

Basic Standards for All Mailing Services

Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Materials

601




Quick Service
Guide






This guide identifies many household products by their commonly used name (e.g., perfume rather than perfumery) that help determine mailability. Use this guide to quickly determine the mailing restrictions for potentially dangerous, but common, household products.

Identifying and categorizing hazardous materials can sometimes be difficult due to the technical makeup of the items and the complexity of the regulations surrounding them.

Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) [601.8.0—601.11.0](#) contains the standards that apply to the mailing of hazardous, restricted, and perishable mail.

Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail, provides important information to help mailers determine what may be mailed and how certain items must be packaged to keep the mail safe. It also provides guidance to USPS employees accepting this mail.

Hazard Class	Type	Common Examples	Domestic		Int'l	Domestic Mail		Additional Information
			Air	Sur.		DMM	Pub 52	
Hazard Class 1 Explosives								
	Explosives	Fireworks, dynamite, grenades, small arms ammunition	N	N	N	601.10.11	341.21	All explosives are prohibited except as specified in DMM 601.10.0 .
Hazard Class 2 Gases (Under Pressure)								
	Flammable	Hairspray (in aerosol can)	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.12	342.2b	ORM-D ¹ only.
		Propane, camp stove fuel	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.12	342.22c	ORM-D ¹ only.
		Spray (in aerosol can)	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.12	342.22f	ORM-D ¹ only.
	Non-Flammable	Fire extinguishers	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.12	342.22d	Fire extinguishers containing methyl bromide prohibited.
		Nitrogen, compressed air	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.12	342.2b	ORM-D ¹ only.
Toxic	Ammonia, chlorine, carbon monoxide	N	N	N	601.10.12	342.21	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	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.21	ORM-D ¹ only (dependent on flashpoint).
		Gasoline and items containing gasoline or gasoline fumes	N	N	N	601.10.13	343.23b	Gasoline and items containing gasoline or gasoline fumes are always prohibited.
		Paint, paint-related materials	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.26	ORM-D ¹ only (dependent on flashpoint).
		Cigarette lighter, cigar lighter, lighter fluid (flammable liquid)	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.25	Pre-approval from PCSC required as per DMM 601.10.13 .
	Combustible Liquids (Flashpoint above 141° F and below 200° F)	Diesel fuel, kerosene	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.24e	ORM-D ¹ only. Flashpoint must be greater than 141°F.
		Waxes & polishes	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.24j	ORM-D ¹ only (dependent on flashpoint).
		Adhesives, cements, and glue	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.24g	ORM-D ¹ only (dependent on flashpoint).
	Perfumes and colognes (liquids)	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.13	343.24	ORM-D ¹ only (dependent on flashpoint).	



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Hazard Class 4 Flammable Solids								
	Flammable Matches	Card matches, book matches, safety matches	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.14	344.3b	Must be properly packaged. Pub 52, Appendix C.
	Flammable Matches	Strike anywhere matches	N	N	N	601.10.14	344.21	Prohibited.
	Spontaneously Combustible	Iron oxide	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.14	344.1b	ORM-D ¹ only.
	Dangerous When Wet	Aluminum powder, calcium, lithium, sodium	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.14	344.1c	ORM-D ¹ only.
Hazard Class 5 Oxidizing Substances, Organic Peroxides								
	Oxidizers/Organic Peroxides	Ammonium nitrate, fertilizer, swimming pool chemicals	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.15	345.22a	ORM-D ¹ only—Friction tops unacceptable.
		Hydrogen peroxide (less than 20% solution)	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.15	345.22b	No restrictions up to 8%. Solution strength up to 20% is acceptable, if ORM-D ¹ only.
Hazard Class 6 Toxic Substances								
	Poisons	Tear gas (except those containing oleoresin capsicum)	N	N	N	601.10.16	346.221b	All irritants are prohibited.
		Flea collars, cyanide, pesticides & herbicides	N ²	N	N	601.10.16	346.211	Must check specific materials in Pub 52, Appendix A. ORM-D ¹ only.
	Infectious Substances							
	Noninfectious Specimens	Blood, urine, saliva, stool	Y	Y	Y ³	Max. Amt. 601.10.17	346.2	Must be properly packaged.
	Biological & Medical Materials	Used sharps, medical devices	Y	Y	Y ³	Max. Amt. 601.10.17	346.2	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 ⁴	Max. Amt. 601.10.18	347	Items must be properly packaged. International mail requires approval before mailing.





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Hazard Class 8 Corrosives								
	Liquid and Solid	Batteries with liquid electrolyte, hydrochloric acid	N	N	N	601.10.19	348.21a	Nonspillable batteries may be permitted per DMM 601.10.19.
		Primary lithium batteries (small non-rechargeable consumer-type batteries)	Y ⁵	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.10.20.5	348.22	5 pound maximum weight without equipment, 11 lbs. maximum weight with equipment. Lithium content restrictions, see 601.10.20.7.
		Secondary lithium-ion batteries (small rechargeable consumer-type batteries)	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.10.20.6	348.22	No more than 3 batteries. Lithium content restrictions, see 601.10.20.7 and 601.10.19.
		Mercury, mercury-containing items (thermometer, etc.)	N	N	N	601.10.19	App. A	Mercury and items containing mercury are always prohibited.
Hazard Class 9 Miscellaneous Hazardous Materials								
	Miscellaneous	Dry ice	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.10.20.4	349.23	5 lbs. maximum for air (surface may exceed 5 lbs.) (Proper forms/warning labels required for air only).
		Magnets, magnetized materials	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.10.21	349.24	Depends on magnetic strength.


