

ELECTRONIC ADVANCE DATA (EAD) NEW PROVISIONS FOR EXPORTING GOODS

ISSUED: MAY 2019

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the International Post Corporation (IPC) are changing the conditions for sending goods consignments abroad. For postal consignments containing goods, the consignment data and content information now needs to be entered electronically and sent to the country of destination in advance of shipping (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. And there's more: harmonized address labels help tracking events to be recorded and ensure higher-quality track and trace.

For consignments being sent to the USA, the new regulation applies from 1 July 2019; for Europe and the rest of the world, from 1 January 2020.

Swiss Post provides its customers with free tools for advance digital entry of consignment data. If the data is entered at the counter, a processing fee will apply.

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. From 2020 at the latest, the consignment and content data of postal items which are being exported (including letter mail containing goods of 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 faster. The label also helps tracking events to be recorded and ensures higher-quality track and trace.

What can I do to ensure my goods consignment arrives at 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?

Swiss Post provides the free online services "Accompanying documents for international letters" (for consignments containing goods of up to 2 kg) and "Create waybill" (for parcel consignments) to assist in this process. 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.

From the end of June 2019, data entry will also be available in the "WebStamp" online service.

The online services mentioned can be found here: www.swisspost.ch/online-services

For major customers, Swiss Post is working on a suitable customer-friendly solution for delivering the necessary data (DataTransfer).

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Does my consignment require a special barcode?

Letter consignments containing goods must now carry the "harmonized label", which is based on an internationally defined label standard. This enables the consignments to be uniquely identified.

The possible barcodes are:

- R – Registered international mail
- L – PRIORITY Plus
- U – Barcodes
(for unregistered mail containing goods)

If you do not want create this label in one of the online services listed above, you can program them in your own system in accordance with the specifications. For instructions, please contact your customer advisor at Asendia Switzerland or send an e-mail to international@swisspost.ch.

Parcel consignments always require a waybill which is created online and automatically includes all the consignment/content information and the barcode.


What does the harmonized label look like?

Example of a private customer label (excluding franking):

CUSTOMS DECLARATION - CN 22		Content :		Goods
Customs control allowed		Value (CHF)	Weight	Customs tariff number
Art 1	10 Chocolate	20	1	
Art 2				
Art 3				
Total		20	1	

I certify that the particulars given in the declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous articles prohibited by postal regulations.

Date, Signature 05.02.2019


FROM	Maxime Musterfrau Musterweg 12 3030 Bern Switzerland	PRIORITY Post CH AG	Bitte frankieren Prérez d'affranchir Si prega di affrancare
 UO 999 400 730 CH			
TO	Max Mustermann Musterstrasse 33 11111 Musterhausen GERMANY		

Example of a business customer label (including PP franking):

CUSTOMS DECLARATION - CN 22		Content :		Goods
Customs control allowed		Value (CHF)	Weight	Customs tariff number
Art 1	1 Buch	50	1.2	4801.9800
Art 2				
Art 3				
Total		50	1.2	

I certify that the particulars given in the declaration are correct and that this item does not contain any dangerous articles prohibited by postal regulations.

Date, Signature 05.02.2019

FROM	Maxime Musterfrau Musterweg 12 8050 Zürich Switzerland	PRIORITY Post CH AG	P.P. CH-3030 Bern Hauptstz Die Post
 UO 998 509 007 CH			
TO	Max Mustermann Musterstrasse 33 11111 Musterhausen GERMANY		

Note: the barcode alone does not replace the need for franking.

Which countries are affected, and from when?

From 1 July 2019:

- United States of America (USA)

From 1 January 2020:

- All countries

Important information

Swiss Post will continue to forward all consignments abroad, even if no data has been transmitted in advance. Swiss Post is not responsible for any returns or delays by the customs authorities of the destination country resulting from missing consignment data.

Data protection

Post CH Ltd guarantees that the data will be used only within the scope indicated above and will not be passed on to third parties. In addition, the provisions of Swiss data protection legislation will be observed.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact your customer advisor or Customer Service International:

Tel. 0800 888 100

E-mail international@swisspost.ch

More information can be found at: www.swisspost.ch/ead

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