



Australian Treaty Series

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

CANBERRA

Acts of the Universal Postal Union

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Explanatory Note

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The Constitution of the Universal Postal Union is the fundamental Act containing the organic rules of the Union. It is a diplomatic Act which is ratified by the competent authorities of each member country. The Constitution does not have to be renewed for each Congress. Amendments to it can only be made in Congress and are recorded in an Additional Protocol which is also subject to ratification.

The provisions relating to the application of the Constitution and the operation of the Union are contained in the General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union. The common rules applicable to the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services are given in the Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations. The last three Acts are binding on all member countries. Branches of the international postal service other than the letter post are governed by special Agreements and their Detailed Regulations. They are binding only on countries that are parties to the Agreements. The Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements are not regarded as treaties in the narrow sense but as agreements concluded at postal administration level. In practice, however, all the Acts revised by a Congress are signed by the plenipotentiaries of the countries represented and are also often ratified or approved by the same procedure as the Act to which they belong.

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1. Constitution of the Universal Postal Union

(done at Vienna on 10 July 1964 and amended at Tokyo on 14 November 1969, Lausanne on 5 July 1974 and Hamburg on 27 July 1984) and Final Protocol.

2. Universal Postal Convention.

3. Postal Parcels Agreement

Not printed are:

- General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union.
- Final Protocol to, and Detailed Regulations of, the Universal Postal Convention.
- Final Protocol to, and Detailed Regulations of, the Postal Parcels Agreement.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

PREAMBLE

With a view to developing communications between peoples by the efficient operation of the postal services, and to contributing to the attainment of the noble aims of international collaboration in the cultural, social and economic fields,

the plenipotentiaries of the Government of the contracting countries have, subject to ratification, adopted this Constitution.

SECTION I

ORGANIC PROVISIONS

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Article 1

Scope and objectives of the Union

1. The countries adopting this Constitution shall comprise, under the title of the Universal Postal Union, a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter-post items. Freedom of transit shall be guaranteed throughout the entire territory of the Union.
2. The aim of the Union shall be to secure the organization and improvement of the postal services and to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration.
3. The Union shall take part, as far as possible, in postal technical assistance sought by its member

countries.

Article 2

Members of the Union

Member countries of the Union shall be:

- a Countries which have membership status at the date on which this Constitution comes into force.
- b Countries admitted to membership in accordance with article 11.

Article 3

Jurisdiction of the Union

The Union shall have within its jurisdiction:

- a the territories of member countries;
- b post offices set up by member countries in territories not included in the Union;
- c territories which, without being members of the Union, are included in it because from the postal point of view they are dependent on member countries.

Article 4

Exceptional relations

Postal administrations which provide a service with territories not included in the Union are bound to act as intermediaries for other administrations. The provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall be applicable to such exceptional relations.

Article 5

Seat of the Union

The seat of the Union and of its permanent bodies shall be at Berne.

Article 6

Official language of the Union

The official language of the Union shall be French.

Article 7

Monetary standard

The franc adopted as the monetary unit in the Acts of the Union shall be the gold franc of 100 centimes weighing 10/31 of a gramme and of a fineness of 0.900.

Article 8

Restricted Unions.

Special Agreements

1. Member countries, or their postal administrations if the legislation of those countries so permits, may establish Restricted Unions, and make Special Agreements concerning the international postal service, provided always that they do not introduce provisions less favourable to the public than those provided for by the Acts to which the member countries concerned are parties.
2. Restricted Unions may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of the Union, to the Executive Council and to the Consultative Council for Postal Studies.
3. The Union may send observers to Congresses, Conferences and meetings of Restricted Unions.

Article 9

Relations with the United Nations

The relations between the Union and the United Nations shall be governed by the Agreements whose texts are annexed to this Constitution.

Article 10

Relations with international organizations

In order to secure close cooperation in the international postal sphere, the Union may collaborate with international organizations having related interests and activities.

CHAPTER II

ACCESSION OR ADMISSION TO THE UNION.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNION

Article 11

Accession or admission to the Union.

Procedure

1. Any member of the United Nations may accede to the Union.
2. Any sovereign country which is not a member of the United Nations may apply for admission as a member country of the Union.
3. Accession or application for admission to the Union must entail a formal declaration of accession to the Constitution and to the obligatory Acts of the Union. It shall be addressed through diplomatic channels to the Government of the Swiss Confederation, which shall notify the accession or consult the member countries on the application for admission, as the case may be.
4. A country which is not a member of the United Nations shall be deemed to be admitted as a member country if its application is approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union. Member countries which have not replied within a period of four months shall be considered as having abstained.

5. Accession or admission to membership shall be notified by the Government of the Swiss Confederation to the Governments of member countries. It shall take effect from the date of such notification.

Article 12

Withdrawal from the Union.

Procedure

1. Each member country may withdraw from the Union by notice of denunciation of the Constitution given through diplomatic channels to the Government of the Swiss Confederation and by that Government to the Governments of member countries.

2. Withdrawal from the Union shall become effective one year after the day on which the notice of denunciation provided for in paragraph 1 is received by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

CHAPTER III

ORGANIZATION OF THE UNION

Article 13

Bodies of the Union

1. The Union's bodies shall be Congress, the Executive Council, the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and the International Bureau.

2. The Union's permanent bodies shall be the Executive Council, the Consultative Council for Postal Studies and the International Bureau.

Article 14

Congress

1. Congress shall be the supreme body of the Union.

2. Congress shall consist of the representatives of member countries.

Article 15

Extraordinary Congresses

An Extraordinary Congress may be convened at the request or with the consent of at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union.

Article 16

Administrative Conferences

(Deleted).

Article 17

Executive Council

1. Between Congresses the Executive Council shall ensure the continuity of the work of the Union in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of the Union.
2. Members of the Executive Council shall carry out their functions in the name and in the interests of the Union.

Article 18

Consultative Council for Postal Studies

The Consultative Council for Postal Studies (CCPS) shall be entrusted with carrying out studies and giving opinions on technical, operational and economic questions concerning the postal service.

Article 19

Special Committees

(Deleted).

Article 20

International Bureau

A central office operating at the seat of the Union under the title of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, directed by a Director-General and placed under the control of the Executive Council, shall serve as an organ of liaison, information and consultation for postal administrations.

CHAPTER IV

FINANCES OF THE UNION

Article 21

Expenditure of the Union.

Contributions of member countries

1. Each Congress shall fix the maximum amount which:
 - a the expenditure of the Union may reach annually;
 - b the expenditure relating to the organization of the next Congress may reach.
2. The maximum amount for expenditure referred to in paragraph 1 may be exceeded if circumstances so require, provided that the relevant provisions of the General Regulations are observed.
3. The expenses of the Union, including where applicable the expenditure envisaged in paragraph 2, shall be jointly borne by the member countries of the Union. For this purpose, each member country shall choose the contribution class in which it intends to be included. The contribution classes shall be laid down in the General Regulations.
4. In the case of accession or admission to the Union under article 11, the Government of the Swiss

Confederation shall fix, by agreement with the Government of the country concerned, the contribution class into which the latter is to be placed for the purpose of apportioning the expenses of the Union.

SECTION II

ACTS OF THE UNION

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

Article 22

Acts of the Union

1. The Constitution shall be the basic Act of the Union. It shall contain the organic rules of the Union.
2. The General Regulations shall embody those provisions which ensure the application of the Constitution and the working of the Union. They shall be binding on all member countries.
3. The Universal Postal Convention and its Detailed Regulations shall embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services. These Acts shall be binding on all member countries.
4. The Agreements of the Union, and their Detailed Regulations, shall regulate the services other than those of the letter post between those member countries which are parties to them. They shall be binding on those countries only.
5. The Detailed Regulations, which contain the rules of application necessary for the implementation of the Convention and of the Agreements, shall be drawn up by the postal administrations of the member countries concerned.
6. The Final Protocols annexed to the Acts of the Union referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 shall contain the reservations to those Acts.

Article 23

Application of the Acts of the Union to territories for whose international relations a member country is responsible

1. Any country may declare at any time that its acceptance of the Acts of the Union includes all the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or certain of them only.
2. The declaration provided for in paragraph 1 must be addressed to the Government:
 - a of the country where Congress is held, if made at the time of signature of the Act or Acts in question;
 - b of the Swiss Confederation in all other cases.
3. Any member country may at any time address to the Government of the Swiss Confederation a notification of its intention to denounce the application of these Acts of the Union in respect of which it has made the declaration provided for in paragraph 1. Such notification shall take effect one year after the date of its receipt by the Government of the Swiss Confederation.

4. The declarations and notifications provided for in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be communicated to member countries by the Government of the country which has received them.
5. Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply to territories having the status of a member of the Union and for whose international relations a member country is responsible.

Article 24

National legislation

The provisions of the Acts of the Union shall not derogate from the legislation of any member country in respect of anything which is not expressly provided for by those Acts.

CHAPTER II

ACCEPTANCE AND DENUNCIATION OF THE ACTS OF THE UNION

Article 25

Signature, ratification and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

1. Signature of the Acts of the Union by plenipotentiaries shall take place at the end of Congress.
2. The Constitution shall be ratified as soon as possible by the signatory countries.
3. Approval of the Acts of the Union other than the Constitution shall be governed by the constitutional regulations of each signatory country.
4. When a country does not ratify the Constitution or does not approve the other Acts which it has signed, the Constitution and other Acts shall be no less valid for the other countries that have ratified or approved them.

Article 26

Notification of ratification and other forms of approval of the Acts of the Union

The instruments of ratification of the Constitution and, where appropriate, of approval of the other Acts of the Union shall be deposited as soon as possible with the Government of the Swiss Confederation, which shall notify the member countries of their deposit.

Article 27

Accession to the Agreements

1. Member countries may, at any time, accede to one or more of the Agreements provided for in article 22, paragraph 4.
2. Accession of member countries to the Agreements shall be notified in accordance with article 11, paragraph 3.

Article 28

Denunciation of an Agreement

Each member country may cease being a party to one or more of the Agreements, under the conditions laid down in article 12.

CHAPTER III

AMENDMENTS OF THE ACTS OF THE UNION

Article 29

Presentation of proposals

1. The postal administration of a member country shall have the right to present, either to Congress or between Congresses, proposals concerning the Acts of the Union to which its country is a party.
2. However, proposals concerning the Constitution and the General Regulations may be submitted only to Congress.

Article 30

Amendment to the Constitution

1. To be adopted, proposals submitted to Congress and relating to this Constitution must be approved by at least two thirds of the member countries of the Union.
2. Amendments adopted by a Congress shall form the subject of an additional protocol and, unless that Congress decides otherwise, shall enter into force at the same time as the Acts renewed in the course of the same Congress. They shall be ratified as soon as possible by member countries and the instruments of such ratification shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 26.

Article 31

Amendment of the General Regulations, the Convention, and the Agreements

1. The General Regulations, the Convention, and the Agreements shall define the conditions to be fulfilled for the approval of proposals which concern them.
2. The Acts referred to in paragraph 1 shall enter into force simultaneously and shall have the same duration. As from the day fixed by Congress for the entry into force of these Acts, the corresponding Acts of the preceding Congress shall be abrogated.

CHAPTER IV

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 32

Arbitration

In the event of a dispute between two or more postal administrations of member countries concerning the interpretation of the Acts of the Union or the responsibility imposed on a postal administration by the application of those Acts, the question at issue shall be settled by arbitration.

SECTION III

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 33

Coming into operation and duration of the Constitution

This Constitution shall come into operation of 1 January 1966 and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have signed this Constitution in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Vienna, 10 July 1964.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

FINAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

At the moment of proceeding to signature of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded this day, the undersigned plenipotentiaries have agreed the following:

Sole article

Accession to the Constitution

Member countries of the Union which have not signed the Constitution may accede to it at any time. Instruments of accession shall be addressed through diplomatic channels to the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated and by that Government to the Governments of the member countries of the Union.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undermentioned plenipotentiaries have drawn up this Protocol, which shall have the same force and the same validity as if its provisions were inserted in the text of the Constitution itself, and they have signed it in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the country in which the seat of the Union is situated. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Vienna, 10 July 1964.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONVENTION

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 3, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have by common consent and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution drawn up in this Convention the rules applicable in common throughout the international postal service and the provisions concerning the letter-post services.

PART I

RULES APPLICABLE IN COMMON THROUGHOUT THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Freedom of transit

1. Freedom of transit, the principle of which is set forth in article 1 of the Constitution, shall carry with it the obligation for each postal administration to forward always by the quickest routes which it uses for its own items, closed mails and *à découvert* letter-post items which are passed to it by another administration. This obligation shall also apply to airmail correspondence, whether or not the intermediate postal administrations take part in reforwarding it.
2. Member countries which do not participate in the exchange of letters containing perishable biological substances or radioactive substances shall have the option of not admitting these items in transit *à découvert* through their territory. The same shall apply to the items referred to in article 36, paragraph 9.
3. Member countries not providing the insured letters service or not accepting liability for insured letters carried by their sea or air services shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for registered items.
4. Freedom of transit for postal parcels to be forwarded by land and sea routes shall be limited to the territory of the countries taking part in this service.
5. Freedom of transit for air parcels shall be guaranteed throughout the territory of the Union. Nevertheless, member countries which are not parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement shall not be required to forward air parcels by surface.
6. Member countries which are parties to the Postal Parcels Agreement but which do not provide an insured parcels service or which do not accept liability for insured items carried by their sea or air services, shall nonetheless be bound to forward, by the quickest route, closed mails passed to them by other administrations, but their liability shall be limited to that laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

Article 2

Failure to give freedom of transit

When a member country fails to observe the provisions of article 1 of the Constitution and of article 1 of the Convention regarding freedom of transit, postal administrations of other member countries may discontinue their postal service with that country. They shall give prior notice of this step to the administrations concerned by telegram, and inform the International Bureau of the fact.

Article 3

Land transit without the participation of the services of the country crossed

The conveyance of mail in transit through a country without the participation of the services of that country shall be subject to the prior authorization of the country crossed. This form of transit shall not involve the liability of the latter country.

Article 4

Temporary suspension and resumption of services

1. When, owing to exceptional circumstances, a postal administration is obliged temporarily to suspend its services wholly or in part, it shall announce the fact immediately, if need be by telegraph or telex, to the administration or administrations concerned, indicating, if possible, the probable duration of the suspension of services. It shall do likewise when the suspended services are resumed.
2. The International Bureau must be notified of the suspension or resumption of services if a general announcement is considered necessary. If necessary, the International Bureau shall notify administrations by telegram or telex.
3. The administration of origin shall have the option of refunding the postage charges (article 19), special charges (article 24) and air surcharges (article 74) to the sender if, owing to the suspension of services, the benefit accruing from conveyance of the item in question was obtained only in part or not at all.

Article 5

Ownership of postal items

A postal item shall remain the property of the sender until it is delivered to the rightful owner, except when the item has been seized in pursuance of the legislation of the country of destination.

Article 6

Creation of new service

Administrations may by mutual consent create a new service not expressly provided for in this Convention. Charges for a new service shall be laid down by the administration concerned, having regard to the expenses of operating the service.

Article 7

Charges

1. The charges for the various international postal services shall be laid down in the Convention and the Agreements.
2. No postal charge of any kind may be collected other than those provided for in the Convention and Agreements.

Article 8

Monetary standard.

Equivalents

1. The monetary unit used in the Convention and the Agreements as well as in their Detailed

Regulations shall be the gold franc laid down in article 7 of the Constitution convertible into the International Monetary Fund (IMF) accounting unit, which is at present the Special Drawing Right (SDR).

2. Union member countries shall be entitled to choose, by mutual agreement, another monetary unit or one of their national currencies for preparing and settling accounts.

3. In each member country, the charges shall be fixed on the basis of the closest possible equivalent of the SDR in the currency of that country.

4. Union member countries whose currency exchange rates in relation to the SDR are not calculated by the IMF or which are not members of that specialized agency shall be requested to declare unilaterally an equivalence between their currencies and the SDR.

5. Each postal administration shall be free to round its charges up or down, whichever is best adapted to its monetary system.

6. Postal administrations shall not be bound to amend the equivalents of the charges prescribed in the Convention and in the Agreements or the sales price of international reply coupons when, as a result of fluctuations in the equivalent used to establish charges in accordance with the present article, the limits authorized by the Convention are not exceeded by more than 15 percent.

Article 9

Postage stamps

1. Postage stamps for denoting payment of postage shall be issued by postal administrations only.

2. The subjects and designs of postage stamps shall be in keeping with the spirit of the preamble to the UPU Constitution and of decisions taken by the Union's bodies.

Article 10

Forms

1. The texts, colours and dimensions of forms shall be prescribed in the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and of the Agreements.

2. Forms for the use of administrations in their relations with one another shall be drawn up in French with or without interlinear translation, unless the administrations concerned arrange otherwise by direct agreement.

3. Forms for the use of postal administrations as well as any copies thereof shall be completed in such a way that the entries are fully legible. The original form shall be sent to the appropriate administration or to the party most concerned.

4. Forms for the use of the public shall bear an interlinear translation in French when they are not printed in that language.

Article 11

Postal identity cards

1. Each postal administration may issue to persons who apply for them postal identity cards valid as proof of identity for postal transactions effected in member countries which have not announced their

refusal to recognize them.

2. The administration which issues a card shall be authorized to collect, on this account, a charge which may not exceed 5 francs (1.63 SDR).

3. Administrations shall be relieved of all liability when it is established that the delivery of a postal item or the payment of a monetary article was effected on presentation of a genuine card. Moreover, they shall not be liable for consequences arising from the loss, theft or fraudulent use of a genuine card.

4. A card shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date of issue. Nevertheless, it shall cease to be valid:

a when the appearance of the holder is altered to such an extent that it no longer corresponds to the photograph or to the description;

b when it is damaged in such a way that it is no longer possible to check a particular entry concerning the holder;

c when it shows signs of forgery.

