

62 Modes of Delivery, Mail Receptacles, and Keys

631 Modes of Delivery

631.1 General

The Postal Service-approved modes of delivery available for all existing delivery points, including newly established and extensions of delivery points, are in [631.24](#). Centralized delivery is the preferred mode of delivery for all new residential and commercial developments. Curbside, sidewalk delivery, and door modes are generally not available for new delivery points, with very rare exceptions, as determined by the Postal Service in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis. The characteristics of the area to be served and the methods deemed necessary to provide adequate service by the Postal Service are described in greater detail throughout this section.

631.2 Centralized Delivery (Preferred Mode)

Centralized delivery service is the preferred mode of delivery and may be provided to call windows, horizontal locked mail receptacles, cluster box units (CBUs), wall-mounted receptacles, or mechanical conveyors (mechanical conveyors are only for high-rise and multiple-tenant buildings, and only if certain conditions are met; consult your postmaster for details).

- a. *Delivery requirements:* CBUs and USPS STD 4C (wall-mounted) equipment may be approved for use at one or more centralized delivery points in a residential housing community or business location. The local postal manager or District designees must approve the mailbox sites and type of equipment. Boxes must be safely located so that customers are not required to travel an unreasonable distance to obtain their mail and to provide sufficient access to mailbox locations. Normally, it is appropriate for the receptacle to be within one block of the residence.
- b. *Centralized delivery addresses:* Centralized delivery mail receptacles (including USPS STD 4C equipment and CBUs, delivery centers, and postal centers) must be identified by the same addresses as the dwellings for which they serve as mail receptacles. The respective, conforming addresses should be displayed inside the boxes and visible only to the carrier and customer when accessing that receptacle. USPS does not assign addresses; however, the sequential ordering of any centralized delivery equipment is subject to USPS approval for operational efficiency and to accommodate special circumstances or requests for hardship delivery. For security or privacy, mailer associations or customer groups may use another alphanumeric identification system on the outside of receptacles that is not part of, or used in, the mailing address.

631.21 Curbside Delivery

Delivery may only be provided to boxes at the curb with prior approval from the Postal Service, and so long as they can be efficiently, safely, and conveniently served by the carrier from the carrier's vehicle, and so that customers have reasonable and safe access. Mail receptacles must be

grouped two to a property line, where possible.

631.22 Sidewalk Delivery

Sidewalk delivery may be provided to boxes located near the public sidewalk, only with prior approval from the Postal Service. Options and requirements for sidewalk delivery, as directed by the Postal Service, are as follows:

- a. If the sidewalk abuts the curb or if other unusual conditions exist (e.g., excessive street parking) that make it difficult or impractical to install or serve boxes at the curblineline, customers in these situations may be permitted to install all their boxes at the edge of the public sidewalk nearest the residence, where they can all be served by a carrier from the sidewalk.
- b. If the average lot frontage is 50 feet or less, the boxes must be located so that the carrier can serve them from the sidewalk. The boxes are not required to be grouped together.
- c. If the average lot frontage is over 50 feet and does not exceed 75 feet, the boxes must be installed in groups of at least two.
- d. If the average lot frontage exceeds 75 feet, CBUs must be installed.

631.23 Door Delivery

Door delivery may be provided to boxes located at or near the door of a business or residential delivery point, or through a door slot, only with prior approval from the District Manager, and only if the box or mail slot can be efficiently, safely, and conveniently served by the carrier.

Door delivery will not be available for new delivery points, except in very unusual circumstances as determined by the Postal Service in its sole discretion.

631.24 Newly Established or Extended Delivery Points

General

Newly established or extended business or residential customers must request and receive approval of the delivery location and mode of delivery from the local Postmaster or District designees. These deliveries will not receive mail delivery service until the mail receptacles are installed and the units and locations are approved by local postal management. Options and requirements for modes of delivery are directed by the Postal Service.

