Approved Mailer Alternative Mail Transport Equipment

When the Postal Service™ is unable to provide Mail Transport Equipment (MTE) due to a shortage of equipment at Processing and Distribution Centers or Mail Transport Equipment Service Centers (MTESC), mailers may request an exception to prepare mailings using approved alternative containers. Exception requests must be submitted to Business Mail Entry Managers, at the office of entry and acceptance, who will manage the process and provide mailers with the list of authorized alternative containers. You can find your local BME Manager by using the BME locator at https://ribbs.usps.gov/locators/find-bme.cfm

Neither BME nor BSN managers are authorized to deviate from the approved container lists.

Any request for deviation from the Mailer Authorized Alternative Container list must be escalated to the Pricing and Classification Service Center (PCSC).

Below is a chart of authorized container alternatives:

MAILER AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE CONTAINER LIST

EIRS NUMBER	ITEM	FIRST SUBTITUTE	SECOND SUBTITUTE
01VM	#1 Clear Plastic Sack	#3 Clear Plastic Sack	Flats Tray (Plastic)
03VM	#3 Clear Plastic Sack	#1 Clear Plastic Sack	Flats Tray (Plastic)
78P	Flats Tray (Plastic)	#1 Clear Plastic Sack	#3 Clear Plastic Sack
65P	Postal Supplied Pallets (Plastic, Pressed Wood or Wood Slat)	Mailer Purchased Pallet	Multiple #1 Clear Plastic Sack
74 (74P)	MM Tray (Plastic)	Ext MM Plastic Tray	N/A
74E	Ext MM Plastic Tray	MM Tray (Plastic) With EMM Sleeve	MM Tray (Plastic) No Sleeve , No straps*
74H (74HP)	1 Foot Plastic Tray	MM Tray (Plastic)	Ext MM Plastic Tray
75	MM Sleeve	Ext MM Sleeve – 2 Straps*	No Sleeve, No straps *
75E	Ext MM Sleeve	No Sleeve – 2 Straps or Wrap*	N/A

* Securely stretchwrapped pallets comprised of brick-layered un-sleeved trays do not require strapping. However First-Class Mail trays designated on air transportation must be sleeved and strapped.

After acceptance of mail in alternative containers is approved at the office of entry or by the PCSC, employees on the dock or workroom floor must process the mailpieces as appropriate for the mailpieces class and shape, regardless of the containerization.

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