

9.9 PARCELS - FOREIGN - SMALL PACKETS (*KISCSOMAG*) - from 1930

9.9.1 Background

At the London UPU Congress in 1929, the concept of mailing ‘small packets’ was discussed. ‘Small packets’ were small enough to travel via letter post (i.e. less than 1 kg) rather than using ordinary parcel services. Following international agreements on this subject, the service was introduced to Hungarian customers from 01.07.1930. It was available only to other countries by reciprocal agreement. There were many restrictions on what could be sent, and customs declarations and forms were required. The route had to circumvent countries not participating. The service would not apply to inland transmission. The announcement was made as follows:

PTRT 27, 17.06.1930: Small packets

§ 13. Smaller quantities of goods can now be sent by post as a letter post item under the name "*petit paquet*" (*Kiscsomag*, *Päckchen*) in relation to the countries listed in the postal tariff. **Small packets cannot be sent by post in domestic traffic.** The weight limit of a small packet is 1 kg, and its dimensions and packaging rules are the same as those of a sample of goods. The same ancillary operations (registered mail, advice of return, express, price list, etc.) can be arranged as for other letter post items.

A small packet, like a sample of goods, printed matter and business paper, must be sent open and completely prepaid with a postage stamp or by means of an imprint from a franking machine. The posting is made to the hands of the postal officer of the recipient. A delivery note is only issued by the post office in the case of registered mail.

Each small packet must show the name and address of the sender and must be accompanied by a completed customs label. It is recommended to use the words ‘*kiscsomag*’, or ‘*petit paquet*’ or ‘*Päckchen*’ on the cover page. The number of customs declarations specified in the postal tariff must also be attached.

Items subject to customs duty may be placed in a small packet. However, the following may not be sent in a registered small packet: coin money, banknotes, currency notes or other securities payable to bearer, processed or unprocessed platinum, gold, silver or precious stones, jewellery and other valuables. An open invoice may be placed in a small packet, but it may only contain data corresponding to the concept of an invoice. Letters, notes or documents of a current and personal nature may not be placed in a small packet.

Small packet fees:

Shipments to Austria and Germany: per 50 g, 16 f; minimum fee: 50 f.

Other foreign countries: per 50 g, 20 f; minimum fee: 60 f.

All small packets arriving from abroad must be brought to customs and, regardless of whether the contents are duty-free or not, are charged the customs brokerage fee for letter mail (40 f).

(For incoming packets) the small packet must be delivered as a letter mail item. Upon delivery, both the treasury and postmaster's offices collect a ‘handling and delivery fee’. The amount of this fee is:

In Budapest: 20 f; in rural areas: 15 f. This fee can only be charged once for a shipment.

Both sent and received small packets are subject to a 4 f statistical fee.

Registered small packets, as letter mail items, can be charged with cash-on-delivery in traffic with countries with which there is a letter mail cash-on-delivery service.

The post office is liable for small packets to the same extent as for other letter mail items, i.e. the post office is only liable for the loss of the registered small packet. No compensation is payable for the loss or damage of small packets, even if they are treated as registered.

The rules for the handling of small packets are set out in 1. §§ 35-39 below:

Rules for handling small packets:

§ 35. When picking up a small packet, the postal officer shall examine whether the packaging of the small packet is correct. The sender may be asked to replace it. It shall also be examined whether the contents of the item are not irregular (whether there is personal correspondence, etc.).

The 4 f statistical fee shall be levied — in the form of a postage stamp or by means of a franking machine imprint — on a customs declaration for the purpose of domestic trade statistics, which may be issued in Hungarian pursuant to § 29.

If the post office finds a small packet in a letter box, it shall examine whether it complies with the rules in all respects; if so, it shall forward it in accordance with the rules; otherwise, it shall be treated as returned.

