

# Electronic advance data (EAD)

## New provisions for exporting goods

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The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the International Post Corporation (IPC) have changed the conditions for sending goods consignments abroad. For postal consignments containing goods, the consignment data and content information required for export purpose must now be entered electronically and sent to the country of destination in advance (electronic advance data – EAD for short).

By electronically transmitting the content details, consignments containing goods can be processed and cleared through customs more quickly than before. The label also helps tracking events to be recorded and ensures higher-quality track and trace for consignments with a value-added service (registered or PRIORITY Plus).

**For consignments being sent to the USA, the new regulation has applied since 1 July 2019; for Europe and the rest of the world, since 1 January 2020.**

Swiss Post provides its customers with free tools for advance digital entry of consignment data. For data entry for individual consignments by our counter staff, a charge of CHF 3.00 is applied per consignment.

We have put together an FAQ below to answer the most important questions:

### What is EAD?

EAD is the abbreviation for electronic advance data and refers to the electronic transmission of sender, recipient, content and consignment data. Since 1 January 2020, the consignment and content data of postal items which are being exported (including letter mail containing goods up to 2 kilograms) must be entered electronically and transmitted to the country of destination in advance. This is due to statutory and international requirements.

The new requirements are internationally valid and are coordinated by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in cooperation with the International Post Corporation (IPC).

### What is the added value for me as a customer?

By electronically transmitting content details, consignments containing goods can be processed and cleared through customs more quickly. Harmonization of the corresponding address labels allows the consignments to be sorted automatically and more quickly. The label also helps tracking

events to be recorded and ensures higher-quality track and trace for consignments with a value-added service (registered or PRIORITY Plus).

### What can I do to ensure my goods consignment is delivered to the recipient without any issues?

In order to ensure that consignments containing goods do not arrive late and are not returned, the sender, recipient and content information need to be entered digitally in advance of shipment.

### What happens if an advance declaration is not submitted?

If no advance declaration is submitted, the transport partner and customs clearance authorities may refuse to accept the consignment. The consignment may even be returned under some circumstances, or major delays may occur.

### Are there any resources to help me with entering/transmitting the data?

To assist in this process, Swiss Post provides the free "Accompanying documents for international letters" and "WebStamp" online services (for letter mail containing goods up to 2 kg) and the "Create waybill" online service (for parcel consignments). These online services allow all the required data to be entered, and the necessary address labels and accompanying documents to be created in one step.

The online services mentioned can be found here: [www.swisspost.ch/online-services](http://www.swisspost.ch/online-services)

Major customers can also submit the necessary information via DataTransfer. More information can be found at [www.swisspost.ch/datatransfer](http://www.swisspost.ch/datatransfer).

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