Newly Established or Extended Centralized Delivery Points (Preferred Mode)

Centralized delivery is the preferred mode for new or extended business or residential delivery points, with very rare exceptions, as determined by the Postal Service in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis (see [631.1](#)). The mail receptacle and location of the delivery point(s) are approved by local postal officials in advance of the occupancy of the residence, business, or other site associated with the delivery point.

Newly Established or Extended Sidewalk or Curbside Delivery Points

Sidewalk or curbside delivery is permitted for new or extended business or residential delivery points, only with prior approval from the Postal Service.

The mail receptacle and location of the delivery points are approved by the local District Manager in advance of the occupancy of the residence, business, or other site associated with the delivery points.

Newly Established or Extended Door Delivery Points

Door delivery will not be available for new delivery points, except in unusual circumstances as determined by the Postal Service in its sole discretion. Approval for newly established or extended business or residential door delivery points must come from the Area Vice President or designee. The Area Vice President must report the number of granted requests for newly established or extended business or residential door delivery points to Headquarters Delivery or its designee quarterly.

631.3 Business Areas

The type and design of buildings govern the mode of delivery to be implemented; the location of USPS-approved delivery equipment is subject to Postal Service approval. Centralized delivery is the preferred mode of delivery for new delivery points, with very rare exceptions, as determined by the Postal Service in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis. Modes of delivery are described below:

- a. *Centralized Delivery.* Centralized delivery service is for all business office buildings, office complexes, and industrial/professional parks. This may include call windows, horizontal locked mail receptacles, cluster box units (CBUs), wall-mounted receptacles, or mechanical conveyors (mechanical conveyors are only for high-rise and multiple-tenant buildings, and only if certain conditions are met; consult your postmaster for details).
- b. *Single Point Delivery.* Where an exception to [631.1](#) has been granted by the District Manager or District designee, and subject to Area approval, single-point delivery (door, curbside, or sidewalk) may be provided for single points, receptacles, or door slots provided by business management.
 - (1) If there is an elevator and if the offices are open to receive mail on all normal service days, or if door slots are provided, delivery may be authorized to all floors of office buildings.
 - (2) If there is no elevator, delivery is provided to the first floor, either to a centralized location as prescribed in [631.2a](#), or, where exceptions have been granted, to single points located on the first floor and to the second floor if it is occupied primarily by business offices and when such service is requested.

631.4 Residential Housing (Except Apartment Houses and Transient Mobile or Trailer Homes)

The available options for residential areas, aside from apartment houses, transient mobile or trailer homes, colleges and universities, and other sites are covered under part [615](#). Delivery mode options are constrained by USPS policies and procedures, in light of the characteristics of the area to be served and the methods needed to provide adequate service. Centralized delivery is the preferred mode for new delivery points. Curbside, sidewalk delivery, and door modes are generally not available for new delivery points, with very rare exceptions, as determined by the Postal Service, in its sole discretion, on a case-by-case basis (see [631.1](#)).

631.5 Exceptions

631.51 Extension of Service Within an Existing Block

New deliveries built or established within a block of existing deliveries can

only receive the same type of service as the older deliveries, subject to Postmaster approval and after consideration of Postal Service operational efficiencies. When new development replaces more than one block, delivery methods must comply with mode of delivery options for establishment and extension of delivery service.

631.52 Hardship Cases

Procedures and guidelines for changes in delivery in hardship cases are as follows:

- a. Changes in the mode of delivery authorized for a delivery point are considered where service by existing methods would impose an extreme physical hardship on an individual customer. Any request for a change in delivery mode must be submitted in writing.
- b. Approval of these requests should be based on humanitarian and not economic criteria; however, rural delivery customers requesting a hardship extension must also meet current criteria for extension of rural delivery service (see [653](#)). Each request for a change in delivery service should be evaluated based on the customer's needs; a request should not be denied solely because of increased operational costs or because a family member or other party may be available to receive mail for the customer.
- c. If the local postmaster denies a request, the request must be sent to the district for review. The final decision is made by the district manager.
- d. If a customer no longer requires a variation in the type of delivery service, mail service must be restored to the mode of delivery in effect in the area.
- e. Hardship requests must be renewed annually by the customer and approved by the Postmaster.

