

5.8.3 failure to comply with these conditions could result in prosecution resulting in a fine or imprisonment

5.8.4 failure to comply with these conditions could affect your ability to claim compensation

5.8.5 if you post an item that contains a restricted item (and you do not comply with the relevant restrictions or requirements) we may deal with such item in our sole and absolute discretion (without incurring any liability whatsoever to you or the addressee) including disposing of the relevant item (in whole or in part)

5.8.6 the sender, or their representative, may be required to pay an amount (to be fixed by us) to cover the costs of returning, dealing with or disposing of the item

5.8.7 the sender is responsible for checking whether an item is restricted.

5.8.8 we reserve the right to refuse any other item banned by law or that in our opinion may be harmful or dangerous to our customers or employees

5.8.9 any article or substance classified as dangerous goods is prohibited (other than specified in Restricted items above)

6. Size & weight limits and how to package an item

6.1 In addition to the specific packaging and other requirements that relate to restricted items there are some general rules set out below that must be followed for all items as to weight, size, thickness and packaging.

6.2 Items sent using the First Class, Second Class, Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class or Royal Mail Signed for 2nd Class services may weigh up to 20 kilograms. Special Delivery can be used for items which weigh up to 10 kilograms or up to 20 kilograms where Special Delivery services are purchased at a Post Office® branch.

6.3 The maximum size of an item must not exceed 610mm in length by 460mm in width by 460mm in depth. For a cylinder shaped item the length plus twice the diameter may not exceed 1040mm with the greatest dimension being no more than 900mm. The maximum size for each format of item is set out in section 9.1 below.

6.4 The minimum thickness for an item is 0.25mm. We may refuse to accept or to deliver an item that is less than 0.25mm thick.

6.5 All items must be packaged such that, in our opinion, the item will not be likely to cause damage or harm to other items, equipment or individuals (including any recipient).

6.6 The **cover** and the protective material of the item must be appropriate to the contents such that we can convey it to its destination undamaged without having to take precautions over and above those normally taken by us with an item of mail. Packaging guidelines are available on our website (www.royalmail.com) and in booklets held by Post Office® branches.

6.7 With the exception of items that are sent using the Articles for the Blind service (which are discussed in more detail section 22) all items must be securely sealed or fastened.

6.8 In addition to the requirement to provide sufficient protection both for the item itself and so as not to be likely to cause damage or harm to other items, equipment or individuals as set out in sections 6.5 and 6.6, any item that contains anything breakable must be clearly and legibly marked with the words 'FRAGILE – HANDLE WITH CARE' in capital letters above the address.

6.9 In addition to the requirement to provide sufficient protection for the contents as set out in sections 6.5 and 6.6 any item that has contents that may be damaged by bending must be clearly and legibly marked with the words 'DO NOT BEND' in capital letters above the address.

6.10 In the same way that the list of restricted items can change from time to time so too can our packaging requirements for certain new or existing restricted items. You can review the full, up-to-date list of restricted items and associated packaging requirements on our website (www.royalmail.com).

6.11 The latest packaging guidelines which apply to all items can also be found on our website (www.royalmail.com).

7. How to address an item

7.1 Each item must be fully and correctly addressed. All the elements of the address (including the full postcode) must be written clearly and legibly on the front or on a label securely attached to the front of the cover (or otherwise in a manner such that the address is clearly visible in its entirety as if it had been written on the front of the cover) of the item.

7.2 You must ensure that addresses take the following format when added to an item. Please do not use commas or full stops and note that only the TOWN and POSTCODE should be in CAPITAL LETTERS. You don't need to include the county name. The postcode must be on a line of its own. The text that makes up the address should be aligned to the left as it is in the example below. It should not be staggered or centred.

Example Name

House name or number and road name

Locality Name if one exists

TOWN

POST CODE

The text set out in the example above and taken as a whole is known as the address block. The address block should appear in the centre of the front face of the item.

7.3 Postcodes are allocated by us at our discretion throughout the United Kingdom in accordance with the operational needs of our network. The postcodes are routing codes and we may amend them at our discretion from time to time. Where we do make changes we will ensure that all residents of the affected addresses are given sufficient notice and, in certain cases, as detailed in the PAF® File Code of Practice, we will follow a formal notification and consultation process before confirming changes.

7.4 The address must not be obscured or made difficult to read in any way including by the manner in which the contents are enclosed in the item.

7.5 Putting a correct address in the correct format in the correct location on an item helps our sorting machines process the mail as quickly as possible. More information is available on our website (www.royalmail.com).

7.6 We recommend that you put a full and accurate return address on your item (in a position where it can't be confused with the destination address and preferably on the back) so that we are able to return the item to you, intact, should we need to. More information regarding Return to Sender can be found in section 15.

8. How to pay for postage and other services

8.1 Of the services contained within this Scheme the following are provided (as long as specific requirements are met) free of charge:

- Articles for the Blind,
- Petitions and Addresses to the Sovereign,
- Petitions to Parliament & Assemblies and
- Poste Restante.

The specific requirements for these services are set out in sections 22 to 26 below of this Scheme.

8.2 The other services that are contained in this Scheme require payment for **postage**. These services are:

- First Class,
- Second Class,
- Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class,
- Royal Mail Signed For 2nd Class and
- Special Delivery.

The specific requirements for First Class, Second Class with delivery confirmation, Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class, Royal Mail Signed For 2nd Class and Special Delivery are set out below in sections 19 to 21 of this Scheme.

8.2.1 The services listed above in 8.2 can be paid for by applying postage stamps, **postage labels** (which can be generated by our on-line postage applications or by Post Office® branches) or by use of a franking machine³.

8.2.2 First Class, Second Class, Royal Mail Signed For 1st Class, and Royal Mail Signed For 2nd Class services can also be purchased using a credit account.

8.3 Stamps can be purchased from us online from our website (www.royalmail.com), from Post Office® branches or from a wide variety of other high street retailers. When postage is purchased from a Post Office® branch it often takes the form of a postage label if it is for anything but the first weight band. Similar postage labels are also available from our online postage tool and through our computer applications (e.g. **SmartStamp**®) which you may subscribe to or sign up for.