Article 12

Settlement of accounts

Settlements between postal administrations of international accounts arising from postal traffic may be regarded as current transactions and effected in accordance with the current international obligations of the member countries concerned, when there are agreements to this effect. In the absence of such agreements, accounts shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations.

Article 13

Undertakings regarding penal measures

The Governments of member countries shall undertake to adopt, or to propose to the legislatures of their countries, the necessary measures:

a for punishing the counterfeiting of postage stamps, even if withdrawn from circulation, of international reply coupons and of postal identity cards;

b for punishing the use or uttering:

i of counterfeit postage stamps (even if withdrawn from circulation) or used postage stamps, as well as of counterfeit or used impressions of franking machines or printing presses;

ii of counterfeit international reply coupons;

iii of counterfeit postal identity cards;

c for punishing the fraudulent use of genuine postal identity cards;

d for prohibiting and suppressing all fraudulent operations of manufacturing and uttering adhesive stamps and stamped impressions in use in the postal service, counterfeited or imitated in such a manner that they could be mistaken for the adhesive stamps and stamped impressions issued by the postal

administration of a member country;

e for preventing and, if necessary, for punishing the insertion in postal items of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances, where their insertion has not been expressly authorized by the Convention and the Agreements.

CHAPTER II

EXEMPTION FROM POSTAL CHARGES

Article 14

Exemption from postal charges

Cases of exemption from postal charges shall be expressly laid down by the Convention and the Agreements.

Article 15

Exemption from postal charges on letter-post items relating to the postal service

Subject to article 73, paragraph 4, letter-post items relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges if they are:

a sent by postal administrations or their offices;

b exchanged between bodies of the Universal Postal Union and bodies of the Restricted Unions, between the bodies of those Unions or sent by such bodies to postal administrations or their offices.

Article 16

Exemption from postal charges of items which concern prisoners of war and civilian internees

1. Subject to article 73, paragraph 2, letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles addressed to or sent by prisoners of war, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Prisoner-of-War Information Agency provided for in articles 122 and 123 respectively of the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949^[1] relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, shall be exempt from all postal charges. Belligerents apprehended and interned in a neutral country shall be classed with prisoners of war proper so far as the application of the foregoing provisions is concerned.

2. Paragraph 1 shall apply to letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles originating in other countries and addressed to or sent by civilian internees as defined by the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949^[2] relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, either direct or through the Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agency prescribed in articles 136 and 140 respectively of that Convention.

3. The national Information Bureaux and the Central Information Agencies mentioned above shall also enjoy exemption from postal charges in respect of letter-post items, postal parcels and monetary articles which concern the persons referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, which they send or receive, either direct or as intermediaries, under the conditions laid down in those paragraphs.

4. Parcels shall be admitted free of postage up to a weight of 5 kg. The weight limit shall be increased to 10kg in the case of parcels the contents of which cannot be split up and of parcels addressed to a camp or the prisoners' representatives there ("hommes de confiance") for distribution to the prisoners.

Article 17

Exemption of literature for the blind from postal charges

Subject to article 73, paragraph 2, literature for the blind shall be exempt from postage, the special charges listed in article 24, paragraph 1, and the cash-on-delivery charge.

PART II

PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LETTER POST

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 18

Letter-post items

Letter-post items shall consist of letters, postcards, printed papers, literature for the blind and small packets.

Article 19

Postage charges and limits of weight and size.

General conditions

1. The postage charge for the conveyance of letter-post items throughout the entire extent of the Union as well as the limits of weight and size, shall be fixed in accordance with columns 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 of the table below. The basic charges (col 3) may be increased by 100 percent (col 4) or reduced by 70 percent (col 5) at most. Except in the case provided for in article 25, paragraph 6, they shall cover delivery of the items to the place of address provided that this delivery service is operated in the country of destination for the items in question.

Category	Weight step	Basic charges	Charges upper limit (increase of 100%)	Charges lower limit (reduction of 70%)	Limits of weight	of size			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			
		g c	SDR	g c	SDR	g c	SDR		
Letters	up to 20 g	112.5	0.37	225	0.74	33.75	0.11	2 kg	Maxima: length, width
	above 20 g								and depth combined:
	up to 100 g	270	0.88	540	1.76	81	0.26		900 mm but the greatest

	above 100 g							dimension may not
	up to 250 g	540	1.76	1080	3.53	162	0.53	exceed 600 mm with a
	above 250 g							tolerance of 2 mm.
	up to 500 g	1035	3.38	2070	6.76	310.5	1.01	In roll form: length
	above 500 g							plus twice the
	up to 1000 g	1800	5.88	3600	11.76	540	1.76	diameter, 1040 mm, but
	above 1000 g							the greatest dimension
	up to 2000 g	2925	9.56	5850	19.11	877.5	2.87	may not exceed 900 mm
								with a tolerance of 2mm.
								Minima: to have a surface measuring not less than 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2mm.
								In roll form: length plus twice the diameter: 170 mm but the greatest dimension may not be less than 100 mm.
Postcards		78.75	0.26	157.5	0.51	23.5	0.08	Maxima: 105 x 148 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm.
								Minima: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm.
								Length at least equal to the width multiplied by square root of 2 (approximate value 1.4).
Category	Weight step	Basic charges	Charges upper limit (increase of 100%)	Charges lower limit (reduction of 70%)	Limits of weight	Limits of size		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
		g c	SDR	g c	SDR	g c	SDR	

Printed papers	up to 20 g above 20 g	56.25 123.75	0.18 0.40	112.5 247.5	0.37 0.81	16.75 37	0.05 0.12	2 kg (for books and pamphlets:	Maxima: length, width and depth combined: 900 mm but the greatest dimension may not exceed
	up to 100 g								600 mm with a tolerance
	above 100 g							5 kg; this weight may	of 2 mm.
	up to 250 g	225	0.74	450	1.47	67.5	0.22	limit of	In roll form: length
	above 250 g							raised to	plus twice the diameter,
	up to 500 g	405	1.32	810	2.65	121.5	0.40	may be	1040 mm, but the
	above 500 g							agreement	greatest dimension may
	up to 1000 g	675	2.21	1350	4.41	202.5	0.66	10 kg after	not exceed 900 mm with
	above 1000 g							between	a tolerance of 2 mm.
	up to 2000 g	945	3.09	1890	6.17	283.5	0.93	the admin- istrations	Minima: to have a
	per additional							concerned)	surface measuring not less than 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2mm.
	step of 1000 g	472.5	1.54	945	3.09	141.75	0.46		
Literature for the blind	see article 17							7 kg	In roll form: length plus twice the diameter:
	up to 100								170 mm, but the greatest dimension may not be less than 100 mm.

Small	g	123.75	0.40	247.5	0.81	37	0.12	1 kg	
packets	above 100 g							(this limit	
	up to 250 g	225	0.74	450	1.47	67.5	0.22	of weight	
	above 250 g							may be	
	up to 500 g	405	1.32	810	2.65	121.5	0.40	raised to	
	above 500 g							2 kg after	
	up to 1000 g	675	2.21	1350	4.41	202.5	0.66	agreement	
	above 1000 g							between the	
	up to 2000 g	945	3.09	1890	6.17	283.5	0.93	adminis-	
	(optional							trations	
	weight step)							concerned)	

2. Member countries may, exceptionally, modify the weight-step structure shown in paragraph 1, subject to the following conditions:

a for any category, the minimum weight step shall be that shown in paragraph 1;

b for any category, the last weight step shall not exceed the maximum weight shown in paragraph 1;

c for any category, the charges for the weight steps adopted by a member country shall bear the same relation to one another as exist between the basic charges in the weight-step structure laid down in paragraph 1.

3. Exceptionally, member countries which have abolished postcards as a separate category of letter-post item in their internal service may apply to international service postcards the charge for letters.

4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, a, postal administrations may apply a first weight step of 50 g to printed papers.

5. Subject to article 8, paragraph 5, the charges adopted within the limits laid down in paragraph 1 shall as far as possible bear the same relation to one another as the basic charges. Exceptionally, and within the limits prescribed in paragraph 1, each postal administration shall be free to apply to the charges for postcards, printed papers or small packets a rate of increase or reduction different from that which it applies to the charges for letters.

6. Each postal administration may allow, for newspapers and periodicals published in its country, a reduction of not more than 50 percent of the tariff for printed papers, while reserving the right to restrict this reduction to newspapers and periodicals which fulfil the conditions required by internal regulations for transmission at the tariff for newspapers. This reduction shall not extend to commercial printed papers such as catalogues, prospectuses, price lists, etc, no matter how regularly they are issued; the same shall apply to advertisements printed on sheets annexed to newspapers and

periodicals.

7. Administrations may likewise concede the same reduction for books and pamphlets, for musical scores and for maps, provided they contain no publicity matter or advertisement other than that appearing on the cover or the fly leaves.

8. The charge applicable to printed papers for the same addressee at the same address inserted in one or more special bags shall be calculated by weight steps of 1 kg up to the total weight of each bag. Administrations may allow a reduction in the charge of up to 20 percent for printed papers sent in special bags independently of the reductions provided for in paragraphs 6 and 7. These items shall not be subject to the limits of weight laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

9. The administration of origin may apply to non-standardized letters and printed papers in envelopes of the first weight step and to letters in the form of cards which do not meet the conditions laid down in article 20, paragraph 1, b, a charge which may not be higher than the charge relating to items of the second weight step. The administration of origin may also apply to letters and printed papers in envelopes weighing over 20 g, and which do not meet the other conditions laid down in article 20, paragraph 1, a charge which may not be higher than the charge for the weight step immediately above the step in which the item actually falls.

10. The combining in one item of articles on which different charges are payable shall be authorized on condition that the total weight does not exceed the maximum weight of the category whose rate is the highest. The charge applicable to the weight of the item shall be that of the category with the highest rate.

11. The letter-post items sent on postal service as mentioned in article 15 shall not be subject to the limits of weight and size laid down in paragraph 1. However, they shall not exceed the maximum weight of 30 kg per bag.

12. Administrations may apply to letter-post items posted in their countries the maximum limit of weight laid down for articles of the same kind in their internal service provided that such items do not exceed the limit of weight mentioned in paragraph 1.

Article 20

Standardized items

1. In connection with the provisions of article 19, paragraph 1, rectangular items shall be considered standardized if their length is not less than their width multiplied by the square root of 2 (approximate value 1.4) and if they satisfy, according to their presentation, the following conditions:

a for items in envelopes:

i items in ordinary envelopes:

minimum dimensions: 90 x 140 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;

maximum dimensions: 120 x 235 mm, with a tolerance of 2 mm;

maximum weight: 20 g;

maximum thickness: 5 mm;

in addition, the address shall be written on the envelope on the plain side which is not provided with a

closing flap and in a rectangular area situated at least:

40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);

15 mm from the right-hand edge;

15 mm from the bottom edge;

and not more than 140 mm from the right-hand edge;

ii items in envelopes with transparent panels:

dimensions, weight and thickness of items in ordinary envelopes; in addition to the general conditions of admission set out in article 123 of the Detailed Regulations, such items shall satisfy the following conditions:

the transparent panel for the address of the addressee shall be at least:

40 mm from the top edge of the envelope (tolerance 2 mm);

15 mm from the right-hand edge;

15 mm from the left-hand edge;

15 mm from the bottom edge;

the panel may not be bordered by a coloured band or frame;

iii all items in envelopes:

the sender's address, when it appears on the front, shall be placed in the top left-hand corner; this position shall also be assigned to service indications or labels, if any, which may be located beneath the sender's address; the items shall be closed by completely sticking down the sealing flap of the envelope;

b for items in card form:

dimensions and consistency of postcards;

c for items mentioned in a and b:

on the address side on which the address shall be written in the direction of the length a rectangular area 40 mm (-2 mm) in depth from the upper edge and 74 mm in width from the right-hand edge shall be reserved for affixing the postage stamp or stamps and the cancellation impression. Inside this area the postage stamps or franking impression shall be applied in the top right-hand corner.

No wording or extraneous matter whatsoever may appear:

- below the address,

- to the right of the address, from the franking and cancelling area to the bottom edge of the item,

- to the left of the address, in an area at least 15 mm wide and running from the first line of the address to the bottom edge of the item,

- in an area 15 mm high starting from the bottom edge of the item and 140 mm long starting from the right-hand edge of the item. This area may be partly identical with those defined above.

2. The following items shall not be considered standardized:

- folded cards;
- items closed by means of staples, metal eyelets or hook fastenings;
- punched cards sent unenclosed (without an envelope);
- items whose envelopes are made of material which has fundamentally different physical properties from paper (except from the material used for making the panel of window envelopes);
- items containing articles causing protrusions;
- folded letters sent unenclosed (without an envelope) which are not closed on all sides and which are not rigid enough for mechanical processing.

Article 21

Perishable biological substances.

Radioactive materials

1. Perishable biological substances and radioactive materials made up and packed in accordance with the respective provisions of the Detailed Regulations shall be subject to the tariff for letters and to registration. Their admission shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only. Such substances shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding air surcharges.

2. Furthermore, perishable biological substances may be exchanged only between officially recognized qualified laboratories, while radioactive materials may be posted only by duly authorized senders.

Article 22

Items wrongly admitted

1. Except as otherwise provided in the Convention and its Detailed Regulations, items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in articles 19 and 21 and the Detailed Regulations shall not be admitted. Such items which have been wrongly admitted shall be returned to the administration of origin. Nevertheless, the administration of destination shall be authorized to deliver them to the addressees. In that event it shall collect on them, as necessary, the charges prescribed for the category of the letter post to which they belong by reason of their method of closure, contents, weight or size. If, in addition, the weight of the items exceeds the maximum limits laid down in article 19, paragraph 1, the administration of destination may charge for them according to their actual weight by applying a supplementary charge equal to the charge for an item in the international service of the same category and of the weight corresponding to the excess noted.

2. Paragraph 1 shall apply by analogy to items coming within the provisions of article 36, paragraphs 2 and 3.

3. Items containing the other articles prohibited by article 36 which have been wrongly admitted to the post shall be dealt with according to the provisions of that article.

Article 23

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1. A member country shall not be bound to forward or deliver to the addressee letter-post items which senders resident in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign country with the object of profiting by the lower charges in force there. The same shall apply to such items posted in large quantities, whether or not such postings are made with a view to benefitting from lower charges.
2. Paragraph 1 shall be applied without distinction both to correspondence made up in the country where the sender resides and then carried across the frontier and to correspondence made up in a foreign country.
3. The administration concerned may either return its items to origin or charge postage on the items at its internal rates. If the sender refuses to pay the postage, the items may be disposed of in accordance with the internal legislation of the administration concerned.
4. A member country shall not be bound to accept, forward or deliver to the addressees letter-post items which senders post or cause to be posted in large quantities in a country other than the country where they reside. The administration concerned may send back such items to origin or return them to the senders without repaying the prepaid charge.

Article 24

Special charges

1. The charges prescribed in the Convention which are collected in addition to the postage charges mentioned in article 19 shall be known as "special charges". Their amount shall be fixed in accordance with the indications in the table below.

Description of charge	Amount	Observations
1	2	3
a Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting (article 25, paragraph 1)	Same charge as in internal service	
b Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours (article 25, paragraph 2)	Same charge as in internal service	
c Charge for collection at the sender's address (article 25, paragraph 3)	Same charge as in internal service	
d Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter		

opening hours (article 25, paragraph 4)	Same charge as in internal service	
e Poste restante charge (article 25, paragraph 5)	Same charge as in internal service	
f Charge for delivery to the addressee of a small packet exceeding 500 g (article 25, paragraph 6)	60 centimes (0.20 SDR) at most	This charge may be increased by 30 centimes (0.10 SDR) at most when the item is delivered to the place of address
g Storage charge (article 26)	Charge collected at the rate laid down by internal legislation for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 g except literature for the blind	
h Charge on unpaid or underpaid unregistered items (article 30, paragraphs 1 and 2)	Charge adopted for letters in the first weight step by the country of delivery multiplied by the ratio between the amount of deficient postage and the same charge adopted by the country of origin; to this charge shall be added a handling charge of 1 franc (0.33 SDR) at most or the charge prescribed by internal legislation	The delivering administration may, if it so wishes, collect only the handling charge
i Express charge (article 32, paragraphs 2, 3 and 6)	Charge which may not be less than the amount of postage prepayable on an unregistered single rate letter and not more than 5 francs (1.63 SDR)	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five times the charge per item. When express delivery involves special demands an additional charge may be levied in accordance with the provisions governing items of the same kind in the internal service. If the addressee asks for express delivery, the charge of the internal service may be collected
j Charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address (article 33, paragraph 2)	4 francs (1.31 SDR) at most	
k Charge for a request for redirection (article 34, paragraph 3)	Same charge as in internal service	
l Charge for redirection or return (article 34,		

paragraph 4, and article 35, paragraph 8)	Same charge as in internal service	
m Presentation-to-Customs charge (article 38)	8 francs (2.61 SDR) at most	For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding 10 francs (3.27 SDR)
n Charge collected for delivery of an item free of charges and fees (article 40, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5)	i Charge not exceeding 3 francs (0.98 SDR) collected by the administration of origin ii Additional charge not exceeding 4 francs (1.31 SDR) per request made after posting, collected by the administration of origin iii Commission charge not exceeding 3 francs (0.98 SDR) collected for the benefit of the administration of destination	
o Inquiry charge (article 42, paragraph 4)	2 francs (0.65 SDR) at most	
p Registration charge (article 44, paragraphs 1, b, and 2, and article 47, paragraphs 1, b, and 2)	4 francs (1.31 SDR) at most	i For each bag containing the items mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, administrations shall collect, instead of the charge per item, a bulk charge not exceeding five time the amount of the charge per item ii In addition to the charge per item or bulk charge, administrations may collect, from the sender or from the addressee, special charges in accordance with their internal legislation, to take account of any exceptional security measures taken with regard to registered items and insured letters
q Insurance charge (article 47, paragraph 1, c)	At most 1 franc (0.33 SDR) for each 200 francs (65.34 SDR) of insured value or fraction thereof or 1/2 percent of the scale of the insured value, whatever the country of destination, even in countries which undertake to cover risks of <i>force majeure</i>	
r Charge for cover against risks due to <i>force majeure</i> (article 44, paragraph 3)	40 centimes (0.13 SDR) at most for each registered item	
s Advice of delivery charge (article 48,	3 francs (0.98 SDR) at most	

paragraph 1)		
t Charge for delivery to the addressee	50 centimes (0.16 SDR) at most in person (article 49, paragraph 1)	

2. Member countries whose internal service charges are higher than those which are fixed in paragraph 1 shall be authorized to apply them also in the international service.

