

253 Prices and Eligibility

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1.0 Prices and Fees

1.1 Pricing

1.1.1 Prices

For prices, see [Notice 123—Price List](#).

1.1.2 Price Categories

Parcel Select mail price categories are as follows:

- a. Destination entry, including destination entry network distribution center (DNDC), destination entry sectional center facility (DSCF), destination hub (DHub), and destination entry delivery unit (DDU).
- b. [1-21-24] USPS Connect Local.

1.1.3 Price Application

The following price applications apply:

- a. [1-21-24] *Prices for Destination Entry* are based on the weight increment of each addressed piece as follows:
 1. The price is charged at the 4-ounce, 8-ounce, and 12-ounce increments. Any fraction of an ounce more than the 4-ounce, 8-ounce, and 12-ounce increments is rounded to the next price increment.
Examples: 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 1 pound.
 2. Per pound from 1 pound through 70 pounds. Any fraction of a pound is considered a whole pound. **Example:** If an item weighs 1.25 pounds, the weight (postage) increment is 2 pounds.
- b. [1-21-24] *Prices for USPS Connect Local* are based on the weight increment of each addressed piece. The price is charged per pound or fraction thereof; any fraction of a pound is considered a whole pound. The minimum price per piece is the 1-pound price.
- c. *Prices for USPS Connect Local Flat Rate Packaging* are based on a flat rate regardless of the mailpiece's domestic destination and actual weight (up to 25 pounds).
- d. [4-1-24] The oversized price applies to parcels that measure over 108 inches but not more than 130 inches in combined length and girth.
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1.2 Dimensional Weight Price for Low-Density Parcels to Zones 1–9

Postage for Destination Entry 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 1.2.1 or 1.2.2), whichever is greater.

1.2.1 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 and then that total by the height. (Example: $11 \times 6 \times 3 = 198$.)
- 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.

1.2.2 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 and then that total by the height. (Example: $11 \times 6 \times 3 = 198$.)
- c. Multiply the result by an adjustment factor of 0.785.
- 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.

1.2.3 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 a dimension-noncompliance fee under 1.8.

1.3 Computing Postage

1.3.1 Determining Single-Piece Weight

[4-1-24][1-21-24] 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 Parcel Select 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.

1.3.2 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 [1.3](#). To calculate the total postage for the mailing, add all of the affixed postage amounts for each piece.

1.3.3 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 each product off to four decimal places. Add the products and round up the total postage to the nearest whole cent.

1.4 Unmanifested Fee

[1-21-24] Eligible Parcel Select pieces omitted from the manifest are subject to the unmanifested fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)), unless the piece is subject to the IMpb noncompliance fee specified in [3.3](#).

1.5 USPS Connect Local Flat Rate Packaging

Only USPS-produced USPS Connect Local Flat Rate packaging is eligible for USPS Connect Local Flat Rate prices. Mailers will be charged a flat rate regardless of the actual weight (up to 25 pounds) of the mailpiece. Customers must only use USPS-produced USPS Connect Local Flat Rate containers at the applicable USPS Connect Local Flat Rate price. Restrictions apply for using USPS-produced packaging (see [601.6.1](#)).

1.6 Sunday Delivery

A USPS Connect Local mailer may request Sunday delivery where available for a fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)).

1.7 Nonstandard Fees

[1-21-24] A Parcel Select Destination Entry or USPS Connect Local mailpiece 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.



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- d. A piece may be subject to both a length (1.8a, 1.8b) and a cube (1.8c) nonstandard fee.
- e. Shipping Services file manifests or other approved electronic documentation must include the accurate dimensions (length, width, height) of all pieces that exceed 22 inches.
- f. Mailers of pieces exceeding 22 inches 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 a dimension-noncompliance fee under [1.8](#).

1.8 Dimension-Noncompliance Fee

Mailers of Parcel Select mailpieces required to include the mailpiece's dimensions (length, width, height) in the Shipping Services file manifest or other approved electronic documentation under [1.2.3](#) or [1.7](#) will be charged a dimension-noncompliance fee (see [Notice 123—Price List](#)) if the piece's dimensions are omitted or inaccurate in the Shipping Services file manifest or other approved electronic documentation. A mailpiece is subject to only one dimension-noncompliance fee.

2.0 Content Standards

2.1 Basic Content Standards

Parcel Select consists of mailable matter that is neither mailed, or required to be mailed, as First-Class Mail, nor entered as Periodicals (except as permitted under [2.2](#) or permitted or required under [207.7.9](#)). Mailers (other than publishers or registered news agents) may mail copies of Periodicals publications at Parcel Select prices.

2.2 Attachments or Enclosures of Periodicals Sample Copies

Sample copies of authorized and pending Periodicals publications may be enclosed or attached with merchandise sent at Parcel Select prices. Postage at Parcel Select prices is based on the combined weight of the host piece and the sample copies enclosed.

