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You’ve picked out the perfect card (or penned a heartfelt letter) for someone special, but now you’re staring at the envelope wondering… where does the stamp go? Is there a “right” way to address it? Can I just pop it in the nearest letterbox and call it a day?Trust me, you’re not alone. As someone who sends cards and letters on the regular, I know the confusion is real—especially if you’re not a serial snail mail sender. So, let’s clear it up with this friendly guide to sending your cards and letters within the UK.Addressing an envelope isn’t rocket science, but there are some handy tips to make sure your card arrives safe and sound:• Write the recipient’s name and full address in the centre of the envelope.• Use separate lines for the name, street, town, and postcode (in block capitals for extra clarity).• Always pop the stamp in the top right corner.• Avoid writing anything important on the top left corner—it’s reserved for postmarks and might get covered up.• Use a waterproof pen to save your address from the unpredictable British weather (seriously, don’t let rain turn your address into an inkblot test).For most cards and letters, a standard 1st Class or 2nd Class stamp will do the trick.• 1st Class: Delivery in 1-2 days (ideal for last-minute birthdays).• 2nd Class: Delivery in 2-4 days (if you’re more organised than most).• If your card is particularly hefty or oversized, you might need a Large Letter stamp.Pro Tip: Keep a stash of stamps handy—because who hasn’t had that last-minute “Oh no, it’s Aunt Jean’s birthday tomorrow!” moment?Stay organised: If you’re someone who loves being ahead of the game, why not try using one of our Birthday Card Planners? It’s a great way to keep track of important dates and make sure you never forget a special occasion again! Plus, with a plan in place, you can avoid the panic and send your card with plenty of time to spare.Most greeting cards fit comfortably under the standard Letter size. But if you’ve gone all out with extras inside (like confetti, stickers, or photos), check the weight and thickness. You might need to bump it up to a Large Letter stamp.Got a fancy dark envelope? Regular pens won’t show up, so grab a white or metallic gel pen or stick on a paper label for the address. And don’t forget to seal the envelope properly—a little glue or washi tape works wonders.Once your envelope is ready, you can:1. Drop it in your nearest red postbox (check the collection times on the front).2. Head to your local Post Office.3. Use letterboxes found in supermarkets or other handy spots.Worried your card might go on an unexpected adventure? Add your return address on the back flap—just in case.Eco-Friendly Envelope TipsLet’s keep things green:• Most envelopes are recyclable, so pop them in your paper recycling bin or take them to a local recycling centre.• Switch to washi tape for sealing envelopes—it’s paper-based, cute, and eco-friendly!Post with ConfidenceSending a card or letter is such a thoughtful way to brighten someone’s day—and honestly, we could all use a little more snail mail love in our lives. With these simple tips, you can pop your cards in the post with confidence and know they’ll reach your loved ones in one piece.So grab that pen, seal that envelope, and spread some joy through the post!Best wishes,Kat x Stamps can also be used to post letters and cards abroad or as make-up values and are available at all Post Offices in denominations from 1p to £5 The postage price depends on the size, weight, destination and if you want tracking or need a signature on delivery. Trust our experts in branch to help you find the perfect service When posting internationally with Royal Mail: items usually reach Europe within 3-5 working days and the rest of the world within 6-7 working days Learn about posting internationally Below are frequently asked questions (FAQs) for Postal Service employees. The FAQs are focused on retail and provide additional clarification on some of the major changes that took place in May to postal prices and products. This information will also assist employees in responding to questions received from customers. Q. Can the Forever Stamp be used on mailpieces that require extra postage? A. Yes. The postage value of a Forever Stamp is the current First-Class Mail single-piece 1-ounce letter rate — $0.41. Customers must affix additional postage when mailing letters weighing in excess of 1 ounce and/or letters subject to the nonmachinable surcharge or mailpieces subject to another rate of postage (e.g., large envelopes or packages). Q. How may customers who have a number of different stamps with no denomination determine the value of those stamps? A. DMM Quick Service Guide 604a details all nondenominated postage issued since 1975. Go to and click Quick Service Guides. Q. Where can customers find additional information regarding domestic and international rates and fees? A. Additional information on domestic and international rates and fees can be found at . International delivery options can be found at www.usps.com/international. Q. Pickup on Demand service increased to $14.25. What about Carrier Pickup service — did that change? A. Carrier Pickup service remains available at no charge. Customers may schedule Carrier Pickup service or Pickup on Demand service online at www.usps.com/pickup. Pickup on Demand service may be also be scheduled by calling 800-222-1811. Note: Mailpieces that weigh over 13 ounces and that bear only postage stamps as postage must