Article 25

Charge on items posted after the latest time for posting.

Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours.

Charge for collection at the sender's address.

Charge for withdrawal outside normal counter opening hours.

Poste restante charge.

Charge for delivery of small packets.

1. Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to the provisions of their legislation, for items handed over for dispatch after the latest time for posting.

2. Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items posted at the counter outside normal opening hours.

3. Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the sender an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items collected by them from the sender's address.

4. Administrations shall be authorized to collect from the addressee an additional charge, according to their legislation, for items withdrawn at the counter outside normal opening hours.

5. Administrations of countries of destination may collect on items addressed poste restante the special charge, if any, prescribed by their legislation for items of the same kind in their internal service.

6. Administrations of countries of destination shall be authorized to collect on each small packet exceeding the weight of 500 grammes delivered to the addressee, the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, f.

Article 26

Storage charge

The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, according to its legislation, a storage charge for any letter-post item weighing more than 500 grammes of which the addressee has not taken delivery within the period during which the item is held at his disposal free of charge. This charge shall not apply to literature for the blind.

Article 27

Payment of postage

1. As a general rule, the items mentioned in article 18, with the exception of those which are dealt with in articles 15 to 17, shall be fully prepaid by the sender.
2. The administration of the country of origin may return unpaid or underpaid letter-post items to the sender for the latter to make up the postage himself.
3. The administration of origin may also itself undertake to prepay unpaid letter-post items or make up the postage on underpaid items and collect the missing amount from the sender.
4. If the administration of origin does not apply any of the options provided for in paragraphs 2 and 3 or if the postage cannot be made up by the sender, unpaid or underpaid letters and postcards shall still be forwarded to the country of destination. Other unpaid or underpaid items may also be forwarded.
5. Items properly paid for their first transmission and on which the supplementary charge has been paid before their redirection shall be considered as duly prepaid.

Article 28

Methods of denoting prepayment

1. Prepayment shall be denoted by means of any one of the following methods:

a postage stamps printed on or affixed to the items and valid in the country of origin;

b postal prepayment impressions dispensed by automatic vending machines installed by postal administrations;

c impressions of officially approved franking machines operating under the direct supervision of the postal administration;

d impressions made by a printing press or other printing or stamping process when such a system is authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin;

e inscription "Abonnement-poste" and prepayment according to one of the methods laid down in subparagraphs a to d for newspapers, packets of newspapers and periodicals sent under the Subscriptions to Newspapers and Periodicals Agreement.

2. Prepayment of printed papers for the same addressee at the same address which are inserted in a special bag shall be denoted by one of the methods referred to in paragraph 1 and the total amount shown on the address label on the bag.

Article 29

Prepayment of letter-post items on board ship

1. Items posted on board ship at the two terminal points of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call shall be prepaid by means of postage stamps and according to the rates of the country in whose waters the ship is lying.

2. If the items are posted on board on the high seas, they may be prepaid, in the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, by means of the postage stamps and according to the rates of the country to which the ship appertains or is under contract. Items prepaid in this way must be handed over to the post office at the port of call as soon as possible after the arrival of the ship.

Article 30

Charge on unpaid or underpaid correspondence

1. An administration of origin that itself undertakes to prepay unpaid letter-post items or make up the postage on underpaid items and collect the missing amount from the sender, shall also be authorized to collect from the sender the handling charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, h.
2. Where paragraph 1 is not applied, unpaid or underpaid items shall be liable to the special charge payable by the addressee or, in the case of returned items, by the sender, laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, h.
3. Registered items and insured letters shall be regarded on arrival as duly prepaid.

Article 31

International reply coupons

1. Postal administrations shall be permitted to sell international reply coupons issued by the International Bureau and to limit their sale in accordance with their internal legislation.
2. The value of the reply coupon shall be the same as the upper limit given in article 19, paragraph 1, for the charge for a letter of 20 grammes. The selling price fixed by the administrations concerned may not be less than this value.
3. Reply coupons shall be exchangeable in any member country for one or more postage stamps representing the minimum postage prepayable on an unregistered letter sent abroad by surface mail. If the regulations of the administration of the country of exchange permit, reply coupons shall also be exchangeable for postal stationery. When a sufficient number of reply coupons are presented, administrations shall be required to supply the postage stamps necessary for the minimum postage prepayable on an unregistered letter at one of the weight steps up to but not exceeding 20 grammes for dispatch by air as a surcharged or unsurcharged item.
4. The administration of a member country may, in addition, reserve the right to require the reply coupons and the items to be prepaid in exchange for those reply coupons to be presented at the same time.

Article 32

Express items

1. In countries where the administration performs the service, letter-post items shall, at the sender's request, be delivered by special messenger as soon as possible after their arrival at the delivery office; however, as regards insured letters, the administration of destination may, where its regulations so provide, deliver by express an advice of arrival of the item and not the item itself.
2. These items, called "express", shall be subject, in addition to the postage, to the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, i. This charge shall be fully paid in advance.
3. When express delivery involves special demands on the administration of destination as regards either the situation of the addressee's address or the day or time of arrival at the office of destination, the delivery of the item and the possible collection of an additional charge shall be governed by the provisions relating to items of the same kind in the internal service.
4. Express items on which the total amount of the charges payable in advance has not been completely paid shall be delivered as ordinary mail unless they have been treated as express by the office of origin. In the latter event a charge shall be collected on them in accordance with article 30.

5. Administrations may confine themselves to making only one attempt at express delivery. If that attempt fails, the item may be treated as an ordinary item.

6. If the regulations of the administration of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office to deliver to them by express immediately on arrival items which are intended for them. In that case the administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, on delivery, the charge that applies in its internal service.

Article 33

Withdrawal from the Post.

Alteration or correction of address at the sender's request

1. The sender of a letter-post item may have it withdrawn from the post, or have its address altered, so long as the item:

a has not been delivered to the addressee;

b has not been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authorities because of infringement of article 36;

c has not been seized by virtue of the legislation of the country of destination.

2. The request to be made to this effect shall be forwarded by post or by telegraph at the expense of the sender who shall pay, for each request, the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, j. If the request is to be forwarded by telegraph, the sender shall pay in addition the appropriate telegraph charge. If the item is still in the country of origin, the request for withdrawal from the post, or alteration or correction of address, shall be dealt with according to the legislation of that country.

3. If its legislation permits, each administration shall be bound to accept requests for withdrawal from the post or alteration of the address in respect of any letter-post item posted in the service of other administrations.

4. If, in relations between two countries which admit this procedure, the sender wishes to be informed by telegraph of the action taken by the office of destination on his request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of the address, he shall pay for this purpose the relative telegraph charge. If telegrams are used, the telegraph charge shall be that for a reply-paid telegram, calculated on a fifteen-word basis. When telex is used, the telegraph charge to the sender shall normally be the same amount as that charged for forwarding the request by telex.

5. The charges prescribed in paragraph 2 shall be levied only once for each request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address involving several items posted at the same time, at the same office, by the same sender to the same addressee.

6. A request for simple correction of address (without alteration of the name or status of the addressee) may be made direct to the office of destination by the sender, that is to say, without compliance with the formalities and without payment of the special charge prescribed in paragraph 2.

7. An item shall be returned to origin by air following a request for withdrawal from the post when the sender undertakes to pay the corresponding air surcharge. When an item is redirected by air following a request for alteration of address, the corresponding air surcharge shall be collected from the addressee and shall remain the property of the delivering administration.

Article 34

Redirection

1. If an addressee changes his address, letter-post items shall be reforwarded to him forthwith, under the conditions prescribed in the internal service, unless the sender has forbidden redirection by means of a note on the address side in a language known in the country of destination. Nevertheless, reforwarding from one country to another shall be effected only if the items satisfy the conditions for the onward conveyance. In the case of redirection by air, articles 80, paragraphs 2 to 5, of the Convention and 200 of the Detailed Regulations shall be applied.
2. Each administration may lay down a redirection period in accordance with that in force in its internal service.
3. Administrations which collect a charge for requests for redirection in their internal services shall be authorized to collect this same charge in the international service.
4. Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations, no additional charge may be collected for the redirection of letter-post items from country to country. However, administrations which collect a charge for redirection of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international mail redirected within their own countries.
5. Letter-post items which are redirected shall be delivered to the addressees on payment of the charges incurred on departure, on arrival, or in course of transmission due to redirection after the first transmission, without prejudice to the payment of customs duty or other special charges which the country of destination does not cancel.
6. In the event of redirection to another country, the poste restante charge, the presentation to customs charge, the storage charge, the commission charge, the additional express charge and the charge for delivery of small packets to the addressees shall be cancelled.

Article 35

Undeliverable items.

Return to country of origin or to sender

1. Items which it has not proved possible to deliver to the addressee for whatever reason, shall be considered as undeliverable items.
2. Undeliverable items shall be returned forthwith to the country of origin.
3. The period of retention for items held at the disposal of the addressees or addressed poste restante shall be fixed by the regulations of the administration of destination. As a general rule, however, this period may not exceed one month, except in particular cases where the administration of destination considers it necessary to extend it to a maximum of two months. Return to the country of origin shall be effected within a shorter period if the sender has requested it by a note on the address side in a language known in the country of destination.
4. Undeliverable items of the internal service shall be redirected abroad for return to the sender only if they satisfy the conditions for the onward conveyance.
5. Postcards which do not bear the address of the sender shall not be returned. However, registered postcards shall always be returned.
6. The return to origin of undeliverable printed papers shall not be compulsory, unless the sender has asked for their return by means of a note on the item in a language known in the country of destination.

Registered printed papers and books shall always be returned.

7. In the event of return to the country of origin by air, articles 81 of the Convention and 200 of the Detailed Regulations shall be applied.

8. Undeliverable letter-post items returned to the country of origin shall be delivered to senders according to the conditions laid down in article 34, paragraph 5. Such items shall not give rise to the collection of any additional charge, except for the exceptions provided for in the Detailed Regulations. However, administrations which collect a charge for return of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international mail returned to them.

Article 36

Prohibitions

1. Letter-post items which, by their packing, may expose officials to danger or may soil or damage other items or postal equipment shall not be admitted. Metal fasteners used for closing items shall not have sharp edges, nor shall they hamper the execution of the postal service.

2. Items other than registered letters in a closed envelope and insured letters may not contain coin, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles.

3. Except as otherwise provided in the Detailed Regulations, printed papers, literature for the blind and small packets:

a shall not bear any inscription or contain any document having the character of current and personal correspondence;

b shall not contain any postage stamp or form of prepayment, whether cancelled or not, or any paper representing a monetary value.

4. The insertion in letter-post items of the following articles shall be prohibited:

a articles which, by their nature, may cause the dangers or damage mentioned in paragraph 1;

b narcotics and psychotropic substances;

c live animals, except:

i bees, leeches and silk-worms;

ii parasites and destroyers of noxious insects intended for the control of those insects and exchanged between officially recognized institutions;

however, the exceptions mentioned in i and ii shall not apply to insured letters;

d explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances; nevertheless, the perishable biological substances and radioactive substances mentioned in article 21 shall not come within this prohibition;

e obscene or immoral articles;

f articles of which the importation and circulation is prohibited in the country of destination.

5. Every administration shall ensure to the fullest extent possible that the information concerning the prohibitions of its country referred to in paragraph 4, f, and communicated to the International Bureau in accordance with the Detailed Regulations is stated in a clear, specific and detailed manner and is kept up to date.

6. Items containing articles mentioned in paragraph 4 which have been wrongly admitted to the post shall be dealt with according to the legislation of the country of the administration establishing their presence. Letters may not contain documents having the character of current and personal correspondence exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them. If the administration of the country of origin or destination discovers the presence of such documents, it shall deal with them according to its legislation.

7. Nevertheless, items containing articles mentioned in paragraph 4, b, d and e, shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to origin. The administration of destination may deliver to the addressee the part of the contents which is not subject to a prohibition.

8. When an item wrongly admitted to the post is neither returned to origin nor delivered to the addressee, the administration of origin shall be notified without delay how it has been dealt with. This notification shall clearly indicate the prohibition under which the item falls and the articles which gave rise to seizure.

9. Moreover, the right of every member country shall be reserved to deny conveyance in transit à découvert over its territory to letter-post items, other than letters and postcards, which do not satisfy the legal requirements governing the conditions of their publication or circulation in that country. Such items shall be returned to the administration of origin.

Article 37

Customs control

The postal administrations of the countries of origin and destination shall be authorized to submit letter-post items to customs control, according to the legislation of those countries.

Article 38

Presentation-to-Customs charge

Items submitted to customs control in the country of origin or of destination, as the case may be, may be subjected either for submission to Customs and customs clearance or for submission to Customs only, as a postal charge, to the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, m.

Article 39

Customs duty and other fees

Postal administrations shall be authorized to collect from the senders or addressees of items, as the case may be, the customs duty and all other fees which may be due.

Article 40

Items for delivery free of charges and fees

1. In the service between those member countries whose postal administrations have notified their agreement to that effect senders may, by means of a previous declaration at the office of origin,

undertake to pay the whole of the charges and fees to which the items are subject on delivery. So long as an item has not been delivered to the addressee, the sender may ask after posting that the item be delivered free of charges and fees.

2. In the cases provided for in paragraph 1, senders shall undertake to pay the amounts which may be claimed by the office of destination and, if necessary, pay a sufficient deposit.
3. The administration of origin shall collect from the sender the charge provided for in article 24, paragraph 1, n, which it shall retain as payment for services rendered in the country of origin.
4. In the case of a request made after posting, the administration of origin shall also collect the additional charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, n, ii. If the request is to be forwarded by telegraph, the sender shall pay in addition the telegraph charge.
5. The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect on each item the commission charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, n, iii. This charge shall be independent of that prescribed in article 38. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.
6. Every administration may restrict to registered items and insured letters the service of delivery free of charges and fees.

Article 41

Cancellation of customs duty and other fees

Postal administrations shall undertake to seek from the appropriate services in their country cancellation of customs duty and other fees on items returned to origin, destroyed because of total damage to the contents or redirected to a third country.

Article 42

Inquiries

1. Inquiries from users shall be entertained within a period of a year from the day after that on which the item was posted.
2. Each administration shall be bound to deal with inquiries within the shortest possible time.
3. Each administration shall be bound to accept inquiries relating to any item posted in the service of another administration.
4. Unless the sender has already paid the charge for an advice of delivery, the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, o, may be collected on each inquiry. If a request is made for transmission by telegraph, the telegraph charge for transmitting the inquiry and, where applicable, in relations between two countries which admit this procedure, that for transmitting the reply shall be collected in addition to the inquiry charge. If telegrams are used for the reply, the telegraph charge shall be that for a reply-paid telegram, calculated on a fifteen-word basis. When telex is used, the telegraph charge to the sender shall normally be the same amount as that charged for forwarding the inquiry by telex.
5. If the inquiry relates to several items posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee, only one charge shall be collected. However, in the case of registered items or insured letters which had, at the sender's request, to be forwarded by different routes, a separate charge shall be collected for each of the routes used.
6. If the inquiry has been occasioned by a service error, the special charge referred to in paragraph 4

shall be refunded by the administration which collected it; however, in no case may this charge be demanded from the administration which is responsible for paying the indemnity.

CHAPTER II

REGISTERED ITEMS AND INSURED LETTERS

Article 43

Admission of registered items

1. The letter-post items specified in article 18 may be sent as registered items.
2. A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to the sender of a registered item at the time of posting.
3. If the internal legislation of the countries of origin and of destination allows, registered letters in closed envelopes may contain coin, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufacturer or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles.

Article 44

Charges on registered items

1. The charge on registered items shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of:
 - a the postage charge, according to the category of item;
 - b the fixed registration charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, p.
2. In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect the special charges provided for in article 24, paragraph 1, p, column 3, ii.
3. Postal administrations prepared to cover risks of *force majeure* shall be authorized to collect the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, r.

Article 45

Admission of insured letters

1. Letters containing securities, valuable documents or articles and called "insured letters" may be exchanged with insurance of the contents for the value declared by the sender. This exchange shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only.
2. A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to the sender of an insured letter at the time of posting.
3. Administrations shall take the necessary measures to provide, as far as possible, the insured letter service at every office in their countries.

Article 46

Insured letters.

Insured value

1. In principle, the amount of the insured value shall be unlimited.
2. Nevertheless, every administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 7000 francs (2286.83 SDR), or to the amount adopted in its internal service if that amount is less than 7000 francs (2286.83 SDR).
3. In the service between countries which have adopted different maxima, the lower limit shall be observed by both.
4. The insured value may not exceed the actual value of the contents of the item, but it shall be permissible to insure only part of that value; the amount of the insurance for papers whose value resides in the cost of their preparation may not exceed the cost of replacing the documents in case of loss.
5. Fraudulent insurance for a value greater than the actual value of the contents of an item shall be liable to the legal proceedings prescribed by the legislation of the country of origin.

Article 47

Charges on insured letters

1. The charge on insured letters shall be paid in advance. It shall be made up of:
 - a the ordinary postage charge;
 - b the fixed registration charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, p;
 - c the insurance charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, q.
2. In cases where exceptional security measures are required, administrations may collect the special charge provided for in article 24, paragraph 1, p, column 3, ii.

Article 48

Advice of delivery

1. The sender of a registered item or insured letter may apply for an advice of delivery on payment at the time of posting of the charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, s. This advice of delivery shall be returned to him by the quickest route (air or surface).
2. When the sender inquires about an advice of delivery which he has not received within a normal period, neither a second charge nor the charge prescribed in article 42 for inquiries shall be collected.