631.53 Local Ordinances

If a customer chooses not to erect a curbside box because of a local, city, county, or state ordinance prohibiting the installation of mailboxes at the curb, the delivery options in establishments and extensions are as follows:

- a. *Centralized Delivery Service*. See [631.2](#).
- b. *Post Office Box or General Delivery Service*. Post Office Box or general delivery service may be provided at the nearest postal facility where carrier delivery emanates, or where may be otherwise available to a customer.

631.54 Apartment Houses

631.541 General

Delivery of mail to individual boxes in a residential building containing apartments or units occupied by different addressees is contingent upon USPS concluding the following requirements are met:

- a. The building contains three or more units (above, below, or behind — not side by side) with:
 - (1) A common building entrance such as a door, a passageway, or stairs; and
 - (2) A common street address (some part of the address is shared) approved by local or municipal authorities.

- b. The installation and maintenance of mail receptacles are approved by the Postal Service.
- c. Each apartment is provided one box, including that of any resident manager or janitor, unless the management has arranged for mail to be delivered at the office or desk for distribution by its employees.
- d. The grouping of the boxes for the building is at a single point readily accessible to the carrier.

Note: The tenant's correct mailing address is the address of the entrance at which the mail receptacles are located, and should include the apartment number or designated mailbox number.

631.542 **Exceptions**

Delivery of mail to individual boxes in multiple residential buildings containing apartments or units occupied by different addressees is contingent upon USPS concluding the following requirements are met:

- a. If more than one such building in an apartment house complex has the same approved common street number, delivery of mail to individual boxes is contingent on the grouping of all the boxes for the common street number at a single point readily accessible by the carrier even though some boxes may serve residents in more than one building.
- b. If such a building has more than one entrance, delivery of mail to receptacles grouped at more than one entrance is contingent on each entrance to which delivery is made serving three or more apartments or flats and the assignment, by local or municipal authorities, of a different street number to each such entrance.
- c. When new apartments are being erected or existing ones remodeled, postmasters will inform builders and owners of these regulations' requirements and will provide appropriate advice and inspection to ensure that safe and durable receptacles are properly located and installed in conformance with regulations. Postal Service–approved parcel lockers may be used with approved mail receptacles.

631.55 **Mobile or Trailer Homes**

631.551 **Options**

The delivery options for mobile or trailer home developments depend on Postal Service determination of whether the development is permanent or transient.

631.552 **Permanent Developments**

Permanent developments consist of managed mobile home parks or residential mobile home subdivisions where the lots are permanently assigned, the streets are maintained for public use, and the conditions resemble those of a residential subdivision. For permanent developments, the delivery options are either central, curbside, or sidewalk delivery, as directed by the Postal Service, see [631](#).

a. *Central Delivery*

- (1) Delivery service may be provided to a single point or receptacle designated by local management for the receipt of mail and distribution by its employees.

- (2) Delivery service may be provided to one or more central points for the direct receipt of mail by postal customers within the area. The requirements for such central delivery are as follows:
 - (a) Local Postal Service managers must approve the mailbox sites and equipment.
 - (b) Customers must not be required to travel an unreasonable distance to obtain their mail, and reasonable access must be provided to the equipment location.

b. Curbside Delivery.

