

ARTICLE 160

Return of Empty Bags

1.—In the absence of other arrangements between the corresponding Administrations, bags must be returned empty by the next mail in a direct despatch to the country to which the bags belong. The number of bags returned in each mail must be entered under the heading "*Indications de service*" on the letter bill.

The return of empty bags is effected between offices of exchange appointed for this purpose.

The empty bags must be rolled in suitable bundles, the label blocks and linen, parchment or other durable labels if any, being placed inside the bags. The bundles must bear a label showing the name of the office of exchange whence the bags have been received whenever they are returned through another office of exchange.

If the bags to be returned are not too numerous, they may be placed in the bags containing correspondence. Otherwise, they must be placed separately in sealed bags, labelled with the names of the offices of exchange. The labels must be marked "*Sacs vides*" (Empty bags).

2.—When the check exercised by an Administration upon the return of the bags belonging to it shows that 10 per cent of the total number of the bags used in one year for the making up of mails have not been returned before the end of that year, the Administration which is unable to prove the return of the empty bags is required to reimburse to the Administration of despatch the value of the missing bags. Payment must also be made if the number of missing bags does not amount to 10 per cent but exceeds 50 bags.

Each Administration fixes periodically, and uniformly for all kinds of bags used by its offices of exchange, an average value in francs and notifies it to the Administrations concerned through the medium of the International Bureau.