

Berne, 29 November 2024
International Bureau Circular
Amendments to the Convention Regulations
(and their Final Protocol)

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its 2024.2 session, the Postal Operations Council (POC), in accordance with article 113.1.12 of the General Regulations as well as article 17 of the POC Rules of Procedure, examined and approved certain proposed amendments to the Convention Regulations, as set out in Annex 1.

The following table shows the numbers and titles of the relevant articles, as further detailed in Annex 1 (presented in numerical order). The amendments will enter into force on the dates indicated below.<sup>1</sup>

# **Convention Regulations and Final Protocol**

## Volume I Rules in common

19-003	Admissible radioactive materials, infectious substances, and lithium cells and lithium batteries	1 January 2026
20-001	Items subject to customs control	1 January 2026
27-003	Transit charges	1 January 2026

# Volume II Letter Post Regulations

17-105	Limits of size and weight for small letters (P) and large letters (G)	1 January 2027
17-111	Standardized items	1 January 2027
17-116	Exchange of format-separated mails (M bags)	1 March 2025
17-117	Transit à découvert (M bags)	1 March 2025
17-121	Transmission of registered items (M bags)	1 March 2025
17-126	Transmission of M bags	1 March 2025
17-132	Checking of mails (M bags)	1 March 2025

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 18 of the POC Rules of Procedure, the International Bureau shall, following the adoption of the amendments referred to herein, renumber any relevant provisions of the Regulations with a view to correctly reflecting their order in the consolidated version of that Act.

18-101bis (provisional numbering)	Transmission of registered M bags – new article	1 March 2025
18-102	Tracked items (logo)	1 March 2025
18-106bis (provisional numbering)	Transmission of M bags – new article (from POC C 2 2024.2–Doc 7.Rev 1.Annex 14)	1 March 2025
18-106ter (provisional numbering)	Checking of M bags – new article (from POC C 2 2024.2–Doc 7.Rev 1.Annex 10)	1 March 2025
27-101	Calculation and accounting for charges for items in transit à découvert and missent items	1 January 2026
31-104	Supplementary remuneration for registered, insured and tracked items	1 March 2025
31-122	Remuneration for returned undeliverable letter-post items	1 January 2026

# Volume III Parcel Post Regulations

17-203	Special conditions relating to limits of weights (parcels)	1 March 2025
17-204	Limits of size (parcels)	1 March 2025
27-203	Sea rate	1 January 2026

# Final protocol

Prot. article R X	Application of the liability of designated	The date of this
	operators	circular <sup>2</sup>

Yours faithfully,

Ricardo Guilherme Filho Director of Legal Affairs

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Such a reservation shall enter into force with immediate effect following formal notification of its adoption, through this circular, to all member countries.

#### **Convention Regulations**

#### Volume I Rules in common

Article 19-003

Admissible radioactive materials, infectious substances, and lithium cells and lithium batteries

Paragraphs 1 and 2 have been amended as follows:

- 1 Radioactive materials shall be admitted in letter-post items and parcels in relations between member countries which have declared their willingness to admit them either reciprocally or in one direction only under the following conditions:
- 1.1 (No change.)
- 1.2 When they are sent in letter-post items, they shall be subject to the tariff for priority items or the tariff for letters and registration small packets under the tracked delivery service.

1.3 and (No change.)

1.4

- Infectious substances, with the exception of category A infectious substances affecting humans (UN 2814) and affecting animals (UN 2900), shall be admitted in letter-post items and postal parcels, under the following conditions:
- 2.1 (No change.)
- 2.2 Category B infectious substances (UN 3373) must be handled, packed and labelled in accordance with the provisions listed in the Regulations. These items shall be subject to the tariff for priority items or the tariff for registered letters small packets under the tracked delivery service. An additional charge for the handling of these items shall be allowed.
- 2.3 (No change.)
- 2.4 Exempt patient specimens (human or animal) must be handled, packed and labelled in accordance with the provisions listed in the Letter Post Regulations. These items shall be subject to the tariff for priority items or to the tariff for registered letters small packets under the tracked delivery service. An additional charge for the handling of these items is allowed.
- 2.5 and (No change.)

