

No. 2818

**AUSTRALIA
and
CHINA**

**Agreement for the exchange of postal parcels. Signed at
Canberra, on 22 March 1955**

Official texts: English and Chinese.

Registered by Australia on 13 April 1955.

**AUSTRALIE
et
CHINE**

**Arrangement concernant l'échange de colis postaux. Signé
à Canberra, le 22 mars 1955**

Textes officiels anglais et chinois.

Enregistré par l'Australie le 13 avril 1955.

No. 2818. AGREEMENT¹ FOR THE EXCHANGE OF POSTAL PARCELS BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. SIGNED AT CANBERRA ON 22 MARCH 1955

The undersigned being duly authorised have agreed, on behalf of their respective Governments, to the exchange of postal parcels between Australia and the Republic of China in accordance with the following provisions :—

Article I

There shall be a regular exchange of postal parcels both insured and uninsured between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of China. The exchange shall be effected per medium of the Exchange Offices of the two contracting countries as may be determined by the respective Postal Administrations.

Article II

Except where they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement the provisions of the current Parcel Post Agreement² of the Universal Postal Union and of the Regulations for the execution of that Agreement shall apply to the exchange of postal parcels between Australia and the Republic of China.

Article III

LIMITS OF SIZE AND WEIGHT

1. Parcels may not exceed 3 feet 6 inches (1.07 metres) in length and the sum of the length and of the greatest circumference measured in a direction other than that of the length shall not exceed 6 feet (1.83 metres).
2. Parcels may not exceed 11 English pounds avoirdupois or 5 kilograms.
3. For the correct computation of the weight or measurement of a parcel the opinion of the Administration of origin shall be taken as final unless an obvious error has been made.
4. The foregoing limits of size and weight shall be subject to alteration by mutual arrangement between the two Administrations.

¹ Came into force on 22 March 1955, as from the date of signature, in accordance with article XVII.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 170, p. 63; Vol. 186, p. 360, and Vol. 202, p. 348.

Article IV

POSTAGE

1. The prepayment of postage shall be compulsory.
2. The postage shall be made up of the sums accruing to the Administrations (including the Administrations of the two contracting countries) taking part in the conveyance of the parcels.
3. Each Administration shall inform the other of the rates of postage which have been adopted and of any subsequent alteration of such rates.

Article V

PAYMENT FOR CONVEYANCE

1. The despatching Administration shall bear the cost of the conveyance of the parcels to the country of destination.
2. The routes by which the parcels shall be forwarded and the ports at which the parcels shall be landed shall be determined by mutual arrangement between the two Administrations.
3. When one Administration uses for the conveyance of its parcels a vessel which is under contract to the other payment for the service shall be made in accordance with the scale which the Administration providing the sea service has adopted for general application.

Article VI

INTERMEDIARY SERVICES

1. The services of one Administration may at any time be utilised by the other for the transmission of parcels to any place or country with which the former has a parcel post service.
2. In the absence of any arrangement to the contrary the parcels shall be forwarded *à découvert*.
3. The payment for intermediary services shall be in accordance with the scale which the creditor Administration has adopted for general application to transit parcels.

Article VII

EXPRESS AND URGENT PARCELS

The service of express delivery and of urgent parcels shall not be available to parcels exchanged between the two Administrations. The introduction of such services, may, however, subsequently be effected by mutual consent.

Article VIII

WITHDRAWAL — ALTERATION OF ADDRESS

The service of withdrawal of a parcel from the post or alteration of address shall not be given after the parcel has been despatched from the country of origin. It shall, however, be open to the two Administrations at a later date mutually to arrange for the provision of this service under conditions satisfactory to both parties.

Article IX

ADVICE OF DELIVERY

The sender of an insured parcel may obtain an advice of delivery in accordance with the provision of the Parcel Post Agreement of the Universal Postal Union but such service shall not be given in respect of an uninsured parcel. Nevertheless it shall be open to the two Administrations at a later date mutually to arrange for the extension of the "Advice of Delivery" service to uninsured parcels.

Article X

NON-DELIVERY

1. Senders may request that in the event of non-delivery —

- (a) The parcel be returned to sender;
- (b) The parcel be treated as abandoned;
- (c) The parcel be delivered to another addressee in the country of destination.

Other requests are not admitted. The requests must be stated on the despatch note (if one is used) and on the parcels.

2. Undelivered parcels forwarded from one contracting Administration to the other bearing instructions by the sender which are not permitted, and undelivered parcels in respect of which there are no instructions by the sender in regard to disposal shall without notification be returned to the sender after the expiration of one calendar month, reckoned from the day following that on which the parcel was available for delivery to the addressee.

3. Fresh charges in accordance with the Regulations of the Administration returning the parcels, which charges shall be indicated on the relative parcel bill, and any charges leviable in the country of origin in connection with the return of the parcel to the sender shall be collected from the sender and apportioned among the Administrations taking part in the return of the parcels.