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Overview of this Module

Universal Postal Union

Securing the Supply Chain

Security Measures and Tools

Early Warning

Forensics

What is the Universal Postal Union (UPU)?
Why and who does the UPU cooperate with internationally?

How does the UPU help ensure the postal supply chain is secure?

What practical security measures does the UPU implement to assure the postal supply chain?
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Overview of this Module

This module of the toolkit provides information about the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and its work to educate its member countries on the optimal methods of ensuring a safe and secure supply chain. Here you will find information on:

- The Universal Postal Union - it's organization, it's members, how the regulations are decided and implemented, international collaborators, and the Postal Strategy.

- Security measures and tools such as the training UPU offers its members and stakeholders, practical security measures including the Standards and the Electronic Data Interchange.
Mail Security
Universal Postal Union

- Introduction to UPU
- Organization
- Membership
- Postal Strategy
- International Cooperation
- The Legislative Context

How are members organized?
What guides the Designated Postal Operators between Congress Cycles?
How many members does the UPU have and who can be a member?
How are regulations decided and implemented?
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Introduction to the UPU

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874 signed by 22 countries coordinates postal policies among member nations, and the worldwide postal system. After becoming a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1948, the UPU works within the UN system to partner with many other relevant UN organizations on areas that affect the global supply chain. Learn more about the UPU at: https://bit.ly/2cAjq3T

For more information and key statistics, please visit: https://bit.ly/2IHfcHm
The UPU now has 192 member countries. Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU. Any non-member country of the United Nations may become a UPU member if its request is approved by at least two-thirds of the member countries of the UPU. Union expenses are financed jointly by the member countries, through a contribution class system. Upon admission to the Union, new member countries are free to choose one of ten contribution classes ranging from one to 50 units. An additional contribution class of one-half unit is reserved for the Least Developed Countries.
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Organization

The UPU consists of four bodies, ranked in order:

Congress is the supreme authority of the UPU. Plenipotentiaries from the 192 member countries every four years to decide on the future world postal strategy and take action on major decisions affecting international mail flows.

Congress elects the Council of Administration which ensures the continuity of the UPU’s work between Congresses and assures that all groups are on track to meet the established key performance indicators (KPIs).

Congress also elects member countries to the Postal Operations Council which is the technical and operational body that deals with operational, economic and commercial aspects of the postal business.

The International Bureau fulfills the day-to-day activities of the UPU.

Postal stakeholders that are not public postal operators or regulators can add their voice to the UPU’s deliberations through the Consultative Committee (CC). The Committee represents the interests of the wider postal sector and provides a framework for effective dialogue.
Adopted at Congress, the UPU’s world postal strategy is a roadmap for the future. In between Congresses, held every four years, the UPU official bodies focus on achieving the strategy objectives, aimed at strengthening the three dimensions of the global postal network – physical, electronic and financial.

The strategy takes into account the viewpoints of postal stakeholders, who are widely consulted at the drafting stage. The strategy lays the foundation for modernizing and stimulating the development of postal services worldwide.

Also taken into account are the many factors that challenge the postal sector, including globalization, market liberalization, competition, electronic substitution, the advancement of new technologies, and regional and national inequalities, among others.


The primary transport method for international mail is by air but land and sea can also be used. International postal items are processed by customs authorities throughout the world (facilitated clearance of items under Kyoto Convention – Specific Annex J) and the UPU regularly interacts with other international entities associated with the postal supply chain to define rules that impact international postal operations. These international organizations and initiatives include:

- World Customs Organization
- ICAO
- OAGI
- WIPO
- UNODC
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- INTERPOL
- IATA
- United for Wildlife
- INCB
Designated postal operators as recognized by member countries, are governed by the UPU Convention and its Detailed Regulations that can only be amended by Congress. These Acts are binding on all member countries and embody the rules applicable throughout the international postal service and define the provisions concerning letter post and parcel post services. Member countries must ensure that their designated postal operators fulfill the obligations arising from the Convention and its Regulations.

https://bit.ly/2nMVeVv
Postal Security Bodies

The postal operations council has multiple committees which work together to accomplish the goals established at congress.

