R4. GENERAL FORMALITIES TO BE COMPLIED WITH BY THE SENDER

4.1 The present service, as at the date of this Agreement, is restricted to the conveyance of Business and, or Commercial papers. No customs declarations are required. Each package should be endorsed "Business Papers".

4.2 Customs declarations and Invoices:

- 4.2.1 It is anticipated in the future that a merchandise service will be introduced. Customs declarations and other documentation will then be required.
- 4.2.2 The respective Administrations will advise each other of their requirements in respect of Customs declarations and other documentation.
- 4.3 The Administrations shall accept no responsibility as regards Customs declarations.

Article R5. GENERAL FORMALITIES TO BE COMPLIED WITH BY THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

5.1 The Office of Origin shall be responsible at the time of posting for indicating on the package besides the address, the name of the Office of Posting and that postage has been paid.

Article R6. DOCUMENTATION

6.1 Upon dispatch each package is to be listed on an individual Datapost OE 1015/EMS Manifest, a separate form being used for each bag.

6.2 Letter bill C12 is to be used for each dispatch, the number of bags being listed and the form marked Datapost/EMS.

6.3 Forms AV7 will be used for the International mail dispatch. These will be clearly marked Datapost or Express Mail Service as appropriate.

Article R7. TRANSMISSION OF DATAPOST/EMS MAILS

7.1 Packages will be enclosed in the special Blue and Orange Nylon air bags which will be closed and sealed.

7.2 Bags will be labelled using the appropriate destination label as directed by the country of destination.

7.3 Each bag label will bear, either within its format, or attached to it as a backing label, the Blue/Orange chevron indicator which is the International Express Mail identification symbol.

Article R8. CHECK OF INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MAIL

8.1 Each Administration shall arrange for International Express Mails received from the other Administration to be checked against the AV7 upon arrival. The contents shall be checked against the C12 and the Individual Advice (Datapost OE 1015)/EMS (Manifest) as soon as possible at an office designated by the receiving Administration.

Article R9. NOTIFICATION OF IRREGULARITIES

9.1 Any discrepancy or mistreatment, absence of, theft from or damage to or from any one or more packages, or of bags of mail, shall be reported to the other Administration immediately by telex and confirmed in writing.

9.2 Any action required within the country of receipt shall be in accordance with the rules and/or regulations appertaining to that country.

Article R10. MIS-SENT PACKAGES OR BAGS

10.1 Where a package or bag of packages is received by either Administration which is not for that Administration in transit, i.e., mis-sent package or bag of packages, they shall be treated in accordance with the agreement made at the First International Datapost Conference, York, England, 13–17 May 1974 which was:

- 10.1.1 Forward the package or bags to the correct country of destination by the next available International Express Mail service.
- 10.1.2 Advise the country of destination of the action taken either by Telex or telephone, indicating details of the package or bags and the flight being used.

- 10.1.3 Advise the originating country either by Telex or telephone of the action taken.
- 10.1.4 No charges to be raised on the originating country for the costs of these emergency arrangements.

Article R11. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION OF THESE REGULATIONS

11.1 These Regulations shall come into force on the day on which the Agreement comes into operation.

11.2 They shall have the same duration as that Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorised for the purpose, have signed the Agreement.

L. H. KINGSBURY
Assistant Director
International Postal Service

[Signed]
H. EDGAR STOCK
Director
Office of International Postal Affairs
U.S. Postal Service
Washington, DC