The UPU: building cooperation and understanding to ensure a safe and secure postal supply chain

CND Thematic Discussions Autumn 2021: 21 October 2021

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UPU OVERVIEW

Third oldest intergovernmental organization (1874)

Specialized agency of the United Nations (since 1948)

Headquarters in Berne, Switzerland
Pandemic Ramifications: Passenger and Cargo Flights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1,041,197</td>
<td>1,060,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>945,568</td>
<td>921,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1,076,704</td>
<td>1,108,933</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1,106,827</td>
<td>1,077,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,160,105</td>
<td>1,194,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1,194,812</td>
<td>1,174,416</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>1,272,400</td>
<td>356,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1,268,976</td>
<td>462,904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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E-Commerce Trends

Sales in billion U.S. dollars

- 2014: $1.336 billion
- 2015: $1.548 billion
- 2016: $1.845 billion
- 2017: $2.304 billion
- 2018*: $2.842 billion
- 2019*: $3.485 billion
- 2020*: $4.135 billion
- 2021*: $4.878 billion
Global context

NEW NON-SCHEDULED EMERGING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES TRAFFICKED VIA POSTAL, EXPRESS MAIL AND COURIER STREAMS

Isotonitazene
N,N-diethyl-2-[(4-(1-methylethoxy)phenyl)methyl]-5-nitro-1H-benzimidazole-1-ethanamine (IUPAC)
CAS No. 14188-81-9 (base)
CAS No. 119276-00-5 (HCl)

Borphine
3-{[1-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl]-4-piperidyl}-1H-benzimidazol-2-one (IUPAC)
CAS No. Not available

Photo: Comparison of fatal dosages of synthetic opioids and fentanyl. Source Swedish Police
Article 19 – Items not admitted. Prohibitions

2 Prohibitions in all categories of items
2.1 The insertion of the articles referred to below shall be prohibited in all categories of items:
2.1.1 narcotics and psychotropic substances, as defined by the International Narcotics Control Board, or other illicit drugs which are prohibited in the country of destination;
2.1.2 obscene or immoral articles;
Commentary

2.1.1 The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) defines the types of substances under international control and classifies them according to the categories of narcotics or psychotropic substances. These INCB classifications do not adequately capture all of the illicit drugs or controlled substances which are prohibited in many UPU member countries. The list of narcotics and psychotropic substances placed under international control (abbreviated list) is given in part III of the List of Prohibited Articles.

In an inquiry conducted by the IB among DOs on smuggling narcotics and psychotropic substances by post, a number of difficulties emerged, particularly as regards the attitude to be adopted by the intermediate country having regard to the freedom of transit when closed mails are suspected of containing such arts. Congress adopted in this connection formal opinion C 54/Washington 1989, the operative part of which is given below:

“Congress invites postal administrations:

i – to cooperate in combating the traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances whenever they are legally required to do so by their national authorities responsible for this matter;

- to ensure respect for the fundamental principles of the international Post, in particular, the freedom of transit (art 1 of the Constitution and art 4 of the Convention);

ii to make all appropriate arrangements with the relevant authorities of their countries to ensure that bags of mail in transit suspected of enclosing items containing narcotics or psychotropic substances are not opened, but to advise:

a by the quickest means, at the request of their customs authorities the administration of destination so that the suspected bags can easily be identified on arrival;

b by verification note, the administration of origin of the mail;

iii to approach the legislative authorities, in consultation with the customs services, to ensure that laws and regulations do not prevent the use of the technique known as ‘controlled delivery’; the Customs of the transit country, if necessary with the agreement of the competent authorities, must take appropriate measures to inform the customs authorities of the country of destination and, possibly, of the country of origin of the suspect mails.”
This list contains information on prohibitions sent in by DO’s on the basis of a model referring to the World Customs Organization (WCO) harmonized commodity description and coding system. It is supplemented by information supplied by the United Nations about narcotics and psychotropic substances under international control and the IATA list of definitions of nine classes of dangerous goods.

https://www.upu.int/en/Postal-Solutions/Programmes-Services/Postal-Supply-Chain/Custums#scroll-nav__3
CDS Prohibitions Compendium (country-specific)

Prohibitions repository supported by the Customs Declaration System (CDS) platform

The CDS Prohibitions Compendium is an online repository available to UPU member countries, supported by the Customs Declaration System (CDS) platform. Using this tool, national customs information on prohibited and restricted articles in the mail can be searched and updated, serving as compendium for Article 19.1.3 of the UPU Convention.

The system can be accessed, updated and queried at prohibitions.ptc.post.

UPU member countries requiring further information on and access to the system should contact: customs(at)upu.int.

The Prohibitions Search Tool, now available in Beta testing mode under the following link, queries this CDS Prohibitions Compendium.

The current content of the CDS list can be downloaded from this link.
An **ITMATT** message (ITem ATTribute) is an electronic capture of the customs declarations form **CN23** filled in by a sender of a good. This message is exclusively used between posts.
Outbound CN23

CDS.Web
(Postal domain)

Mobile data capture app
(under testing/piloting)

CDS.Kiosk
(www)

External/Own System (e.g. counter, web portal, mobile app)
a) SOAP->CDS.API
b) Flat->CDS.Service
c) XML->IPS->CDS
• More than 300 postal operators have received training and seminars
  • in-person and virtually modalities have been used

• Nearly 500 training modules delivered since 2019
  • Information exchange; awareness and safe handling of opioids
• UPU has connected INCB to 230 postal security operators and regional security groups to exchange INCB information and alerts

• Government postal enforcement can also request access to IONICS for real-time information