be presented for mailing to an employee at a Post Office retail counter. Q. Are letter-size greeting cards weighing more than 1 ounce subject to the nonmachinable surcharge? A. Yes. The $0.17 nonmachinable surcharge criteria applies to all First-Class Mail letters (up to the 3.5–ounce maximum weight). However, greeting cards that are classified and priced as flats are not subject to the nonmachinable surcharge. Q. How are “rigid” letter-size greeting cards priced? A. If a mailpiece does not exceed 11-1/2 inches x 6-1/8 inches x 1/4 inch thick and 3.5 ounces, but is rigid, it is classified and priced as a nonmachinable letter (i.e., applicable First-Class Mail postage and $0.17 nonmachinable surcharge apply). Q. Are large envelopes (flats) subject to a nonmachinable surcharge? A. No. Since large envelopes have their own price structure (flats prices), the nonmachinable surcharge does not apply. Q. If a First-Class Mail piece is larger than letter-size, does it have to be over 1/4 inch thick to be priced as a “large envelope”? A. No. The 1/4 inch thickness is just one of the three maximum measurements for letter-size pieces. If the mailpiece exceeds any one of the measurements, it is classified and priced as a large envelope (flat) as long as it does not exceed any of the flat-size maximum dimensions and has all the other characteristics of a large envelope (flat). Q. If a flat-size First-Class Mail piece is rigid, is that piece charged the parcel rate? A. Yes. If the physical dimensions are within flat-size standards, and the mailpiece is rigid, it is classified and priced as a package (parcel). Notice 3-S, First-Class Mail Shape-Based Pricing Template, is a useful tool to help determine First-Class Mail prices. Q. Did the Postal Service make any changes to any of its processing categories used to determine shape-based rates? A. No. The minimum and maximum sizes for First-Class Mail card rate, letters, and flats have not changed — see page 27 in this issue of the Postal Bulletin. Q. How large can an envelope be and still be eligible for First-Class Mail letter rates? A. The maximum size is 11-1/2 inches x 6-1/8 inches x 1/4 inch thick. Determining the processing category of a mailpiece (letter, flat, or parcel) is dependent solely on the physical dimensions of the piece without regard to address placement. If an envelope exceeds any of the physical dimensions, or 3.5 ounces in weight, it is classified and priced as a large envelope (flat). Q. Are items sent at First-Class Mail flats rates (large envelopes) required to be flexible and “uniformly thick”? A. Yes. Large envelopes as well as padded mailing bags must be somewhat flexible (not rigid) and uniformly thick. Items mailed in large envelopes cannot have more than a 1/4 inch variance in thickness. Also, mailpieces must be rectangular with a maximum thickness (at the thickest point) of 3/4 inch. A mailpiece that exceeds any one of the maximum physical dimensions (15 inches x 12 inches x 3/4 inch thick) is classified and priced as a package (parcel). Q. Would items such as photos mailed in a large envelope with cardboard or “stiffeners” inserted to prevent bending be subject to package rates? A. Yes. For additional information, see DMM 101.2.3. Q. With dimensional-weight pricing for Priority Mail packages, is there still the balloon rate? A. Yes, but only for packages measuring larger than 84 inches combined length and girth traveling locally up to Zone 4 with the minimum rate being the 20–pound rate. Q. Are packages measured the same way for dimensional-weight pricing as for balloon-rate pricing? A. No. Dimensional-weight is based on cubic inches by measuring (in inches) and multiplying the length by the width by the height. If the result is greater than 1,728, divide it by 194 (the “dim factor”). The result is the dimensional-weight. The Smart Mat may be used to determine if a parcel is eligible for dimensional-weight pricing. Balloon-rate is determined by measuring the length and girth combined, and if the result is greater than 84 inches, balloon-rate pricing may apply. Q. Are complimentary Priority Mail boxes, including the flat-rate boxes, subject to dimensional-weight pricing or the balloon-rate? A. No. Complimentary Priority Mail containers available online or at Post Offices are not subject to dimensional-weight or balloon-rate pricing. Q. Is insurance included in the base price for Express Mail? A. Yes, merchandise insurance is provided against loss, damage, or rifling up to a maximum liability of $100. Additional insurance up to $5,000 may still be purchased for a fee, at the customer’s option. Note: The maximum amount of insurance available for purchase online is $500. The maximum amount of insurance available for purchase at the retail counter is $5,000. Online insurance cannot be combined with insurance purchased at the retail counter. Customers wishing to ensure items for more than $500 should purchase the whole insurance amount at the retail counter. Q. If a customer purchases additional insurance, can the “waiver of signature” option be selected? A. No. If a waiver of signature is requested, any additional insurance coverage is void. This information is printed on the Express Mail label. Q. Does dimensional-weight pricing apply to Express Mail shipments? A. No. Dimensional-weight pricing only applies to Priority Mail. Q. Can postage for Bound Printed Matter (BPM)–eligible items be purchased at the retail counter? A. Single-piece nonpresorted BPM is no longer offered as an option for mailing flats