Article 20-001 Items subject to customs control

Paragraph 2.6 has been amended as follows:

2.6 CN 23 customs declarations shall be securely attached to the outside of the item, preferably in a transparent adhesive envelope. Exceptionally, if the sender prefers, these declarations may be inserted in a closed envelope inside registered the items, if they contain the valuable articles mentioned in article 19.6.1 of the Convention, or inside insured parcel items.

Article 27-003 Transit charges

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

- 1 The transit charges to be borne by the designated operator of origin of the mails shall be calculated on the basis of the following components:
- A rate for handling transit dispatches, which shall be 0.574 0.641 SDR per kilogramme for 2022 2026, 0.585 0.670 SDR per kilogramme for 2023 2027, 0.599 0.700 SDR per kilogramme for 2024 2028, and 0.613 0.732 SDR per kilogramme for 2025 2029 and 0.765 SDR per kilogramme for 2030.
- 1.2 A rate based on distance, which shall be:
- 1.2.1 (No change.)
- 1.2.2 for land transport:
- 1.2.2.1 per kilogramme and per kilometre up to 1,000 kilometres: 0.426 0.479 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.437 0.501 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.447 0.524 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.458 0.548 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029; and 0.573 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.2.2 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre up to 3,000 kilometres: 0.182 0.205 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.187 0.214 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.191 0.224 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.196 0.234 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2025 2029; and 0.245 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030:
- 1.2.2.3 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre up to 5,000 kilometres: 0.159 0.179 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.163 0.187 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.167 0.195 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.171 0.204 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029; and 0.213 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;

- 1.2.2.4 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre: 0.106 0.118 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.108 0.123 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.111 0.129 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2028; and 0.113 0.135 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029; and 0.141 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.2.5 (No change.)
- 1.2.3 for sea transport:
- 1.2.3.1 per kilogramme and per nautical mile (1.852 km) up to 1,000 nautical miles: 0.204 0.229 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.209 0.239 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.214 0.250 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.219 0.261 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2025 2029; and 0.273 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.3.2 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 2,000 nautical miles: 0.113 0.126 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.115 0.132 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.118 0.138 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.121 0.144 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029; and 0.150 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.3.3 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 4,000 nautical miles: 0.073 0.082 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.075 0.086 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.076 0.090 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.078 0.094 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029; and 0.098 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.3.4 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 10,000 nautical miles: 0.008 0.009 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026; 0.008 0.010 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027; 0.009 0.010 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028; and 0.009 0.011 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2025 2029; and 0.011 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.2.3.5 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile: 0.003 thousandths of an SDR for the years 2022 2026 to 2025 2028, and 0.004 thousandths of an SDR for the years 2029 and 2030;
- 1.2.3.6 (No change.)

## Volume II Letter Post Regulations

Article 17-105

Limits of size and weight for small letters (P) and large letters (G)

Paragraph 2 has been amended as follows:

- 2 For the classification of items based on their format, for items that are not small letter (P) format items, the limits of size and weight of large letters (G) shall be as follows:
- 2.1 and (No change.)

2.2

- 2.3 maximum weight: 500 g 1 kg;
- 2.4 maximum thickness: 20 mm 30 mm.

Article 17-111 Standardized items

Paragraph 4 has been amended as follows:

- 4 Rectangular items shall be considered to be standardized large letter (G) format items if they are not standardized small letter (P) format items and satisfy the following conditions:
- 4.1 and (No change.)

4.2

- 4.3 Maximum weight: 500 g 1 kg;
- 4.4 Maximum thickness: 20 mm 30 mm.