Delivery service may only be provided to boxes at the curb, as directed by the Postal Service, so that they can be served efficiently, safely, and conveniently from the carrier's vehicle and give customers reasonable and safe access. Mail receptacles may be grouped two to a property line where possible.

c. Sidewalk Delivery

- (1) If the sidewalk abuts the curb or other unusual conditions exist (e.g., excessive street parking) that make it difficult or impractical to install or serve boxes at the curblines, customers with these situations may install boxes at the edge of the sidewalk nearest the residence where they can all be served by the carrier from the sidewalk.
- (2) In such conditions, if the average lot frontage is 75 feet or less, the sidewalk boxes are not required to be grouped together; if the average lot frontage exceeds 75 feet, the sidewalk boxes must be installed in groups of at least two.
- (3) If the average lot frontage is 50 feet or less, customers may be permitted to locate all their mailboxes at the edge of the sidewalk nearest the residence rather than at the curb, regardless of whether the sidewalk abuts the curb or other unusual conditions exist. All the boxes must be located so the carrier can serve them from the sidewalk.

631.553 Transient Developments

Transient developments are mobile home, trailer, and recreational vehicle parks where the lots are temporarily occupied or rented and considered transient, short-term, or seasonal, even though some families may live in them for extended periods. For these developments, the only option is delivery to a single point or receptacle designated by park management and approved by local Postal Service managers for the receipt of all mail and subsequent distribution or mail forwarding by employees of the park. This method is also available for permanent developments.

631.6 Colleges and Universities

631.61 Administration Buildings

Mail is delivered to principal administration buildings. Mail undeliverable as addressed or not addressed to a specific building is delivered to the main administration building office for further handling. At larger universities, mail is delivered to the different departments, colleges, faculty buildings, or

principal campus structures, such as the Chemistry Building, Engineering Building, and so forth, provided that mail is addressed accordingly and volume warrants such delivery. Delivery is not to be made to individual offices within buildings.

631.62 Dormitories or Residence Halls

Mail is delivered to dormitory buildings and residence halls when addressed to a specific building. Mail is delivered in bulk to a designated representative of the school or property, who then becomes responsible for further distribution to students and residents. Where no direct affiliation with the school is established, the Postal Service determines the proper mode of delivery to be established and may require that designees from the property be identified to accept mail for each location prior to initiating delivery.

A dormitory building or residence hall often consists of single or multi-room units that may share or have access to centrally located kitchens, bathrooms, showers, or social or common areas. Whether located on or off campus, and regardless of private ownership, such buildings are nevertheless dormitories and either the school or building owner is responsible for the final delivery of student mail. Post Office personnel do not distribute mail into apartment-type mailboxes for dormitories or residence halls.

631.63 Married Student Housing

Apartments and housing units for married students are often complete quarters consisting of a living room, kitchen or dinette, bedroom (s), and bath. Whether located on or off campus, and regardless of ownership, the apartment mail receptacle requirements in [631.54](#) apply.

631.64 Fraternity and Sorority Buildings

Deliver mail in bulk to a common mailbox or to a representative of the organization if addressed to a specific building.

631.65 Parcel Post

Deliver parcel post in the same manner as other ordinary mail matter.

631.66 Forwarding of Mail

Forwarding mail for former students and for current students during the summer and vacation periods is the responsibility of the institution or building owner, except where delivery to respective apartment receptacles is being provided to married housing. Encourage school officials to include mail forwarding, proper mail addressing, and other related postal features in general instructions to students.

631.67 Noncity Delivery Offices

Where city delivery service is not established, students may obtain Post Office Box service, use general delivery, or the institution may arrange to pick up the mail in bulk and make its own distribution and delivery.

631.7 **Conversion of Mode of Delivery**

In this section, *conversion* refers to changing existing mail delivery to a more economical and efficient mode. The key to converting existing deliveries is identifying those deliveries that are most costly to the Postal Service. Delivery managers can go into any delivery territory where delivery has been established for over 1 year and solicit to convert the mode of delivery if it would be cost beneficial to the Postal Service.

Postmasters may establish a mixed delivery area where in-growth or extensions of service within a block compel a change in modes of delivery for newly constructed or renovated delivery points. This policy applies to both residential and business delivery locations. When a residence is sold, the mode of delivery cannot be changed arbitrarily prior to the new resident moving in. The existing mode of delivery must be retained absent an agreement otherwise. If an owners' association or property management company represents the property or the community, it may request a change in the mode of delivery on behalf of the community or property. In rental areas, such as apartment complexes and mobile home parks, the owner or manager may request a conversion on behalf of the apartment complex, mobile home park, or other rental property. Approval is at the sole discretion of the Postal Service. Delivery will begin only after the approval of a mail receptacle and its location by the local Postmaster.