Postal Operations Council
- Postal Security Group
- Customs Group
- Transport Group
- Standards Board
- Operations and Accounting Review Group
- Addressing Group

Postal Operations Council Committee One focuses on the Supply Chain and this is where the Postal Security Group conducts its work.
The Postal Security Group was created at the 20th Washington Congress, 1989 and reports to the Postal Operations Council through Committee on Supply Chain Integration. It facilitates the development and implementation of security standards and best practices among Posts with the mission to establish worldwide postal security, encourage and promote the creation of postal security services in all UPU member countries, and to establish contact and collaborate with international organizations. The PSG has the following key priorities:

- Prevention of injuries to people due to the carriage of dangerous goods in the mail
- Prevention of loss or theft of mail entrusted to Posts
- Prevention of revenue or asset losses by Posts
- Preservation of customer confidence in the Posts
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Securing the Supply Chain

The 2017 Extraordinary Congress in Ethiopia codified Postal Security under the UPU Convention to establish the minimum security standards required for designated operators. This is to protect the postal system and protect the supply chain for worldwide commerce and assure sustainability for the sector.

Postal Security
Convention Article 8.1

"Member countries and their designated operators shall observe the security requirements defined in the UPU security standards and shall adopt and implement a proactive security strategy at all levels of postal operations ... This strategy shall include the objectives defined in the Regulations, as well as the principle of complying with requirements for providing electronic advance data on postal items... The strategy shall also include the exchange of information on maintaining the safe and secure transport and transit of mails between member countries and their designated operators."
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Overview of this Module

Universal Postal Union

Securing the Supply Chain

Security Measures and Tools

How does the UPU help ensure the postal supply chain is secure?

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Security Measures and Tools

Do your employees know how to recognize suspicious items in the postal supply chain and what to do about them?

Mitigation and Response

What types of training does the UPU offer its members and other stakeholders?

Capacity Building

What is EDI and how can it help secure the postal supply chain?

Mandatory Security Standards

Electronic Data Interchange

Securing the Supply Chain
Employee and public awareness

To mitigate and respond to the risk of receiving dangerous items through the post, it is important that both the public and the Post employees be trained on suspicious mail and packages. This includes knowing the suspicious indicators that customers and employees be aware of, and what actions need to be taken in the situation.

The Keep me safe to get me there faster campaign highlights what items are safe to send through the international mail system.

Learn more about this campaign
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Keep Me Safe to Get Me There Faster

Posts can deliver all sorts of things. But there are dangerous goods and prohibited items that simply cannot travel through the international postal network.

Dangerous goods can cause harm to people, including customers or postal, customs and airline staff, and cause material damages. Prohibited items also include dangerous goods, but also valuables, obscene materials, counterfeit materials or other items that some countries simply don’t accept on their territory.

Explosives
When a parcel containing explosives tries to bully its way through, it doesn’t get very far... Watch at: https://bit.ly/2oz47ZP

Flammable liquids and substances
There’s a jolly parcel squirting a flammable liquid while happily going through processing. Or will it? Watch at: https://bit.ly/2n6tcea

Counterfeits

Mandatory Security Standards
The UPU provides online training for members through the Trainpost online training website. Workshops are also provided in collaboration with external stakeholders and other UPU activities (Quality of Service, Operational readiness for E-commerce, Customs processes).

Detailed modules on 8 training fields including quality/security can be found at: https://www.upu-trainpost.com/eng/courses.htm
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Electronic Data Interchange

As e-commerce merchandise volumes continue to grow, there is a global requirement to improve overall security while maintaining high service and delivery standards within the postal stream.

Electronic capture of customs data facilitates the collection and exchange of customs and security information between designated operators, customs agencies and carriers using detailed UPU standards.

Once collected, the data is used to facilitate the processing of items through customs, and is also used for aviation security purposes (“Load” or “Do not load”). In addition, the data can be used for sorting equipment, delivery planning and customer service purposes, adding further value for the designated operator.