

THE STOP ACT

WHY COMPLETE AND VALID DATA IS A MUST

What is it?

The STOP Act aims to counteract the flood of illicit opioids into the United States.

But its impact goes much further with all postal operators mandated to file advance electronic data (AED) giving full details of items being mailed to the US.

Private carriers have had to provide AED since 2002.

When does it come into force?

The ruling had been due to take effect from January 1, 2021, but reluctantly the US Senate agreed to a small delay until March 15 to give US Customs & Border Protection (CBP) extra time to get prepared.

US Senator Rob Portman stated: "Congress cannot provide this type of extension on packages without identifying data entering the United States again."

Martha Johnson, a spokesperson for the United States Postal Service, commented: "Postal shipments containing goods not accompanied by AED will be considered inadmissible."

The March 15 deadline is timed to coincide with the launch of the EU's ICS2 which also requires complete and valid data from postal operators on entry summary declarations.

What is the possible impact on parcels?

Hurricane is conservatively estimating that as many as several hundred million eCommerce parcels a year could be delayed at customs due to the lack of accurate AED.

This is likely to result in goods being returned to the sender, disappointed customers and increased costs for logistics, transport and storage.

What do postal operators need to do to meet the higher data threshold?

All mail sent from foreign countries through the USPS must provide "package level detail information" to CBP.

A definite requirement is a complete and accurate product description.

The expectation is that mail items with a valid HS6 code will be processed with priority as the full data set will enable CBP to validate the description and product code, resulting in shorter transit times, reduced costs and improved customer satisfaction.

Other requirements for complete and valid data include origin of goods, correct value, weight and number of items.

How is Hurricane helping?

Our Zephyr data enhancement solution allows bulk clearance facilities to check the accuracy of data including product descriptions and HS6 codes, and receive additional pertinent or missing information all under a single quick check function.

Zephyr can process over 700 million requests a day and can, on an item by item API call base, provide for a real time feedback with response times of 100 milliseconds. The screening of a file consisting of a maximum of 10,000 items takes no more than 15 minutes.

Hurricane 

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