and parcels at the retail counter. However, we accept nonpresorted BPM pieces for mailing at the retail counter (as well as collection boxes and letter carriers, as appropriate) if the customer has pre-applied postage using adhesive stamps, meter strips, or PC Postage. We sell postage (stamps or PVI labels) for BPM items only when customers specifically request BPM. Q. Were there any changes to Media Mail eligibility? A. There were no significant changes to Media Mail. As a reminder, eligible contents are limited to books, sound recordings, recorded videotapes, and computer-readable media (not blank). Media Mail cannot contain advertising, except eligible books may contain incidental announcements of books. Rates are still unzoned and based on weight. Q. Where can electronic Return Receipt service be purchased? A. Return Receipt (electronic) service is available on eligible mailpieces at Post Offices that have integrated retail terminals (IRTs) and point of service (POS) terminals. It is not available at manual offices. Q. How are mailpieces with partial or full postage handled when a customer has requested an electronic Return Receipt? A. There is a process that must be followed in IRT/POS Post Offices. The standard operating procedures for this process can be found on the Retail Operations page at click on SOPs in the left navigation bar of the Web page. Q. Can gift cards be insured? A. Gift cards may be insured for their full value only when sent by Registered Mail service. Otherwise, gift cards sent by Express Mail service (which includes Express Mail insurance) or another class of mail with merchandise insurance are protected only up to the maximum indemnity for cash and negotiable items — $15. Customers should check the terms of their gift cards as many are replaceable by the issuer if they are lost or stolen. Q. What if a customer wishes to purchase domestic (or international) postage online and insure the item for more than $500? A. Insurance purchased online is limited to $500, whereas insurance purchased at any Post Office facility is available in amounts up to $5,000. Insurance purchased online cannot be combined with additional insurance purchased later at a Post Office. Customers may purchase postage online and bring the item to a Post Office to purchase insurance up to $5,000. Q. How can a customer determine if an insured item has been delivered? A. For any item insured for more than $200, customers can purchase a return receipt (hardcopy or electronic). A return receipt after mailing can be used if no return receipt was purchased at the time of mailing. For Priority Mail pieces, First-Class Mail parcels, and Package Service parcels, regardless of the insured value, customers can purchase Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation service at the time of mailing. Delivery information is available by inputting the Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation number (not the insured number) online at www.usps.com; click on Track and Confirm. Customers may also call 800-222-1811. Always encourage customers to save their insurance receipt in case they need to file a claim. Q. Are there any changes to the criteria for mailpieces eligible for Delivery Confirmation or Signature Confirmation service? A. No. Delivery Confirmation and Signature Confirmation services are available for all Priority Mail pieces, First-Class Mail packages, and Package Services packages (e.g., Parcel Post). First-Class Mail and Package Services items must be greater than 3/4 inch thick at their thickest point, unless the item is prepared in a strong and rigid fiberboard or similar container or in a container that becomes rigid after the contents are enclosed and the container is secured. The rigid package must be greater than 1/4 inch thick, and be able to maintain its shape, integrity, and rigidity throughout processing and handling. Customers cannot pay First-Class Mail package rates for items that are classified as letters or flats. Q. Are there any size (shape) standards for items sent with postal insurance? A. No. All mail shapes — letters, large envelopes, and packages containing insurable merchandise — may be insured and sent as Priority Mail, First-Class Mail, or Package Services items. Q. What is PAL or Parcel Airlift? A. PAL (parcel airlift service) provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis to or from military post offices (MPOs) outside the 48 contiguous states. It is available for Package Services mail that does not exceed 30 pounds or 60 inches in length and girth combined. Packages must be marked “PAL” on the address side, preferably below the postage and above the addressee’s name. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the Package Services postage. Q. What is SAM or space available mail? A. SAM (space available mail) provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis to or from military post offices (MPOs) outside the 48 contiguous states. It is available for Package Services mail that does not exceed 15 pounds or 60 inches in length and girth combined. Packages must be marked “SAM” on the address side, preferably below the postage and above the addressee’s name. There is no additional fee for SAM. Q. Are Priority Mail parcels using a Business Reply Mail label or Merchandise Return Service label subject to balloon-rate or dimensional-weight pricing? A. Yes, parcels greater than 84 inches in combined length and girth returned from within Zones 1–4 are subject to balloon-rate pricing. Parcels greater than 1 