The handling and forwarding of posted ordinary and registered small packets at the receiving and *en route* offices is otherwise carried out in exactly the same way as other ordinary and registered letter-post items; posted ordinary small packets do not therefore need to be recorded either individually or in summary form.

If small packets are to be posted in larger quantities, they must be forwarded in a separate bag. The bag must be provided with a light blue bag indication. (See § 56.)

When forwarding small packets, care must be taken that a small packet is not placed in a compartment whose transport route leads through a country to which small packets cannot be sent. In such a case, the small packet must be placed in a compartment destined for a country suitable for forwarding.

The office of exchange or exit shall handle the customs declarations of small packet remaining in the country in the same way as the customs declarations of international postal packets of similar purpose.

The office of exchange shall additionally properly clear small packets that may not have been sufficiently cleared, as well as registered items that have been insufficiently cleared (P. K. U. § 10., point 7., paragraph 2), and shall request the missing fee from the receiving office by means of a return notification.

§ 36. The office to which the item arrived from abroad shall provide a customs payment slip for small packets arriving from abroad and shall forward them to the competent customs intermediary office, as it has done so far for letters and samples subject to customs duties. The forwarding of small packets to customs-mediated post offices is carried out in the same way as other letter-post items, *i.e.* ordinary small packets must be forwarded without registration.

The customs-mediated post office handles small packets in the same way as other dutiable items and charges customs duties on small packets sent to the same place and to their district, and levies, customs brokerage fee, handling and delivery fee and statistical fee. For the purpose of indicating these fees on items, see Act No. 595. I have introduced a new sticker form called ‘sticker for customs-treated letter mail items’¹, printed in green letters on a white background, with the following text:

Customs office number:
Customs-treated (small packet, letter, sample)
Customs duty *P . . . f*
Customs brokerage fee *P . . . f*
Handling and delivery fee *P . . . f*
Statistical fees *P . . . f*
Total: *P . . . f*

This sticker must be duly filled out and affixed to the cover page of the small packet. The unnecessary words ‘small packet’, ‘letter’ and ‘sample’ after the word ‘customs-treated’ in the cover page must be deleted.

The item number of the customs revenue register shall be written at the head of the sticker, in the dotted space after the words “customs receipt number”.

The customs intermediary post offices shall take care to ensure that the consignment and the customs receipt — which will be delivered separately to the office of destination as follows — can be identified. For this purpose, — if necessary — the exact name and address of the addressee shall be indicated at the top of the customs receipt.

Small packets to be delivered at the seat of the customs intermediary office shall be handed over to the sender or to the local delivery office, in bulk, by number.

For small packets not to be delivered at the seat of the customs intermediary office, the customs intermediary office shall issue a customs receipt form for the customs duty (excluding customs brokerage, handling and delivery fees and statistical fees).

Registered small packets cleared by customs, after the customs receipt and customs delivery note have been permanently attached, shall be forwarded to the office of destination as registered items.

The customs delivery notes of ordinary small packets cleared by customs shall be sent to the competent office of destination as ordinary letters in an envelope, together with the corresponding customs receipt.

The customs clearance forms for items destined for one office shall be sent in one envelope. The number of customs clearance forms — even if there is only one — shall be marked on the envelope in conspicuous writing in the following form: ‘..... pcs. customs clearance forms for small packets’; this writing shall be underlined in coloured ink. The envelope shall be forwarded among the delivery notes and vouchers. Ordinary small packets that are being processed by customs shall then be forwarded in the same way as ordinary letter-post items, *i.e.* without registration. If a larger quantity of small packets is being forwarded, a separate bag shall be used for them.

37. §. When the incoming mail is notched at the office of destination, the office manager (postmaster), or his deputy, shall first determine whether there is an envelope marked 'customs clearance forms for small packets'. If there is one, after opening it, he determines how many customs-cleared small packets are to be received. He then carefully examines the received material — even if no customs receipt form has been received — from the point of view of whether any small packets indicated have been received, or whether any small packets have been received without a customs receipt form. Registered items must also be examined from the same point of view, namely whether there are any registered small packets among them.

