

United States Postal Service®

# INDUSTRY ALERT

April 7, 2020

## COVID-19 CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS UPDATE Mailability of Hand Sanitizer Update

As a result of the *novel coronavirus pandemic*, the Postal Service is seeing an increase in the number of customers attempting to ship hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes, which are widely used to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

There are specific shipping restrictions for hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes containing flammable alcohols such as ethanol and/or isopropanol (rubbing alcohol). Small quantities of these potentially flammable hand sanitizers and alcohol wipes are permitted in domestic mail via surface transportation.

To better support our customers during this period of increased demand, mailers can obtain an exception through the Manager, Product Classification to increase the quantity of these items containing ethyl and isopropanol alcohol sent via surface transportation. Additionally, mailers can also be granted an authorization by the Manager, Product Classification to ship limited quantities of ethanol alcohol in domestic air transportation.

As several mailers have been provided with written approvals from the Manager, Product Classification for products that are eligible for domestic air shipments or an increase in quantity limits in surface transport, the information below is provided as a guidance to assist in determining eligible mailings. If a mailer holds a valid authorization or an exception from the Manager, Product Classification, the following criteria must be met upon acceptance of the items:

- The mailer must produce a copy of the USPS letter containing the applicable mailing requirements with Manager, Product Classification, signature, upon the first mailing of these items at each postal facility. **Note:** It is suggested that the facility maintains copies of such letters on file for future reference.
- The outer package must have the appropriate text marking “Contains xxx” followed by their assigned unique authorization number that will begin with either HSA, HSB, HSD or HSE. **Note:** This information is included in the letter and may be hand or type written prominently on the package. Examples of text markings:

*“Contains Air-Eligible Ethyl Alcohol - Authorization No. HSA - xxxxxx”*

*“Contains Air-Eligible Ethyl Alcohol - Authorization No. HSB - xxxxxx”*

*“Contains Surface Eligible Ethyl Alcohol - Exception No. HSE - xxxxxx”*

*“Contains Surface Eligible Isopropyl Alcohol - Exception No. HSD - xxxxxx”*

Please note that these materials are strictly prohibited in international mail , Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) destinations.

For additional information, refer to *Publication 52 Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail, Section 343 and Appendix C - 3A or 3D* for the appropriate Packaging Instruction.

If you have questions, please contact the Pricing & Classification Service Center (PCSC) at [pscsc@usps.gov](mailto:pscs@usps.gov) or Product Classification at [productclassification@usps.gov](mailto:productclassification@usps.gov)

Industry and commercial customers can email questions or concerns about COVID-19 and the mail to [industryfeedback@usps.gov](mailto:industryfeedback@usps.gov) with COVID-19 in the subject line. Mailers can also sign up for Industry Alerts at [industryalert@usps.gov](mailto:industryalert@usps.gov).

For more information, see the [USPS Coronavirus Statement at about.usps.com/newsroom](https://about.usps.com/newsroom).

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*Please visit us on the USPS [Industry Outreach](#) website.  
Thank you for your support of the United States Postal Service.  
Industry Engagement & Outreach/USPS Marketing  
Please send questions regarding COVID-19 to [Industryfeedback@usps.gov](mailto:Industryfeedback@usps.gov) with COVID-19 in the subject line*

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