Article 49

Delivery to the addressee in person

1. In the service between those administrations which have given their consent, registered items and insured letters shall, at the sender's request, be delivered to the addressee in person. Administrations may agree to allow this option only for registered items and insured letters accompanied by an advice of delivery. In both cases, the sender shall pay the special charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, t.

2. Administrations shall make a second attempt to deliver such items only if there is a presumption that it will be successful and if the internal regulations so permit.

CHAPTER III

LIABILITY

Article 50

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations.

Registered items

1. Postal administrations shall be liable only for the loss of registered items. Their liability shall be as binding for items conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.

2. Total theft of or total damage to the contents of registered items shall be equated with the loss thereof, provided that the packing was recognized as sufficient to guarantee the contents effectively against accidental risks of theft or damage.

3. Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of *force majeure*. They shall then be liable towards senders of items posted in their country for any loss due to a case of *force majeure* occurring at any time during transmission of the items, including redirection or return to origin.

4. If a registered letter is lost, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity the amount of which shall be fixed at 60 francs (19.60 SDR) per item. This amount may be raised to 300 francs (98.01 SDR) for each special bag of printed papers such as are mentioned in article 19, paragraph 8, sent registered.

5. The sender may waive this right in favour of the addressee. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third person to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

6. Notwithstanding paragraph 4, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after taking delivery of a totally rifled or totally damaged item. He may waive his rights in favour of the sender.

7. The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for registered items, provided that they are not lower than those laid down in paragraph 4. However, the amounts laid down in paragraph 4 shall remain applicable:

i in the event of recourse against the administration liable;

ii if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee.

Article 51

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations.

Insured letters

1. Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to insured letters, except as provided for in article 53. Their liability shall be as binding for letters conveyed *à découvert* as for those forwarded in closed mails.

2. Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of *force majeure*.

They shall then be liable towards senders of letters posted in their country for any loss, theft or damage due to a case of *force majeure* occurring at any time during transmission of the items, including redirection or return to origin.

3. The sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual amount of the loss, theft or damage; consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration. However, this indemnity may in no case exceed the amount of the insured value in gold francs or SDRs. In case of redirection or return to origin by surface of an insured air letter, liability shall be limited, for the second journey, to that applicable to items sent by that route.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after delivery of a rifled or damaged insured letter.

5. The indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into gold francs, or SDRs, of articles of value of the same kind at the place and time at which they were accepted for conveyance; failing a current price, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the ordinary value of articles whose value is assessed on the same bases.

6. When an indemnity is due for the loss, total theft or total damage of an insured letter, the sender, or, by application of paragraph 4, the addressee shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges and fees paid, with the exception of the insurance charge which shall be retained in every case by the administration of origin.

7. The sender may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 3 in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 4 in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

Article 52

Non-liability of postal administrations.

Registered items

1. Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for registered items which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their regulations for items of the same kind or to those set out in article 11, paragraph 3. Liability shall, however, be maintained when total theft or total damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the registered item or when, internal legislation permitting, the addressee, or the sender if it is returned to origin, makes reservations on taking delivery of a totally rifled or totally damaged item.

2. Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss of registered items;

a in cases of *force majeure*. The administration in whose service the loss occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss is due to circumstances amounting to a case of *force majeure*; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable if it has undertaken to cover risks of *force majeure* (article 50, paragraph 3);

b when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records by *force majeure*, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

c when the sender has made no inquiry within the period prescribed in article 42, paragraph 1;

- ii for registered items which, as notified by the administration of the country of destination, have been detained or seized under the legislation of that country;
- iii for registered items confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 36, paragraphs 2, 3, b, and 4;
- iv for registered items which have suffered damage arising from the nature of the contents of the item.

3. Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made, or for decisions taken by the Customs in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4, f, on examination of letter-post items submitted to customs control.

Article 53

Non-liability of postal administrations.

Insured letters

1. Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for insured letters which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their internal regulations for items of the same kind or to those set out in article 11, paragraph 3; liability shall, however, be maintained:

a when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the item or when, internal legislation permitting, the addressee, or the sender if it is returned to origin, makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged item;

b when the addressee or, in the case of return to origin, the sender, although having given a proper discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage and furnishes proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2. Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss, theft or damage of insured letters:

a in case of *force majeure*. The administration in whose service the loss, theft or damage occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss, theft or damage was due to circumstances amounting to *force majeure*; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable if it has undertaken to cover risks of *force majeure* (article 51, paragraph 2);

b when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records by *force majeure*, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

c when such loss, theft or damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or arises from the nature of the contents of the item;

d in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 36, paragraph 4, in so far as these items have been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of their contents;

e in the case of items which have been fraudulently insured for a sum greater than the actual value of the contents;

f when the sender has made no inquiry within one year from the day after that on which the item was

posted;

ii for insured letters seized under the legislation of the country of destination;

iii in the case of sea or air conveyance when they have made it known that they are unable to accept liability for insured letters on board the ships or aircraft used by them; they shall nevertheless assume in respect of the transit of insured letters in closed mails the liability which is laid down for registered items.

3. Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made or for decisions taken by the Customs on examination of items submitted to custom control.

Article 54

Sender's liability

1. The sender of a letter-post item shall be liable within the same limits as administrations themselves for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or by the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance, provided there has been no fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.

2. The acceptance by the office of posting of such an item shall not relieve the sender of his liability.

3. An administration which finds damage that is due to the fault of the sender shall inform the administration of origin, whose responsibility it is to take action against the sender where appropriate.

Article 55

Determination of liability between postal administrations.

Registered items

1. Until the contrary is proved, liability for the loss of a registered item shall rest with the postal administration which, having received it without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.

2. Until the contrary is proved and subject to paragraph 4, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:

a when it has observed article 4 and the provisions for inspection of mails and establishment of irregularities;

b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the item in question, the period of retention prescribed in article 107 of the Detailed Regulations having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant;

c when, in the case of individual entry of registered items, correct delivery of the lost item cannot be proved because the administration of origin did not observe article 157, paragraph 1, of the Detailed Regulations concerning the detailed entry of registered items on the C 12 letter bill or on the C 13 special lists.

3. When the loss occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 86, paragraph 1, shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity paid to the sender. It shall be for the former administration to recover this

amount from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 86, paragraph 2, it shall itself seek reimbursement of the indemnity from the air carrier.

4. If, however, the loss occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally.

5. When a registered item has been lost owing to *force majeure*, the administration in whose territory or service the loss occurred shall not be liable to the dispatching administration unless the two countries undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.

6. Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss.

7. An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take over the rights, up to the amount of the indemnity, of the person who has received it in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

Article 56

Determination of liability between postal administrations.

Insured letters

1. Until the contrary is proved, liability shall rest with the postal administration which, having received the item without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.

2. Until the contrary is proved, and subject to paragraphs 4, 7 and 8, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:

a when it has observed the provisions of article 165 of the Detailed Regulations, on individual inspection of insured letters;

b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the item in question, the period of retention prescribed in article 107 of the Detailed Regulations having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant.

3. Until the contrary is proved, an administration which has forwarded an insured letter to another administration shall be relieved of all liability if the office of exchange to which the item has been consigned has not sent to the dispatching administration, by the first available mail after inspection, a report stating either that the whole packet of insured articles or the particular item is missing or has been tampered with.

4. If the loss, theft, or damage occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally; if, however, the theft or damage has been established in the country of destination or, in the case of return to sender, in the country of origin, it shall be for the administration of that country to prove:

a that neither the packet, envelope or bag and its fastening, nor the wrapping and fastening of the item bore any apparent trace of theft or damage;

b that the weight established at the time of posting has not varied.

When such proof has been furnished by the administration of destination or of origin, as the case may be, none of the other administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability on grounds that it handed over the item without the next administration having made any objection.

5. The liability of an administration towards other administrations shall in no case exceed the maximum insured value that it has adopted.
6. When an insured letter has been lost, rifled or damaged as the result of *force majeure*, the administration in whose territorial jurisdiction or services the loss, theft or damage occurred shall not be liable to the administration of origin unless the two administrations undertake to cover risks of *force majeure*.
7. If the loss, theft or damage occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration which does not provide the insured letters service or which has adopted a maximum lower than the amount of the loss, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration under article 1, paragraph 3, and paragraph 5 of this article.
8. The rule laid down in paragraph 7 shall also apply in case of sea or air conveyance if the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an administration which does not accept liability (article 53, paragraph 2, iii).
9. Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss, theft or damage.
10. An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take over the rights, up to the amount of the indemnity, of the person who has received it in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

Article 57

Determination of liability between postal administrations and air carriers.

Insured letters

When the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 86, paragraph 1, shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity paid to the sender, subject to article 1, paragraph 3, and article 56, paragraph 5. It shall be for the former administration to recover this amount from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 86, paragraph 2, it shall itself seek reimbursement of the indemnity from the air carrier.

Article 58

Payment of indemnity

1. Subject to the right of recourse against the administration which is liable, the obligation to pay the indemnity shall rest either with the administration of origin or, in the cases mentioned in article 50, paragraph 5, and in article 51, paragraph 7, with the administration of destination.
2. This payment shall be made as soon as possible and, at the latest, within a period of six months from the day following the day of inquiry.
3. When the administration responsible for the payment does not undertake to cover risks of *force majeure* and when, at the end of the period prescribed in paragraph 2, the question of whether the loss

is due to such causes has not been decided, it may, exceptionally, postpone payment of the indemnity for another six months.

4. The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant on behalf of the administration which, having participated in the conveyance and having been duly informed, has allowed five months to pass:

- without finally settling the matter, or
- without informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, that the loss appeared to be due to a case of *force majeure*, or that the item has been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of the nature of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

Article 59

Reimbursing the administration which paid the indemnity

1. The administration which is liable or on behalf of which payment is made in accordance with article 58 shall be bound to reimburse the administration which paid the indemnity, and which is called the "paying administration", the amount of indemnity paid to the rightful claimant within the limits of article 50, paragraph 4; this payment shall be made within four months of the date of dispatch of the notice of payment.

2. If the indemnity is due to be borne by several administrations in accordance with articles 55 and 56, the whole of the indemnity shall be paid to the paying administration, within the period mentioned in paragraph 1, by the first administration which, having duly received the item claimed for, is unable to prove its correct transfer to the next service. It shall rest with this administration to recover from the other administrations which are liable each one's share of the indemnity paid to the rightful claimant.

3. The administrations of origin and destination may agree that the whole of the loss shall be borne by the administration which has to make the payment to the rightful claimant.

4. The creditor administration shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules for payment laid down in article 12.

5. When liability has been admitted, as well as in the case provided for in article 58, paragraph 4, the amount of the indemnity may also be automatically recovered from the administration which is liable through a liquidation account, either direct or through the intermediary of an administration which regularly draws up liquidation accounts with the administration which is liable.

6. Immediately after paying the indemnity, the paying administration shall communicate to the administration which is liable the date and the amount of payment made. If, one year after the date of dispatch of authorization to pay the indemnity, the paying administration has not communicated the date and amount of payment or debited the account of the administration which is liable, the authorization shall be considered null and void and the administration which received it shall no longer be entitled to claim reimbursement of any indemnity paid.

7. The administration whose liability is duly established and which has at first declined to pay the indemnity shall assume all additional costs resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

8. Administrations may agree to settle periodically for the indemnities which they have paid to the rightful claimants and which they have accepted as justified.

Article 60

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or the addressee

1. If, after payment of the indemnity, a registered item or an insured letter or part of that item or letter previously considered as lost is found, the sender or, where article 50, paragraphs 5 and 6, and article 51, paragraph 7, apply, the addressee shall be advised that the item is being held at his disposal for a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity paid. At the same time he shall be asked to whom the item is to be delivered. In the event of refusal or failure to reply within the prescribed period, the same approach shall be made to the addressee or the sender as the case may be.
2. If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the item against repayment of the amount of the indemnity, that sum shall be refunded to the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss, within one year of the date of such repayment.
3. If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the item, it shall become the property of the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss.
4. When proof of delivery is supplied after the period of five months laid down in article 58, paragraph 4, the indemnity paid shall continue to be borne by the intermediate administration or administration of destination if the sum paid cannot, for any reason, be recovered from the sender.
5. In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured letter the contents of which are found to be of less value than the amount of the indemnity paid, the sender shall repay the amount of this indemnity against return of the item, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance as mentioned in article 46, paragraph 5.

CHAPTER IV

ALLOCATION OF CHARGES.

TRANSIT CHARGES AND TERMINAL DUES

Article 61

Allocation of charges

Except where otherwise provided by the Convention and the Agreements, each postal administration shall retain the charges which it has collected.

Article 62

Transit charges

1. Subject to article 65, closed mails exchanged between two administrations or between two offices of the same country by means of the services of one or more other administrations (third party services) shall be subject to the payment of transit charges as remuneration for the services rendered in respect of land transit and sea transit.
2. When a country gives permission for its territory to be crossed by a foreign transport service without the participation of its services in accordance with article 3, mails thus forwarded shall not be subject to the payment of land transit charges.
3. In the absence of special agreement direct sea conveyance between two countries by the ships of one of them shall be regarded as a third party service.
4. Sea transit shall begin when the mails are deposited on the quay serving the ship in the port of

departure and shall end when they are delivered on the quay of the port of destination.

Article 63

Transit charge scales

1. The transit charges provided for in article 62, paragraph 1, shall be calculated in accordance with the scales set out in the following table:

2. The distances used to determine the transit charges according to the table in paragraph 1 shall be taken from:

- the "List of Kilometric Distances relating to land sectors of mails in transit" provided for in article 111, paragraph 2, c, of the Detailed Regulations, as regards distances traversed by land;
- the "List of Shipping Lines" provided for in article 111, paragraph 2, d, of the Detailed Regulations, as regards distances traversed by sea.

Distances traversed	Charge		SDR
	per kg	gross	
1	2	3	
i	Distances traversed by land expressed in kilometres	Gold francs	
	Up to 300 km	0.50	0.163
	Above 300 up to 600	0.68	0.222
	600 1000	0.85	0.278
	1000 1500	1.03	0.336
	1500 2000	1.20	0.392
	2000 2500	1.37	0.448
	2500 3000	1.52	0.497
	3000 3800	1.70	0.555
	3800 4600	1.91	0.624
	4600 5500	2.12	0.693
	5500 6500	2.34	0.764
	6500 7500	2.57	0.840

	7500 for each additional 1000 km		0.19	0.062
ii	Distances traversed by sea			
	a Expressed in nautical miles	b Expressed in kilometres after conversion on the basis of 1 nautical mile = 1.852 km		
	Up to 300 nm	Up to 556 km	0.47	0.154
	Above 300 up to 600	Above 556 up to 1111	0.59	0.193
	600 1000	1111 1852	0.67	0.219
	1000 1500	1852 2778	0.74	0.242
	1500 2000	2778 3704	0.81	0.265
	2000 2500	3704 4630	0.86	0.281
	2500 3000	4630 5556	0.91	0.297
	3000 3500	5556 6482	0.95	0.310
	3500 4000	6482 7408	0.99	0.323
	4000 5000	7408 9260	1.04	0.340
	5000 6000	9260 11112	1.10	0.359
	6000 7000	11112 12964	1.16	0.379
	7000 8000	12964 14816	1.20	0.392
	8000 for each additional 1000 nm	14816 for each additional 1852 km	0.04	0.013

Article 64

Terminal dues

1. Subject to article 65, each administration which, in its exchanges by air and surface means with another administration, receives a larger quantity of letter-mail items than it sends shall have the right to collect from the dispatching administration, as compensation, a payment for the costs it incurs for the excess international mail received.
2. The payment provided for in paragraph 1, per kilogramme of mail received in excess, shall be:
 - a 8 gold francs (2.614 SDR) for LC and AO items (excluding the printed papers sent by special bags referred to in article 19, paragraph 8);

b 2 gold francs (0.653 SDR) for the printed papers sent by special bags (M bags) referred to in article 19, paragraph 8.

3. Any administration may waive wholly or in part the payment provided for in paragraph 1.

Article 65

Exemption from transit charges and terminal dues

Undelivered postal items returned to origin and dispatches of empty mailbags shall be exempted from land and sea transit charges and from surface-mail terminal dues. Dispatches of empty mailbags shall also be exempted from airmail terminal dues.

Article 66

Extraordinary services

The transit charges specified in article 64 shall not be applicable to conveyance by extraordinary services specially established or maintained by a postal administration at the request of one or more other administrations. The conditions of this class of conveyance shall be regulated by mutual consent between the administrations concerned.

Article 67

Accounting for transit charges and terminal dues

1. Accounting for transit charges and surface-mail terminal dues (including those relating to surface mails conveyed by air) shall be done for each administration according to the annual weight of each of the two categories LC/AO and M bags. These weights shall be calculated from the annual actual number of LC/AO bags and M bags and from the average weight of bags of both these categories as determined from their actual weight during a statistical period. The procedures for this statistical operation shall be laid down in the Detailed Regulations.

2. Accounting for airmail terminal dues shall be done for each administration according to the annual actual weight of each of the two categories LC/AO and M bags.

3. The administrations concerned may agree to account for surface mail or surface mail conveyed by air on the basis of the actual weight or in some other way. They may also agree on a different periodicity from that laid down in the Detailed Regulations for the statistical period. As regards airmail terminal dues, administrations may agree to apply in their reciprocal relations a simplified statistical method to determine such dues.

4. The debtor administration shall be exempted from any payment when the annual balance does not exceed:

- 25 gold francs (8.17 SDR) for transit charges; and

- 500 gold francs (163.35 SDR) for terminal dues for surface mail and airmail taken separately.

5. Every administration shall be authorized to submit for the consideration of a committee of arbitrators any annual results which in its opinion differ too much from reality. The arbitration shall be arranged as laid down in article 127 of the General Regulations.

6. The arbitrators shall be empowered to fix in a fair and reasonable manner the transit charges or terminal dues to be paid.