If the small packet, whether registered or ordinary — does not have a sticker indicating customs clearance, the small packet must be directed to the competent customs brokerage office. If the small packet has been cleared through customs and the customs duty record is clearly visible, then the item, even if the customs receipt and customs receipt form have not been received, will be delivered to the addressee, subject to the collection of the customs duty, customs brokerage fee, handling and delivery fee and statistical fee. The customs duty collected in this way must be sent to the customs brokerage office with a postal service voucher and, in addition to indicating the data on the voucher, the missing customs receipt must be requested.

If the customs duty cannot be clearly determined for the consignment, the details of the consignment must be communicated to the customs brokerage office on a postage-free postcard and the delivery of the consignment must be suspended until the customs receipt and customs delivery note are received.

The arriving ordinary small packet does not need to be stamped with a date stamp at the office of destination. However, and small packets that arrive late must be stamped.

The dispatcher keeps a record of the number of incoming ordinary small packets on a suitable form for each arrival, and the delivery person acknowledges the received ordinary small packets in summary, by number of pieces.

If a registered small packet is subject to COD, it shall be collected in the same way as other registered items subject to COD.

The customs duty on small packets shall be collected and sent to the customs brokerage office on the basis of the customs collection form, i.e. in the same way as for other customs shipments. The customs brokerage fee (in all cases 40 f), the handling and delivery fee (20 f and 15 f) and the statistical fee (4 f) shall be deducted and collected in the manner of a letter postage, by means of postage stamps. I will regulate the procedure at Budapest Post Office No. 70 with a separate decree.

Also, in accordance with the general rules, the missing fee for unposted or insufficiently postmarked small packets shall be charged and settled in postage stamps.

Section 38. Small packets are usually delivered by parcel delivery agents at offices delivering parcels to homes, and by letter carriers at treasury offices delivering consignment notes. In justified cases, the board may arrange delivery differently at these offices. Postmaster offices delivering by treasury method shall carry out delivery in the same way as treasury offices. At other postmaster offices, small packets are generally not delivered to homes, but the addressee must be notified of them on a form entitled 'notification and acknowledgement'. However, at postmaster offices that deliver registered items to homes, the board may order that small packets also be delivered to homes.

In all cases, the delivery office must carefully compare the amount of customs duty on the customs receipt with the amount indicated on the sticker on the item as customs duty. In case of doubt, the amount on the customs receipt is authentic. The customs brokerage office must be notified of any discrepancy.

When delivering by treasury couriers, registered small packets must be entered individually on the delivery sheet. They are delivered with the recipient's signature.

Ordinary small packets are entered in the delivery slip in summary form, by number of pieces. The postmaster's offices that notify and deliver small packets with a receipt enter the registered small packets together with other registered items in the registered items delivery book and indicate the customs collection amount there. Ordinary small packets must be entered in summary form in the same place.

Ordinary small packets are delivered by all offices without a receipt, therefore the addressee's signature is not required in the 'notification and receipt' issued for ordinary small packets at the postmaster's offices.

The settlement of collected customs duties and undeliverable items is the same as for other customs items.

§39. Registered small packets to be forwarded within Hungary, as well as ordinary small packets charged with customs duties, shall be forwarded in accordance with the general letter post rules after being entered in the register of returned and forwarded items

The forwarding office shall send the customs receipt slip for ordinary small packets separately under an envelope to the new office of destination. The number of customs receipt slips shall be indicated on the envelope in the same way as on envelopes sent by the customs intermediary office. (See §36.)

A duty-free ordinary small packet must be forwarded without any prior notice.

When forwarded and returned, the consignments must be stamped with the date of the office.

The new Hungarian destination shall proceed as if the small packet had arrived directly from the customs office. If a small packet is forwarded from Budapest to the countryside or vice versa, the offices shall ensure that the delivery fee valid for the competent delivery office is always collected. The notes on the sticker shall be corrected accordingly.

