



January 5, 2023

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2305

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

This responds to your letter dated October 14, 2022, addressed to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the Secretaries of the Departments of State and Homeland Security, concerning implementation of the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to your questions.

I would first like to reiterate the Postal Service's sincere commitment to eradicate the scourge of opioid transmission through the mail. Through persistence and perseverance, we have taken numerous steps to stem the flow of illicit drugs into the United States and will continue to do our part to put an end to illegal trafficking.

We understand that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will respond to your first question concerning STOP Act waivers. With regard to your second question, we are pleased to report that currently, over 93 percent of volume originates with postal operators located in countries that have been listed as nonexempt from mandatory advance electronic data (AED) requirements. This figure will likely increase in 2023 as CBP undertakes to list more countries as non-exempt. We are committed to bringing the entirety of the world's posts into compliance and will continue to insist that posts around the world achieve that goal in the future.

In response to your third question, we are pleased to report the following accomplishments since December 2021:

- In September, the Postal Service made an additional payment to the UPU (required as a condition of our country's election to fully "self-declare" certain rates for inbound small packets from abroad) of approximately \$3.6 million for AED and postal security, with investments in specific projects endorsed by the Postal Service to promote capacity building, training, equipment, data quality analysis, and technical and security support for the international postal community.
- The Postal Service negotiated and entered into bilateral and multilateral rate agreements with key trading partners, which we used as a basis to introduce contractual commitments for the mandatory production of AED.
- The Postal Service has leveraged multilateral postal operator groups that it has joined, including the "Kahala" Posts Group, and the International Post Corporation, to conduct outreach and awareness building of requirements for compliance with U.S. and UPU AED requirements.

- A postal representative serves as Co-Chair of the UPU Postal Operations Council Committee 1 on Supply Chain Integration and has a leadership role in driving U.S. objectives for AED.
- A postal representative serves on the Board of the UPU Quality of Service Fund (QSF), which is financed by operator payments that are set aside for international quality of service improvement projects. The QSF advances AED through funding of selected, Board-approved projects, some of which continued or commenced in the current year. The funded projects offer AED capture, transmission, and compliance assistance to 145 operators. Training, licensing fees, and software solutions are also made available to accelerate AED adoption among recipient country operators.
- A U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) representative leads the UPU Postal Security Group, which is now in the process of pursuing a memorandum of understanding with the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT), an independent, business-led initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and integrating supply chain controls across industry sectors.
- The Postal Service has executed six bilateral data sharing agreements (DSAs) in 2022. Including those six already in effect (plus various accessions in 2022 to multilateral DSAs), the Postal Service now has effective DSAs (bilateral and/or multilateral) with 186 different foreign postal operators.
- The Postal Service has engaged in enforcement actions, which are reviewed on an interagency basis, with shipments originating in countries that have unacceptable levels of AED.
- The Postal Service has engaged in extensive elaborate dialogue with posts to try to help them overcome challenges to furnishing us with accurate, complete, and comprehensive AED.
- The Postal Service collaborated with other international organizations, to include the UPU, the Caribbean Postal Union (CPU), and Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) to furnish training for the operators in those regions in August (for CPU) and December (for APPU). Numerous operators received training on strategic aspects for the management of AED and electronic commerce, to include training on the UPU's Customs Declaration System (CDS).

As for future efforts responsive to your fourth question, in addition to continuing many of the above actions, which are ongoing, these would include:

- Preparing correspondence to advise operators losing their exempt status that they will need to comply with mandatory AED requirements in 2023.
- Continuing country-specific compliance evaluation on an interagency basis.
- African region AED/CDS training to be held February 21-23, 2023.
- Support for operational readiness for e-commerce (ORE) training for CDS implementation of electronic messaging.

With regard to your final question on the completeness of data fields, our analysis indicates that from October 2020 to September 2022, well above a majority of import items containing goods were accompanied by complete ITeM ATtributes (ITMATT) and PREadvise DESpatch (PREDES) elements. Moreover, for nearly all items accompanied by such data, the data were complete.

Due to the need to protect law enforcement-sensitive information, we would be pleased to furnish additional information at the direction of the Chair of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. If further information would be helpful, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area. The text "(b) (6)" is written in red, indicating a FOIA exemption.

Peter R. Pastre