Article 68

Payment of transit charges

1. The transit charges shall be borne by the administration of origin of the mails and shall be payable, subject to paragraph 3, to the administrations of the countries which are crossed or whose services take part in the land or sea conveyance of the mails.
2. When the administration of the country which is crossed does not take part in the land or sea conveyance of the mails, the applicable transit charges shall be payable to the administration of destination if it bears the costs related to such transit.
3. The charges for the sea conveyance of mails in transit may be settled directly between the postal administrations of origin of the mails and the shipping companies or their agents, subject to the prior agreement of the postal administration of the port of embarkation concerned.

Article 69

Transit charges for diverted or missent mails

For the payment of transit charges, diverted or missent mails shall be considered to have followed their normal route; consequently, administrations concerned in the conveyance of such mails shall not be entitled on that account to demand a payment from the dispatching administrations, but the latter shall remain liable for the appropriate transit charges to the postal administrations whose services they normally use.

Article 70

Exchange of closed mails with military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations and with warships or military aircraft

1. Closed mails may be exchanged between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations, and between the commanding officer of one of those military units and the commanding officer of another military unit placed at the disposal of the United Nations, through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries.
2. Closed mails may also be exchanged between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of naval or air units or warships or military aircraft of the same country stationed abroad, or between the commanding officer of one of those naval or air units or of any of those warships or military aircraft and the commanding officer of another unit or of another warship or military aircraft of the same country, through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries.
3. Letter-post items enclosed in the mails referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be confined to items addressed to or sent by members of military units or the officers and crews of the ships or aircraft to or from which the mails are forwarded. The rates and conditions of dispatch applicable to them shall be fixed, according to its regulations, by the postal administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the ships or aircraft belong.
4. In the absence of special agreement, the administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the warships or military aircraft belong shall be liable to the administrations concerned for the transit charges for the mails, calculated in accordance with article 63, for the terminal dues, calculated in accordance with article 64, and for air conveyance dues, calculated in accordance with article 83.

PART III

AIR CONVEYANCE OF LETTER-POST ITEMS

SECTION I

AIRMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 71

Airmail correspondence

Letter-post items conveyed by air with priority shall be called "airmail correspondence".

Article 72

Aerogrammes

1. Each administration may admit aerogrammes, which are airmail letters.

2. An aerogramme shall consist of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed on all sides, the dimensions of which, in that form, shall be the following:

a minimum dimensions: identical to those prescribed for letters;

b maximum dimensions: 110 x 220 mm;

and such that the length is equal to or greater than the width multiplied by the square root of 2 (approximate value: 1.4).

3. The front of the aerogramme shall be reserved for the address, the prepayment and service notes or labels. It shall bear the printed indication "Aerogramme" and may also bear an equivalent indication in the language of the country of origin. An aerogramme shall not contain any enclosure. It may be registered if the regulations of the country of origin so permit.

4. Each administration shall fix, within the limits defined in paragraph 2, the conditions of issue, manufacture and sale of aerogrammes.

5. Items of airmail correspondence posted as aerogrammes, but not fulfilling the conditions fixed above shall be treated in accordance with article 77. Administrations may, however, forward them in all cases by surface.

Article 73

Surcharged and unsurcharged airmail correspondence

1. Airmail correspondence shall be divided, as regards charges, into surcharged airmail correspondence and unsurcharged airmail correspondence.

2. In principle, airmail correspondence shall be subject, in addition to the charges authorized by the

Convention and various Agreements, to surcharges for air conveyance; the postal items mentioned in articles 16 and 17 shall be liable to the same surcharges. All such correspondence shall be described as surcharged airmail correspondence.

3. Administrations shall be permitted not to collect a surcharge for air conveyance, provided that they inform the administrations of the countries of destination of the fact; items accepted under these conditions shall be described as unsurcharged airmail correspondence.

4. With the exception of those originating from the bodies of the Universal Postal Union and from the Restricted Unions, items on postal service mentioned in article 15 shall be exempt from air surcharge.

5. Aerogrammes, as described in article 72, shall be subject to a charge at least equal to that applicable in the country of origin to an unsurcharged letter of the first weight step in the international service.

Article 74

Air surcharges

1. Administrations shall fix the air surcharges to be collected for forwarding. They may adopt, for fixing of surcharges, smaller weight steps than those laid down in article 19.

2. The surcharges shall be related to the air conveyance dues. As a general rule, the total sum of the surcharges shall not exceed the costs payable for such conveyance.

3. Surcharges shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of a country of destination whatever the route used.

4. Administrations may fix average air surcharges each relating to a group of countries of destination.

5. Air surcharges shall be paid before dispatch.

6. In calculating the air surcharge for an airmail item, each administration shall be authorized to take into account the weight of any forms used by the public which may be attached to the item. The weight of the advice of delivery shall always be taken into account.

Article 75

Combined charges

1. Notwithstanding article 74, administrations may fix combined charges for the prepayment of airmail correspondence, taking into account:

a the cost of the postal services rendered by them;

b the cost of the air conveyance.

Administrations have the option of taking as the cost mentioned in a, the basic charges set in accordance with article 19. When the weight steps adopted for fixing the combined charges are smaller than those laid down in article 19, the basic charges may be reduced in the same proportion.

2. With the exception of articles 77 and 80, the provisions relating to air surcharges shall apply by analogy to combined charges.

Article 76

Methods of denoting prepayment

Apart from the methods laid down in article 28, the prepayment of surcharged airmail correspondence may be denoted by an indication that full postage has been prepaid, for example: "Taxe perçue" ("Amount collected"). This indication shall appear in the top right-hand part of the address side and be authenticated by a date-stamp impression of the office of origin.

Article 77

Unpaid or underpaid surcharged airmail correspondence

1. Unpaid or underpaid surcharged airmail correspondence which it is not possible to have regularized by the senders shall be treated as follows:

a in the event of complete absence of prepayment, surcharged airmail correspondence shall be treated in accordance with articles 27 and 30; items on which the payment of postage is not obligatory before dispatch shall be forwarded by the means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence;

b in the event of underpayment, surcharged airmail correspondence shall be forwarded by air if the charges paid represent at least the amount of the air surcharge; nevertheless, the administration of origin shall be permitted to send these items by air when the charges paid represent at least 75 percent of the surcharge or 50 percent of the combined charge. Below these limits, items shall be treated as laid down in article 27. In the other cases, article 30 shall be applicable.

2. If the details required for calculating the amount of the charge to be collected have not been indicated by the administration of origin, the airmail correspondence shall be considered as duly prepaid and shall be dealt with accordingly.

Article 78

Routeing of airmail correspondence and airmails in transit

1. Administrations shall be bound to forward by the air communications they use for the conveyance of their own airmail correspondence the items of this type which reach them from other administrations.

2. Administrations of countries without an air service shall forward airmail correspondence by the most rapid means used for mails; the same shall apply if for any reason routeing by surface means is more advantageous than the use of airlines.

3. Closed airmails shall be forwarded by the flight requested by the administration of the country of origin, provided that it is used by the administration of the country of transit for the transmission of its own mails. If that is not the case or if there is insufficient time for the transhipment, the administration of the country of origin shall be so informed.

4. If the administration of the country of origin so wishes, its mails shall be transhipped directly, at the transit airport, between two different airlines, provided that the airlines concerned agree to make the transhipment and that the administration of the transit country is informed of it beforehand.

Article 79

Priority treatment of airmails

Administrations shall take all necessary steps to:

a ensure the best conditions for the receipt and onward transmission of airmails at airports in their

country;

b ensure that agreements concluded with the carriers concerning the priority due to airmails are respected;

c speed up the operations relating to the customs control of airmail correspondence addressed to their countries;

d keep to a strict minimum the time required for forwarding airmails posted in their country to the countries of destination and for having airmails arriving from abroad delivered to the addressees.

Article 80

Redirection of airmail correspondence

1. Airmail letters and airmail postcards addressed to an addressee who has changed his address shall be redirected to their new destination by the quickest route (air or surface). Other airmail correspondence shall be redirected by the means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence except in the cases referred to in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. For this purpose, article 34, paragraphs 1 to 3, shall be applicable by analogy.

2. Items other than airmail letters and airmail postcards may be reforwarded by air at the express request of the addressee if the latter undertakes to pay the air surcharges or combined charges on the new air route or if such surcharges or combined charges are paid at the redirecting office by a third person; in the first case the air surcharge or the combined charge shall be collected, in principle, at the time of delivery of the item and retained by the delivering administration.

3. Administrations which apply combined charges may fix special fees, which must not exceed the combined charges, for the redirection by air under the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.

4. Correspondence sent by surface on its first transmission may be reforwarded abroad by air, under the conditions laid down in paragraph 2. Redirection by air of such articles within the country of destination shall be governed by the internal regulations of that country.

5. The special C 6 envelopes and bags used for collective redirection of airmail letters and airmail postcards, including those dealt with in paragraph 4, shall be forwarded to the new destination by the quickest route (air or surface). Those containing other correspondence shall be forwarded by the means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence, unless the surcharges, the combined charges or the special fees provided for in paragraph 3 are paid in advance to the redirecting office, or the addressee undertakes to pay the charges on the new air route in accordance with paragraph 2.

Article 81

Return to origin of airmail correspondence

1. Undeliverable airmail letters and airmail postcards for return to origin shall be returned by the quickest route (air or surface).

2. Undeliverable airmail correspondence other than airmail letters and airmail postcards shall be returned to origin by the means of transport normally used for unsurcharged correspondence; however, in the event of interruption of those means of transport, the correspondence shall be returned to origin by air.

3. For the return of correspondence to origin by air at the request of the sender, article 80, paragraphs 2 to 4, shall be applicable by analogy.

CHAPTER II

AIR CONVEYANCE DUES

Article 82

General principles

1. The air conveyance dues for the whole distance flown shall be borne:
 - a in the case of closed mails, by the administration of the country of origin of the mails;
 - b in the case of airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert*, including missent items, by the administration which forwards this correspondence to another administration.
2. These same regulations shall be applicable to airmails and airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* exempt from transit charges.
3. Conveyance dues shall, for a particular sector, be uniform for all administrations which use the sector.
4. Unless agreement has been reached that no charge should be made, air conveyance dues within the country of destination shall be uniform for all airmails originating abroad whether or not this mail is reforwarded by air.
5. In the absence of special agreement between the administrations concerned, article 63 shall apply to airmail correspondence for any transit by land or by sea; nevertheless, no transit charges shall be payable for:
 - a the transhipment of airmails between two airports serving the same town;
 - b the conveyance of such mails from an airport serving a town to a depot situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 83

Basic rates and calculation of air conveyance dues relating to closed mails

1. The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administrations in respect of air conveyance shall be fixed at 1.74 thousandths of a gold franc (0.568 thousandth of an SDR) at most per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre; this rate shall apply proportionally to fractions of a kilogramme.
2. Air conveyance dues shall be calculated according to the actual basic rate (less than and at most equal to the basic rate fixed in paragraph 1) and the kilometric distances given in the "List of Airmail Distances" and to the gross weight of the mails; no account shall be taken of the weight of *sacs collecteurs*.
3. When dues are payable for air conveyance within the country of destination, they shall be fixed in the form of a single price. This single price shall include all the dues for air conveyance within the country, regardless of the airport of arrival of the mails. It shall be calculated on the basis of the rate actually paid for air conveyance of the mail within the country of destination, but not exceeding the maximum rate specified in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average distances of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal network. The weighted average distance shall be determined in terms of the gross weight of all the airmails arriving at the country of destination,

including the mail which is not reforwarded by air within that country.

4. Dues payable for air conveyance, between two airports in the same country, of airmails in transit may also be fixed in the form of a single price. This price shall be calculated on the basis of the rate actually paid for air conveyance of mail within the country of transit, but not exceeding the maximum rate specified in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average distances of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal air network of the country of transit. The weighted average distances shall be determined in terms of the gross weight of all the airmails transiting through the intermediate country.

5. The sum of the dues referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 may not exceed in total the amounts which actually have to be paid for conveyance.

6. The prices for international and internal air conveyance, obtained by multiplying the effective basic rate by the distance, which are used in calculating the dues mentioned in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4, shall be rounded up to the nearest 10 gold centimes when the number made up by the figure of hundredths and that of thousandths is equal to or greater than 50; they shall be rounded down to the nearest 10 gold centimes in other cases.

Article 84

Calculation of and accounting for air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert*

1. Air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall be calculated, in principle, as indicated in article 83, paragraph 2, but according to the net weight of such correspondence. They shall be fixed on the basis of not more than 10 average rates, each relating to a group of countries of destination and fixed according to the weight of mail offloaded at different destinations within the group. The sum of these dues, which may not exceed the amounts which have to be paid for conveyance, shall be increased by 5 percent.

2. Accounting for air conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall take place, in principle, on the basis of the data of statistical returns compiled once a year over a period of 14 days. This period shall be extended to 28 days for mails which are made up less than five times a week or which use the services of the same intermediary country less than five times a week.

3. Accounting shall take place on the basis of actual weight in the case of misrouted correspondence or correspondence posted on board ship or sent at irregular intervals or in too varying amounts. However, this accounting shall be done only if the intermediate administration asks to be paid for the conveyance of this correspondence.

Article 85

Amendments to dues for air conveyance in the interior of the country of destination and for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert*

The amendments made to the air conveyance dues mentioned in article 83, paragraph 3, and article 84 shall:

a come into effect exclusively on 1 January;

b be notified at least three months beforehand to the International Bureau, which shall communicate them to all administrations at least two months before the date laid down in subparagraph a.

Article 86

Payment of air conveyance dues

1. Air conveyance dues shall be payable, apart from the exceptions provided for in paragraphs 2 and 4, to the administration of the country which the air service used comes under.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1:
 - a the conveyance dues may be paid to the administration of the country in which the airport is situated at which the airmails were taken over by the air carrier, subject to an agreement between this administration and that of the country which the air service concerned comes under;
 - b the administration which hands over airmails to an air carrier may settle direct with that carrier for the conveyance dues for all or part of the distance flown, subject to the agreement of the administration of the countries which the air services used come under.
3. Conveyance dues for airmail correspondence in transit *à découvert* shall be paid to the administration which reforwards it.
4. Unless other arrangements have been made, conveyance dues for airmail correspondence directly transhipped between two different airlines in accordance with article 78, paragraph 4, shall be settled by the administration of origin either directly with the first carrier, which shall then be responsible for paying the subsequent carrier, or directly with each carrier involved in the transhipment.

Article 87

Air conveyance dues for diverted or missent mails or bags

1. The administration of origin of a mail which has gone off its route in course of conveyance shall pay the conveyance dues for the mail relating to the sectors actually covered.
2. It shall settle the conveyance dues as far as the airport of offloading initially provided for on the delivery bill when:
 - the actual forwarding route is not known;
 - the dues for the sectors actually covered have not yet been claimed; or
 - the diversion is attributable to the airline which effected the conveyance.
3. The supplementary dues relating to the sectors actually covered by the diverted mail shall be reimbursed as follows:
 - a by the administration whose services have committed the error in the case of misrouteing;
 - b by the administration which has collected the conveyance dues paid to the airline when the latter has offloaded in a place other than that shown on the AV 7 delivery bill.
4. Paragraphs 1 to 3 shall be applicable by analogy when part only of a mail is offloaded at an airport other than that indicated on the AV 7 delivery bill.
5. The administration of origin of a mail or bag missent owing to a labelling error shall pay the conveyance dues relating to the whole distance flown in accordance with article 82, paragraph 1, a.

Article 88

Air conveyance dues for mail lost or destroyed

In case of loss or destruction of mail as the result of an accident occurring to the aircraft or through any other cause involving the liability of the air carrier, the administration of origin shall be exempt from any payment in respect of the air conveyance of the mail lost or destroyed, for any part of the flight of the route used.

SECTION II

SURFACE AIRLIFTED (S.A.L.) MAIL

Article 89

Exchange of surface airlifted (S.A.L.) mail

1. Administrations may send surface mails by air, with reduced priority, subject to the agreement of the administrations which receive such mails at the airports of their country.
2. When surface mails from an administration are reforwarded by air by another administration, the conditions of such reforwarding shall be covered by a special agreement between the administrations concerned.
3. Surface airlifted mails may be transhipped directly between two different airlines on the conditions provided for in article 78, paragraph 4.

Article 90

Reduced air surcharges

Administrations shall have the option of collecting lower air surcharges for S.A.L. mail than they collected for airmail correspondence under article 73.

PART IV

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 91

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning the Convention and its Detailed Regulations

1. To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to this Convention and its Detailed Regulations must be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting. At least half of the member countries represented at Congress shall be present at the time of voting.
2. To become effective, proposals introduced between Congresses relating to this Convention and its Detailed Regulations must obtain:

a unanimity of votes if they involve amendments to articles 1 to 17 (part I); 18 to 23; 24, paragraph 1, h, p, q, r and s; 27; 30; 36, paragraphs 2, 3, 5 and 6; 43 to 48; 50 to 70 (part II); 91 and 92 (part IV) of the Convention, to any of the articles of its Final Protocol or to articles 102 to 104; 105, paragraph 1; 126; 150; 151, paragraphs 1 and 3; 173; 188 to 190 and 228 of its Detailed Regulations;

b two thirds of the votes if they involve amendments of substance to provisions other than those mentioned under a;

c a majority of the votes if they involve:

i drafting amendments to the provisions of the Convention and its Detailed Regulations other than those mentioned under a;

ii interpretation of the provisions of the Convention, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, except in case of a dispute to be submitted to arbitration as provided for in article 32 of the Constitution.

Article 92

Entry into force and duration of the Convention

This Convention shall come into force on 1 January 1986 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries have signed this Convention in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Swiss Confederation. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Hamburg, 27 July 1984.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

POSTAL PARCELS AGREEMENT

The undersigned, plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the member countries of the Union, having regard to article 22, paragraph 4, of the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union concluded at Vienna on 10 July 1964, have, by common consent and subject to article 25, paragraph 3, of the Constitution, drawn up the following Agreement:

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose of the Agreement

This Agreement shall govern the exchange of postal parcels between contracting countries.

