

Keep the Mail Safe

For everyone's protection, use this guide when dealing with hazardous, restricted, and perishable materials.

Hazard Class	Type	Common Examples	Domestic		International	Domestic Mail Pub 52	Maximum Amount Permitted in Mail	Additional Information	
			Air	Surface					
Hazard Class 1 Explosives									
	Explosives	Fireworks, dynamite, grenades, small arms ammunition	N	N	N	341.21	None	All explosives are prohibited except as specified in 341.22.	
Hazard Class 2 Gases (Under Pressure)									
	Flammable	Hairspray (in aerosol can)	N	Y	N	342.2c	342.3	ORM-D or consumer commodity only.	
		Propane, camp stove fuel	N	Y	N	342.22c	342.3	ORM-D or consumer commodity only.	
		Spray paint (in aerosol can)	N	Y	N	342.22f	342.3	ORM-D or consumer commodity only.	
	Non-Flammable	Fire extinguishers	Y	Y	N	342.22d	342.3	Fire extinguishers containing methyl bromide prohibited.	
Nitrogen, compressed air		Y*	Y	N	342.2b	342.3	ORM-D or consumer commodity only.		
Toxic	Ammonia, chlorine, carbon monoxide	N	N	N	342.21	None	All toxic gases are prohibited.		
Hazard Class 3 Flammable and Combustible Liquids									
	Flammable Liquids (Flashpoint not more than 141°F)	Acetone, rubbing alcohol, witch hazel	N	Y	N	343.21	343.24	ORM-D or consumer commodity only (dependent on flashpoint).	
		Gasoline and items containing gasoline or gasoline fumes	N	N	N	343.23b	None	Gasoline and items containing gasoline or gasoline fumes are always prohibited.	
		Paint, paint-related materials	N	Y	N	343.26	343.26	ORM-D or consumer commodity only (dependent on flashpoint).	
		Cigarette lighters (flammable liquid)	N	Y	N	343.25	343.25	Pre-approval from PCSC required as per PUB 52.	
	Combustible Liquids (Flashpoint above 141°F & below 200°F)	Diesel fuel, kerosene	Y*	Y	N	343.24e	343.24	ORM-D or consumer commodity only. Flash-point must be greater than 141° F.	
		Waxes & polishes	Y*	Y	N	343.24j	343.24	ORM-D or consumer commodity only (dependent on flashpoint).	
Adhesives & cements	Y*	Y	N	343.24g	343.24	ORM-D or consumer commodity only (dependent on flashpoint).			
Hazard Class 4 Flammable Solids									
	Flammable Matches	Book matches	N	Y	N	344.3b	344.22	Must be properly packaged.	
	Flammable Matches	Strike anywhere matches	N	N	N	344.21	None	Prohibited	
	Spontaneously Combustible	Iron oxide	N	Y	N	344.1b	344.22	ORM-D or mailable limited quantity only.	
	Dangerous When Wet	Aluminum powder, calcium, lithium, sodium	N	Y	N	344.1c	344.22	ORM-D or mailable limited quantity only.	
Hazard Class 5 Oxidizing Substances, Organic Peroxides									
	Oxidizers/Organic Peroxides	Ammonium nitrate, fertilizer, swimming pool chemicals	Y*	Y	N	345.22a	345.22	ORM-D or mailable limited quantity only — Friction tops unacceptable.	
		Hydrogen peroxide (less than 20% solution)	Y*	Y	N	345.22b	345.22	No restrictions up to 8%. Solution strength up to 20% is acceptable, if ORM-D or mailable limited quantity only.	
Hazard Class 6 Toxic Substances									
	Poisons	Mace (except those containing oleoresin capsicum)	N	N	N	346.221b	None	All irritants are prohibited.	
		Flea collars, cyanide, pesticides & herbicides	N*	N	N	346.211	346.211	Must check specific materials in Appendix A of PUB 52. If permitted, ORM-D or consumer commodity only.	
	Infectious Substances								
	Noninfectious Specimens	Blood, urine, saliva, stool	Y	Y	Y***	346.233	346.32	Must be properly packaged.	
Biological & Medical Materials	Used sharps, medical devices	Y	Y	Y***	346.12	346.32	Items must be properly packaged for mailing; some require approval before mailing.		
Hazard Class 7 Radioactive Material									
	Radioactive Materials	Devices containing radioactive materials	N	Y	Y**	347	347.2	Items must be properly packaged. International mail requires approval before mailing.	
Hazard Class 8 Corrosives									
	Liquid and Solid	Batteries with liquid electrolyte, hydrochloric acid	N	N	N	348.21a	None	Nonspillable batteries may be permitted per 348.22b2.	
		Mercury, mercury-containing items (thermometer, etc.)	N	N	N	Appendix A	None	Mercury and items containing mercury are always prohibited. Trace amounts may be accepted per Packaging Instruction 8C.	
Hazard Class 9 Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials									
	Miscellaneous	Dry ice	Y	Y	N	349.23	349.233	5 lbs. maximum for air (surface may exceed 5 lbs.) (Proper forms/warning labels required for air only.)	
		Magnetized materials	Y	Y	Y	349.24	349.242	Depends on magnetic strength.	
		Lithium batteries	Y	Y	Y	349.221	349.222	See the IMM® 622.5 for international mail restrictions.	

