

283 Prices and Eligibility

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1.0 Prices and Fees

1.1 Price Application

Except under items 1.1c and 1.1d, postage is based on the price (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)) that applies to the weight and zone of each addressed piece as follows:

- a. The price is charged at the 4-ounce, 8-ounce, 12-ounce, and 15.999-ounce increments. Any fraction of an ounce over the 4-ounce, 8-ounce, 12-ounce and 15.999-ounce increments is rounded to the next price increment. For example, if an item weighs 4.1 ounces, the next weight (price) increment is 8 ounces. If an item weighs 12.1 ounces, the next weight (price) increment is 15.999 ounces.
- b. Per pound from 1 pound through 70 pounds. Any fraction of a pound is considered a whole pound. For example, if an item weighs 1.25 pounds, the weight (postage) increment is 2 pounds.
- c. The oversized price is based on the zone and applies to pieces that measure more than 108 inches but not more than 130 inches in combined length and girth.
- d. Cubic prices are based on the zone and cubic measurement (Tier) of the mailpiece with any fraction of a measurement rounded down to the nearest 1/4 inch. For example, if a dimension of a cubic piece measures 12-3/8 inches, it is rounded down to 12-1/4 inches.

1.2 Commercial Prices

Commercial prices are available when paid by one of the following methods:

- a. Registered end-users of USPS-approved PC Postage products when using a qualifying shipping label, managed by the PC Postage system.
- b. USPS-approved IBI postage meters that electronically transmit transactional data to USPS.
- c. Permit imprint.
- d. USPS Returns service used by permit holders for USPS Ground Advantage — Commercial packages when all requirements are met under [505.3.0](#).



1.3 USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial Cubic

1.3.1 Eligibility

Cubic prices are available to eligible USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial customers, including USPS Ground Advantage Return service customers, under [505.3.0](#). Each cubic mailpiece, including soft packs and padded envelopes under [1.3.4](#), must measure 1 cubic foot or less, weigh 20 pounds or less, and the longest dimension must not exceed 18 inches. Cubic-priced mailpieces must not be rolls or tubes.

1.3.2 Tiers

Cubic prices consist of the following 10 tiers:

- a. Tier 0.10: Mailpieces measuring up to .10 cubic foot.
- b. Tier 0.20: Mailpieces measuring more than .10 up to .20 cubic foot.
- c. Tier 0.30: Mailpieces measuring more than .20 up to .30 cubic foot.
- d. Tier 0.40: Mailpieces measuring more than .30 up to .40 cubic foot.
- e. Tier 0.50: Mailpieces measuring more than .40 up to .50 cubic foot.
- f. Tier 0.60: Mailpieces measuring more than .50 up to .60 cubic foot.
- g. Tier 0.70: Mailpieces measuring more than .60 up to .70 cubic foot.
- h. Tier 0.80: Mailpieces measuring more than .70 up to .80 cubic foot.
- i. Tier 0.90: Mailpieces measuring more than .80 up to .90 cubic foot.
- j. Tier 1.00: Mailpieces measuring more than .90 up to 1.00 cubic foot.

1.3.3 Determining Cubic Tier Measurements for Rectangular and Nonrectangular Parcels

Follow these steps to determine the cubic tier measurement for rectangular and nonrectangular parcels:

- a. Measure in inches the length, width, and height at each dimension's maximum point. Round down (see [604.7.0](#)) each measurement to the nearest 1/4 inch. For example, 6-1/8" x 5-7/8" x 6-3/8" is rounded down to 6" x 5-3/4" x 6-1/4".
- b. Multiply the length by the width by the height and divide by 1,728. Example: 6" x 5-3/4" x 6-1/4" = 215.6 divided by 1,728 = 0.125. This piece exceeds 0.10 Tier 1 threshold. It is calculated at Tier 2: 0.101 to 0.20.

1.3.4 Determining Cubic Tier Measurement for Soft Pack and Padded Envelopes

Cubic tier measurements for soft pack (poly, plastic, cloth, or similar soft packaging) and padded envelopes are based on the outside dimensions of length plus width, in inches, of the original packaging material. Mailpieces that are pleated (e.g., expandable) must meet the measurement guidelines in [1.3.3](#) to be eligible for cubic pricing. Determine cubic tier measurements as follows:

- a. Measure the length and width separately in inches.



- b. Round down (see [604.7.0](#)) each measurement to the nearest 1/4 inch. For example, 10-1/8 inches is rounded down to 10 inches.
- c. Add the two measurements together. The maximum total of length plus width must not exceed 36 inches. See [Exhibit 1.3.4](#) for corresponding price tiers.

