



TREATY SERIES 2007
N° 72

**Parcel Post Agreement between the Union of South Africa
and the Republic of Ireland**

Done at Cape Town on 13 April 1960 and Dublin on 9 June 1960,

Entered into force on 1 July 1960

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

PARCEL POST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Agreement made between the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa, Pretoria, of the one part and the Secretary, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Republic of Ireland, Dublin, of the other part, whereby it is agreed to effect a regular direct exchange of parcels between the Union of South Africa and the Republic of Ireland as follows:

Article 1

Conditions of Exchange

1. Parcels under the designation of postal parcels, may be exchanged between the contracting administrations either direct or through the intermediary of one or more other administrations.
2. Parcels may be forwarded in either closed mails or in open transit and shall be reforwarded by the most rapid land and sea routes which are used for their own mails by the countries undertaking the transit.
3. The parcels shall be despatched in bags and mails shall only be made up on such offices of exchange as may be mutually agreed upon by the administrations concerned.
4. Unless specially provided for in these arrangements, the conditions as to posting, transmission and delivery of parcels (including the levy of Customs duty and other charges) and redirection within the limits of the country of destination shall be governed by the regulations of the country concerned.

Article 2

Weight and Dimensions

The maximum weight of each parcel shall not exceed eleven pounds and the maximum dimensions shall not ordinarily exceed three feet six inches in length or six feet in length and girth combined.

Article 3

Postage Rates

1. Prepayment of postage on all parcels is obligatory except in the case of redirected parcels.
2. The postage rates shall be composed only of the sum of the territorial and maritime rates of origin, transit and destination.

Article 4

Territorial and Maritime Rates

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

2. The administration of origin undertakes to pay to each of the administrations taking part in the transportation, including that of destination, all costs connected with the conveyance of the mails, excepting charges for redirection mentioned in article 13.

Article 5 *Responsibility*

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

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

Article 6 *Prohibitions*

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

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

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

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

Article 7 *Cancellation of Customs and Other Non-Postal Charges*

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

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

Article 8 *Addressing of Parcels*

1. Every parcel shall bear the name and address of the person for whom it is intended, given with such completeness as will enable delivery to be effected.
2. Addresses in pencil shall not be allowed, provided that parcels bearing addresses written in copying pencil on a surface previously damped shall be accepted.
3. The addresses shall be written on the parcel itself or on an adhesive label so firmly attached to it that it cannot become detached.
4. The sender of a parcel shall be advised to enclose in the parcel a copy of the address together with a note of his own address.

Article 9
Customs Declarations

Every parcel shall have affixed thereon an adhesive Customs declaration duly completed.

Article 10
Parcel Bills

1. Parcels exchanged between the contracting administrations shall be entered by the despatching office of exchange on parcel bills in the manner agreed upon by the administrations concerned. The parcel bills shall be forwarded with the parcels to the office of exchange of the country of destination.
2. The parcel bills despatched by each office of exchange shall be numbered consecutively, commencing with No. 1 for the first despatch of each calendar year, and these numbers shall be termed parcel bill numbers.

Article 11
Errors and Irregularities

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

Article 12
Missent Parcels

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

2. In other cases the rates shall be allowed to stand and if the amount credited is insufficient to cover the expense of retransmission, the retransmitting office shall cancel the original amount entered to its credit on the parcel bill of the despatching office of exchange and claim the appropriate charges for the onward transmission, notifying that office by means of a verification note.

Article 13 Redirection

1. Postal parcels redirected in consequence of a mistake by the sender or of the removal of the addressee from one country to another to which postal parcels are sent shall be subjected by the delivering administration to a charge, to be paid by the addressee, representing the rates due to the latter administration, to the redirecting administration and to each intermediary administration, if there be any. The redirecting administration shall recover its quota by charging it to the first intermediary administration or to the administration of the new destination. But if the amount chargeable for the further conveyance of a redirected parcel be paid at the time of its redirection, the parcel shall be dealt with as if it had been addressed direct from the retransmitting country to the country of destination, and delivered without any charge to the addressee for postage.

Article 14 Undeliverable Parcels

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

2. If the sender avails himself of this facility his request must be indicated in the appropriate place in the adhesive Customs declaration on the parcel, and must be in one of the following forms:

“If undeliverable as addressed, abandon.”

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

3. In the absence of a definite request for abandonment, a parcel which is undelivered at the original address, or at the alternative address if one is furnished, shall be returned to the sender without previous notification and at his expense.

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

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

Article 15
Deterioration of Contents

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

Article 16
Parcels Returned to Sender

Parcels which have to be returned to the sender shall be entered in the parcel bill with the addition of the word “undeliverable” in the column for remarks. Charges due shall be recovered in a like manner to that prescribed for redirected parcels in Article 13.

Article 17
Return of Empty Receptacles

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

Article 18
Correspondence Between Administrations

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

Article 19
Settlement of Accounts

Accounts based on the charges due in terms of Article 4 and the details reflected in the relative parcel bills shall be prepared at intervals and under conditions mutually agreed upon by the administrations concerned. Settlement of the balances resulting shall also be effected by mutual arrangement.

Article 20
Entry into Force of the Agreement

This Agreement shall be considered as having come into force on the 1st July, 1960, and shall remain in force until terminated by either party giving to the other party twelve months’ notice in writing to terminate the same.

EXECUTED in duplicate and signed at Cape Town, this 13th day of April, 1960.

(Signed) Ant. J. Bois
Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa

At Dublin, this 9th day of June, 1960.

(Signed) L. O. BROIN
Secretary, Department of Posts and Telegraphs
Republic of Ireland