

The Safety of the Mail is Everyone's Responsibility

Notice 128
September 2012



**Your package could not be accepted
for one of the following reasons:**

- Improper packaging.
- Prohibited or restricted markings and/or labels.
- Stained or leaking mailpiece.

**Contact your local Post Office™ to
determine if this package is mailable.**

Local Post Office telephone and address



What You Can Do to Help

Ask Before You Mail

Many common, everyday items are classified as hazardous materials. Determining the mailability of hazardous materials requires the consideration of a number of factors and can be very challenging. Please check with your local U.S. Postal Service® officials before attempting to mail any items that could be considered hazardous. Improper mailing of hazardous materials may subject you to civil and/or criminal liability.

Full responsibility rests with the mailer to comply with all postal and nonpostal laws and regulations regarding the mailing of hazardous materials.

Mailers are responsible for the following:

- Knowing the physical characteristics of the hazardous materials they wish to mail.
- Ensuring that no hazardous material is mailed unless it is permitted under Postal Service™ mailing standards in the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) 601.10* and the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM®)*.
- Ensuring that all Postal Service regulations are followed regarding the packaging, markings, labeling, and declaration of hazardous materials placed in the mail.

Further guidance on the packaging, marking, and mailability of hazardous materials is available from the following sources:

- Aviation Mail Security Web site; <https://www.usps.com/ship/can-you-ship-it.htm>.
- DMM 601.10; http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm.
- Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*; <http://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/welcome.htm>.
- IMM (for mailings to foreign addresses); <http://pe.usps.com/text/imm/welcome.htm>.

Reused Packaging

Reused packaging and boxes are only acceptable when all markings and labels are removed or completely marked out so that they cannot be read. Regardless of what is actually inside your package, markings or labels for hazardous or restricted materials may prevent your package from being delivered. Refer to DMM 601.5.1 for more information.



Incorrect



Correct

Laws That Keep Us Safe

With certain limited exceptions, the federal law in Title 18 United States Code 1716 (18 U.S.C. 1716) declares it a crime to mail anything that may kill or injure persons or harm property. Persons violating the statute may be subject to fines, imprisonment, or other severe penalties.

The Postal Service has established rules prescribing preparation and packaging conditions under which certain hazardous materials, which are not “outwardly of their own force dangerous or injurious to life, health, or property,” may be mailed. Because these rules are very limited, most hazardous materials are prohibited from mailing.

Hazard Classes

For purposes of transportation and shipping, each hazardous material is assigned to a hazard class. The list that follows provides examples of items that are subject to mailing restrictions or prohibitions.

Hazard Classes	Examples
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Class 1: Explosives	Fireworks, ammunition, fuses, model rocket engines, automobile air bags
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Class 2: Gases	Aerosols, hairspray, scuba tanks, compressed gas containers, lighters, butane, propane
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Class 3: Flammable Liquids	Fuels (gasoline), items that contain or used to contain fuel (lighters, propane cylinders, used gasoline tanks), some paints and inks, furniture varnishes, perfumes
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Class 4: Flammable Solids	Matches, signal flares
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Class 5: Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides	Oxidizing liquids, swimming pool chemicals, peroxides
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Class 6: Toxic Materials and Infectious Substances	Insecticides, pesticides, pepper spray, infectious substances, sharps, patient specimens
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Class 7: Radioactive Materials	Scientific instruments, products requiring a radioactive warning label
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Class 8: Corrosives	Bleach, ammonia, batteries, drain cleaners, mercury, oven cleaners
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Class 9: Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials	Magnets, dry ice, self-inflating lifesaving devices, lithium and lithium-ion batteries
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Just because an item is NOT on this list does not mean that the item is mailable — be sure to ask before mailing any items that could be considered hazardous.

Recognizing Domestic Hazardous Materials

Prohibited

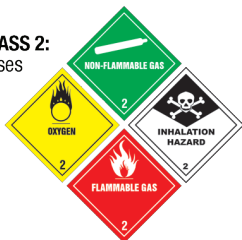
CLASS 1:
Explosives



CLASS 5:
Oxidizers
and
Organic
Peroxides



CLASS 2:
Gases



CLASS 6:
Toxic
Materials
and
Infectious
Substances



CLASS 3:
Flammable
Liquids



CLASS 7:
Radioactive
Materials



CLASS 4:
Flammable
Solids



CLASS 8:
Corrosives



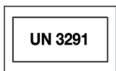
CLASS 9:
Miscellaneous
Hazardous
Materials



Potentially mailable to domestic destinations*



Biological
Substance
Category B



Regulated Medical
Waste



* Additional requirements in DMM 601.10 and Publication 52 must also be met. Hazard class labels 5.1, 5.2, 8, and 9 must only be used in conjunction with DOT limited quantity markings and only when permitted for the applicable hazard class. For potentially mailable items to international destinations, see the IMM.

Pricing and Classification Service Center

You can get more information from your local Post Office, your local Business Mail Entry Unit, and the Pricing and Classification Service Center (PCSC), which can be contacted at:

PCSC
90 CHURCH STREET STE 3100
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2951
telephone: 212-330-5300
fax: 212-330-5320