

~~A LAZY SUMMER~~

HEATS UP

Expecting to catch your breath before peak season rolls around again?

Not so fast!

This will be a hot summer for international mailers and shippers.

May 25

EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into full effect with fines assessed for noncompliance.

Designed to harmonize data privacy laws across Europe, protect and empower all EU citizens' data privacy, and reshape the way organizations across the region approach data privacy.

July 1

USPS to start compliance checks on commercial outbound products to ensure that receptacles provide the item-level customs data and receptacle-level content data ("pre-advice") for all associated items that have customs forms.

See USPS letter for more details. [\(click here\)](#)

July 1

Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to assess the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) on low value goods sold to consumers in Australia.

Businesses that meet the A\$75,000 registration threshold need to register and pay the 10% GST. (Note: This new tax is unrelated to postal customs - it's an Australian Taxation Office requirement.)

Further details on ATO's website [\(click here\)](#)

August 10

President's Task Force on the U.S. Postal Service set to release its report on reforming the USPS.

The task force, which has met with more than 25 stakeholder groups, is assessing the Postal Service's operations and finances.

Recent report on reorganizing the government may provide hints on task force recommendations.

[Click here to read the report](#)

September 3-7

The Universal Postal Union will hold its Extraordinary Congress in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – only the second Extraordinary Congress in its history.

This Congress will work on strategic issues and reform efforts. It also is expected to focus on implementation of the UPU's Integrated Product Plan and the Integrated Remuneration Plan.

IMAG wishes its members a happy Independence Day!

We look forward to discussing these and other developments at our next members meeting.