

DATA SHARING AGREEMENT



Implementing appropriate safeguards to cover the transfer of personal data relating to cross-border postal items

Why?

Service quality and efficiency improvements can be achieved if origin postal operators send electronic data on international postal items to destination postal operators, ahead of despatching them. This advanced exchange can be used by the destination post for operational tracking, customs clearance, and the provision of postal services. In order to make the data exchange possible, posts need to agree on the conditions for exchanging and processing shared electronic customs data. Moreover, in the context of increasingly strict data protection regulations worldwide, postal operators must comply with the latest applicable regulations.

Joining a multilateral data sharing agreement reduces the administrative burdens for postal operators, which bilateral agreements would require already by the reduced number of arguments to be facilitated and also by the different agreements to be implemented.

How does it work?

At the request of several posts to provide a multilateral data sharing framework, initially for customs data exchange, IPC launched the first global Data Sharing Agreement (DSA), known as DSA 1, in 2015, which is an inter-operator agreement.

With the advent of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), IPC coordinated the drafting of the second global DSA, known as DSA 2, in 2018, which supports GDPR compliance. Both DSA 1 and DSA 2 remain active and in force, with continuing expansion of and high interest in both agreements. As of this update DSA 1 has 90, and DSA 2 has 50, signatory posts respectively.

The DSAs set the conditions related to the electronic exchange of customs and postal service data, including:

- Technical specifications and message standards to be used
- Specific data to be captured and exchanged
- Product(s) for which data will be sent and/or received
- Channel(s) and physical locations at which data will be captured for outbound items
- Policy regarding the timing of creation of the electronic messages to the EDI network
- Other details related to the electronic exchange of personal data

By signing the DSA 1 and/or DSA 2, postal operators commit to implementing and upholding these conditions and standards.

Benefits

- Scores of operators across the globe already party to one or both multilateral agreements
- Avoid negotiating bilateral agreements with individual operators
- Open to all postal operators
- Full transparency as all signed documentation is shared between participants
- Clear and formalised ITMATT standards implemented by participating post

Support

Joining either or both DSAs is simple; posts are strongly encouraged to join both. The basic steps are to submit a request to join, be invited by a current signatory post, and fully complete, sign, and submit the DSA (DSA 1 and/or DSA 2). Full information and documentation can be obtained by contacting inter-operator-dsa@ipc.be.



More information

For more information, visit our website: www.ipc.be. To find out more about the Data Sharing Agreements, including how to join, contact us via e-mail at Inter-Operator-DSA@ipc.be.



More info