

Electronic Pre-Advice For International Mail Shipments

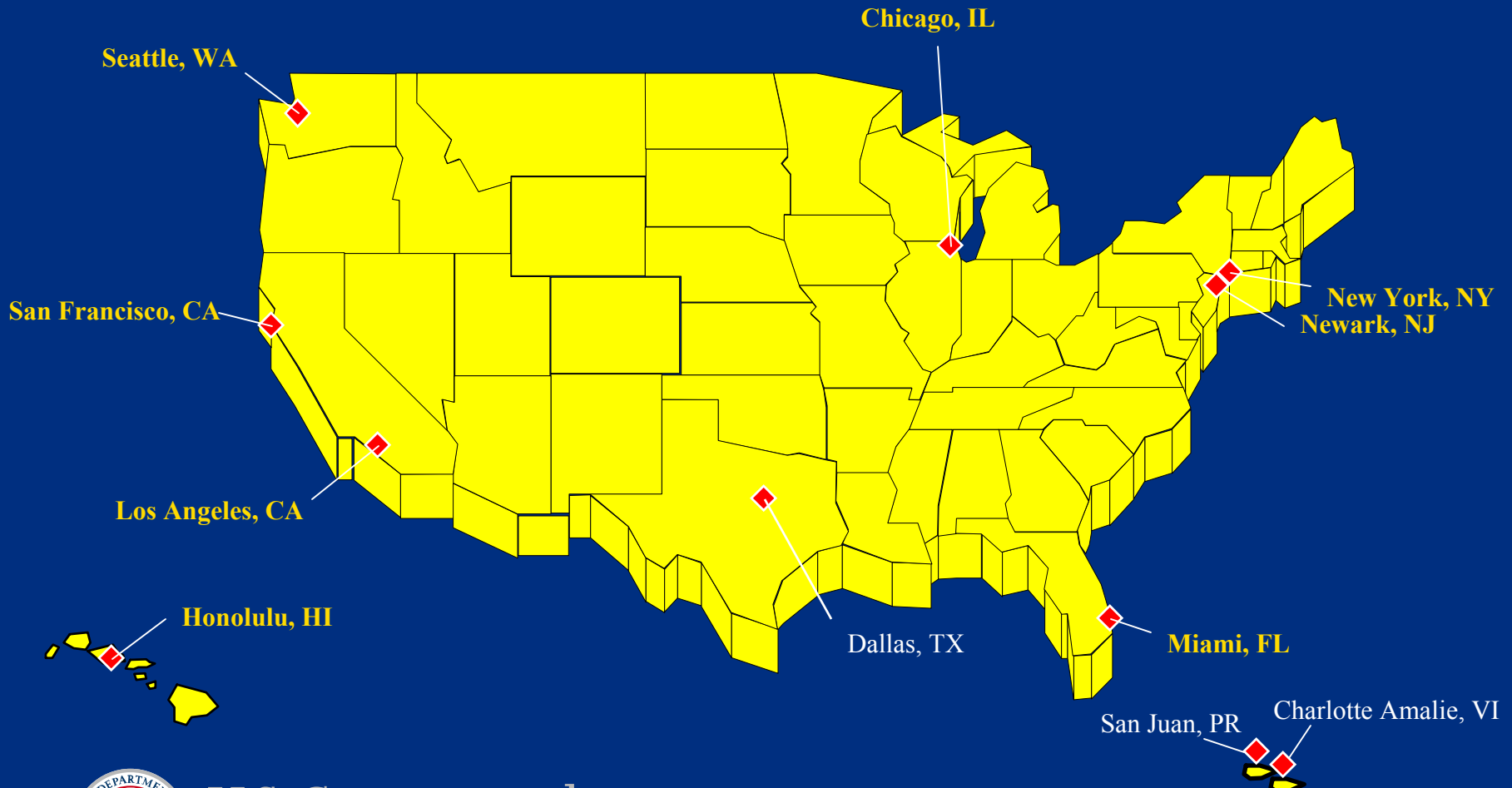
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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CBP International Mail Facilities



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Mail versus Cargo and Express Consignment from a CBP Perspective

- International mail governed by UPU treaty and WCO Convention, which specify unique documentation and procedures
- No end to end control on mail shipments, unlike couriers
- Postal administrations are not bonded but mail moves on bonded carriers
- CBP makes entry on informal mail entries; no broker is used to conduct customs business
- CBP assesses duty and taxes on informal mail shipments



Mail versus Cargo and Express Consignment from a CBP Perspective

- The hard copy declarations for mail are generally very poor in quality, and posts assume no liability for incorrect, incomplete, or missing documentation,
- Mail clearance is a manual process based on a hard-copy form – there is no advance information on individual shipments to facilitate targeting and risk analysis by CBP



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PAEA and the Trade Act

- Trade Act of 2002 required advance manifesting of postal shipments for security purposes – implementation was deferred
- The PAEA underscores the original requirement of the Trade Act, especially for “competitive” products
- CBP recognizes that true UPU mail is unique – it is subject to all U.S. import and export laws but the international postal supply chain and enforcement process for mail items needs to be enhanced by receiving electronic data in advance on individual items, beginning with “competitive” products



UPU Congress Resolution 56

Bahamas, Barbados, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, United States of America

Resolution :

Expanded use of electronic data interchange (EDI)



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Expanded use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

- Goal is to expand use of EDI to transmit data on postal items to customs authorities
- Submission of information in advance can accelerate clearance of mail because it helps customs effectively apply risk management to shipments
- Changes in national legislation, policies, and regulations are calling for electronic transmission of data on international postal items for customs clearance purposes



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Expanded use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) - continued

- Liberalized postal markets and numerous hybrid transportation, processing, and delivery networks increasingly call for collaborative delivery arrangements with commercial operators
- There is pressure for equivalent customs procedures for mail and commercial items
- Increased use of EDI for customs purposes supports the World Customs Organization (WCO) Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, while improving postal security and operations



Expanded use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) - continued

- UPU has been working on customs messaging standards development through the Standards Board (Customs Data Interchange Group), which has been shared with the Customs Project Support Group
- UPU also has recommended enhancements to the International Postal System (IPS) to accommodate customs EDI and take advantage of rapid increases in technology that make EDI for customs possible
- Complements EDI efforts of the Postal Security Action Group, EMS Cooperative, and Parcels Group



Expanded use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) –Instructs the Postal Operations Council to:

- Further develop and maintain EDI standards in cooperation with the WCO
- Promote use of EDI for clearance of postal items in cooperation with the WCO
- Develop a plan for implementation of customs EDI after appropriate study, taking into account varying technological capabilities of UPU members and the nature of different postal products and services



Current status of operational efforts: Outbound E-Manifest Operation

- The USPS forwards electronic customs declarations information to CBP in advance of item dispatch for certain shipments
- **Required Information (Declaration):**
 - Complete name/address of sender and addressee
 - Description of contents
 - Intended use (commercial samples, documents, or gifts)
 - Quantity, Value, Tariff Number (if known), Weight
- **Benefits:**
 - Advance Screening
 - Risk Management (Enforcement)
 - Facilitate Release



Current status of operational efforts: International Inbound Manifest Operations

- Complete test trials for receipt of electronic data for inbound mail shipments (Canada Post and USPS)
- Inbound Mail Pilot/Operation - (Royal Mail (UK), Deutsche Post (Germany) and LaPoste (France) have interest
- Develop cooperative phased approach by product and by country
- Require foreign posts to provide customs data to USPS, then to CBP for security purposes
- Establish a level playing field between mail and other modes (e.g. Express) for electronic reporting of data in advance

