

Consultation with Business Account customers on provision of electronic pre-advice data

Please respond by 5pm on 30 September 2017 in one of the following ways:

- Email: internationaldata@royalmail.com
- Post: Data Consultation, International Team, MP2 185 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1AA
- Web: www.royalmail.com/international-data
- Via your Account handler



Who will the requirement to provide more detailed electronic pre-advice data affect?

- It will affect everyone who is shipping goods abroad as they may have to provide more detailed electronic pre-advice data when posting these items; however this consultation is for Business Account customers of Royal Mail
- It will affect providers of shipping platforms that our customers use to create the required documentation when sending items and consignments overseas
- It will affect consolidators who consolidate multiple consignments from different customers to then ship overseas

Background

Security is high on the agenda of all postal services, airlines and government bodies. More and more countries are starting to require that all parcels they receive must have electronic pre-advice data sent to them in advance. This data includes information on sender, recipient and the contents. An S10 barcode is also required on these items so that the item can be linked via the barcode to the electronic pre-advice information. The US Homeland Security in particular is driving for countries to provide electronic pre-advice data linked to an S10 barcode on all traffic entering the US. The US also reserves the right to refuse entry for non-pre-advised items.

Electronic pre-advice data can help countries automate their import and customs charging processes, saving them time and money, making the processing of your export items more efficient. This is also a driver for countries to request this electronic data on imported parcels and consignments.

Other major trading partners such as China, Brazil and Russia are expected to mandate the provision of this data in advance of receiving parcels from the UK. Brazil has begun charging recipients for the manual processing of items that arrive without electronic pre-advice and China is prioritising the processing of pre-advised parcels, resulting in a speedier transit for those items.

Royal Mail Group increasingly needs to provide this electronic data to receiving countries on your behalf and therefore needs your support in preparing for the provision of data in the correct format to meet these new requirements which are rapidly coming into focus.

We want to ensure that you are ready to provide electronic data when it becomes necessary and continue to post overseas as you do now. Also we want to ensure that you are in a position to take advantage of additional tracking and future enhanced export features enabled by the provision of recipient contact details. Through sharing electronic data, countries should also be able to speed up customs clearance and import processes leading to faster delivery times.

Through this consultation we seek to identify any barriers you may have to providing the data and also any support you may require from us to help you prepare for these changes.

What data will we need to collect in future?

- Sender details (name, address, telephone number and email)
- Recipient details (name, address - including destination country, mobile number and email)
- Item details (description, quantity, weight, value of contents, postage and insurance cost)
- Trade Tariff (Harmonised System or HS) Code and country of origin of contents

Risks of not providing the required data could lead to one or more of the following:

- Where electronic data is unable to be captured in advance, receiving countries such as the US may refuse to accept items which are not accompanied by electronic pre-advice. This means that your items may be returned to you and a charge could be applied for this
- Where recipient countries that require electronic pre-advice data for their import and customs processes need to process your items manually, then they may apply additional charges that are passed on to your receiving customers (this has started to happen with Brazil)
- Your items may take much longer if they need to go through manual import and customs clearance processes in receiving countries because they do not have electronic pre-advice
- Your items are likely to take much longer to clear customs in countries such as China where pre-advised parcels are prioritised
- You will be unable to access additional future product features that depend on recipient contact details
- In circumstances where we need to manually input data so that your item can be posted overseas, we may apply a rework charge to cover the cost of doing so

How is Royal Mail Group helping customers to provide the data?

- We are updating our shipping systems to ensure that the fields are available for you to provide the required information and to ensure that your items have the correct format barcode on your item
- We have updated the specifications for third party shipping platforms, Customers' Own Shipping Solutions (COSS) and Shipping API so that they / you can update the systems required to provide the right data

Consultation proposal

To mitigate the above risks and to ensure our business account customers meet the requirements of receiving countries we are proposing to:

- Require that the data, as set out on page 3, is provided in electronic format to Royal Mail Group to accompany any items or consignments that are to be posted to the US, China, Russia or Brazil from 1st April 2018.
- Require that the data, as set out on page 3, is provided in electronic format to Royal Mail Group to accompany any items or consignments that are to be posted to all other overseas destinations from 1st April 2019.

Consultation questions

- Would there be any barriers to providing electronic pre-advice data fields as set out above **by 1st April 2018 for items bound to the US, China, Brazil & Russia**? If so, what are they?
- Would there be any barriers to providing the electronic pre-advice data fields as set out above **by 1st April 2019 for items bound to all other overseas destinations**? If so, what are they?
- Is there any support which Royal Mail could give to help you provide the required electronic data by the deadlines?

Timescales

- 1st July 2017 – consultation live
- 30th September 2017 – deadline for responses to consultation
- October 2017 – consultation decision communications
- 1st April 2018 – deadline for customers to provide the required electronic pre-advice data along with items and consignments being posted to the US, Brazil, Russia & China
- 1st April 2019 – deadline for customers to provide the required electronic pre-advice data along with items and consignments being posted to all overseas countries

Affected products:

- All Royal Mail International export parcel products

Required data fields:

- Sender details (name, address, telephone number and email)
- Recipient details (name, address - including destination country, mobile number and email)
- Item details (description, quantity, weight, value of contents, postage and insurance cost)
- Trade Tariff (Harmonised System or HS) Code and country of origin of contents