

ARTICLE 56

Responsibility

1.—Except in the cases provided for in Article 57, hereafter, Administrations are responsible for the loss of registered articles.

The sender is entitled, in respect of the loss, to compensation, of which the amount is fixed at 50 francs per article.

2.—Administrations assume no responsibility for articles seized by the Customs authorities by reason of a false declaration of their contents.

ARTICLE 57

Exceptions in Respect of Responsibility

Administrations are relieved from all responsibility for the loss of registered articles:

(a) in circumstances beyond control; the responsibility, however, still attaches to the Administration of origin if it has undertaken to cover risks arising from causes beyond control (Article 54, § 4). The country responsible for the loss must decide, according to its internal legislation, whether the loss is due to circumstances constituting causes beyond control;

(b) which they cannot account for in consequence of the destruction of official documents through a cause beyond control, provided that their responsibility has not been proved otherwise;

(c) of which the contents fall within the prohibitions specified in Articles 34, §§ 4 and 6 (c), and 46, § 1;

(d) when the sender has not made any application within the period of one year prescribed by Article 53.

ARTICLE 58

Cessation of Responsibility

Administrations cease to be responsible for registered articles which have been delivered under the conditions prescribed by their internal regulations for packets of the same class.

ARTICLE 59

Payment of Compensation

The payment of the compensation must be undertaken by the Administration to which the despatching office is subordinate, subject to its right to make a claim on the Administration responsible.

ARTICLE 60

Period for Payment of Compensation

1.—The payment of compensation must take place as soon as possible, and at the latest within six months from the day following the date of the application. This period is extended to nine months in relations with distant countries.

An Administration of origin which does not accept responsibility in cases of loss through a cause beyond control may exceptionally postpone settlement of the compensation beyond the period mentioned in the preceding paragraph, when the question whether the loss of the article is due to a case of this nature has not been decided.