



WARNING: FRAUDULENT JOB OFFERS

Dear fellow citizens!

The criminal phenomenon of „Parcel Agents” or “Goods Agents” has been known for years. Nevertheless, fraudsters still manage to be successful.

Internationally active criminal groups offer seemingly lucrative jobs as “Parcel Manager”, “Shipping Employee”, “Mystery Shopper”, “Logistics Assistant”, “Controller” or positions with similar job titles. These jobs are mainly advertised via Russian-language chat platforms, online job platforms and newspaper ads. They lure in potential candidates with the promise of highly paid work from home.

Newly recruited individuals, who often had been seeking a job for years, are shamelessly exploited for the perpetrators’ own gain. At first glance, the offers appear legitimate, with “real” employment contracts and professionally designed company logos. Behind them though, lies organized FRAUD.

The “Parcel Agent’s” task is to accept consignments from shipping firms, repack them if necessary, remove invoices, “document” the condition and forward the parcel to the addresses, which for the most part are abroad, specified by the “employer”. Usually, the promised wages aren’t paid out.

What the recruited individuals don’t know: The high-value goods originate from online purchases made in the name of the “Parcel Agent”, by using fraudulently obtained credit card details. The “Parcel Agent” only serves to cover the main perpetrators’ trail. Since he is considered to be both the “purchaser” and the recipient of the parcels, the “Parcel Agent” unwittingly becomes liable for money laundering and will subsequently be confronted with civil law claims from the damaged firms.

The police explicitly warn against accepting such a job offer. What can you do and what should you look out for?

How to protect yourself:

- Check job offers with the appropriate care and caution
- What is your specific “work assignment” supposed to be? Does it make sense and is it logical?
- Do not make your address or your account available to any other company or person for business transactions via the internet or fax.
- Do not send a copy of your ID to any unknown company/person.
- Basic rule: The more tempting the offer, the more critical you should be
- Do not be intimidated by possible threats to honor your “employment contract”
- In case you have accepted such or a similar offer, inform the police. Do not forward any further parcels.
- Save all correspondence with the „employer“. Make copies of delivery bills, invoices, parcel labels and delivery addresses

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