

2.—The Administration of origin is authorised to settle with the sender on account of the Administration, whether intermediate or of destination, which, duly informed of the application, has let three months pass without settling the matter; this period is extended to six months in relations with distant countries.

ARTICLE 61

Fixing of Responsibility

1.—Until the contrary is proved, responsibility for the loss of a registered article rests with the Administration which, having received the article without making any observation, and being furnished with all the materials for inquiry prescribed by the regulations, cannot establish delivery to the addressee or regular transfer to the following Administration, as the case may be.

Until the contrary is proved, an Administration, whether intermediate or of destination, is relieved of all responsibility:—

(a) when it has carried out the provisions of Article 159, § 3 of the Detailed Regulations;

(b) when it can prove that it has not received the inquiry until after the destruction of its service documents relating to the article inquired for, the period of retention prescribed by Article 177 of the Detailed Regulations having expired. This reservation does not affect the rights of the claimant.

Nevertheless if the loss has occurred in course of conveyance without its being possible to ascertain on the territory or in the service of which country the loss took place, the Administrations concerned bear the loss in equal shares.

2.—When a registered article has been lost in circumstances beyond control, the Administration on the territory or in the service of which the loss has occurred is responsible to the Administration of origin only when both countries undertake risks arising from causes beyond control.

3.—The customs and other charges which cannot be cancelled are borne by the Administrations responsible for the loss.

4.—The Administration which has made payment of compensation takes over the rights of the person who has received it, up to the amount of this compensation, in any action which may be taken against the sender, the addressee, or third parties.

5.—If a registered article considered as lost is subsequently found, the person to whom the compensation has been paid must be advised that he may take possession of the article against repayment of the amount of the compensation.

ARTICLE 62

Repayment of Compensation to the Administration of Origin

1.—The Administration responsible or on whose account payment is made in accordance with Article 60 is bound to repay to the Administration of origin within a period of three months, reckoning from the date of despatch of the notice of payment, the amount of the compensation actually paid to the sender.

If the compensation is to be borne by several Administrations in accordance with Article 61, the whole of the compensation due must be paid to the Administration of origin within the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph, by the first Administration, which, having duly received the packet under enquiry, is unable to prove its regular transfer to the next service. It rests with this Administration to recover from the other Administrations responsible their share of the amount of compensation paid to the sender.