A small packet to be forwarded or returned abroad shall be directed to the competent customs office, which shall cancel the customs brokerage fee, the handling and delivery fee, and the statistical fee on the consignment in all cases, and the customs fee only if the customs office consents to its cancellation. If the customs fee could not be cancelled, the procedure shall be as set out in 1. below in Article 43. §.

PTRT 30, 28.06.1930: Countries participating in the circulation of small packets.

With reference to Article 12 of Decree No. 77,000 published in issue 27 of the P. R. T. of the current year, I inform the offices that, as of July 1, small packets can be sent to the following countries and under the conditions indicated below:

Table 1: Small packets - Foreign - Participating countries in July 1930

Country of destination	Number of customs declarations	Can a list of charges be attached?
Argentina	2	-
Austria	1	Yes [1]
Belgium	1	—
Brazil	2	—
Czechoslovakia	1	Yes [1]
Denmark	1	Yes [1]
Danzig	1	Yes [1]
USA [2]	2 [3]	No
Estonia	3	Yes
France	1	—
French colonies:		
Algeria	1	—
French Indochina	1	—
French Somaliland	1	—
Cameroon	1	Yes
Martinique	2	—
Niger	1	—
Syria and Lebanon	1	—
Guatemala	2	—
Luxembourg	1	Yes
Morocco, except Spanish zone	1	—
Mexico	1	—
Great Britain	1	—
Netherlands	1	Yes
Netherlands East Indies	1	Yes [1]
Germany	2	Yes
Romania	3	—
Saarland	1	Yes
Switzerland with Liechtenstein	1 [4]	Yes [1]
Sweden	2	Yes [1]
Siam	1	—
Turkey	1	—

[1] For registered items only.

[2] Including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, Samoa, the Virginia Islands and the Panama Canal Zone.

[3] One customs declaration may be replaced by an invoice placed in the item.

[4] If there is not enough space on the customs label, a second customs declaration must be attached to indicate the contents.

PTRT 33, 19.07.1930: Posting of registered small packets with an accompanying customs form or registration label.

In the matter of handling small packets established in foreign traffic by the London Postal Agreement (**PTRT 27, 17.06.1930**) I inform the post offices that registered small packets may be posted abroad with an accompanying customs label or registration label.

In the future, therefore, it will be possible to post packets and valuable boxes, both domestically and abroad, and small packets registered only abroad, with an accompanying customs label.

And registered letters, packets and valuable boxes, and small packets registered only abroad, with a registered stamp, both domestically and abroad, can be posted.

The offices shall register this decree with the decree No. 8,997 cited above and published in the PTRT 22 of 1929.

PTRT 34, 25.07.1930: Countries participating in the circulation of small packets.

In connection with Decree No. 78.502 published in PRT 30 of the current year, I hereby inform the offices that small packets may also be sent to the countries indicated below.

Table 2: Small packets - Foreign - Additional participating countries in July 1930

Country of destination	Number of customs declarations	Can a list of charges be attached?
Abyssinia	1	-
Australian Commonwealth	1	-
French Sudan	1	-
Japan	2	Yes [1]
Korea	2	Yes [1]
Japanese dependencies Karolina, Mariannas, and Marshall Is.	2	Yes [1]
Yugoslav Kingdom	1	-
Persia [2]	2	-
Tunisia	1	-

[1] For registered items only

[2] Persia also charges a separate fee for the transport of small packets (domestic packet fee)

Small packets destined for France must then be accompanied by two customs declarations, one of which must be placed in the shipment itself.

Further lists of countries appear in **PTRT 57, 06.12.1930** (with removal of Greece).

