

# ITMATT DATA QUALITY MONITORING



## Validation of electronic data for cross-border customs clearance

### Why?

Missing or invalid data leads to extra efforts for postal operators and delays for receivers. Therefore, complete and accurate electronic customs data have become a prerequisite to providing improved customs clearance processes for cross-border e-commerce postal traffic. For the improved processes to work, border authorities must be able to trust the quality of the electronic customs data provided by posts in ITMATT messages. Posts must monitor and improve the data quality of their ITMATT messages where needed to build such trust, and avoid that missing or invalid data leads to extra efforts for postal operators and delays for receivers. Posts must be able to identify data quality issues and work with e-sellers and other data sources to improve the source data used to populate ITMATT messages.

ITMATT data quality becomes even more essential with the institution of legislation such as the United States Synthetic Trafficking and Overdose Prevention (STOP) Act, which seeks to reinforce the security of the international postal system and combat the rise of illegal, dangerous substances entering the United States through mail shipments. The STOP Act requires USPS to transmit electronic advance data (EAD), based on ITMATT, to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for 100% of incoming mail shipments from all countries by 01 January 2021. Similarly, the European Union is implementing a new advance cargo information system that also applies to postal traffic: the Import Control System 2 (ICS2). ICS2 supports implementation of a new customs safety and security regulatory regime aimed to better protect the EU single market and EU citizens. ICS2 will collect data, also based on ITMATT, about all goods entering the EU prior to their arrival. Posts will have to declare safety and security data to ICS2, through the Entry Summary Declaration (ENS). The obligation to start filing such declarations begins 15 March 2021.

To help posts identify which customs data need to be improved, IPC has developed the ITMATT Data Quality Monitoring (DQM) solution.

### How does it work?

#### ITMATT messages used for customs clearance

ITMATT messages are used to communicate attribute information about postal items. An origin postal operator collects postal item data and transmits the data in ITMATT electronic data interchange (EDI) messages to the destination postal operator, to be used for transport security and customs clearance purposes.

The ITMATT message contains the data corresponding to the content of paper postal forms CN 22 or CN 23 customs declaration, including critical data elements such as:

- sender and recipient's full name, address and contact details, and tax code/VAT number;
- category, total value, and total weight of the item;
- the complete contents of the item including for each article contained within the item the description, quantity, weight, value, harmonised system (HS) tariff number, origin country;
- postal charges including insurance;
- information about associated documents such as a licence, certificate, or invoice.

The ITMATT message containing the item data is transmitted prior to export by the origin postal operator. Upon receipt of the ITMATT message, the destination post provides the data needed for border clearance to its local customs authority. Customs then has the opportunity to examine and use the ITMATT data for security and fiscal customs clearance.

## Analysis of data quality

ITMATT DQM analyses ITMATT messages for data errors and non-compliance issues, based on a complex set of data validation rules. The tool provides a dashboard where errors are reported based on: postal operator; critical data element compliance; error types such as address, mandatory fields missing, or invalid monetary amount; errors for specific data elements; and top senders with errors. Charts provide a quick overview of performance at item level and data value error level. Multi-selections across the different dashboard panels may be made, allowing a customised view according to the needs of the user.

The dashboard provided detailed data quality information for each postal item. Drill-down to an individual sender is provided to support focus on source data. Drill-down to the raw ITMATT message is available, to be able to pinpoint the specific location of the error in the message. The tool also provides for the export of reports and graphs.

ITMATT DQM supports establishment of a secure supply chain by validating the data quality of specific e-sellers and enabling the implementation of such concepts as “trusted shipper”.

## Benefits

Through ITMATT Data Quality Monitoring, posts are able to pinpoint where data quality issues exist. These issues can be prioritised by highest impact on a successful customs clearance process, by error type or by e-seller. This allows the post to focus on (1) the top issues overall, which may be due to a systemic problem, or (2) on top e-sellers, who may be providing poor quality source data.

ITMATT DQM provides precise identification of the:

- number of errors per partner post;
- item ID of the item with one or more errors;
- sender (e.g. e-seller) of the item with errors;
- types of errors made;
- data element in error, whether missing, invalid, or dubious;
- data element value that was found to be invalid or dubious.

By focusing on and correcting data quality issues in ITMATT, posts are able to leverage ITMATT to its full potential as the basis for electronic clearance of postal items. When advance electronic information is accurate and complete the following customs clearance waste areas can be avoided:

- manual entry of custom declarations;
- opening packets and parcels to verify declaration;
- sending letters or making other contact with receiver to request additional information, e.g. invoices, proof of payment, etc.;
- customs-related over-labelling and routing;
- storage and material handling costs related to customs;
- traditional labour-intensive procedures to assess and collect taxes/duties from receiver and recover tax/duties for returns.

## ITMATT DQM Support

IPC provides technical support to all posts exchanging ITMATT messages with access to the tool. Access to the tool is subject to meeting the access requirements. In respect of the personal data contained within ITMATT messages and therefore within ITMATT DQM, access is provided only to personnel who are individually authorised by their organisation to have access to such personal data.

### More information

For more information, visit our website: [www.ipc.be](http://www.ipc.be).  
To find out more about ITMATT DQM, contact us via e-mail at [itmatt.dqm@ipc.be](mailto:itmatt.dqm@ipc.be).



More info