Where there is no homeowners' association or other property management company with authority to request a conversion on behalf of the owners, residents, or the community, customer signatures must be obtained prior to any conversion. In single-family housing areas (including manufactured housing and mobile homes) where the residences and lots are owned, each owner must agree to the conversion in writing. Owners who do not agree must be allowed to retain their current mode of delivery.

When a residence is sold, the mode of delivery cannot be changed arbitrarily prior to the new resident moving in. The existing mode of delivery must be retained absent an agreement otherwise. If an owners' association represents the community, it can direct the mode of delivery for the community. In rental areas, such as apartment complexes and mobile home parks, the owner or manager can approve a conversion.

631.8 **Correction of Improper Mode of Delivery**

631.81 **General**

In the event an improper mode of delivery is established or extended by a postal carrier or manager, the service will be withdrawn with a thirty (30) day advance notice to the affected customer(s), provided that the error is detected and the customer is notified within one (1) year. If the error is not detected and the customer is not notified within one (1) year of the date delivery is established or extended, the improper service remains in place unless the customer consents to the delivery mode change or a delivery point with improper modes of delivery in a vacant delivery is first identified during the vacant period per section [623.5](#). When the new customer(s) in

these vacant deliveries are identified by Postal Service management and informed (within the first 30 days of occupancy) that the current mode of delivery was established incorrectly and will need to be corrected.

631.82 Refusal by Customer

If a customer refuses to accommodate the Postal Service's delivery mode determination by refusing to provide an approved mail receptacle or permit the Postal Service to install its own, General Delivery service may be provided at the nearest postal facility where the carrier delivery emanates or where may be otherwise available to the customer.

631.9 Military Installations

631.91 Family Housing

Delivery to family housing on military installations is effected in accordance with [611](#), [64](#), [65](#), or [66](#), whichever is appropriate.

631.92 Other Services -Agreement With the Military

Other services are provided to military installations in accordance with Publication 38, *Postal Agreement with the Department of Defense*, signed on February 21, 1980, reprinted in pertinent part:

III. POLICY

- A. The Military Postal Service is operated as an extension of the United States Postal Service® as authorized by 39 U.S.C. 406.
- B. The Department of Defense and the Postal Service agree to attempt to furnish mail service to the military equal to that provided the civilian population in the United States.
- C. The Department of Defense and the Postal Service affirm the importance of the national goal of energy conservation, and both parties resolve to minimize energy expenditure while conducting military postal operations.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Department of Defense agrees to:
 - 1. Maintain and operate military Post Offices in support of Armed Forces operations and personnel at locations outside the United States, or inside the United States where the military situation requires;
 - 2. Ensure that each military Post Office that provides postal financial or accountable mail services or exchanges incoming and outgoing mail directly with carriers is supervised by at least one qualified, on-site military member of the Armed Forces;
 - 3. Administer the military postal service in accordance with the law, with policies and regulations of the Postal Service, and with consistent implementing directives of the Department of Defense;
 - 4. Arrange with foreign governments to permit military Post Offices to be established and military postal operations to be conducted in foreign countries;