2.3 Attachments and Enclosures

2.3.1 Invoice

An invoice, whether it also serves as a bill, may be placed either inside a Parcel Select piece or in an envelope marked "Invoice Enclosed" and attached to the outside of the piece if the invoice relates solely to the matter with which it is mailed. The invoice may show this information:

- a. Names and addresses of the sender and addressee.
- b. Names and quantities of the articles enclosed, descriptions of each (e.g., price, tax, style, stock number, size, and quality, and, if defective, nature of defects).
- c. Order or file number, date of order, date and manner of shipment, shipping weight, postage paid, and initials or name of packer or checker.

2.3.2 Incidental First-Class Mail Attachments and Enclosures

Incidental First-Class Mail matter may be enclosed in or attached to any Parcel Select piece without payment of First-Class Mail postage. An incidental First-Class Mail attachment or enclosure must be matter that, if mailed separately, would require First-Class Mail postage, is closely associated with but secondary to the host piece, and is prepared so as not to interfere with postal processing. An incidental First-Class Mail attachment or enclosure may be a bill for the product or publication, a statement of account for past products or publications, or a personal message or greeting included with a product, publication, or parcel. Postage at the Parcel Select price for the host piece is based on the combined weight of the host piece and the incidental First-Class Mail attachment or enclosure.

2.3.3 Additional Enclosures

Parcel Select may contain any printed matter mailable as USPS Marketing Mail, in addition to the enclosures and additions listed in [2.3](#) and [2.4](#).

2.4 Written Additions

Markings that have the character of personal correspondence require, with certain exceptions, additional postage at the First-Class Mail prices. The following written additions and enclosures do not require additional First-Class Mail postage:

- a. The sender's and the addressee's names, occupations, and addresses, preceded by "From" or "To," and directions for handling.
- b. Marks, numbers, names, or letters describing the contents.
- c. Words or phrases such as "Do Not Open Until Christmas" and "Happy Birthday, Mother."
- d. Instructions and directions for the use of the item mailed.
- e. A manuscript dedication or inscription not having the nature of personal correspondence.
- f. Marks to call attention to words or passages in the text.
- g. Corrections of typographical errors in printed matter.
- h. Manuscripts accompanying related proof sheets and corrections of proof sheets including corrections of typographical and other errors, changes in the text, insertions of new text, marginal instructions to the printer, and corrective rewrites of parts.
- i. Handstamped imprints, unless the added material is in itself personal or converts the original matter to a personal communication.
- j. Matter mailable separately as USPS Marketing Mail printed on the wrapper, envelope, tag, or label.



253.3.1

3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for Parcel Select Parcels

3.1 Description of Service

Parcel Select is a Shipping Services ground product. USPS Connect Local is a price category of Parcel Select with an expected same-day or next-day delivery service. USPS does not guarantee the delivery of Parcel Select mailpieces within a specified time. Certain Parcel Select mailpieces might receive deferred service.

3.2 Delivery and Return Addresses

All Parcel Select mailpieces must bear a delivery address. The delivery address on each piece must include the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. Alternative addressing formats under [602.3.0](#) may be used. Each piece must bear the sender's return address.

3.3 IMpb Standards

All Parcel Select mailpieces must bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) prepared under [204.2.0](#). Unless otherwise excepted, mailers of mailpieces not meeting the requirements for use of unique Intelligent Mail package barcodes or extra services barcodes, as outlined in section [204.2.1.8](#) and Publication 199, *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for: Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems*, will be assessed an IMpb noncompliance fee. For details see PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com>.

3.4 Inspection of Contents

Parcel Select packages are not sealed against postal inspection. Regardless of physical closure, the mailing of articles at Parcel Select prices constitutes consent by the mailer to postal inspection of the contents.

4.0 Price Eligibility for Parcel Select

4.1 Destination Entry Price Eligibility

4.1.1 Definition

Parcel Select destination entry prices apply to Parcel Select mailings prepared as specified in [705.8.0](#), and [255.4.0](#), and addressed for delivery within the service area of a destination network distribution center, sectional center facility, or delivery unit where they are deposited by the mailer. For this standard, the following destination facility definitions apply:

- a. A destination network distribution center (DNDC) includes all network distribution centers (NDCs) and auxiliary service facilities (ASFs) under [L601](#) and [L602](#), and designated sectional center facilities (SCFs) under [256.2.17](#). DNDC prices are not available for ZIP Code ranges 006-009, 967-969, and 995-999, as indicated in labeling list [L601](#).
- b. A destination sectional center facility (DSCF) includes all facilities in [L051](#). Mailers may be redirected to deposit DSCF mail at another USPS-designated facility. See [4.1.4](#) for more information.

- c. A destination hub (DHub) includes all facilities in [L014](#). See [4.1.4](#) for more information.
- d. A destination delivery unit (DDU) is a facility that delivers to the addresses appearing on the deposited pieces in a destination entry Parcel Select mailing. Refer to the Drop Shipment Product maintained by the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) (see [608.8.1](#) for address) to determine the location of a 5-digit delivery facility. Use [L606](#) only for mailings prepared using the optional 5-digit scheme sort.