Article 17-116

Exchange of format-separated mails

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 have been amended as follows:

- 2 Exchanges between countries in group I
- 2.1 (No change.)
- 2.2 Mails shall be prepared and dispatched in separate receptacles for each of the three formats (P, G, E) to destinations where the annual outward volume of mails dispatched, excluding M bags, is above 50 tonnes. For volumes below this threshold mixed mails may be prepared.
- 3 Exchanges between countries in groups II and III, and between these countries and countries in group I

- 3.1 Mails shall be prepared and dispatched in at least two separate types of receptacles, one for formats P and G combined and one for format E, to destinations where the annual outward volume of mails dispatched, excluding M bags, is above the threshold of 50 tonnes.
- 3.2 (No change.)
- 4 Exchanges between countries in group IV and between these countries and countries in groups I to III
- 4.1 Mails shall be prepared and dispatched in at least two separate types of receptacles, one for formats P and G combined and one for format E, to destinations where the annual outward volume of mails dispatched, excluding M bags, is above 100 tonnes as of 2022.

Article 17-117 Transit à découvert

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

The transmission of à découvert items to an intermediate designated operator shall be strictly limited to cases where the making up of closed mails for the country of destination is not justified. À découvert transmission shall not be used to countries of destination for which the weight of the mail exceeds three kilogrammes per mail or per day (when several dispatches are made in a day) and shall not be used for M bags.

Article 17-121
Transmission of registered items

Paragraph 10 has been deleted.

10 Registered M bags shall be entered as a single item on a CN 33 special list.

The letter M shall be added in the "Observations" column.

Article 17-126 Transmission of M bags

Article 17-126 has been deleted.

Every M bag shall be furnished with a CN 34, CN 35 or CN 36 label to which a large letter M has been added in the upper right-hand corner. This label shall be additional to the address label provided by the sender. M packets that are not packed in a bag must be inserted in a "sac collecteur M" for transmission.

Article 17-132 Checking of mails

Paragraph 9 has been deleted.

9 Each designated operator shall have the right, in accordance with its national legislation and the procedures agreed with its customs authorities, to open and inspect M bags received, to check for compliance with the product specification detailed in article 17-107.7.1 to 7.5 and to ensure customs compliance. Any items that are found not to be in compliance with the product specification shall be charged at the destination designated operator's terminal dues rates for priority and non-priority mail. A CN 43 verification note shall be raised to advise the origin designated operator of the adjustments to the CN 31 letter bill.

The following new article 18-101bis (provisional numbering) has been created:

Article 18-101bis

Transmission of registered M bags

Registered M bags, limited to documents only, shall be entered as a single item on a CN 33 special list. The letter M shall be added in the "Observations" column.

Article 18-102 Tracked items

Paragraph 2 has been amended as follows:

- 2 Marking
- 2.1 Letter-post items
- 2.1.1 Letter-post items for tracked delivery shall may be provided with a logo which shall if possible be bright red and of the shape reproduced below. A black and white version may, however, be used for system-generated labels. The "Tracked" logo shall be placed on the address side, in so far as possible in the top left-hand corner, beneath the sender's name and address where these are given.

The following new article 18-106bis (provisional numbering – from POC C 2 2024.2–Doc 7.Rev 1.Annex 14) has been created:

Article 18-106bis

Transmission of M bags

Every M bag shall be furnished with a CN 34, CN 35 or CN 36 label to which a large letter M has been added in the upper right-hand corner. This label shall be additional

to the address label provided by the sender. M packets that are not packed in a bag must be inserted in a "sac collecteur M" for transmission.

The following new article 18-106ter (provisional numbering – from POC C 2 2024.2–Doc 7.Rev 1.Annex 10) has been created:

# Article 18-106ter Checking of M bags

Each designated operator shall have the right, in accordance with its national legislation and the procedures agreed with its customs authorities, to open and inspect M bags received, to check for compliance with the product specification detailed in article 18-103bis.1.1 to 1.5 and to ensure customs compliance. Any items that are found not to be in compliance with the product specification shall be charged at the destination designated operator's terminal dues rates for priority and non-priority mail. A CN 43 verification note shall be raised to advise the origin designated operator of the adjustments to the CN 31 letter bill.

#### Article 27-101

Calculation and accounting for charges for items in transit à découvert and missent items

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

- 1 General
- 1.1 and (No change.)