cubic foot capacity and returned from Zone 5 or beyond are subject to Priority Mail dimensional-weight pricing. Q. Can the Forever Stamp be used on international mail? A. Yes, however, since international postage rates are always higher, additional postage would have to be affixed. Any nondenominated stamps (except for those that bear unique markings, such as First-Class Presort, Nonprofit Org.) may be affixed to items that are sent to foreign destinations. The postage value of such stamps is linked to its appropriate domestic rate (e.g., the Breast Cancer Research semipostal stamp and the American Flag stamp have a postage value of $0.41). Q. Why were changes made to the structure of international mail? A. The international mail product line was restructured to better meet customer needs. Over time, customers had expressed the desire for clear and concise product options to choose from. They wanted to have the same quick, easy, and convenient shipping options that are available domestically. Also, customers had stated a preference for using the same Postal Service–provided packaging for both domestic and international shipments, free Carrier Pickup service, and better tracking and package visibility — all at the Postal Service’s competitive prices. Q. What are some of the major changes that were made to international mail? A. The changes include a simplification and rebranding of all international products. Eight international products with overlapping prices and service standards were combined into four: Global Express Guaranteed (GXG), Express Mail International, Priority Mail International, and First-Class Mail International. Q. What international products are no longer offered? A. Economy (surface) products including economy parcel post; economy letter post; publishers’ periodicals, books, and sheet music; and economy M-bags are no longer offered. In place of these services we now offer comparable air product alternatives. In addition, aerogrammes and recorded delivery service were eliminated. First-Class Mail International letters and cards are alternatives to aerogrammes, and Registered Mail is an alternative for recorded delivery. Q. What are some of the benefits that the new international services offer? A. Customers have the convenience of using domestic shipping supplies, including “flat-rate” options, as well as increased visibility and more specific delivery times to major destinations. Additionally, online shippers qualify for postage discounts of up to 10 percent for GXG, Express Mail International, and Priority Mail International when paying postage online at www.usps.com or through authorized PC Postage vendors. Q. Can Express Mail and Priority Mail “prepaid” Flat-Rate Envelopes be used for international mail? A. Yes. However, since international rates are always higher than the postage value, additional postage as well as appropriate customs forms would have to be affixed. Express Mail and Priority Mail prepaid envelopes are only available for purchase online at . Q. Which of the four new international products offer insurance and tracking? A. GXG and Express Mail International include insurance up to $100 for loss, damage, rifling, or document reconstruction. Priority Mail International also includes limited insurance coverage. Additional merchandise insurance is available at the mailer’s option. Tracking is included in the price of these products. Insurance is not available for items mailed in a Priority Mail Flat-Rate Envelope. Q. Where is the tracking number located? A. The tracking number is located immediately below the barcode on either the mailing label or customs form, as appropriate: Q. How is delivery information accessed? A. Customers can go to “Track & Confirm” on www.usps.com or call 800-222-1811. Q. Does the Postal Service provide free packaging for international services? A. Yes. We continue to provide GXG packaging. Customers using Express Mail International or Priority Mail International can use the same packaging they use for domestic shipping including flat-rate envelopes and Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes. Shipping supplies can be ordered online at www.usps.com/shippingsupplies or by calling 800-610-8734. Q. Must customers declare the specific contents and value on customs forms? A. Yes. The package contents description is required on shipments going to foreign countries and is subject to the restrictions and prohibitions of that country. If the item is not properly described, it might be rejected by Customs before entering the country and is at risk of not being delivered. Q. Is the sender required to state the value of an international shipment sent as a gift on the customs form? A. Yes. Shipments may be subject to duties and taxes based on contents and their value. Because each country has regulations about what it will allow into the country, everything that enters that country and its value must be identified. Q. Which international products can be sent with Registered Mail service? A. Registered Mail service (without insurance) is available for purchase for all First-Class Mail International items and for the Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelope. Limited indemnity of $43.73 is included against loss, damage, and rifling. See the IMM for individual country restrictions. Q. Other than new pricing, were there any other changes to IPA and ISAL service? A. Yes, a separate rate group was established for Australia, and an IPA M-bag option is now available. Q. What mailing options are