Exhibit 1.3.4 Cubic Pricing Tiers for Soft Pack and Padded Envelopes

CUBIC PRICE TIERS		LENGTH PLUS WIDTH
0.10	Mailpieces measuring from	0" up to 16"
0.20	Mailpieces measuring more than	16" up to 21"
0.30	Mailpieces measuring more than	21" up to 24"
0.40	Mailpieces measuring more than	24" up to 26"
0.50	Mailpieces measuring more than	26" up to 28"
0.60	Mailpieces measuring more than	28" up to 30"
0.70	Mailpieces measuring more than	30" up to 32"
0.80	Mailpieces measuring more than	32" up to 34"
0.90	Mailpieces measuring more than	34" up to 35"
1.00	Mailpieces measuring more than	35" up to 36"

1.4 Dimensional Weight Price for Low-Density Parcels

Postage for USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcels addressed for delivery to zones 1-9 and exceeding 1 cubic foot (1,728 cubic inches) is based on the actual weight or the dimensional weight (as calculated in [1.4.1](#) or [1.4.2](#)), whichever is greater.

1.4.1 Determining Dimensional Weight for Rectangular Parcels

Follow these steps to determine the dimensional weight for a rectangular parcel:

- a. Measure the length, width, and height in inches. Round off (see [604.7.0](#)) each measurement to the nearest whole inch.
- b. Multiply the length by the width by the height.
- c. If the result exceeds 1,728 cubic inches, divide the result by 166 and round up (see [604.7.0](#)) to the next whole number to determine the dimensional weight in pounds.
- d. If the dimensional weight exceeds 70 pounds, the customer pays the 70-pound price.

1.4.2 Determining Dimensional Weight for Nonrectangular Parcels

Follow these steps to determine the dimensional weight for a nonrectangular parcel:

- a. Measure the length, width, and height in inches at their extreme dimensions. Round off (see [604.7.0](#)) each measurement to the nearest whole inch.
- b. Multiply the length by the width by the height.
- c. Multiply the result by an adjustment factor of 0.785.



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- d. If the final result exceeds 1,728 cubic inches, divide the result by 166 and round up (see [604.7.0](#)) to the next whole number to determine the dimensional weight in pounds.
- e. If the dimensional weight exceeds 70 pounds, the customer pays the 70-pound price.

1.4.3 Dimensional Weight Dimension Standard

Shipping Services file manifests or other approved electronic documentation must include the accurate dimensions (length, width, height) of all pieces that exceed 1 cubic foot. Mailers of pieces exceeding 1 cubic foot and with Shipping Services file manifests, or other approved electronic documentation, that do not meet the requirement to include the piece's accurate dimensions will be assessed the Dimension Noncompliance fee under [1.8](#).

1.5 Computing Postage

1.5.1 Determining Single-Piece Weight

To determine single-piece weight in any mailing of nonidentical-weight pieces, weigh each piece individually. To determine single-piece weight in a mailing of identical-weight pieces, weigh a sample group of at least 10 randomly selected pieces and divide the total sample weight by the number of pieces in the sample. Except for mailers using eVS, when determining single-piece weight for USPS Ground Advantage mailpieces, express all weights in decimal pounds rounded off to two decimal places. Mailers using eVS may round off to four decimals, and eVS will automatically round to the appropriate decimal place. If a customer is using a manifest mailing system, the manifest weight field must be properly completed by adhering to the rules relative to the specific manifest.

1.5.2 Computing Postage for Affixed Postage

For each piece, affix correct postage for the weight (including any surcharges) and, if applicable, the zone to which the piece is addressed, as shown in [1.2](#) through [1.4](#). To calculate the total postage for the mailing, add all of the affixed postage amounts for each piece.

1.5.3 Computing Postage for Permit Imprint

To compute the total postage for a mailing, for each weight increment, multiply the number of pieces by the applicable price per piece. Round off each product to four decimal places. Add the number of products and round up the total postage to the nearest whole cent.

1.6 Unmanifested Fee

Customers mailing eligible USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial pieces omitted from the manifest are subject to pay the unmanifested fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)), unless subject to pay the Package Quality Noncompliance Fee for the piece as specified in [3.4](#).

1.7 Nonstandard Fees

Except for oversized priced parcels and USPS Ground Return service parcels, a USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial piece is subject to a nonstandard fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)) as follows:

- a. A piece measures more than 22 inches up to 30 inches long.

