

officers make the necessary corrections on the bill or list, taking care to cross out the incorrect entries in such a way as to leave the original entries legible. Except in the case of an obvious error, the corrections are accepted in preference to the original statement.

3. The facts verified are notified by verification note to the office of origin of the mail, and in case of actual loss to the last intermediate office, by the first available post after the complete check of the mail.

This verification note must specify as exactly as possible which bag, packet, or article is in question.

A duplicate of the verification note is sent in the same conditions as the original to the Administration to which the office of origin of the mail is subordinate, when that Administration so requires. In case of important irregularities giving reason for presuming loss or tampering, the bag or envelope and the seal of the packet or bag of registered articles are attached to the verification note for the office of origin.

If the office of destination has not found the packet or bag of registered articles and if it can point out with certainty the bag of letters which should have contained it, the bag, string, label and seal are attached to the verification note.

In relations with Offices which require the sending of a duplicate, the exhibits mentioned above are sent attached to the duplicate.

The verification notes and the duplicates are sent under registered cover.

In the cases referred to in §§ 1 and 2 of the present Article, the office of origin, and, if necessary, the last intermediate office of exchange may, in addition, be advised by telegram at the expense of the Office which sends the telegram.

An advice must be sent by telegram whenever the mail shows evident traces of having been tampered with, in order that the office of despatch or intermediate office may make inquiry in the matter without delay and, if necessary, advise the preceding Office by telegram for the continuation of the inquiry.

4. When the absence of a mail is the result of a failure of connection or when it is duly explained on the way-bill, the preparation of the verification note prescribed in §§ 1 and 3 is not necessary if the mail reaches the office of destination by the next opportunity.

The sending of the duplicate prescribed by § 3 may be deferred if it may be presumed that the absence of the mail arises from delay or wrong circulation.

As soon as a mail which had been reported as missing to the office of origin and, if occasion arises, to the last intermediate office comes to hand, a second verification note must be addressed to these offices announcing the receipt of this mail.

5. The offices to which the verification notes prescribed by the present Article are addressed return them as promptly as possible, after having examined them and made thereon any observations to which they may give rise.

If, however, these notes are not sent back to the Office of origin within two months counting from the date of despatch, they are considered, in the absence of proof to the contrary, as duly accepted by the offices to which they have been addressed.

This period is extended to four months in relations with distant countries.

6. When a receiving office by which a mail should be checked has not sent to the office of origin, and to the last intermediate office of exchange, if any, by the first available post after the checking of the mail, a verification note reporting irregularities of any kind, it is considered as having received the mail and its contents, until proof of the contrary. The same assumption is made in respect of irregularities to which no reference has been made or which have been incompletely reported in the verification note.