Article 2

Postal parcels

1. Items called "postal parcels" of which the individual weight shall not exceed 20 kilogrammes may be exchanged either direct or via one or more countries.

2. The exchange of parcels exceeding 10 kilogrammes shall be optional. Countries which fix a weight of less than 20 kilogrammes shall, however, admit parcels in transit in bags or other closed receptacles up to a weight of 20 kilogrammes.

3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, parcels relating to the postal service and which are covered by article 16 may weigh up to 30 kilogrammes.

4. In this Agreement, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, the abbreviation "parcels" shall apply to all postal parcels.

Article 3

Operation of the service by transport companies

1. Any country whose postal administration does not undertake the conveyance of parcels and which is a party to the Agreement, may arrange for its provisions to be implemented by transport companies. It may, at the same time, limit this service to parcels originating in or addressed to places served by these companies.

2. The postal administration of such a country shall make arrangements with the transport companies to ensure full implementation by them of all the provisions of the Agreement, with special reference to the arrangements for the exchange of parcels. The postal administration shall serve as intermediary for them in all their relations with administrations of the other contracting countries and with the International Bureau.

Article 4

Categories of parcels

1. An "ordinary parcel" shall be one which is not subject to any of the special requirements prescribed for the categories defined in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. Other categories shall be:

a "insured parcel", any parcel which is insured for a declared value;

b "parcel for delivery free of charges and fees", any parcel in respect of which the sender asks to be charged with the whole of the postal charges and fees to which the parcel may be subject on delivery; this request may be made at the time of posting; it may also be made after posting up to the time of delivery to the addressee, except in those countries which cannot accept this procedure;

c "cash-on-delivery parcel", any parcel subject to a COD charge and covered by the Cash-on-Delivery Agreement;

d "fragile parcel", any parcel containing articles which are liable to break easily and which are to be handled with special care;

e "cumbersome parcel":

i any parcel whose dimensions exceed the limits fixed by article 20, paragraph 1, or those which administrations may fix between themselves;

ii any parcel which by reason of its shape or construction does not lend itself readily to loading with other parcels or which requires special precautions;

iii optionally, any parcel conforming to the conditions laid down in article 20, paragraph 4;

f "service parcel", any parcel relating to the postal service and exchanged under the conditions laid down in article 16;

g "prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcel", any parcel intended for or sent by prisoners or organizations referred to in article 16 of the Convention.

3. Other categories, according to the method of dispatch or delivery:

a "air parcel", any parcel accepted for air conveyance with priority between two countries;

b "express parcel", any parcel which, on arrival at the office of destination, shall be delivered to the place of address by special messenger or which, in those countries whose administrations do not undertake delivery to the place of address, gives rise to the delivery, by special messenger, of an advice of arrival; nevertheless, if the address of the addressee is situated outside the local delivery area of the office of destination, delivery by special messenger shall not be obligatory.

4. The exchange of "free of charges and fees" and "cash-on-delivery" parcels shall require prior agreement between administrations of origin and destination. With respect to "insured", "fragile", "cumbersome", "air" and "express" parcels, the exchange may be established on the basis of the information given in the Compendium of Information (Postal Parcels) published by the International Bureau.

Article 5

Weight steps

1. The parcels defined in article 4 shall be classed in the following weight steps:

up to 1 kg

above 1 up to 3 kg

above 3 up to 5 kg

above 5 up to 10 kg

above 10 up to 15 kg

above 15 up to 20 kg.

2. Countries which by reason of their internal regulations are unable to adopt the metric-decimal system of weight may substitute for the weight steps provided for in paragraph 1 the following equivalents (in pounds avoirdupois):

up to 1 kg up to 2 lb

over 1 and up to 3 kg 2 to 7 lb

over 3 and up to 5 kg 7 to 11 lb

over 5 and up to 10 kg 11 to 22 lb

over 10 and up to 15 kg 22 to 33 lb

over 15 and up to 20 kg 33 to 44 lb.

PART I

CHARGES AND FEES

Article 6

Composition of the charges and fees

1. The charges and fees which administrations are authorized to collect from the senders and addressees of postal parcels shall be made up of the principal charges as defined in article 7 and, where appropriate, by:

- a the air surcharges mentioned in article 8;
- b the supplementary charges mentioned in articles 9 to 14;
- c the charges and fees mentioned in articles 29, paragraph 3, and 31, paragraph 6;
- d the fees mentioned in article 15.

2. Apart from any exceptions prescribed by this Agreement, charges shall be retained by the administration collecting them.

CHAPTER I

PRINCIPAL CHARGES AND AIR SURCHARGES

Article 7

Principal charges

- 1. Administrations shall fix the principal charges to be collected from senders.
- 2. The principal charges shall be linked with the rates, and as a general rule, the sum thereof shall not in total exceed the rates that administrations shall be authorized to claim under articles 46 to 50.

Article 8

Air surcharges

- 1. Administrations shall fix the air surcharges to be collected for forwarding parcels by air. They may adopt, for fixing surcharges, smaller weight steps than the first weight step.
- 2. The surcharges shall be related to the air conveyance dues and, as a general rule, the sum thereof shall not in total exceed the costs of such conveyance.
- 3. Surcharges shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of a country of destination whatever the routeing used.

CHAPTER II

SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGES AND FEES

SECTION I

CHARGES RELATING TO CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF PARCELS

Article 9

Express parcels

1. Express parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge called the "express charge" the amount of which shall be fixed at not more than 5 francs (1.63 SDR) or at the amount of the charge applicable in the internal service, if this is higher. This charge must be fully paid in advance at the time of posting, even if the parcel cannot be delivered by special messenger but only the advice of arrival.
2. When express delivery places special demands on the administration of destination with regard to the location of the address of the addressee or to the day or time of arrival at the office of destination, the delivery of the parcel and collection of any additional charge shall be governed by the provisions concerning parcels of the same type in the internal system. The supplementary charge shall be paid even if the parcel is returned to sender or redirected; however, in such cases, the amount passed on may not exceed 5 francs (1.63 SDR).
3. If the regulations of the administration of destination permit, addressees may ask the delivery office, subject to what is laid down in paragraph 1, to deliver to them by express immediately on arrival any parcels which are intended for them. In that case the administration of destination shall be authorized to collect, on delivery, a charge of not more than 5 francs (1.63 SDR) or the internal service charge if this is higher.

Article 10

Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees

1. Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees shall be subject to a charge called "fee for delivery free of charge" fixed at 3 francs (0.98 SDR) as a maximum for each parcel. This charge shall be collected by the administration of origin which shall retain it as payment for services rendered in the country of origin.
2. When delivery free of charge is requested after the parcel has been posted, an additional charge for a request for delivery free of charge shall be collected from the sender at the time the request is made. This charge, fixed at 4 francs (1.31 SDR) as a maximum, shall be collected by the administration of origin. If the request is to be sent by telegraph, the sender shall also pay the telegraph charge.
3. The administration of destination shall be authorized to collect a commission charge of 3 francs (0.98 SDR) as a maximum for each parcel. This charge shall be independent of the presentation-to-Customs charge referred to in article 14, c. It shall be collected from the sender on behalf of the administration of destination.

Article 11

Insured parcels

1. The following charges on insured parcels shall be collected from the sender in advance:
 - a charges authorized in this part of the Agreement;
 - b an optional dispatch charge not exceeding the registration charge laid down in article 24, paragraph 1, p, of the Convention or the corresponding charge of the internal service if this is higher, or, exceptionally, a charge of 10 francs (3.2 SDR) at most;
 - c an ordinary insurance charge of not more than 1 franc (0.33 SDR) for each 200 francs (65.34 SDR) or fraction of 200 francs (65.34 SDR) insured value, or 1/2 percent of the insured value step or the internal service charge if this is higher.

2. In addition, administrations undertaking to cover risks of force majeure shall be authorized to collect a "charge for cover against risks of force majeure" to be fixed so that the sum of this charge and the ordinary insurance charge shall not exceed the maximum prescribed in paragraph 1, c.

3. Administrations may also collect from the sender or from the addressee special charges in accordance with their internal legislation to take account of any exceptional security measures taken with regard to insured parcels.

Article 12

Fragile parcels.

Cumbersome parcels

Fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge equal to not more than 50 percent of the principal charge or to the internal service charge if this is higher. If the parcel is both fragile and cumbersome the supplementary charge mentioned above shall be collected once only. Nevertheless, the air surcharges in respect of these parcels shall not be increased.

SECTION II

CHARGES AND FEES RELATING TO ALL CATEGORIES OF PARCELS

Article 13

Supplementary charges

Administrations shall be authorized to collect the following supplementary charges:

a charge for items posted outside normal counter opening hours;

b presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of origin; as a general rule the charge shall be collected at the time of posting of the parcel;

c presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of destination either for submission to Customs and customs clearance or for submission to Customs only; in the absence of other arrangements, the charge shall be collected at the time of the delivery of the parcel to the addressee; however, in the case of parcels for delivery free of charges and fees, the presentation-to-Customs charge shall be collected by the administration of origin on behalf of the administration of destination;

d charge for collection from the sender's address; this charge may be collected by the administration of origin for parcels collected by its services from the sender's address;

e delivery charge; this charge may be collected by the administration of destination for each attempted delivery of the parcel at the address; nevertheless, in the case of express parcels, it may be collected only in respect of each attempted delivery after the first;

f advice of non-delivery reply charge; collected under the conditions laid down in article 28, paragraph 2;

g advice of arrival charge; collected by the administration of destination, when its legislation obliges it to do so and when that administration does not undertake delivery to the place of address, in respect of any advice (the first as well as subsequent advices) delivered to the address of the addressee, except for the first advice of express parcels;

h repacking charge; due to the administration of the first of the countries in whose territory a parcel has to be repacked in order to protect its contents; it shall be recovered from the addressee or, where appropriate, the sender;

i poste restante charge; collected by the administration of destination at the time of delivery, on every parcel addressed "poste restante";

j storage charge on every parcel which has not been taken possession of within the prescribed periods, whether the parcel is addressed "poste restante" or to a place of address. This charge shall be collected by the administration which effects the delivery, on behalf of the administration in whose service the parcel has been kept beyond the prescribed periods;

k advice of delivery charge; when the sender asks for an advice of delivery in accordance with article 27;

l advice of embarkation charge; collected, in relations between countries whose administrations agree to provide this service, when the sender requests that an advice of embarkation be sent to him;

m inquiry charge; mentioned in article 38, paragraph 3;

n charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address;

o charge for cover against risks of force majeure; collected by administrations prepared to cover risks of force majeure.

Article 14

Scale

1. The scale of supplementary charges defined in article 13 shall be fixed in accordance with the following table:

Description of charge	Amount	Observations	
1	2	3	
a	Charge on items posted outside normal counter opening hours	Same charge as in internal service	
b	Presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the administration of origin	2 francs (0.65 SDR) at most per parcel	
c	Presentation-to-Customs charge collected by the per parcel administration of destination	10 francs (3.27 SDR) at most	
	Charge for collection	Same charge as in	

d	from the sender's address	internal service	
e	Delivery charge	Same charge as in internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 29, paragraph 3, b) or redirection (article 31, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 3 francs (0.98 SDR)
f	Advice of non-delivery reply charge	2 francs (0.65 SDR) at most	If, following delivery of the advice of non-delivery, new instructions have to be transmitted by telegraph, the sender or the third party shall pay, in addition, the telegraph charge
g	Advice of arrival charge	At most, a charge equal to that for an ordinary letter of the first weight step in the internal service	
h	Repacking charge	1 franc (0.33 SDR) at most, per parcel	This charge may be collected once only in the course of transmission from beginning to end
i	Poste restante charge	Same charge as in the internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 29, paragraph 3, b), or redirection (article 31, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 1.50 francs (0.49 SDR)
j	Storage charge	Same charge as in the internal service	In the event of return to sender (article 29, paragraph 3, b), or redirection (article 31, paragraph 6, c), the amount passed on may not exceed 20 francs (6.53 SDR)
k	Advice of delivery charge	3 francs (0.98 SDR) at most	
l	Advice of embarkation charge	1.10 francs (0.36 SDR) at most per parcel	
m	Inquiry charge	2 francs (0.65 SDR) at most	If the sender has asked for his request to be sent by telegraph the telegraph charge shall be added to this charge

n	Charge for a request for withdrawal from the post or alteration of address	4 francs (1.31 SDR) at most	The following shall be added to this charge: the appropriate telegraph charge if the request is to be sent by telegraph
o	Charge for cover against risks of force majeure	<p>a amount laid down in article 11, paragraph 2, in respect of insured parcels</p> <p>b maximum of 60 centimes (0.20 SDR) per parcel in respect of uninsured parcels</p>	

2. Administrations which, in their internal service, collect supplementary charges higher than those fixed in paragraph 1, may, when they retain the whole amount of such charges, apply the internal service rate in the international service.

Article 15

Fees

1. Administrations of destination shall be authorized to collect from addressees all fees, especially customs duty, payable on the items in the country of destination.

2. Administrations shall undertake to seek from the competent authorities in their countries cancellation of the fees (including customs duty) in the case of a parcel:

a returned to sender;

b redirected to a third country;

c abandoned by the sender;

d lost in their service or destroyed because of total damage of the contents;

e rifled or damaged in their service. In these cases, cancellation of fees shall be requested only to the value of the missing contents or the depreciation suffered by the contents.

CHAPTER III

FREE POSTAGE

Article 16

Service parcels

1. Parcels relating to the postal service shall be exempt from all postal charges if exchanged between the following:

a postal administrations;

b postal administrations and the International Bureau;

c post offices of member countries;

d post offices and postal administrations.

2. Air parcels, with the exception of those originating from the International Bureau, shall be exempt from air surcharges.

Article 17

Parcels of prisoners of war and civilian internees

Prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels shall be exempted from all charges in accordance with article 16 of the Convention. However, air parcels shall be subject to air surcharges as laid down in article 8 of the Agreement.

PART II

OPERATION OF THE SERVICE

CHAPTER I

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

SECTION I

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Article 18

Conditions of acceptance

Provided that the contents do not come within the prohibitions listed in article 19 or within the prohibitions or restrictions applicable in the territory of one or more of the administrations called upon to take part in the transmission, every parcel, to be admitted to the post, shall:

a belong to one of the categories of parcels admitted under the terms of article 4;

b be packed in a manner adapted to the nature of the contents and the conditions of transport;

c bear the names and addresses of the addressee and the sender;

d satisfy the conditions of weight and size fixed by articles 2 and 20;

e be prepaid in respect of all the charges required by the office of origin, either by means of postage stamps or by any other method authorized by the regulations of the administration of origin.

Article 19

Prohibitions

The insertion of the following articles shall be prohibited:

a in all categories of parcels:

i articles which, by their nature or their packing, may expose officials to danger, or soil or damage other parcels or postal equipment;

ii narcotics and psychotropic substances; however, this prohibition shall not apply to consignments sent for a medical or scientific purpose to countries which admit them on this condition;

iii documents having the character of current and personal correspondence as well as correspondence of any kind exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them, except:

- one of the documents below, unclosed, reduced to its essential elements and relating solely to the goods being conveyed: invoice, dispatch note or advice, delivery bill;

- gramophone records, tapes and wires, whether bearing a sound or video recording or not, ADP cards, magnetic tape or other similar media, and QSL cards, when the administration of origin considers that they do not have the character of current and personal correspondence and when they are exchanged between the sender and the addressee of the parcel or persons residing with them;

- correspondence and documents of any kind having the character of current and personal correspondence, other than the foregoing, exchanged between the sender and the addressee of the parcel or persons residing with them, if the internal regulations of the administrations concerned so permit;

iv live animals, unless their conveyance by post is authorized by the postal regulations of the countries concerned;

v explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances;

vi radioactive materials. However, administrations may agree among themselves to accept parcels containing these materials either reciprocally or in one direction only. In this case, the radioactive materials shall be made up and packed in accordance with the provisions of the Detailed Regulations and shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding air surcharges. They may be posted only by duly authorized senders;

vii obscene or immoral articles;

viii articles of which the importation or uttering is prohibited in the country of destination;

b in uninsured parcels exchanged between two countries which admit insured parcels: coins, bank notes, currency notes, securities of any kind payable to bearer, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels and other valuable articles. This provision shall not apply when the exchange of parcels between two administrations admitting insured parcels can only be made in transit through the intermediary of an administration which does not admit them. Any administration may prohibit the enclosure of gold bullion in insured or uninsured items originating from or addressed to its territory or sent in transit à découvert across its territory, or limit the actual value of these items.

Article 20

Limits of size

1. Except where parcels are considered as cumbersome by application of article 4, paragraph 2, e, parcels sent by surface or air shall not exceed 1.50 metres for any one dimension or 3 metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length.

2. Administrations which cannot accept, for any parcel or for air parcels only, the sizes prescribed in paragraph 1, may adopt instead the following dimensions: 1.05 metres for any one dimension, 2 metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length.

3. Whatever their mode of conveyance, parcels shall not be smaller than the minimum size prescribed for letters in article 19, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

4. Administrations which accept the dimensions fixed in paragraph 1 may collect, for parcels whose dimensions exceed the limits specified in paragraph 2 but which weigh less than 10 kg, a supplementary charge equal to that provided for in article 12.

Article 21

Treatment of parcels wrongly accepted

1. When parcels containing articles mentioned in article 19, a, have been wrongly admitted to the post, they shall be dealt with according to the legislation of the country of the administration establishing their presence; however, parcels containing articles listed in the same article under a, ii and v to vii shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to sender.

2. In the case of the insertion of a single item of correspondence prohibited within the meaning of article 19, a, iii, this correspondence shall be treated in the manner prescribed in article 30 of the Convention, and the parcel shall not be returned to sender on this account.

3. When an uninsured parcel exchanged between two countries which admit insurance and containing articles listed in article 19, b, is received by the administration of destination, that administration shall be authorized to deliver the parcel to the addressee under the conditions prescribed by its regulations. If they do not permit delivery, the parcel shall be returned to sender in application of article 33.