- b. A piece measures more than 30 inches long.
- c. A piece measures more than 2 cubic feet (3,456 cubic inches). Dimensions for rectangular pieces are determined by measuring the length, width, and height in inches, rounding off (see [604.7.0](#)) each measurement to the nearest whole inch and multiplying the length by the width by the height. Dimensions for nonrectangular pieces are calculated as above and the result multiplied by an adjustment factor of 0.785. If either calculation exceeds 3,456 cubic inches, the piece is subject to the nonstandard fee.
- d. A piece that contains any of the nonstandard characteristics listed under [201.7.6.2](#).
- e. A piece that is subject to both a length ([1.7a](#), [1.7b](#)) and a characteristic ([1.7d](#)) nonstandard fee is only subject to the highest fee.
- f. A piece may be subject to both a length ([1.7a](#), [1.7b](#)) and a cube ([1.7c](#)) nonstandard fee, or a characteristics ([1.7d](#)) and a cube ([1.7c](#)) nonstandard fee.
- g. Shipping Services file manifests or other approved electronic documentation must include the accurate dimensions (length, width, height) of all parcels that exceed 22 inches in length and the extra service code (ESC) for the characteristics category (see [201.7.6.2](#)).
- h. Mailers of parcels exceeding 22 inches in length and/or require the characteristics extra service code (ESC) and have a Shipping Services file manifest or other approved electronic documentation, that do not meet the requirement to include the parcel's accurate dimensions or ESC will be assessed the Dimension Noncompliance fee under [1.8](#).

1.8 Dimension Noncompliance Fee

Mailers of USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial parcels required to include the parcel's dimensions (length, width, height) and/or characteristics ESC in the Shipping Services file manifest or other approved electronic documentation as provided under [1.4.3](#) or [1.7](#) will be charged the Dimension Noncompliance fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)) if the parcel's dimensions and/or ESC are omitted or inaccurate in the Shipping Services file manifest or other approved electronic documentation. A parcel is subject to only one Dimension Noncompliance fee charge.

1.9 Live-Animal and Perishable Handling Fee

[\[4-6-26\]](#)[\[1-18-26\]](#) Priority Mail Express pieces containing live animals or perishables (e.g. fruit, meat) are subject to the nonrefundable Live Animal and Perishable Handling fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)). This fee is in addition to the Live Animal Transportation fee provided in the [Notice 123—Price List](#), when applicable. For additional information on the Live Animal and Perishable Handling fee see Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable, Mail*, (513).



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2.0 Content Standards for USPS Ground Advantage — Commercial Parcels

With the exception of restricted material as described in [601.8.0](#), any mailable item may be mailed as USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial.

3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for USPS Ground Advantage — Commercial

3.1 Description of Service

USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcels receive expeditious handling and transportation. Certain USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial mailpieces, such as pieces containing hazardous material or considered nonstandard (e.g., oversized priced pieces and nonstandard fee-priced pieces), may receive deferred handling.

3.2 Defining Characteristics

3.2.1 Inspection of Contents

USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial parcels are sealed against Postal Service inspection.

3.2.2 Forwarding and Return Service

The postage price of USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcels includes forwarding service to a new address for up to 12 months and return of undeliverable parcels to the sender.

3.2.3 Additional and Extra Services

Extra services are available for USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcels under [503](#) and for Hold for Pickup service under [507.3.0](#).

3.3 Additional Basic Standards

All USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcels must:

- a. Meet the applicable postage payment standards in [284](#) and [604.7.0](#).
- b. Bear a delivery address that includes the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4.
- c. Bear a return address.

3.4 Barcode Standards

3.4.1 IMpb Standards

All USPS Ground Advantage - Commercial parcels (outbound and returns) must bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) prepared as specified under [204.2.0](#).

3.4.2 IMmb Standards

In addition to the IMpb under [3.4.1](#), all USPS Ground Advantage parcels (outbound and returns) must bear an Intelligent Mail matrix barcode (IMmb) prepared as specified under [204.2.0](#).

3.4.3 Package Quality Noncompliance Fee

Unless otherwise excepted, mailers of mailpieces not meeting the requirements for using unique Intelligent Mail package barcodes or extra-services barcodes, as outlined in [204.2.1.6](#) and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems*, will be assessed the Package Quality Noncompliance Fee. (See [Notice 123—Price List](#).) For details see PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com>.

4.0 Price Eligibility for USPS Ground Advantage — Commercial

Single-piece prices apply to nonpresorted parcels mailed under [285.1.0](#).



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