5. Furnish information required by the Postal Service to provide efficient postal services to authorized personnel and units;
 6. Establish and operate mail control activities at principal locations used by the Postal Service to receive and dispatch military mail and to provide information to distribute and dispatch military mail and to provide information for overseas and maneuver forces, ships, and other mobile units;
 7. In time of war or national emergency, assist or supplement Postal Service operation of bulk mail centers, postal concentration centers, and airport mail facilities;
 8. Establish and operate mail control activities at military aerial ports to receive outgoing military mail from the Postal Service for dispatch via military air transport and to receive incoming military mail via military air transport for entry into civilian postal channels;
 9. Conduct postal finance services at military Post Offices, to include selling stamps and stamped paper; issuing domestic money orders; cashing money orders, when feasible; and providing Certified Mail, Insured Mail, and Registered Mail services. Remittances to the Postal Service shall be in dollars in the amounts required by the schedule of rates, fees, and charges provided by postal regulations;
 10. Make periodic audits and inspections of military Post Offices.
- B. The United States Postal Service agrees to:
1. Provide postal services for the Armed Forces at locations inside the United States, including the establishment of civilian Post Offices on military installations and the usual postal finance, mail handling, and carrier delivery and collection consistent with United States postal laws and regulations, normal standards of the Postal Service, and changing military requirements;
 2. Establish and operate postal concentration centers, as needed, for the concentration, sorting, and delivery or dispatch of military mail in accordance with requirements of the Department of Defense;
 3. Process military mail in an expeditious manner while efficiently separating mail for the Armed Forces prior to delivery or dispatch;
 4. Furnish information to the Department of Defense to permit proper routing of military mail prior to its entry into civilian postal channels;
 5. Authorize the establishment of military Post Offices as branches of designated civilian Post Offices;

6. Extend stamp credits from designated civilian Post Offices to postal finance offices and other custodians of postal effects;
7. Assist the Department of Defense by informing postmasters and the public of proper addressing practices, applicable restrictions, and other military mail matters of interest.

V. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics) shall serve as the point of contact with the United States Postal Service and shall implement and administer this agreement for the Department of Defense. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics) may enter into supplemental agreements with the United States Postal Service as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this agreement.
- B. The Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Operations Group, shall serve as point of contact with the Department of Defense and shall implement and administer this agreement for the United States Postal Service. The Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Operations Group, may enter into supplemental agreements with the Department of Defense as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this agreement.

VI. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

- A. This agreement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement. It shall be renewed every five years by the Department of Defense and the Postal Service.

SUPPLEMENTAL POSTAL AGREEMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

I. TRANSPORTATION

- A. The Department of Defense agrees to arrange for military mail transportation from overseas postal facilities to commercial or military terminals in the United States and between military postal activities within overseas areas.
- B. The Postal Service agrees to:
 1. Arrange for military mail transportation to overseas postal facilities from commercial terminals in the United States and make transportation arrangements when the postal services of another country are required. However, this does not preclude military departments from making direct arrangements for the transportation of military mail to or between designated overseas points on a short-term basis when operational requirements dictate.
 2. Provide inbound and outbound mail transportation between the postal concentration centers and military or commercial air or surface carriers.
 3. Transport mail between civilian Post Offices on military installations and the receiving or dispatching Postal Service facility.

II. PERSONNEL

A. The Department of Defense agrees to:

1. Appoint mail clerks and issue them uniform identification cards.
2. Assign only qualified personnel to duties in military Post Offices, mailrooms, mail control activities, and other postal facilities. No persons convicted of a crime involving theft or moral turpitude or disciplined for any action reflecting unfavorably upon their integrity shall be assigned to postal duties. Those having a history of psychiatric disorder, alcoholism, or drug abuse may be so assigned if medical evidence of current good health, sufficient to meet published Postal Service standards, is available. This does not preclude the Department of Defense from establishing requirements that are more stringent than the published Postal Service standards.

III. EQUIPMENT

A. The Postal Service agrees to:

1. Provide equipment and furniture necessary for the operation of civilian Post Offices located on military installations.
2. Furnish equipment and supplies for use in military Post Offices. Equipment shall be new or serviceable and shall be issued in accordance with mutually determined issuance standards. Supplies and accountable equipment shall be furnished without charge. No accountable equipment shall be furnished on a reimbursable basis beginning in FY 82.
3. Repair equipment for which it has a unique capability.

B. The Department of Defense agrees to transport such equipment between the continental United States and the overseas destination.