9.9.2 Rate tables

Table 3: Small packets - Foreign - Changes to fees for neighbouring countries, 1930-1942

Date	Fee per 50 g	Minimum fee	List of charges?	Insurance fee	PTRT
01.07.1930 Austria, Germany Other foreign	16 <i>f</i> 20 <i>f</i>	50 <i>f</i> 60 <i>f</i>			PTRT 27, 17.06.1930
15.11.1930 Austria, Germany Czechoslovakia, Poland, Italy and Cols., Romania, Vatican State Other foreign	16 <i>f</i> 20 <i>f</i> 20 <i>f</i>	50 <i>f</i> 60 <i>f</i> 60 <i>f</i>	Yes Yes Yes	40 <i>f</i> per 400 <i>P</i>	PTRT 52, 08.11.1930 [1]
21.05.1941 Croatia	12 <i>f</i>	40 <i>f</i>	?	?	PTRT 24, 24.05.1941
15.09.1941 Convention [2] Other foreign	16 <i>f</i>	80 <i>f</i>	Yes	80 <i>f</i> per 500 <i>P</i>	PTRT 44, 09.09.1941
	20 <i>f</i>	1.00 <i>P</i>	Yes		
01.07.1942 Germany and German protectorates	80 <i>f</i> flat fee for 1 kg		Yes?	?	PTRT 29, 26.07.1942 [3]
01.09.1942 Slovakia	1 <i>P</i> flat fee for 1 kg		?	?	PTRT 39, 22.08.1942
01.12.1942 Finland	80 <i>f</i> flat fee for 1 kg		?	?	PTRT 53, 20.11.1942

[1] Taken from the public sheet attached to this PTRT. Foreign express fee for packets 90 *f*, if applicable.

[2] Convention countries: Germany, Poland, Bohemia & Moravia Protectorate, Croatia.

[3] Starting from the first of July of the current year, the following moderate fee schedule will be applied to letter mail items sent from Hungary to Germany, the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia and the Polish General Government instead of the currently valid fees: Small packet: Uniformly up to 1000 g: 80 *fillér*.

Table 4: Small packets - Foreign - Hyperinflation period

Date (inflation period)	Fee per 50 g	Minimum fee	List of charges?	Insurance fee	PTRT
16.09.1945 (P.3) [1]	16 <i>P</i>	80 <i>P</i>			PTRT 21, 15.09.1945
01.11.1945 (P.4) [1]	100 <i>P</i>	500 <i>P</i>			PTRT 33, 30.10.1945
16.11.1945 (P.5)	200 <i>P</i>	1000 <i>P</i>			PTRT 41, 15.11.1945
16.01.1946 (P.6)	?	?			
01.02.1946 (P.7)	?	?			
01.03.1946 (P.8)	?	?			
16.03.1946 (P.9)	P.8 x 2	P.8 x 2			
26.03.1946 (P.10)	P.8 x 3	P.8 x 3			
01.04.1946 (P.11)	P.8 x 4	P.8 x 4			
11.04.1946 (P.12)	P.8 x 8	P.8 x 8			
23.04.1946 (P.13)	P.8 x 25	P.8 x 25			
01.05.1946 (P.14)	3 <i>mP</i>	15 <i>mP</i>			PTRT 26, 30.04.1946
10.05.1946 (P.15)	15 <i>mP</i>	75 <i>mP</i>			PTRT 29, 10.05.1946
20.05.1946 (P.16)	60 <i>mP</i>	300 <i>mP</i>			PTRT 31, 20.05.1946
27.05.1946 (P.17)	180 <i>mP</i>	900 <i>mP</i>			PTRT 33, 27.05.1946
01.06.1946 (P.18)	600 <i>mP</i>	3 <i>mdP</i>			PTRT 35, 01.06.1946
11.06.1946 (P.19)	6 <i>mdP</i>	30 <i>mdP</i>			PTRT 37, 14.06.1946
19.06.1946 (P.20)	30 <i>mdP</i>	150 <i>mdP</i>			PTRT 38, 19.06.1946
24.06.1946 (P.21)	600 <i>mdP</i>	3 <i>bP</i>			PTRT 40, 26.06.1946
01.07.1946 (P.22)	60 <i>bP</i>	300 <i>bP</i>			PTRT 41, 04.07.1946
04.07.1946 (P.23)	3000 <i>bP</i>	150,000 <i>bP</i>			PTRT 42, 09.07.1946
08.07.1946 (P.24)	150,000 <i>bP</i>	750,000 <i>bP</i>			PTRT 42, 09.07.1946
12.07.1946 (P.25)	30,000 <i>aP</i>	150,000 <i>aP</i>			PTRT 43, 12.07.1946
18.07.1946 (P.26)	150,000 <i>aP</i>	750,000 <i>aP</i>			PTRT 44, 19.07.1946
24.07.1946 (P.27)	600,000 <i>aP</i>	3 <i>maP</i>			PTRT 45, 26.07.1946
01.08.1946 [2]	Up to 250 g, 2 <i>Ft</i>	Each addt'l 50 g, 0.40 <i>Ft</i>			<i>Postatarifák</i> , 41/2, 1948 [3]