there for books, sheet music, and publishers’ periodicals that used to be sent as surface mail? A. Mailing options include International Priority Airmail (IPA), M-bag, and International Surface Air Lift (ISAL) service. “Single-piece” mailing options are First-Class Mail International and Priority Mail International service. Q. Is pricing for First-Class Mail International items based on shape like it is for domestic mail? A. No. Shape-based pricing does not apply to First-Class Mail international. Q. Can domestic stamped envelopes be used for international mail? A. Yes, but since international postage rates are always higher than the domestic postage value, additional postage would need to be affixed. Q. Are prices for international postcards still available? A. Yes, postcards are part of First-Class Mail International service. The price for eligible cards is $0.69 to Canada and Mexico and $0.90 to all other countries (exception: postcards to the Marshall Islands and Micronesia are $0.52). Remember, for postcard rates, cards can be no larger than 4-1/4 by 6 inches. Q. Can aerogrammes still be mailed? A. Aerogrammes may be mailed as First-Class Mail International items; however, additional postage must be affixed. Q. Is there a nonmachinable surcharge for letters? A. Yes, the nonmachinable surcharge for First-Class Mail International letters weighing 1 ounce or less is $0.17. As always, 1-ounce letters that do not meet aspect ratio or that have any nonmachinable characteristics are subject to the nonmachinable surcharge. Q. What level of tracking is available with Priority Mail International? A. Tracking is available to major destinations in Canada, Europe, and Asia for variable-weight packages and flat-rate boxes only. Tracking is not available for the Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelope at this time. Q. Is insurance available with Priority Mail International? A. Priority Mail International packages include limited indemnity coverage against loss, damage, or rifling. Limited indemnity coverage, however, does not include coins; banknotes; currency notes (including paper money); securities of any kind payable to the bearer; traveler’s checks; platinum, gold, and silver; precious stones; jewelry, watches and other valuable articles. Additional merchandise insurance is available at the mailer’s option. The Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelope may not be insured. Q. Is it true that Priority Mail Flat-Rate Boxes and Priority Mail Flat-Rate Envelops are now available for international use? A. Yes. The flat-rate box has a 20-pound weight limit for allowable contents, and the flat-rate envelope has a 4-pound weight limit. Note: Use former domestic packaging until supplies are depleted. Although the packaging says “For Domestic Use Only,” it can be used for both domestic and international shipments. Q. How does a Priority Mail International label generated and paid for online through Click-N-Ship service or another authorized PC Postage vendor receive a round-date stamp? A. A Priority Mail International label that is prepared and paid for online will contain a preprinted round-date stamp when it is printed. Q. When do Priority Mail International labels generated and paid for online receive scans? A. In most cases, packages receive a scan at the International Service Center (ISC) upon leaving the country and then a delivery scan in major destinations in Canada, Europe, and Asia. Q. Does balloon-rate and dimensional-weight pricing apply to Priority Mail International packages? A. No. Neither applies to Priority Mail International. Q. What extra services are available with the Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelope? A. Registered Mail service is available with the Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelope only. A certificate of mailing, which only provides evidence of mailing, is available for all Priority Mail International shipments. Q. Were there any significant changes to extra services? A. Except for the elimination of recorded delivery service, all other extra services remain unchanged. The IMM Country Listings should be referenced for country-specific availability of extra services. Q. How is an insurance inquiry initiated for international mail items? A. An inquiry must be initiated before a claim can be filed. For GXG, Express Mail International, and Priority Mail International service, customers must call 800-222-1811 to initiate an inquiry. Upon determination that a claim can be filed, we provide the customer with a claim packet containing detailed instructions. Q. What should a customer do upon receipt of a damaged package? A. If a customer receives an article from a foreign country in damaged condition, or with some or all contents missing, the customer needs to take the mailing container, wrapping, packaging, and any other contents to any Post Office for inspection. The postmaster will verify damage and give the customer a PS Form 2855, Claim for Indemnity — International Registered Mail, Insured, Ordinary Parcel and Express Mail, to complete. The postmaster then completes PS Form 2856, Damage Report of Insured Parcel and Contents, to go with PS Form 2855. Note that for Registered Mail service, regardless of the declared value, the maximum amount of indemnity payable for loss, damage, or rifling is $43.73. Q. Do the discounts for paying international postage online through Click-N-Ship or an authorized postage vendor apply to any extra services purchased online? A. No. The discounts apply only