4. Paragraph 3 shall be applicable to parcels of which the weight or the dimensions appreciably exceed the permitted limits; however, these parcels may, where appropriate, be delivered to the addressee if he first pays any charges which may be due.

5. When a wrongly admitted parcel or part of its contents is neither delivered to the addressee nor returned to sender, the administration of origin shall be notified without delay how the parcel has been dealt with. This notification shall clearly indicate the prohibition under which the parcel falls or the articles which gave rise to its seizure.

Article 22

Sender's instructions at the time of posting

1. At the time of posting of a parcel, the sender shall be required to indicate the treatment to be given in case of non-delivery.

2. One of the following instructions only may be given:

a dispatch of an advice of non-delivery to the sender;

b dispatch of an advice of non-delivery to a third party residing in the country of destination;

c return forthwith to the sender by surface or air;

- d return to the sender by surface or air at the end of a given period, which may not exceed the regulation period of retention in the country of destination;
- e delivery to an alternative addressee, if necessary after redirection by surface or air (and subject to the special provisions set out in article 28, paragraph 1, c, ii);
- f redirection of the parcel by surface or air, for delivery to the original addressee;
- g abandonment of the parcel by the sender.

3. Parcels may be returned without advice if the sender has given no or contradictory instructions.

4. Administrations shall have the option of not accepting the instructions referred to in paragraph 2, a and b, when their legislation or regulations do not so permit.

SECTION II

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

Article 23

Insured parcels

1. The following rules shall govern the insured value of insured parcels:

a postal administrations:

i each administration may limit the insured value, so far as it is concerned, to an amount which may not be less than 7000 francs (2286.83 SDR) or the amount adopted in its internal service if it is less than 7000 francs (2286.83 SDR);

ii in the service between countries whose administrations have adopted different limits, all parties shall observe the lowest limit;

b senders:

i may not insure the parcel for a value exceeding the actual value of its contents;

ii may insure part only of the actual value of the contents of the parcel.

2. Fraudulent insurance for a value greater than the actual value of the parcel shall be liable to the legal proceedings prescribed by the legislation of the country of origin.

3. A receipt shall be handed over free of charge to every sender of an insured parcel at the time of posting.

Article 24

Parcels for delivery free of charges and fees

1. A parcel for delivery free of charges and fees may be accepted only if the sender undertakes to pay the full amount which the office of destination would be entitled to claim from the addressee as well as the commission charge prescribed in article 10.

2. The office of origin may require the payment of a sufficient deposit.

CHAPTER II

CONDITIONS OF DELIVERY AND REDIRECTION

SECTION I

DELIVERY

Article 25

General rules for delivery.

Periods of retention

1. As a general rule, parcels shall be delivered to the addressees as soon as possible and according to the provisions in force in the country of destination. When parcels are not delivered to the addressee's address, the addressee shall, unless this is impossible, be advised of their arrival without delay.
2. When an addressee has been notified of the arrival of a parcel, it shall be held at his disposal for a fortnight or, at most, for a month from the day after that on which the advice is sent; exceptionally, this period may be increased to two months if the regulations of the administration of destination permit. The retention period prescribed in this paragraph shall be renewed if the sender has, in accordance with article 28, paragraph 1, a, c, ii, and d, requested that the addressee be advised again.
3. When it has not been possible to notify an addressee of the arrival of a parcel, the period of retention shall be that prescribed by the regulations of the country of destination; this period, applicable also to parcels addressed poste restante, shall start to run from the day after the day from which the parcel is held at the addressee's disposal and shall not, as a general rule, exceed two months; the parcel shall be returned to the sender within a shorter period if the sender has so requested in a language known in the country of destination.
4. The periods of retention prescribed in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be applicable, in the case of redirection, to parcels to be delivered by the new office of destination.

Article 26

Delivery of express parcels

1. The delivery by special messenger of an express parcel or of the advice of arrival shall be attempted once only.
2. If the attempt is unsuccessful the parcel shall cease to be considered as express.

Article 27

Advice of delivery

The sender of a parcel may request an advice of delivery under the conditions laid down in article 48 of the Convention. However, administrations may restrict this service to insured parcels if such restriction is provided for in their internal service.

Article 28

Non-delivery to the addressee

1. After receipt of the advice of non-delivery mentioned in article 22, paragraph 2, a and b, the sender, or the third party concerned, shall give his instructions, which may only be those authorized by the said article, paragraph 2, c to g, and, in addition, one of the following:

a notify the addressee once more;

b correct or complete the address;

c where a cash-on-delivery parcel is concerned:

i deliver it to a person other than the addressee against payment of the amount indicated;

ii deliver it to the original addressee or to another addressee without collecting the COD charge or against payment of an amount less than the original amount;

d deliver the parcel free of charges and fees either to the original addressee or to another addressee.

2. The charge mentioned in article 13, f, for sending the instructions referred to in paragraph 1 may be collected either from the sender or from the third party; when the advice relates to several parcels posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee the charge shall be collected once only. In case of transmission by telegraph, the corresponding telegraph charge shall also be collected.

3. Provided that no instructions have been received from the sender or third party, the administration of destination shall be authorized to deliver the parcel to the addressee originally indicated or, where appropriate, to another addressee indicated later, or to redirect the parcel to a new address. After receipt of fresh instructions these alone shall be valid and binding.

Article 29

Return to sender of undelivered parcels

1. Every parcel which it has not been possible to deliver shall be returned to the sender's country of residence:

a immediately if:

i the sender has requested it in application of article 22, paragraph 2, c;

ii the sender (or the third party referred to in article 22, paragraph 2, b), has made an unauthorized request;

iii the sender or the third party refuses to pay the charge authorized in article 28, paragraph 2;

iv the instructions of the sender, or of the third party, have not achieved the desired result, whether these instructions were given at the time of posting or after receipt of the advice of non-delivery;

b immediately after the expiry:

i of the period, if any, fixed by the sender in application of article 22, paragraph 2, d;

ii of the periods of retention laid down in article 25, if the sender has not complied with article 22. In

this case, however, the sender may be asked for instructions;

iii of a period of two months from the dispatch of an advice of non-delivery, if the office which prepared that advice has not received adequate instructions from the sender or the third party, or if these instructions have not been received by that office.

2. Where possible, a parcel shall be returned by the same route as it followed on the outward journey. It may not be returned by air unless the sender has guaranteed the payment of the air surcharges.

3. Every parcel returned to sender under this article shall be subject to:

a the rates entailed in the further transmission;

b the uncancelled charges and fees which the administration of destination incurs at the time of return to the sender subject to articles 9, paragraph 2, last sentence and 14, paragraph 1, table, column 3, e, i and j.

4. These rates, charges and fees shall be collected from the sender.

5. Parcels returned to the sender and undeliverable to him shall be dealt with by the administration concerned in accordance with its own legislation.

Article 30

Abandonment by the sender of an undelivered parcel

If the sender has abandoned a parcel which it has not been possible to deliver to the addressee, that parcel shall be treated by the administration of destination according to its own legislation.

SECTION II

REDIRECTION

Article 31

Redirection in consequence of change of address by the addressee, or of the alteration of an address

1. If an addressee changes his address or if an address is altered under article 37, a parcel may be redirected either within the country of destination or out of that country.

2. A parcel may be redirected within the country of destination at the request of the sender, at the request of the addressee, or automatically if the regulations of that country permit.

3. A parcel may be redirected out of the country of destination only at the request of the sender or of the addressee; in this case the parcel shall comply with the conditions required for the onward transmission.

4. A parcel may also be redirected under the conditions set out above by air at the request of the sender or the addressee, provided that payment of the air surcharge in respect of the onward transmission is guaranteed.

5. The sender may forbid any redirection.

6. For the first and any subsequent redirection of each parcel, the following may be collected:

- a the charges authorized by the internal regulations of the administration concerned for such redirection, in the case of redirection within the country of destination;
- b the rates and air surcharges entailed in the onward transmission, in the case of redirection out of the country of destination;
- c the charges and fees which the former administrations of destination do not agree to cancel, subject to articles 9, paragraph 2, last sentence, and 14, paragraph 1, table, column 3, e, i and j.

7. The rates, charges and fees mentioned in paragraph 6 shall be collected from the addressee.

Article 32

Parcels arriving out of course and to be redirected

- 1. Any parcel arriving out of course as a result of an error on the part of the sender or the dispatching administration shall be reforwarded to its proper destination by the most direct route used by the administration which has received the parcel.
- 2. Any air parcel arriving out of course shall be reforwarded by air.
- 3. Any parcel reforwarded in application of this article shall be subject to the rates for forwarding to its proper destination and the charges and fees mentioned in article 31, paragraph 6, c.
- 4. These rates, charges and fees shall be collected from the administration responsible for the office of exchange which misdirected the parcel. This administration shall collect them, where appropriate, from the sender.

Article 33

Return to sender of wrongly accepted parcels

- 1. Any parcel wrongly accepted and returned to sender shall be subject to the rates, charges and fees prescribed in article 29, paragraph 3.
- 2. These rates, charges and fees shall be payable by:
 - a the sender, if the parcel has been wrongly admitted in consequence of an error of the sender or if it falls within one of the prohibitions laid down in article 19;
 - b the administration responsible for the error, if the parcel has been wrongly admitted in consequence of an error attributable to the postal service. In this case the sender shall be entitled to a refund of the charges paid.
- 3. If the rates which have been allocated to the administration returning the parcel are insufficient to cover the rates, charges and fees mentioned in paragraph 1, the outstanding charges shall be recovered from the administration of the sender's country of residence.
- 4. If there is a surplus, the administration which sends back the parcel shall return the balance of the rates to the administration of the sender's country of residence for refund to the sender.

Article 34

Return to sender in consequence of the suspension of a service

The return of a parcel to the sender in consequence of the suspension of a service shall be free of charge; the unallocated rates collected for the outward journey shall be credited to the administration of the sender's country of residence for refund to the sender.

CHAPTER III

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Article 35

Non-compliance by an administration with given instructions

1. When the administration of destination or an intermediate administration has not complied with the instructions given either at the time of posting or subsequently, it shall bear the conveyance charges (outward and return) and any other charges or fees which have not been cancelled; nevertheless, the charges paid for the outward journey shall remain the responsibility of the sender if he declared, either at the time of posting or subsequently, that in the event of non-delivery he would abandon the parcel.
2. The administration of the sender's country of residence shall be authorized automatically to bill the charges referred to in paragraph 1 to the administration which has not complied with the instructions given and which, although duly informed, has allowed five months to pass from the date on which it was informed without finally settling the matter or without informing the administration of the sender's country of residence that the non-compliance appeared to be due to force majeure or that the parcel had been detained, seized or confiscated in accordance with the internal regulations of the country of destination.

Article 36

Parcels containing items whose early deterioration or decay is to be feared

Articles contained in a parcel of which the early deterioration or decay is to be feared, and those articles only, may be sold immediately, even in course of transmission on either the outward or the return journey, without prior notice or legal formality, on behalf of the rightful owner; if, for any reason whatsoever, sale is impossible, the spoilt or decayed articles shall be destroyed.

Article 37

Withdrawal from the post.

Alteration or correction of address

1. The sender of a parcel may, under the terms of article 33 of the Convention, ask for it to be returned or for its address to be altered, provided that he guarantees payments of the amounts due for any onward transmission under articles 29, paragraph 3, and 31, paragraph 6.
2. However, administrations shall have the option of not accepting the requests referred to in paragraph 1 when they do not accept them in their internal service.

Article 38

Inquiries

1. Every administration shall accept inquiries relating to any parcel posted in the service of another administration.

2. Inquiries from users shall be entertained only within a period of one year from the day after that on which the parcel was posted.
3. Unless the sender has paid in full the advice of delivery charge prescribed in article 13, k, each inquiry shall be subject to the collection of an "inquiry" charge at the rate laid down in article 14, m.
4. Separate inquiries shall be made for uninsured and insured parcels. If the inquiry related to several parcels of the same category posted at the same time at the same office by the same sender and addressed to the same addressee and sent by the same route, the charge shall be collected once only.
5. The inquiry charge shall be refunded if the inquiry has been occasioned by a service error.

PART III

LIABILITY

Article 39

Principle and extent of liability of postal administrations

1. Postal administrations shall be liable for the loss of, theft from or damage to parcels, except as provided for in article 40. Their liability shall be as binding for parcels conveyed à découvert as for those forwarded in closed mails.
2. Administrations may undertake to cover also risks which may arise from a case of force majeure. They shall then be liable towards senders of parcels posted in their country for loss, theft or damage due to a case of force majeure occurring at any time during transmission of the parcels, including redirection or return to sender.
3. The sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual amount of the loss, theft or damage; consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into consideration. However, this indemnity may in no case exceed:

a for insured parcels, the amount of the insured value in gold francs or SDRs; in case of redirection or return to sender by surface of an insured air parcel, liability shall be limited, for the second journey, to that applicable to parcels sent by that route. However, administrations of origin may assume responsibility for any loss, theft or damage not covered during the second journey;

b for other parcels, the following amounts:

90 francs (29.40 SDR) per parcel up to 5 kg;

135 francs (44.10 SDR) per parcel above 5 up to 10 kg;

180 francs (58.80 SDR) per parcel above 10 up to 15 kg;

225 francs (73.51 SDR) per parcel above 15 up to 20 kg.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, b, administrations may agree to apply, in their reciprocal relations, the maximum amount of 225 francs (73.51 SDR) per parcel regardless of the weight.
5. The indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into gold francs or SDRs, of goods of the same kind at the place and time at which the parcel was accepted for conveyance; failing a current price, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the ordinary value of goods whose value is assessed on the same basis.

6. When an indemnity is due for the loss, total theft or total damage of a parcel, the sender or, by application of paragraph 8, the addressee shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges paid, with the exception of the insurance charge; the same shall apply to items refused by the addressees because of their bad condition if that is attributable to the postal service and involves its liability.

7. When the loss, total theft or total damage is due to a case of force majeure for which indemnity is not payable, the sender shall be entitled to repayment of all the charges paid.

8. Notwithstanding paragraph 3, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after taking delivery of a rifled or damaged parcel in the cases provided for in article 40, paragraph 1, a and b.

9. The sender may waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 3 in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee shall be entitled to waive his rights as prescribed in paragraph 8 in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

10. The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country, for uninsured parcels, the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for items of the same kind, provided that such indemnities are not lower than those laid down in paragraph 3, b. However, the amounts laid down in paragraph 3, b, shall remain applicable:

i in the event of recourse against the administration liable;

ii if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee.

Article 40

Non-liability of postal administrations

1. Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for parcels which they have delivered, according either to the conditions laid down in their internal regulations for items of the same kind or those set out in article 11, paragraph 3, of the Convention; liability shall however be maintained:

a when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of a parcel or when, internal regulations permitting, the addressee or, in the case of return to sender, the latter makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged parcel;

b when the addressee or, in the case of return to sender, the latter, although having given a proper discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage and furnishes proof that the theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2. Postal administrations shall not be liable:

i for the loss of, theft from or damage to parcels:

a in cases of force majeure. The administration in whose service the loss, theft or damage occurred shall decide according to the laws of its country whether the loss, theft or damage was due to circumstances amounting to a case of force majeure; these circumstances shall be communicated to the administration of the country of origin if the latter administration so requests. Nevertheless, the administration of the dispatching country shall still be liable if it has undertaken to cover risks of force majeure (article 39, paragraph 2);

b when they cannot account for parcels owing to the destruction of official records by force majeure, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;

- c when such loss, theft or damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or arises from the nature of the contents of the parcel;
- d in the case of parcels which have been fraudulently insured for a sum greater than the actual value of the contents;
- e when the sender has made no inquiry within the period prescribed in article 38, paragraph 2;
- f in the case of prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcels;
- ii for parcels seized under the legislation of the country of destination;
- iii for parcels confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority, in the case of parcels whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 19, a, ii, iv to viii, and b;
- iv in the case of sea or air conveyance when they have made it known that they are unable to accept liability for insured parcels on board the ships or aircraft used by them; they shall nevertheless assume in respect of the transit of insured parcels in closed mails the liability which is laid down for uninsured parcels of the same weight.

3. Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made or for decisions taken by the Customs on examination of parcels submitted to customs control.

Article 41

Sender's liability

- 1. The sender of a parcel shall be liable within the same limits as administrations themselves for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or of the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance, provided that there has been no fault or negligence on the part of administrations or carriers.
- 2. The acceptance by the office of posting of such a parcel shall not relieve the sender of his liability.
- 3. An administration which finds damage that is due to the fault of the sender shall inform the administration of origin, whose responsibility it is to take action against the sender where appropriate.

Article 42

Determination of liability between postal administrations

- 1. Until the contrary is proved, liability shall rest with the postal administration which, having received the parcel without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.
- 2. Until the contrary is proved, and subject to paragraph 4, an intermediate administration or administration of destination shall be relieved of all liability:
 - a when it has observed the rules for inspection of mails and parcels and the establishment of irregularities;
 - b when it can prove that it was not informed of the inquiry until after the destruction of the official records relating to the parcel in question, the regulation period of retention having expired; this reservation shall not prejudice the rights of the claimant.

3. When the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an air carrier, the administration of the country which collects the conveyance dues in accordance with article 86, paragraph 1, of the Convention shall reimburse the administration of origin for the indemnity as well as the charges and fees paid to the sender, subject to article 1, paragraph 6, of the Convention and paragraph 7 of this article. It shall be for the former administration to recover these amounts from the air carrier in question. Where the administration of origin settles the conveyance dues direct with the air carrier in accordance with article 86, paragraph 2, of the Convention, it shall itself seek reimbursement of these amounts from the air carrier.

4. If the loss, theft or damage occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally; however, in the case of an uninsured parcel, when the amount of indemnity does not exceed 60 francs (19.60 SDR), this sum shall be borne equally by the administration of origin and the administration of destination, intermediate administrations being excluded. If the theft or damage has been established in the country of destination or, in the case of return to sender, in the country of his residence, it shall rest with the administration of that country to prove:

- a that neither the wrapping nor the fastening of the parcel bore any apparent trace of theft or damage;
- b that, in the case of an insured parcel, the weight established at the time of posting has not varied;
- c that, in the case of parcels forwarded in closed receptacles, both the receptacles and their fastening were intact.