1.2

- 1.3 Calculation of charges
- 1.3.1 Charges corresponding to handling of items forwarded in transit à découvert
- 1.3.1.1 The charge for handling of items forwarded in transit à découvert shall be 1.055 1.185 SDR per kilogramme for 2022 2026, 1.081 1.238 SDR per kilogramme for 2023 2027, 1.107 1.294 SDR per kilogramme for 2024 2028, and 1.134 1.352 SDR per kilogramme for 2025 2029 and 1.413 SDR per kilogramme for 2030.
- 1.4 and (No change.)

1.4.1

- 1.5 Charges applicable to missent items
- 1.5.1 Each designated operator which forwards missent items shall have the right to collect from the designated operator of origin transit charges for the costs incurred for the handling and transportation as well as terminal dues increments to be paid to the designated operator of destination. The intermediate designated operator shall be authorized to claim from the dispatching designated operator the relevant charges calculated in

accordance with paragraphs 1.2 to 1.4 plus additionally a charge of 2.202 SDR/kg 2.301 SDR per kilogramme for 2026, 2.405 SDR per kilogramme for 2027, 2.513 SDR per kilogramme for 2028, 2.626 SDR per kilogramme for 2029 and 2.744 SDR per kilogramme for 2030.

1.6 to (No change.)

1.7

Article 31-104

Supplementary remuneration for registered, insured and tracked items

Paragraph 5 has been amended as follows:

- 5 Communication of the offer of <u>optional tracked or</u> additional service features for registered and insured items
- 5.1 The offer of additional service features associated with supplementary remuneration for registered and insured items shall be notified to the International Bureau. The offer of the optional tracked delivery service for inbound priority and airmail letter-post items containing documents, and outbound priority and airmail letter-post items containing documents and goods shall also be notified to the International Bureau, so that the designated operator concerned can be eligible to be paid the associated additional payments in paragraph 1.2 and supplementary remuneration in paragraph 4.2, provided it meets the conditions and requirements stipulated in those paragraphs. Relevant information will be presented in the Letter Post Compendium. The reporting and payment of the additional remuneration shall be effective the first quarter after the date of notification but not within less than two months after the date of notification

Article 31-122

Remuneration for returned undeliverable letter-post items

Paragraphs 2 and 3 have been amended as follows:

- The rate for the return handling of undeliverable items shall be 0.907 0.871 SDR per kilogramme for 2022 2026, 0.930 0.910 SDR per kilogramme for 2023 2027, 0.952 0.951 SDR per kilogramme for 2024 2028, and 0.975 0.994 SDR per kilogramme for 2025 2029, and 1.039 SDR per kilogramme for 2030.
- 3 The remuneration shall be complemented with a rate based on distance, as follows:
- 3.1 For air transport: the basic air conveyance rate set by the Postal Operations Council using the formula in article 34-101 multiplied by 86% 73.5%;

- 3.2 For land transport:
- 3.2.1 per kilogramme and per kilometre up to 1,000 kilometres: 0.366 0.352 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.375 0.368 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.385 0.385 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.394 0.403 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2029, and 0.421 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.2.2 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre up to 3,000 kilometres: 0.157 0.151 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.161 0.157 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.165 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.169 0.172 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2029, and 0.180 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.2.3 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre up to 5,000 kilometres: 0.137 0.132 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.140 0.137 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.143 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.147 0.150 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2029, and 0.157 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.2.4 per kilogramme and per supplementary kilometre: 0.091 0.087 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.093 0.090 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.095 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.098 0.099 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2025 2029, and 0.104 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.2.5 (No change.)
- 3.3 For sea transport:
- 3.3.1 per kilogramme and per nautical mile (1.852 km) up to 1,000 nautical miles: 0.175 0.168 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.180 0.176 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.184 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2028, and 0.188 0.192 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2029, and 0.201 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.3.2 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 2,000 nautical miles: 0.097 0.093 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.099 0.097 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.102 0.101 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.104 0.106 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2025 2029, and 0.110 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.3.3 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 4,000 nautical miles: 0.063 0.060 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.064 0.063 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.066 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.067 0.069 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2025 2029, and 0.072 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 3.3.4 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 10,000 nautical miles: 0.007 thousandth of an SDR for the years 2022, 2026 and 2027 0.007 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023, 0.007 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024, and 0.008 thousandth of an SDR for the years 2025 2028 to 2030;

- 3.3.5 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile: 0.003 0.002 thousandth of an SDR for the years 2022, 2026 and 2027 0.003 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2023, 0.003 thousandth of an SDR for the year 2024, and 0.003 thousandth of an SDR for the years 2025 2028 to 2030.
- 3.3.6 (No change.)