4.1.2 Basic Standards

For Parcel Select destination entry, pieces must meet the applicable standards in [255.4.0](#) and the following criteria:

- a. Pieces may be bedloaded on pallets, in pallet boxes on pallets, in sacks, or in other authorized containers as specified in [256.2.1](#) through [256.2.17](#), depending on the facility at which the pieces are deposited.
- b. Pieces may not be plant-loaded.
- c. Pieces must be part of a single mailing of 50 or more pieces that are eligible for and claimed at any Parcel Select destination entry price. When Parcel Select mailings are submitted under PVDS procedures, mailers may use the total of all line items for all destinations on a PVDS register or PVDS postage statement to meet the 50-piece minimum volume requirement for destination entry price mailings. This means that a mailer may enter fewer than 50 pieces at an individual destination, provided there is a total of at least 50 Parcel Select pieces for all of the entry points for that single mailing job listed on the PVDS register or PVDS postage statement.
- d. Pieces must be deposited at, or expedited to, via Priority Mail Express Open and Distribute or Priority Mail Open and Distribute under [705.18.0](#), a destination NDC (or destination ASF), destination SCF, or destination delivery unit, as applicable for the price claimed.
- e. Pieces must be addressed for delivery within the ZIP Code ranges that the applicable entry facility serves.

4.1.3 DNDC Prices

For DNDC prices, pieces must meet the applicable standards in [3.0](#) and the following:

- a. Pieces must be part of a Parcel Select destination entry mailing that is deposited at a NDC or ASF under [L601](#) or [L602](#).
- b. Parcels must bear a barcode under [204.2.0](#) for the ZIP Code of the delivery address.
- c. Except as provided in labeling lists [L601](#) and [L602](#), pieces deposited at each NDC or ASF must be addressed for delivery within the ZIP Code range of that facility.



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- d. Pieces must be addressed to ZIP Codes eligible for DNDC prices as described in the introductory text of L601 and L602 and, if sacked or palletized, must be prepared according to 255.4.0 and 705.8.0. Mail meeting the additional criteria in 256.2.17 or 256.2.18 may be deposited at an SCF.
- e. Except for machinable parcels addressed to ZIP Codes served by the Buffalo NY ASF, mail addressed to ZIP Codes served by an ASF must be entered at the appropriate ASF per L602, and not entered at an NDC.

4.1.4 DSCF, DHub, and DDU Prices

For DSCF, DHub, and DDU prices, pieces must meet the applicable standards in 3.0 and the following criteria:

- a. For DSCF prices, be part of a Parcel Select destination entry mailing of parcels deposited at an SCF in L051, or a USPS-designated facility. Mailers must not prepare mail on pallets or pallet boxes if the 5-digit delivery facility is unable to handle pallets. See 255.4.2 and 255.6.0 for preparation requirements.
- b. For DHub prices, be part of a Parcel Select destination entry mailing of parcels deposited at an DHub in L014. Mailers must not prepare mail on pallets or pallet boxes if the delivery facility is unable to handle pallets. See 255.4.2 and 255.6.0 for preparation requirements.
- c. For DDU prices, be part of a Parcel Select mailing deposited at a designated DDU facility that delivers parcels to the addresses appearing on the pieces. There is no required minimum number of pieces that must be deposited for the DDU price and no specific preparation requirements; however, the pieces must be part of a mailing of at least 50 Parcel Select destination entry price pieces and must be prepared by 5-digit scheme (optional) and 5-digit sorts. To determine the location for entry of 5-digit scheme sorted pieces, use Column B of L606. To determine the location for entry of 5-digit sorted pieces or whether a 5-digit delivery facility can handle pallets (or pallet boxes), refer to the Drop Shipment Product maintained by the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) (see 608.8.1). When the Drop Shipment Product shows that mail for a single 5-digit ZIP Code area is delivered out of more than one postal facility, use the facility from which the majority of city carrier routes are delivered as the facility at which the DDU mail must be entered. The Drop Shipment Product identifies the 5-digit ZIP Codes that are exceptions to the “majority of city carriers rule” or other facilities where parcels are normally dropped. If a mailer transports mail to a DDU facility that cannot handle pallets, the driver must unload the pallets into containers as specified by the delivery unit.

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4.2**USPS Connect Local**

USPS Connect Local mailings are subject to the following criteria:

- a. Participation in the USPS Connect Local program requires agreement to program terms. Customers must speak with a USPS representative for details.
- b. There is no minimum volume requirement.

- c. Postage must be paid under [254.1.1.2](#).
- d. Pieces are subject to specific marking requirements under [202.3.7.2](#) and [202.3.7.3](#).
- e. Mailings must be addressed and entered at the local 5-digit Post Office by the designated critical entry time for same-day delivery within the local 5-digit Post Office service area.
- f. Only the following extra services are available with USPS Connect Local and must be purchased through the Click-N-Ship application:
 - 1. [\[4-1-24\]](#) Insurance (see [503.4.0](#)).
 - 2. [\[4-1-24\]](#) Signature Confirmation (see [503.8.0](#)).
 - 3. [\[4-1-24\]](#) Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery (see [503.8.0](#)).
- g. Sunday delivery is offered where available for a fee (see [1.7](#)).

[\[1-21-24\]](#)