to the postage amount. Q. What if a customer wishes to purchase international (or domestic) postage online and insure the item for more than $500? A. Insurance purchased online is limited to $500, whereas insurance purchased at any Post Office is available in amounts up to $5,000 (as limited by the individual country, content, or value). Insurance purchased online cannot be combined with additional insurance purchased later at a Post Office facility. Customers who wish to insure items for more than $500 must come into the Post Office. In this case, a customer may pay the postage amount online and then bring the item into the Post Office to purchase insurance. ANNOUNCEMENT : ALL OF ROYAL MAIL'S EMPLOYMENT POLICIES (AGREEMENTS) AT A GLANCE (Updated 2021)... HERE ANNOUNCEMENT : PLEASE BE AWARE WE ARE NOT ON FACEBOOK AT ALL! Making Up Stamp Value (1st, 2nd etc) For help with tracking please see...HERE For information about your item being in HWDC Langley please see...HERE For information about any other mail or if you have a complaint or general query, we first suggest you contact Royal Mail, see the link HERE. This is an open forum. Forum rules For help with tracking please see...HERE For information about your item being in HWDC Langley please see...HERE For information about any other mail or if you have a complaint or general query, we first suggest you contact Royal Mail, see the link HERE. Implications on mail after the UK's exit from the EU From 1st January the rules for sending and receiving items to and from the EU will change.For more details please see... HERE shysheep Posts: 1 Joined: 23 Jul 2012, 16:00 Gender: Female Post by shysheep » 23 Jul 2012, 16:07 Are there any rules I should stick to for making up postage on packets? I have just used 2 x 1st class stamps plus 20p to send something 2nd class (i.e. £1.40 LL rate). Do I need to write "2nd class" on it, or should I avoid using 1st class stamps on a 2nd class item? Also, can I use 1st and 2nd class stamps (to make up the correct value) for sending post overseas? I haven't found the answer to this elsewhere so sorry if I am repeating it! Thanks. Patrick Clifton Posts: 430 Joined: 16 May 2010, 12:37 Gender: Male Location: Greendale Contact: Contact Patrick Clifton Post by Patrick Clifton » 23 Jul 2012, 17:07 shysheep wrote:Are there any rules I should stick to for making up postage on packets? I have just used 2 x 1st class stamps plus 20p to send something 2nd class (i.e. £1.40 LL rate). Do I need to write "2nd class" on it, or should I avoid using 1st class stamps on a 2nd class item? Also, can I use 1st and 2nd class stamps (to make up the correct value) for sending post overseas? I haven't found the answer to this elsewhere so sorry if I am repeating it! Thanks. It often happens nowadays. Would be helpful if you wrote on 1st/2nd class. ... 5937176736 FairyFoot Posts: 78 Joined: 08 Jun 2012, 12:38 Gender: Female Post by FairyFoot » 24 Jul 2012, 13:28 I send a lot of post to overseas (mainly postcards and letters, but occasionally a packet) and do use 1st class stamps plus (OK, there isn't that much room on a postcard often for the nice 1st, plus 20 plus 5 plus 2) - the stamps do cheer the recipient up. I have received comments from one sub-postmaster that I shouldn't do this as the foreign post companies won't know the value of postage - I thought as long as RM are happy with the value of stamps put on to hand off to wherever airmail mail goes.... If insufficient postage for airmail was applied, then RM could send it on via a slower route - one such case came to light on Postcrossing in a thread at ... 406&page=3" onclick="window.open(this.href);return false; with a message about the postcard below which was sent to Germany with only a 1st class stamp as postage I am a Postcrosser, and penpaller. I send nice post. Patrick Clifton Posts: 430 Joined: 16 May 2010, 12:37 Gender: Male Location: Greendale Contact: Contact Patrick Clifton Post by Patrick Clifton » 24 Jul 2012, 19:44 FairyFoot wrote:I send a lot of post to overseas (mainly postcards and letters, but occasionally a packet) and do use 1st class stamps plus (OK, there isn't that much room on a postcard often for the nice 1st, plus 20 plus 5 plus 2) - the stamps do cheer the recipient up. I have received comments from one sub-postmaster that I shouldn't do this as the foreign post companies won't know the value of postage - I thought as long as RM are happy with the value of stamps put on to hand off to wherever airmail mail goes.... If insufficient postage for airmail was applied, then RM could send it on via a slower route - one such case came to light on Postcrossing in a thread at ... 406&page=3" onclick="window.open(this.href);return false; with a message about the postcard below which was sent to Germany with only a 1st class stamp as postage Or it will be sent back to sender if there is a return address present, asking for the correct postage ... 