## Volume III Parcel Post Regulations

Article 17-203
Special conditions relating to limits of weights

The article has been amended as follows:

- The exchange of parcels whose individual weight exceeds 20 kilogrammes (including parcels relating to the postal service as provided for in article 16-001.2) shall be optional, with a maximum individual weight of 50 kilogrammes. In this regard, all member countries and their designated operators shall be entitled to accept higher individual weight limits, subject to due inclusion of the appropriate operational information (as well as any associated requirements, such as the conclusion of a special agreement) in the relevant compendium.
- 2 Designated operators of countries which set a weight of less than 50 kilogrammes shall, however, have the option of admitting parcels in transit in bags or other closed receptacles between the weights of 20 and 50 kilogrammes.
- 3 Parcels relating to the postal service as provided for in article 16-001.2 may weigh up to 20 kilogrammes. In relations between designated operators which have set a higher limit, parcels relating to the postal service may weigh more than 20 kilogrammes and up to 50 kilogrammes,

Article 17-204 Limits of size

The article has been amended as follows:

- 1 Parcels shall not exceed two metres for any one dimension or three metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length.
- 2 Designated operators which cannot accept, for any parcel or for air parcels only, the sizes prescribed under 1, may adopt instead one of the following dimensions:
- 2.1 1.50 metres for any one dimension or three metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of length.

- 2.2 1.05 metres for any one dimension or two metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of length.
- 2 Member countries and their designated operators shall be entitled to accept parcels varying from the dimension limits specified in § 1, subject to due inclusion of the appropriate operational information (as well as any associated requirements, such as the conclusion of a special agreement) in the relevant compendium. Notwith-standing the foregoing, under no circumstances may member countries and their designated operators set, for the acceptance of parcels, maximum dimension limits of less than 1.05 metres for any one dimension or two metres for the sum of the length and the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of length.
- 3 Parcels shall not be smaller than the minimum size prescribed for letters.

Article 27-203 Sea rate

Paragraph 1 has been amended as follows:

- 1 The rates applied to calculate the sea rate in accordance with article 33.3 of the Convention are given below:
- per kilogramme and per nautical mile (1.852 km) up to 1,000 nautical miles: 0.204 0.229 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.209 0.239 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.214 0.250 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.219 0.261 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029 and 0.273 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 2,000 nautical miles: 0.113 0.126 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.115 0.132 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.118 0.138 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.121 0.144 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029 and 0.150 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.3 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 4,000 nautical miles: 0.073 0.082 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.075 0.086 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.076 0.090 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.078 0.094 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2029 and 0.098 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;
- 1.4 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile up to 10,000 nautical miles: 0.008 0.009 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2022 2026, 0.008 0.010 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2023 2027, 0.009 0.010 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2024 2028, and 0.009 0.011 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2025 2029 and 0.011 thousandths of an SDR for the year 2030;

- 1.5 per kilogramme and per supplementary nautical mile: 0.003 thousandths of an SDR for the years 2022 2026 to 2025 2028, and 0.004 thousandths of an SDR for the years 2029 and 2030;
- 1.6 (No change.)

### **Final Protocol**

Article R X

Application of the liability of designated operators

The following new paragraph has been added:

3 Notwithstanding article 22-001.2, Belarus reserves the right to limit the amount of indemnity paid to its senders to the amount equal to the indemnity set for similar domestic items, plus the charges and fees paid by the sender for posting the item, in the event that a registered letter-post item not containing goods and accepted for shipment from Belarus (with the exception of M bags) is lost, totally rifled or totally damaged.