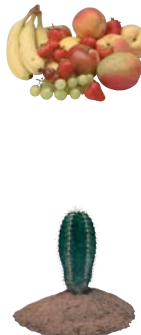
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			Air	Sur.		DMM	Pub 52	
Restricted Matter								
	Firearms	Handguns (concealable fire arms)	N ²	N ²	N ²	601.11.1	43	Except between authorized parties; international mail subject to ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions. No content markings on outside of mailpiece are permitted.
		Rifles, shotguns, antique guns (unloaded)	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.11.2 601.11.3	43	No content markings on outside of mailpiece are permitted. Ammunition strictly prohibited.
	Human Ashes Animal Ashes Pet Ashes	Cremated remains	Y	Y	Y	N/A	462.2	Registered mail required. International mail subject to ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions.
	Intoxicating Liquors	Wine, bourbon, vodka, liquor, beer	N	N	N	601.11.7	42	Includes 0.5% alcohol content or greater.
	Motor Vehicle Master Keys	Including locksmithing devices	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.11.10	47	Only if sent between authorized parties.
	Odor-Producing Materials	Food, non-toxic inks and dyes, paper	N	N	N	601.11.8	45	Not considered hazardous material.
	Controlled Substances	Narcotics	N ²	N ²	N	601.11.11	48	Generally, both the mailers and the addressee must meet special conditions.
	Drugs	Prescription, non-prescription medicines, medications, prescription drugs	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.11.11	48	No content markings on outside of mail piece permitted. ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibition apply for international mail. Must meet state and federal laws.
	Drug Paraphernalia	Illegal drugs, pipes	N	N	N	601.11.12	481.3	See Controlled Substance Act for more information on drug paraphernalia.
	Battery-Powered Devices	Toys, clocks (operated by household-use-type battery)	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.11.17	348	Battery must be permitted by DMM 601.11.17.
	Sharp Instruments	Knives, razors, switchblades	Y	Y	Y	Max. Amt. 601.11.5	44	Only if sent between authorized parties. International mail subject to ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions for each country.

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Perishable Matter Animals								
	Bees	Honey bees (Queen bees)	Y (Q ⁷ only)	Y	Y (Q ⁷ only)	Max. Amt. 601.9.3.8	526.2	Disease-free queen bees may be accompanied by up to eight attendants by air. Honeybees without queen bees, surface only.
	Adult Birds acceptable	Geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, doves, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, quail, ducks, chickens, swans	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.9.3.4	526.4	Disease-free geese, turkeys, guinea fowl, doves, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, quail, ducks, chickens, swans.
	Adult Birds unacceptable	All other types of birds not listed above, such as canaries, parakeets, parrots	N	N	N	601.9.3.6	526.4	Prohibited.
	Day-old Poultry	Chicks, ducks, geese, quail, partridges, pheasants (April through August), turkeys	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.9.3.2	526.3	Day-old poultry vaccinated with Newcastle disease (live virus) is nonmailable.
	Dead Animals	Dried parts of game birds or fish	Y	Y	N ²	Max. Amt. 601.9.4	526.7	Includes hides and furs. International mail subject to ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions. If dry ice is used, see DMM 601.9.4.
	Live, cold blooded	Goldfish, crickets, worms	Y	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.9.3.3	526.6	Some exceptions.
	Reptiles	Snakes, turtles	N	N	N	601.8.5	525.3	See Pub 52.
	Live, warm blooded	Hamsters, mice, cats, rabbits, dogs, guinea pigs, or rats	N	N	N	601.9.3.6	525.2	Some adult birds permitted in domestic mail. See DMM 601.9.3.6.
	Scorpions (live)	Scorpions	N	Y	N	Max. Amt. 601.9.3.10	526.5	Only for medical research or manufacture of antivenin.
Perishable Matter Food								
	Meats and Meat products	Fresh meat & fish. Frozen meat & fish.	Y	Y	N ²	Max. Amt. 601.9.1	55	International mail subject to IC ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions. If dry ice is used, see DMM 601.9.1.
	Fresh Foods	Fruits, vegetables	Y	Y	N ²	Max. Amt. 601.9.1	53	International mail subject to IC ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions. If dry ice is used, see DMM 601.9.1.
	Plants	Trees, citrus, cactus	Y	Y	N ²	Max. Amt. 601.9.6	56	International mail subject to ICL ⁶ restrictions/prohibitions. USDA regulations/prohibitions apply.

1. Other Regulated Material (ORM).
2. Except as permitted by mailing standards.
3. Specimens only with prior HQ permission per IMM and Pub. 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*.
4. Only with written permission per IMM and Pub. 52.
5. Prohibited without the equipment they operate.
6. ICL—International Country Listing in *International Mail Manual* (IMM).
7. Q—Queen Bee.

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