

***** SPECIAL EDITION *****

Just in Time for the Holidays, U.S. Postal Service to Begin Global Shipping of Packages with Lithium Batteries

International, APO, FPO and DPO Locations Included



WASHINGTON — Effective Nov. 15, Post Offices will begin accepting packages containing lithium batteries installed in electronic devices bound for many international destinations, and Army (APO), Fleet (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) locations.

“The Postal Service is pleased to be back in the business of shipping gifts containing lithium batteries internationally and to our service members overseas,” said Giselle Valera, vice president, Global Business. “Postal employees are gearing up for a busy holiday season, and we’re ready to help customers send care packages to loved ones around the world.”

Easy, convenient, multi-lingual and always at the fingertips, usps.com has a complete suite of tools to help with shipping gifts containing lithium batteries:

[APO/FPO/DPO Mailing Guidelines: www.usps.com/send/apo.htm?](http://www.usps.com/send/apo.htm?)

[Preparing International Mail Shipments: www.usps.com/send/prepare-international-shipments.htm](http://www.usps.com/send/prepare-international-shipments.htm)

[Free Shipping Supplies: www.prioritymail.com/freesupplies.asp](http://www.prioritymail.com/freesupplies.asp)

[Create Package Labels: cns.usps.com/go](http://cns.usps.com/go)

[Fill Out Customs Forms Online: usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm](http://usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm)

[Pay For Postage Online with Click-N-Ship: reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action](http://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action)

[Request Free Package Pickup: tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action](http://tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action)

[International Holiday Shipping/Mailing Dates: www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm](http://www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm)

“The Postal Service is always working to make package shipping more and more convenient,” said Valera. “Customers can visit the Post Office that’s always open, 24/7, usps.com, to ship holiday care packages without ever having to leave the comfort of home or office.”



***** SPECIAL EDITION *******INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF LITHIUM BATTERIES
CUSTOMER FACT SHEET**

Effective **Nov. 15, 2012**, Postal Service policies will be changed to allow specific quantities of lithium batteries — **when installed in the equipment they are intended to operate** — to be sent to many international destinations, including APO (Army Post Office), FPO (Fleet Post Office) and DPO (Diplomatic Post Office) locations when permitted by the destination or host country.

Items which can be shipped may include: cameras, video cameras, mobile/smart phones, Bluetooth headsets, laptop computers, shavers, portable DVD players, tablets, two-way radios, GPS devices and most other small electronic devices requiring lithium batteries to operate.

Items which cannot be shipped include any lithium batteries not installed in the equipment they are intended to operate. In addition, when installed, they may not exceed the quantity or limits defined in the *IMM* or *DMM*.

Domestic shipments of packages containing lithium batteries, and electronic devices containing lithium batteries currently remain unchanged.

Post Office employees are being instructed on package acceptance and customs label declaration procedures.

The Postal Service is working to make package shipping more and more convenient at the Post Office that's always open, 24/7, usps.com to ship holiday care packages without ever having to leave the comfort of home or office.

The Postal Service appreciates our customers' valuable business, and thanks them for their patience and flexibility during the transition to allow the re-instatement of lithium battery shipments.

The Postal Service has worked collaboratively with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Universal Postal Union and the Federal Aviation Authority to secure the changes needed to allow international mail shipments containing lithium batteries to begin.

This change presents an enhancement and convenience for our customers. We are pleased that customers maintain their confidence in the Postal Service and we look forward to continuing to be a shipper of choice for international and APO, FPO, DPO shipments containing lithium batteries.

Customers can find information at the International Service Updates page: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/international-updates.htm#H4> The *Federal Register* final rule, and *IMM*, *DMM* and *Publication 52* revisions, will be available at pe.usps.com.

Additionally, usps.com has a suite of tools to help with shipping packages containing lithium batteries:

- APO/FPO/DPO Mailing Guidelines: www.usps.com/send/apo.htm?
- Preparing International Mail Shipments: www.usps.com/send/prepare-international-shipments.htm
- Free Shipping Supplies: www.prioritymail.com/freesupplies.asp
- Create Package Labels: cns.usps.com/go
- Fill Out Customs Forms Online: usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm
- Pay For Postage Online with Click-N-Ship: reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action
- Request Free Package Pickup: tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action
- International Holiday Shipping/Mailing Dates: www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm

Nov. 2012



***** SPECIAL EDITION *******INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF LITHIUM BATTERIES
Overview / Key Messages & Talking Points / FAQs****OVERVIEW**

Based on the requirements of international organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), as of May 16, 2012, the Postal Service was unable to accept international mail shipments containing lithium batteries.

On May 16, 2012, the Postal Service updated international standards prohibiting lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries in postal shipments sent on commercial airlines to many international destinations, including APO (Army Post Office), FPO (Fleet Post Office) and DPO (Diplomatic Post Office) locations.

The update was posted in the *International Mail Manual (IMM)* part 136, *Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)* section 601.10.20, and various sections to *Publication 52, Hazardous, Restricted and Perishable Mail*, as published in the Postal Bulletin on May 3, 2012 (22336).

Postal Service policies will be changed on Nov. 15, 2012 to allow specified quantities of lithium batteries — when installed in the equipment they are intended to operate — to be sent to many international destinations, including APO, FPO and DPO locations.

The *IMM*, *DMM* and *Publication 52* will be revised to reflect these changes.

KEY MESSAGES

Effective **Nov. 15, 2012**, the U.S. Postal Service will begin accepting packages containing lithium batteries installed in electronic devices bound for many international destinations, and Army (APO), Fleet (FPO) and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) locations.