When such proof has been furnished by the administration of destination or of the sender's country of residence, as the case may be, none of the other administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability on grounds that it handed over the parcel without the next administration having made any objection.

5. In the case of items sent in bulk, in application of article 53, paragraphs 2 and 3, none of the administrations concerned may repudiate its share of liability by showing that the number of parcels found in the mail differs from that advised on the parcel bill.

6. In the case of bulk transmission, the administrations concerned may agree among themselves that liability be shared in the event of loss of, theft from or damage to certain categories of parcels, determined by mutual agreement.

7. As regards insured parcels, the liability of an administration towards other administrations shall in no case exceed the maximum insured value that is has adopted.

8. When a parcel has been lost, rifled or damaged as the result of force majeure, the administration in whose territorial jurisdiction or services the loss, theft or damage occurred shall not be liable towards the administration of origin unless the two administrations undertake to cover risks of force majeure.

9. If the loss, theft or damage of an insured parcel occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration which does not accept insured parcels or which has adopted a maximum insured value lower than the amount of loss, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration under paragraph 7 of this article and article 1, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

10. The rule laid down in paragraph 9 shall also apply in case of sea or air conveyance if the loss, theft or damage occurs in the service of an administration belonging to a contracting country which does not accept the liability laid down for insured parcels (article 40, paragraph 2, iv).

11. Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne

by the administrations liable for the loss, theft or damage.

12. An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take over the rights, up to the amount of the indemnity, of the person who has received it in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

Article 43

Payment of indemnity

1. Subject to the right of recourse against the administration which is liable, the obligation to pay the indemnity and to refund the charges and fees shall rest either with the administration of origin or, in the case mentioned in article 39, paragraph 8, with the administration of destination.

2. This payment shall be made as soon as possible and, at the latest, within a period of six months from the day following the day of inquiry.

3. When the administration responsible for the payment does not undertake to cover risks of force majeure and when, at the end of the period prescribed in paragraph 2, the question of whether the loss, theft or damage is due to such causes has not been decided, it may exceptionally postpone settlement of the indemnity for another six months.

4. The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant on behalf of the administration which, having participated in the conveyance and having been duly informed, has allowed five months to pass:

- without finally settling the matter or

- without informing the administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, that the loss, theft or damage appeared to be due to a case of force majeure, or that the parcel had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of the nature of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

Article 44

Reimbursing the administration which paid the indemnity

1. The administration which is liable or on behalf of which payment is made in accordance with article 42 shall reimburse the administration which made the payment under article 43, and which is called the "paying administration", the amount of indemnity paid to the rightful claimant subject to article 39, paragraphs 3 and 6; this payment shall be made within four months of the date of dispatch of the notice of payment.

2. If the indemnity is to be borne by several administrations in accordance with article 42, the whole of the indemnity shall be paid to the paying administration, within the period mentioned in paragraph 1, by the first administration which, having duly received the parcel claimed for, is unable to prove its correct transfer to the next service. It shall rest with this administration to recover from the other administrations which are liable each one's share of the indemnity, paid to the rightful claimant.

3. The creditor administration shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules for payment laid down in article 12 of the Convention.

4. The administrations of origin and destination may agree that the whole of the loss sustained in respect of ordinary parcels shall be borne by the administration which has to make the payment to the rightful claimant.

5. When liability has been admitted, as well as in the case provided for in article 43, paragraph 4, the amount of the indemnity may also be automatically recovered from the administration which is liable through a liquidation account, either direct or through the intermediary of the first transit administration, which claims credit in its turn from the next administration, the operation being repeated until the sum paid has been debited to the administration which is liable; where appropriate, the statutory provisions on the drawing up of accounts shall be observed.

6. Immediately after paying the indemnity, the paying administration shall communicate to the administration which is liable the date and the amount of payment made. It may only claim reimbursement of this indemnity within a period of one year either from the date of dispatch of the notice of payment or, where appropriate, from the date of expiry of the period prescribed in article 43, paragraph 4.

7. The administration whose liability is duly established and which has at first declined to pay the indemnity shall assume all additional costs resulting from the unwarranted delay in payment.

Article 45

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or from the addressee

1. If, after payment of the indemnity, a parcel or part of a parcel previously considered lost, is found, the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, shall be advised that he may take delivery of it within a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity received. If the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, does not claim the parcel within this period, the same approach shall be made to the other party.

2. If the sender or the addressee takes delivery of the parcel or of part of the parcel recovered against repayment of the amount of the indemnity, that sum shall be refunded to the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss, within one year of the date of the repayment.

3. If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the parcel, it shall become the property of the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss.

4. When proof of delivery is supplied after the period of five months laid down in article 43, paragraph 4, the indemnity paid shall continue to be borne by the intermediate administration or administration of destination if the sum paid cannot, for any reason, be recovered from the sender.

5. In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured parcel the contents of which are found to be of less value than the amount of indemnity paid, the sender or, where article 39, paragraph 8, is applied, the addressee shall repay the amount of this indemnity against return of the insured parcel, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance as mentioned in article 23, paragraph 2.

PART IV

RATES DUE TO ADMINISTRATIONS.

ALLOCATION OF RATES

CHAPTER 1

RATES

Article 46

Outward and inward land rate

1. Parcels exchanged between two administrations shall be subject to the outward and inward land rates fixed as follows, for each country and each parcel:

Weight steps	Outward and inward land rate	
1	Guideline rates	
	2	
		g fr
		SDR
Up to 1 kg	8	2.61
Above 1 up to 3 kg	10	3.27
Above 3 up to 5 kg	12	3.92
Above 5 up to 10 kg	15	4.90
Above 10 up to 15 kg	18	5.88
Above 15 up to 20 kg	20	6.53

Nevertheless, administrations may:

a increase their outward land rates as they see fit, to bring these into relation with the costs of their service. They may also reduce them as they see fit so long as they are not lower than their inward land rates;

b reduce their inward land rates as they see fit or increase them up to the amount of their costs, provided that they do not exceed their outward land rates.

2. The rates mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

3. The outward and inward land rates shall be uniform for the whole of the territory of each country.

4. Modifications of the inward land rates according to paragraph 1 may only come into force on 1 January. To be applicable, such modifications must be communicated at least four months prior to that date to the International Bureau, which shall notify them to the administrations concerned at least three months before the date of their coming into force. If these periods have not been observed, such modifications shall not come into force until 1 January of the following year.

Article 47

Transit land rate

1. Parcels exchanged between two administrations or between two offices of the same country by means of the land services of one or more other administrations shall be subject to the transit land rates below, payable to the countries whose services take part in the routeing on land.

2. Each of the countries mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be authorized to collect for each parcel the transit land rates applicable to the distance step corresponding to the weighted average distance over which it conveys parcels in transit. This distance shall be calculated by the International Bureau.

3. Reforwarding, where applicable after warehousing, by the services of an intermediate country of mails and à découvert parcels entering and leaving by the same port (transit not involving a land route) shall be subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2.

4. As regards air parcels, the land rate for intermediate countries shall be applicable only where the parcel is conveyed by an intermediate land service.

5. However, as regards air parcels in transit à découvert, intermediate administrations shall be authorized to claim a single rate of 1 g fr (0.33 SDR) per item.

6. When a country agrees to its territory being crossed by a foreign transport service without participation of its services according to article 3 of the Convention, parcels thus conveyed shall not give rise to allocation of the transit land rate to the postal administration concerned.

7. The rates mentioned in paragraph 1 shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.

Distance steps	Transit land rates												
		Above 1 up to 3 kg	Above 3 up to 5 kg	Above 5 up to 10 kg	Above 10 up to 15 kg	Above 15 up to 20 kg							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	
Up to 600 km	0.60	0.20	1.50	0.49	2.70	0.88	4.80	1.57	7.80	2.55	10.80	3.53	
Above 600 km	0.80	0.26	2.10	0.69	3.80	1.24	6.80	2.22	11.00	3.59	15.20	4.97	
Up to 1000 km													
Above 1000 up to 2000 km	1.10	0.36	2.80	0.91	5.00	1.63	8.90	2.91	14.50	4.74	20.10	6.57	
Above 2000 for each additional 1000 km	0.30	0.10	0.70	0.23	1.50	0.49	2.20	0.72	3.60	1.18	5.00	1.63	

Article 48

Sea rate

1. Each of the countries whose services participate in the sea conveyance of parcels shall be authorized to claim the sea rates mentioned in the table shown in paragraph 2. These rates shall be payable by the administration of the country of origin, unless this Agreement provides for exceptions to this principle.
2. For each sea conveyance used, the sea rate shall be calculated according to the table below.
3. If necessary, the distance steps used to determine the amount of the sea rate applicable between two countries shall be calculated on the basis of a weighted average distance, determined in terms of the tonnage of the mails carried between the respective ports of the two countries.
4. Sea conveyance between two ports of the same country may not give rise to the collection of the rate referred to in paragraph 2 when the administration of that country already receives, for the same parcels, payment in respect of land conveyance.
5. As regards air parcels, the sea rate for intermediate administrations or services shall be applicable only where the parcel is conveyed by an intermediate sea service; for this purpose every sea service provided by the country of origin or destination shall be regarded as an intermediate service.

Distance steps	Weight steps												
a Expressed in nautical miles	b Expressed in km after conversion on the basis of 1 n.m. = 1.852 km	Up to 1 kg	Above 1 up to 3 kg	Above 3 up to 5 kg	Above 5 up to 10 kg	Above 10 up to 15 kg	Above 15 up to 20 kg						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
		fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR	fr	SDR
Up to 500 n.m.	Up to 926 km	0.40	0.13	0.90	0.29	1.70	0.56	3.00	0.98	4.80	1.57	6.60	2.16
Above 500 up to 1000	Above 926 up to 1852	0.50	0.16	1.20	0.39	2.10	0.69	3.80	1.24	6.10	1.99	8.50	2.78
Above 1000 up to 2000	Above 1852 up to 3704	0.60	0.20	1.40	0.46	2.50	0.82	4.50	1.47	7.30	2.38	10.10	3.30
Above 2000 up to 3000	Above 3704 up to 5556	0.60	0.20	1.60	0.52	2.90	0.95	5.10	1.67	8.30	2.71	11.50	3.76
Above 3000 up to 4000	Above 5556 up to 7408	0.70	0.23	1.80	0.59	3.20	1.05	5.60	1.83	9.10	2.97	12.60	4.12
Above 4000 up to 5000	Above 7408 up to 9260	0.80	0.26	1.90	0.62	3.40	1.11	6.00	1.96	9.80	3.20	13.50	4.41

Above 5000 up to 6000	Above 9260 up to 11112	0.80	0.26	2.00	0.65	3.60	1.18	6.40	2.09	10.40	3.40	14.30	4.67
Above 6000 up to 7000	Above 11112 up to 12964	0.80	0.26	2.10	0.69	3.80	1.24	6.70	2.19	10.90	3.56	15.00	4.90
Above 7000 up to 8000	Above 12964 up to 14816	0.90	0.29	2.20	0.72	3.90	1.27	7.00	2.29	11.30	3.69	15.70	5.13
Above 8000 per additional 1000	Above 14816 per additional 1852	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.10	0.03	0.30	0.10	0.40	0.13	0.50	0.16

Article 49

Reduction or increase of the sea rate

1. Administrations may increase by 50 percent at most the sea rate laid down in article 48, paragraph 2. On the other hand, they may reduce it as they wish.
2. This option shall be subject to the conditions laid down in article 46, paragraph 4.
3. In the case of an increase, this shall also be applied to parcels originating in the country to which the services providing sea conveyance belong; nevertheless, this obligation shall not apply either in the relations between a country and the territories for whose international relations it is responsible, or in the relations between these territories.

Article 50

Application of new rates following unforeseeable changes in routeing

When, for reasons of force majeure or any other unforeseeable occurrence, an administration is obliged to use for the conveyance of its own parcels a new dispatch route which causes additional sea or land conveyance costs, it shall be required to inform immediately by telegram all the administrations whose parcel mails or à découvert parcels are sent in transit by way of its country. From the fifth day following the day on which this information is sent, the intermediate administration shall be authorized to charge the administration of origin the land and sea rates which correspond to the new route.

Article 51

Basic rates and calculation of air conveyance dues

1. The basic rate applicable to the settlement of accounts between administration in respect of air conveyance shall be fixed at a maximum of 1.74 thousandths of a franc, (0.568 thousandth of an SDR) per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre; this rate shall be applied proportionately to fractions of a kilogramme.
2. Air conveyance dues relating to air parcel mails shall be calculated according to, on the one hand, the actual basic rate specified in paragraph 1 and the kilometric distances given in the "List of Airmail Distances" referred to in article 227, paragraph 1, b, of the Detailed Regulations of the Convention and, on the other, the gross weight of the mails.

3. The air conveyance dues payable to the intermediate administration for à découvert air parcels shall be fixed in principle as indicated in paragraph 1, but per half-kilogramme for each country of destination. Nevertheless, when the territory of the country of destination of these parcels is served by one or more lines with several stops in that territory, dues shall be calculated on the basis of a weighted average rate taking into account the weight of the parcels offloaded at each stop. The dues to be paid shall be calculated for each individual parcel, the weight of each being rounded upwards to the next half-kilogramme.

4. Each administration of destination which provides air conveyance of air parcels within its country shall be entitled to reimbursement of the corresponding conveyance dues. These dues shall be uniform for all mails from abroad, whether or not the air parcels are reforwarded by air.

5. The dues referred to in paragraph 4 shall be fixed in the form of a single price calculated for all air parcels addressed to the country, on the basis of the rate actually paid for air conveyance of parcels within the country of destination, but not exceeding the maximum rate provided for in paragraph 1, and according to the weighted average of the sector distances covered by air parcels of the international service on the internal air network. The weighted average distance shall be determined in terms of the gross weight of all the air parcel mails arriving at the country of destination, including the air parcels which are not reforwarded by air within that country.

6. Entitlement to reimbursement of the dues referred to in paragraph 4 shall be subject to the conditions laid down in article 46, paragraph 4.

7. The transhipment at the same airport, in the course of transmission, of air parcels conveyed successively by several separate air services shall be performed without remuneration.

8. No transit land rate shall be payable for:

a the transfer of airmails between two airports serving the same town;

b the transport of such mails between an airport serving a town and a warehouse situated in the same town and the return of the same mails for reforwarding.

Article 52

Air conveyance dues for lost or destroyed air parcels

In case of loss or destruction of air parcels as a result of an accident occurring to the aircraft or through any other cause involving the liability of the air carrier, the administration of origin shall be exempt from any payment in respect of the air conveyance of the air parcels lost or destroyed, for any part of the flight of the line used.

CHAPTER II

ALLOCATION OF RATES

Article 53

General principles

1. Allocation of rates to the administrations concerned shall be made, in principle, in respect of each parcel.

2. However, in the case of transmission by closed mails, the administration of origin may agree with the administration of destination to allocate rates in bulk for each weight step.

3. Also in the case of transmission by closed mails, the administration of origin may agree with the administration of destination and, as appropriate, with the intermediate administrations to credit them with sums calculated per parcel or per kilogramme of gross weight of the mails on the basis of the land and sea rates.

Article 54

Service parcels.

Parcels of prisoners of war and civilian internees

Rates shall not be allocated for service parcels and for prisoner-of-war and civilian internee parcels, apart from the air conveyance dues applicable to air parcels.

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 55

Application of the Convention

The Convention shall be applicable, where appropriate, by analogy, in all cases not expressly governed by this Agreement.

Article 56

Conditions for approval of proposals concerning this Agreement and its Detailed Regulations

1. To become effective, proposals submitted to Congress relating to this Agreement and its Detailed Regulations must be approved by a majority of the member countries present and voting which are parties to the Agreement. At least half of these member countries represented at Congress must be present at the time of voting.

2. To become effective, proposals introduced between two Congresses relating to this Agreement and its Detailed Regulations must obtain:

a unanimity of votes, if they involve either the addition of new provisions or amendments of substance to the articles of this Agreement, its Final Protocol or article 155 of its Detailed Regulations;

b two thirds of the votes, if they involve amendments of substance to the Detailed Regulations, with the exception of article 155;

c a majority of the votes, if they involve:

i interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement, its Final Protocol and its Detailed Regulations, except in the case of a dispute to be submitted to arbitration as provided for in article 32 of the Constitution;

ii drafting amendments to be made to the Acts specified in subparagraph i.

Article 57

Parcels addressed to or originating in countries not participating in the Agreement

1. The administrations of countries participating in this Agreement which maintain an exchange of parcels with the administrations of non-participating countries shall, in the absence of any objection on the part of the latter, allow the administrations of all the participating countries to avail themselves of these services.
2. For transit by the land, sea and air services of the countries participating in the Agreement, parcels addressed to or originating in a non-participating country shall be treated in the same way as parcels exchanged between participating countries in so far as the amount of the land and sea rates and the air conveyance dues is concerned. The same shall apply, with respect to liability, whenever it is established that loss, theft or damage occurred in the service of one of the participating countries and when the indemnity has to be paid in a participating country either to the sender or, where article 39, paragraph 8, is applied, to the addressee.

PART VI

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 58

Entry into force and duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall come into force on 1 January 1986 and shall remain in operation until the entry into force of the Acts of the next Congress.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the plenipotentiaries of the Governments of the contracting countries have signed this Agreement in a single original which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Swiss Confederation. A copy thereof shall be delivered to each party by the Government of the country in which Congress is held.

DONE at Hamburg, 27 July 1984.

[Signatures not reproduced here.]

[*] Note by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union.

[\[1\]ATS 1958 No. 21](#) Act 1957 No. 103; UKTS 1958 No. 39 (Cmnd. 550); SP 157 p. 284; UNTS 75 p. 135.