IV. DELIVERY

A. The Department of Defense agrees to:

1. Decline to accept collect on delivery mail for delivery at military Post Offices.
2. Deliver mail to personnel in a temporary duty status, in training, and where delivery requirements exceed Postal Service standards.
3. Deliver accountable mail, delivery of which is restricted by the sender, through mail clerks, only upon the written authorization of the addressee when it is impracticable for the addressee to accept delivery in person at the civilian Post Office.

B. The Postal Service agrees to:

1. Neither accept nor forward to military Post Offices any collect on delivery mail.

2. Provide delivery service on military installation in the United States commensurate with the delivery service that would be provided for civilian communities of comparable characteristics. Postal Service criteria shall be used in considering extensions of mail service. Mail to principal administrative buildings or commands shall be delivered in bulk. The Postal Service agrees to also provide the mail in bulk to personnel and basic units in a transient or temporary duty status of 180 days or less. Where criteria will not allow free delivery service to be established or extended, the Postal Service agrees to provide the mail for individuals in bulk to basic units. However, in locations with adjacent civilian communities having delivery service, the Postal Service agrees to submit proposals to the Department of Defense to furnish service to groups of receptacles consistent with mutually agreed criteria and funding.
3. Deliver accountable mail addressed to military personnel, at military installations served by civilian Post Offices, to the addressees or mail clerks upon proper receipt.

V. CLAIMS

A. The Department of Defense agrees to:

1. Assume financial liability, under military claims procedures, for loss, damage, theft, wrong delivery, or rifling of accountable mail after receipt from or prior to delivery to a civilian or military Post Office by a mail clerk employed by the Department of Defense.
2. Reimburse the Postal Service for claims submitted by the Postal Service for the value of postal effects embezzled or lost through negligence, errors, or defalcations while in the possession of military Post Office personnel. Reimburse the Postal Service for claims paid by the Postal Service for losses of accountable mail through negligence, errors, or defalcations while in the possession of military Post Office personnel.
 - a. To be reimbursable, claims must be submitted within one year from discovery of the loss by the Postal Service.
 - b. In all just and expedient cases, the military departments may request the Postal Service to take action under 39 U.S.C. 2601(a)(3) to adjust, pay or credit the account of a Military Post Office, Postal Finance Officer, Military Postal Clerk, Financial Postal Clerk, Custodian of Postal Effects, or persons acting in those capacities for any loss of Postal Service funds, papers, postage, or other stamped stock or accountable paper, under the same standards as such credit is granted to Postal Service employees.

- B. The Postal Service agrees to relieve custodians of postal effects of responsibility for the amount of the invoice of any shipment of stamps or stamped paper lost in transit as a result of casualty.

VI. LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- A. The Department of Defense agrees to:
 - 1. Furnish adequate facilities for civilian Post Offices located at military installations solely in support of the installation's mission. Utilities and local telephone service shall be furnished on a reimbursable basis beginning FY 82.
 - 2. Offer billeting and meals to civilian Post Office employees who work at military installations on the same basis as those offered to Department of Defense civilian employees.
 - 3. Issue invitational travel orders for Postal Service representatives who, at the request of the Department of Defense, are assigned to perform inspections, investigations, or audits of overseas military postal operations.
- B. The Postal Service agrees to:
 - 1. Reserve the right to discontinue civilian Post Offices on military installations where existing conditions endanger the health, safety, or welfare of its employees.
 - 2. Furnish office space for related military mail terminals, fleet Post Offices, or liaison units at postal concentration centers.

VII. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

- A. The Department of Defense agrees to:
 - 1. Assist Postal Service representatives in surveying, inspecting, and auditing military postal operations.
 - 2. Conduct surveys, inspections, investigations, and audits of Department of Defense postal facilities and operation as needed to verify that accountable postal effects are on hand and properly protected, that all revenue due the Postal Service is being collected and properly accounted for, and that the service rendered is efficient and in accordance with Postal Service and Department of Defense regulations.
- B. The Postal Service agrees to assign Postal Inspectors or other representatives of the Postal Service, as practicable, to conduct surveys, inspections, investigations, and audits of military postal operations to assure that efficient postal service is maintained.