Note: Hyperinflation data are taken from Morgan, but ‘small packet’ data are absent from Periods 6 to 13 except for a multiplier from period 9 onwards based on period 8 costs. Use of this service was likely to be greatly limited.

[1] This probably applied only to Czechoslovakia.

[2] **PTRT 16, 10.04.1948** has appended a table of rates of incoming foreign *Kiscsomag* from countries then operating the scheme: Europe: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France and Monaco, Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland, Luxembourg, Great Britain and (Northern) Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Romania, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Sweden, Turkey. Overseas: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, USA, Indochina, Mexico, Palestine, New Zealand, Venezuela.

[3] These rates remained unchanged through at least to mid-1951.

No data are available for the period between 1952 and 1984. For the period from 1985 onwards (except for 1986) the following data have been gleaned from public rate table sheets, and show that the class of mail continued until mid-2002, when it disappeared, possibly subsumed into foreign letter rates and possibly coinciding with Hungary joining the EU.

Table 5: Small packets - Foreign rates - from 1985

Date	Country group	Cost in Ft for weight steps of:				Comments
		250 g	500 g	1000 g	2000 g	
21.01.1985	-	10	18	32	54	
1986?	-	?	?	?	?	
01.06.1987	-	20	40	70	120	
01.02.1989	-	30	60	100	150	
14.01.1991	-	45	90	140	220	
01.02.1992	-	75	150	225	400	
01.01.1993	-	80	160	300	500	
01.01.1994	1	96	192	360	600	
	3	96	192	360	600	
01.01.1995	1	120	240	440	720	
	3	120	240	440	720	
01.01.1996	2	150	300	550	900	
	3	156	312	572	936	
01.01.1997	2	300	480	780	1,200	
	3	307	494	806	1,243	
01.01.1998	2	380	640	1,050	1,610	
	3	390	640	1,100	1,680	
01.01.1999	1	380	640	1,100	2,200	
	2	380	640	1,200	2,400	
	3	390	700	1,400	2,800	
01.01.2000	1	420	700	1,210	2,400	
	2	420	700	1,310	2,620	
	3	430	780	1,560	3,080	
01.01.2001	1	500	800	1,400	2,700	
	2	500	800	1,600	3,000	
	3	600	950	1,900	3,500	
01.02.2002	1	530	840	1,470	2,840	
	2	580	870	1,700	3,150	
	3	630	1,000	2,000	3,680	
01.06.2002	Rates for small packets no longer listed					

Country groups:

- 1: Austria, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.
- 2: Albania, Andorra, Belgium Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Belarus, Finland, France, Greece, Netherlands, Irish Republic, Iceland, Poland, Latvia Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Great Britain, Germany, Norway, Italy, Russia, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, Vatican City.
3. Other foreign.