This policy revises the Postal Service's directive from last May, which prohibited transporting lithium batteries in packages to international destinations, and APO, FPO and DPO locations. The agency worked diligently to implement changes necessary to secure organizational approvals and certification to resume shipping international lithium battery packages.

The Postal Service is pleased to be back in the business of shipping gifts containing lithium batteries internationally and to our service members overseas. Postal employees are gearing up for a busy holiday season, and we're ready to help customers send care packages to loved ones abroad.

The Postal Service is always working to make package shipping more and more convenient. Customers can visit the Post Office that's always open, 24/7, usps.com, to ship holiday care packages without ever having to leave the comfort of home or office.

TALKING POINTS

- 1 Effective **Nov. 15, 2012**, Postal Service policies will be changed to allow specific quantities of lithium batteries — **when installed in the equipment they are intended to operate** — to be sent to many international destinations, including APO (Army Post Office), FPO (Fleet Post Office) and DPO (Diplomatic Post Office) locations when permitted by the destination or host country.



2. Items which can be shipped may include: cameras, video cameras, mobile/smart phones, Bluetooth headsets, laptop computers, shavers, portable DVD players, tablets, two-way radios, GPS devices and most other small electronic devices requiring lithium batteries to operate.
3. Items which cannot be shipped include any lithium batteries not installed in the equipment they are intended to operate. In addition, when installed, they may not exceed the quantity or limits defined in the *IMM* or *DMM*.
4. Domestic shipments of packages containing lithium batteries, and electronic devices containing lithium batteries currently remain unchanged.
5. Post Office employees are being instructed on package acceptance and customs label declaration procedures.
6. The Global Business website, http://blue.usps.gov/globalbusiness/intl_ship.htm and the International Service Updates page: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/international-updates.htm#H4> will have information for employees and customers about the mailing preparation and acceptance process for lithium batteries.
7. The Postal Service is working to make package shipping more convenient at the Post Office that's always open, 24/7, usps.com to ship holiday care packages without ever having to leave the comfort of home or office.
8. The Postal Service appreciates our customers' valuable business, and thanks them for their patience and flexibility during the transition to allow the re-instatement of lithium battery shipments.
9. The Postal Service has worked collaboratively with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Universal Postal Union and the Federal Aviation Authority to secure the changes needed to allow acceptance of international mail shipments containing lithium batteries.
10. This change presents an enhancement and convenience for our customers. We are pleased that customers maintain their confidence in the Postal Service and we look forward to continuing to be a shipper of choice for international and APO, FPO, DPO shipments containing lithium batteries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **When will I be able to send packages with lithium batteries to service members with APO/FPO/DPO addresses?** Customers will be able to send packages containing specified limits of lithium batteries installed in electronic devices bound for many international destinations, and APO, FPO, DPO locations starting **Nov. 15, 2012**.
2. **What kind of electronic devices contain lithium batteries?** Examples of common electronic devices containing lithium batteries include: cameras, video cameras, mobile/smart phones, Bluetooth headsets, laptop computers, shavers, portable DVD players, tablets, two-way radios, GPS devices.
3. **What was the prohibition about?** Rules of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stipulate that postal operators must be certified by their civil aviation authorities, before international commercial air transportation carriers can accept international shipments containing lithium batteries from the postal operators.
4. **What is it about lithium batteries that make them dangerous?** Lithium batteries are considered by international authorities to be within the class of "dangerous goods." Per the International Air Transport Association (IATA), dangerous goods are items that may endanger the safety of an aircraft or persons on board the aircraft. Dangerous goods also are known as restricted articles, hazardous materials and dangerous cargo. ICAO or the local civil aviation authority regulations governs their carriage onboard aircraft. Many common items found in the average household, including perfumes, aerosols, paint and solvents are considered dangerous goods for the purpose of air transport.



5. **What specific steps did USPS take in order to gain certification to accept international mailpieces containing lithium batteries?** USPS demonstrated its ability to meet certain technical requirements under the revised ICAO rules by documenting its training, incident reporting and acceptance procedures.
6. **Can I ship lithium batteries, and electronic devices containing lithium batteries, inside the United States?** Yes, certain lithium batteries can be shipped within the continental United States. International organizations apply different rules to lithium batteries in mail shipments carried on international commercial air transportation. See Section 349.22 at http://pe.usps.gov/text/pub52/pub52c3_024.htm for USPS' requirements regarding domestic transportation of lithium batteries.
7. **Can I mail my international package containing lithium batteries from any alternate access locations?** Currently, customers may not take international and APO, FPO, DPO mail containing lithium batteries to Village Post Offices (VPOs), Contract Postal Units (CPUs), Commercial Mail Receiving Agents (CMRAs) or Approved Shippers.
8. **Where can I find the requirements for shipping lithium batteries?** Employee information can be found at the Global Business website, http://blue.usps.gov/globalbusiness/intl_ship.htm. Customers can find information at the International Service Updates page: <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/international-updates.htm#H4> The *Federal Register* final rule, and *IMM*, *DMM* and *Publication 52* revisions, will be available at pe.usps.com.

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- [Create Package Labels: cns.usps.com/go](http://cns.usps.com/go)
- [Fill Out Customs Forms Online: usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm](http://usps.com/ship/customs-forms.htm)
- [Pay For Postage Online with Click-N-Ship: reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action](http://reg.usps.com/entreg/RegistrationAction!input.action)
- [Request Free Package Pickup: tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action](http://tools.usps.com/go/ScheduleAPickupAction!input.action)
- [International Holiday Shipping/Mailing Dates: www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm](http://www.usps.com/shippingdates/welcome.htm)