

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 envelope or bag and the seal of the packet or bag of registered articles are attached to the verification note for the office of origin. The same applies to the outer envelope or bag, with its string, label and seals when their production is possible.

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

In the cases referred to in § § 1 and 2, 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 Administration 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 Administration 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 a verification note is necessary only if the mail does not reach 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 are addressed return them as promptly as possible, after having examined them and made thereon any observations to which they may give rise.

If these notes are not sent back to the Administration 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, until proof of the contrary, as having received the mail and its contents. 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.

7.—Verification notes and their duplicates are forwarded under registered cover.