VIII. MAIL SORTATION

- A. Except in time of war or other emergency as determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Postal Service agrees to:
 - 1. Sort mail for overseas forces in fixed base units to the 5-digit Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office ZIP Code separation. Mail for ships and other mobile units shall be

- sorted to the mobile unit by ZIP Code or name when warranted. Mail for maneuver forces, air groups, submarine groups, units in transit or temporary duty status for 180 days or less, and other similar units shall be separated in accordance with the needs of the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense agrees to develop mail routings for all of the above mail and provide the routing instructions to the postal concentration centers of the Postal Service.
2. Sort mail for the forces at installations in the United States where delivery receptacles are not provided to basic military units or numbered boxes in groups of approximately 200, so far as practicable and mutually agreeable to the Postmaster and military authorities concerned.
- B. In time of war or other emergency as determined by the Secretary of Defense, the Postal Service agrees to:
1. Allow the Department of Defense to control ZIP Code assignment to all military units.
 2. Specify jointly with the Department of Defense the sorting of mail for overseas forces and forces at installations in the United States.
- C. Postal Service criteria shall be used to assign ZIP Codes to military installations in the United States.
- D. The Department of Defense and the Postal Service agree to cooperate in the assignment and use of overseas ZIP Codes.
1. Normally each military installation shall have one 5-digit ZIP Code, although special circumstances may be considered in assigning additional ZIP Codes. Additional ZIP Codes shall only be assigned if all resulting separations receive at least 1,000 pieces of mail per day. The implementing procedures for 9-digit ZIP Codes shall be jointly developed.
 2. The Department of Defense agrees to make every reasonable effort to see that its components have the correct ZIP Code in their address and return address. The Postal Service agrees to make every reasonable effort to see that the correct ZIP Code is in the address and return address of mail for military units and personnel originated by other government agencies and the civilian sector. Since the ZIP Code furnishes the Postal Service with its sole method of forwarding Army Post Office and Fleet Post Office mail, the Postal Service agrees to return to sender at the Post Office of origin all mail for Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office addresses that does not have an authorized Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office ZIP Code.

- IX. MAIL FORWARDING
 - A. Where the Department of Defense delivers the mail it agrees to provide directory service for undeliverable-as-addressed military mail and endorse each piece to show a forwarding address or reason for nondelivery.
 - B. Where the Postal Service delivers the mail it agrees to maintain change of address forms and endorse forwardable mail that is undeliverable as addressed.
- X. SAM/PAL LAW
 - A. This paragraph provides for the joint development of regulations as required by 39 U.S.C. 3401 (f)(1976) by the Postal Service and the Department of Defense concerning administration of the "SAM/PAL Law." Each party agrees to designate one or more organizational counterparts to serve on a committee to discuss conditions and regulations under which the SAM/PAL law will be jointly administered.
 - 1. For the Postal Service, the designees are: The Assistant Postmasters General, Mail Processing Department, and Rates and Classification Department, or their designees; and the Chief Postal Inspector or his designee.
 - 2. For the Department of Defense, the designee is: The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply, Maintenance and Transportation) or his designee.
 - B. Neither party shall take any unilateral action with respect to implementing policies, conditions, or regulations promulgated exclusively under the SAM/PAL law without prior consultation with the other party. Committee meetings may be held upon written request of either party. Following such consultation, a joint committee report may be prepared for transmission to the respective managements.
 - C. Nothing herein is intended to provide for the joint administration of any activity whose administration is not provided for by 39 U.S.C. 3401 (f)(1976).
 - D. This section supersedes the supplementary agreement dated September 30, 1976, concerning "Joint Administration of 39 U.S.C. 3401 (the SAM/PAL Law) by the United States Postal Service and the Department of Defense."