5937176736 FairyFoot Posts: 78 Joined: 08 Jun 2012, 12:38 Gender: Female Post by FairyFoot » 25 Jul 2012, 12:11 Are those labels applied by hand?! There were a few comments about the positioning of the label! That postcard took 19 days to reach the recipient in Germany. I am a Postcrosser, and penpaller. I send nice post. PhilthyPhil Posts: 1155 Joined: 23 Nov 2007, 19:15 Post by PhilthyPhil » 25 Jul 2012, 12:50 Yes they would be applied by hand although I doubt the person applying paid any attention to where they were sticking it. 19 days is about right for surface mail to Europe, which is the only 'alternative service' they could have used, even though there are not normally any surface mail letters to Europe. Users browsing this forum: ChatGPT and 9 guests For the Posties by the Posties with no recognition or support from Royal Mail or The CWU|May contain nuts ANNOUNCEMENT : ALL OF ROYAL MAIL'S EMPLOYMENT POLICIES (AGREEMENTS) AT A GLANCE (Updated 2021)... HERE ANNOUNCEMENT : PLEASE BE AWARE WE ARE NOT ON FACEBOOK AT ALL! Combining Stamps For help with tracking please see...HERE For information about your item being in HWDC Langley please see...HERE For information about any other mail or if you have a complaint or general query, we first suggest you contact Royal Mail, see the link HERE. This is an open forum. Forum rules For help with tracking please see...HERE For information about your item being in HWDC Langley please see...HERE For information about any other mail or if you have a complaint or general query, we first suggest you contact Royal Mail, see the link HERE. Implications on mail after the UK's exit from the EU From 1st January the rules for sending and receiving items to and from the EU will change.For more details please see... HERE vixann Posts: 1 Joined: 20 Aug 2018, 13:31 Gender: Female Post by vixann » 20 Aug 2018, 13:39 Good afternoon all, I need to post a large letter so I was going to put 2 1st class stamps on it (just some paperwork so under 100g) but the woman who does post at work said I can't as a 1st class large letter is £1.01 and 2 1st class would be £1.34. She said it has to be the exact amount. I didn't think it would matter if I overpaid. Could anybody please confirm? Many Thanks Vicki swindonandy Posts: 126 Joined: 26 Feb 2010, 16:26 Gender: Male Post by swindonandy » 20 Aug 2018, 13:40 vixann wrote:Good afternoon all, I need to post a large letter so I was going to put 2 1st class stamps on it (just some paperwork so under 100g) but the woman who does post at work said I can't as a 1st class large letter is £1.01 and 2 1st class would be £1.34. She said it has to be the exact amount. I didn't think it would matter if I overpaid. Could anybody please confirm? Many Thanks Vicki Stamped mail you can put any value equal to or above the price bracket. The woman is wrong. TrueBlueTerrier FORUM ADMINISTRATOR Posts: 71044 Joined: 30 Dec 2006, 10:29 Gender: Male Location: On my couch Post by TrueBlueTerrier » 20 Aug 2018, 13:44 As long as you don't underpay you can combine stamps. Even old 1st class stamps as long as they don't have a value printed on them can be used, they will be treated as paying this year's 1st class price. onclick="window.open(this.href);return false; Do stamps have an expiry date? Stamps without a specified monetary value are described as Non Value Indicator (NVI) and are typically First and Second Class stamps. These do not have an expiry date, therefore can be used regardless of the length of time you've had them. Stamps with a monetary value also do not have an expiry date and can be combined to make up the value of postage required. All post by me in Green are Admin Posts.May use chatgp to generate posts Any post in any other colour is my own responsibility. If you like a news story I posted please click the link to show support Any news stories you can't post - PM me with a link Retired supertouring Posts: 30 Joined: 07 Aug 2018, 21:47 Gender: Male Post by supertouring » 21 Aug 2018, 07:24 I do this all the time without problems, I use a combination of 2nd Large, 2nd and the odd 10p to make up the correct amount (or just over) as most of my items go out as Large Letter size but various weight bands. JimJimini Posts: 2 Joined: 08 Jul 2023, 16:12 Gender: Male Post by JimJimini » 08 Jul 2023, 16:29 Sorry to bump an old thread, but I've just found out something relevant to combining stamps that others may not be aware of. RM treat the intended postage as that indicated by the stamp (i.e. 1st or 2nd class) NOT the total value of the stamps applied. A real world example of this: if you post a large letter up to 100g (second class rate = £1.15 at todays rates) using a 1st class stamp (value = £1.10 at todays rates) and a 5p stamp such that the total postage paid is £1.15, you might expect it to be sent 2nd class. Unfortunately not - RM will treat the intended postage as 1st class (which would cost £1.60 at todays rates) and therefore consider the postage applied as underpaid and charge a fee. RM customer services advise "When using 1st Class stamps this indicates the 1st Class pricing and service, I appreciate the £1.15 would cover 2nd Class however the service is not downgraded to the value of the stamps." I personally couldn't find this explained on the RM website anywhere, so thought it worth adding to this forum for information. simmo11 Posts: 178 Joined: 23 Nov 2011, 22:13 Gender: Male Post by simmo11 » 08 Jul 2023, 22:03 Where were you told this? Royal Mail staff on here can confirm but this is quite simply incorrect and needs challenging. simmo11 Posts: 178 Joined: 23 Nov 2011, 22:13 Gender: Male Post by simmo11 » 08 Jul 2023, 22:07 Stamps are basically Royal Mail money and have an inherent value. If what you have been told was true then the many people - myself included - who use multiple first class stamps to send items abroad (2 X First at current rates = 2 X 1.10 = 2.20 = 100g letter worldwide rate) would encounter issues with this service. I send multiple items to multiple countries worldwide each month without any problems. Belgium Posts: 74 Joined: 21 Jan 2022, 14:40 Gender: Male Post by Belgium » 11 