Y* See Pub 52 for additional required markings.

Y** Only with prior written permission per IMM and Pub 52.

Y*** Specimens only and with prior HQ permission per IMM and Pub 52.

N* Except as permitted by mailing rules

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Restricted Matter								
	Firearms	Handguns (concealable firearms)	N*	N*	N*	43	None	Except between authorized parties. No content markings on outside of mail piece are permitted.
		Rifles, shotguns, antique guns, (unloaded)	Y	Y	N	43	432	No content markings on outside of mail piece are permitted.
	Human Ashes	Cremated remains	Y	Y	Y	451.22	Packaging instruction 10 B	Priority Mail Express® required. International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions.
	Intoxicating Liquors	Wine, bourbon, vodka, beer	N	N	N	42	None	Includes 0.5% alcohol content or greater.
	Motor Vehicle Master Keys	Including locksmithing devices	Y	Y	N	452	452	Only if sent between authorized parties.
	Cigarettes	Includes smokeless tobacco	N	N	N	47	472.232	See 472 for exceptions.
	Controlled Substances	Narcotics	N*	N*	N	453	None	Generally, both the mailers and the addressee must meet special conditions.
	Drugs	Prescription, non-prescription medicines	Y	Y	Y	453	453.3	No content markings on outside of mail piece permitted. ICL restrictions/prohibition apply for international mail. Must meet state and federal laws.
	Drug Paraphernalia	Illegal drugs, pipes	N	N	N	453.13	None	See Controlled Substance Act for more information on drug paraphernalia.
	Battery-Powered Devices	Toys, clocks	Y	Y	Y	349.221	349.221	Common household-use-type batteries such as AA, AAA, C, D, etc.
	Sharp Instruments	Knives, razors, switchblades	Y	Y	Y	44	442	Only if sent between authorized parties. International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions.
Perishable Matter Animals								
	Bees	Honey bees (Queen bees)	Y (Queens only)	Y	Y (Queens only)	526.2	526.21	Must be free of disease. Each Queen may be accompanied by up to eight attendant honeybees.
	Adult Birds acceptable	Geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, doves, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, quail, ducks, chickens, swans	Y	Y	N	526.4	526.42	Approved packaging required. Priority Mail Express® only. Each bird must weigh more than 6 oz., and no more than 25 lbs.
	Adult Birds unacceptable	All other types of birds not listed above, such as canaries, parakeets, parrots	N	N	N	526.4	None	Prohibited
	Day-old Poultry	Chicks, ducks, emus, geese, quail, partridges, pheasants (April through August), turkeys	Y	Y	N	526.3	526.32	Day-old poultry vaccinated with Newcastle disease (live virus) is nonmailable.
	Dead Animals	Dried parts of game birds or fish	Y	Y	N*	526.7	526.7	Includes hides and furs. International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions.
	Live, cold blooded	Goldfish, crickets, worms	Y	Y	N	526.6	526.6	Some exceptions.
	Reptiles	Snakes, turtles	N	N	N	525.3	None	Some exceptions in 526.6.
	Live, warm blooded	Hamsters, mice, cats, rabbits, dogs, guinea pigs, or rats	N	N	N	525.2	None	Prohibited.
	Scorpions (live)	Scorpions	N	Y	N	526.5	526.5	Only for medical research or manufacture of antivenin.
Perishable Matter Food								
	Meats and Meat products	Fresh meat & fish or frozen fish, steaks	Y	Y	N*	55	55	International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions.
	Fresh Foods	Fruits, vegetables	Y	Y	N*	53	53	Must be presented in dry (not dried) condition.
		Eggs	Y	Y	Y	54	54	International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions. If permitted, see IMM 138.3.
	Plants	Trees, citrus, cactus	Y	Y	N*	56	601.9.6	International mail subject to ICL restrictions/prohibitions. USDA regulations/prohibitions apply.

ICL Individual country listings in International Mail Manual (IMM)
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For more information about mailability exceptions and technical information, provide customers with telephone number for their local business mail entry unit or have them call 1-800-ASK-USPS.