Jul 2023, 10:36 Absolute rubbish, you can use any combination of stamps of any value, as long as the postage paid is equivalent to the service required (overpayment is certainly ok) revenue protection would never surcharge a correctly or overpaid item regardless of class JimJimini Posts: 2 Joined: 08 Jul 2023, 16:12 Gender: Male Post by JimJimini » 17 Jul 2023, 12:22 @simmo11 I was told this in answer to a query I sent RM regarding the real world example I described in my earlier post (for which I received a "fee to pay" card before RM would deliver it to me as the recipient). The quote is exactly what RM told me. Enquiry reference #230704-007995 @Belgium Why do you say "absolute rubbish" (assuming your reply was to my post) - please point me to something on the RM website (or elsewhere) that contradicts what I've been told? I've been charged a fee and have the explanation in writing from RM customer services so would love to find something in their T&C's or policies to counter their reasoning. I have of course gone back to them to ask where on their website it explains this little 'rule', will post back if I get a response. EDITED with update: Just received a response to a new enquiry reference #230708-004268 where I specifically asked the following: "To send a Large letter, less than 100g, as Second Class costs £1.15. Is it acceptable to combine an ordinary first class stamp (worth £1.10) with a 5p stamp (total postage paid is therefore £1.10 + £0.05 = £1.15) to send it? If the above is not acceptable, please can you point me to where on the RM website it explicitly states customers cannot combine postage stamps in this manner?" RM say: ""Make up" value stamps are an acceptable form of postage. However, if the postage applied is a Royal Mail 1st Class stamp plus a 5p make up stamp the service requested will be 1st Class, not 2nd Class." They didn't answer the bit about where it says this in their terms, which I still can't find anywhere - all I got was the link to their stamp prices. So what RM are saying is, if you use a first class stamp as part of the postage value you need to make it up to the appropriate first class service you want - you cannot use it to pay for a second class service. Frank Toobie Posts: 1 Joined: 27 Jul 2023, 15:28 Gender: Male Post by Frank Toobie » 27 Jul 2023, 15:50 Glad I found this thread, was wondering how I could mix`n`match some old stamps I have kicking around, before end of this month. Ta muchly folks sholland Posts: 61 Joined: 13 Jul 2012, 12:27 Gender: Male Post by sholland » 20 Sep 2023, 11:04 Was about to ask a question about the new increased rates of stamps and buying some before the increase, but to use after 2 October. In view of this thread information, I can buy before then a quantity of second class large letter 100g at current £1.15, they will be worth £1.55 each (35% more!) if used towards the cost of a £3.49 small parcel 2kg, meaning I just add 39p additional stamps. This referring to my posting after 2 October. This being in addition to saving me money if used for just a 100g large letter after that date. I probably send more small parcels second class than I do large letters. BTW, when using up a load of old non barcode stamps before end of July, I had no problems using maybe 50 or so first class letter stamps towards second class parcels. Rob drspa44 Posts: 3 Joined: 26 Jan 2024, 01:26 Gender: Male Post by drspa44 » 07 Sep 2024, 17:29 Apologies for resurrecting this thread again, but the situation has become more complex following the Oct 7th 2024 price rise announcement. Now a 1st class stamp is £1.65, whilst 2nd class large letter remains £1.55. Question: If I slap a standard 1st class stamp on a 100g large letter, will it A) get delivered at the speed of 2nd class or will it B) get surcharged with an 'Item underpaid' sticker despite having sufficient postage for 2nd class. @JimJimini's RM interaction concerns me as it seems to never have been clarified officially. However, I send inexpensive ebay items all around the UK. 100s of parcels over many years, all sent with a 1st class stamp plus a combination of commemorative stamps from Philatelink, e.g. £1.55 = £1.35 (1st) + 9p + 11p. This is sufficient postage for a 2nd class large letter. I usually write something like '£1.55 2nd LL' underneath. I have never received a complaint from a customer about a surcharge. In fact, items with combinations of stamps appear to be treated as 1st class regardless. This holds true if I only use make-up values, like 40p + 20p + 12.5p + 12.5p = 85p for a letter. UKCC Posts: 4 Joined: 10 Sep 2024, 11:11 Gender: Male Post by UKCC » 10 Sep 2024, 11:41 I too like @drspa44 have been using 1st class stamps plus definitive value stamps to make up the postage for sending 2nd class large letter and 2nd class small parcels (2 x 1st, 1 x 2nd + 14p) Ive even used NVI E stamps which were for sending letters up to 20g to Europe and worth £2.50 as make up values and the items got there without issue. I started using stamps for postage around 4 years ago and send around 2500 items a year. So thats equates to approximately 10000 items ive sent so far using this method, and never had a single recipient report a surcharge in all that time. So I really don't think its Royal Mail policy to only accept 1st class stamps on 1st class mail, unless ive been extremely lucky with the last 10000 items ive sent in not a single one getting flagged up by RM revenue protection. As of the 7th Oct i do plan on just putting a single 1st class on my 2nd large letter