

## General Mailability Standards

All mailpieces (except keys and identification devices mailed under E130.2) that are 1/4 inch thick or less must be rectangular, at least 5 inches long, and at least 3-1/2 inches high. All mailable matter must be at least 0.007 inch thick, weigh no more than 70 pounds, and be no more than 108 inches in combined length and girth. Parcel Post can measure no more than 130 inches (C010) in combined length and girth. See appropriate Quick Service Guides for the eligibility and dimensional standards that apply to each class of mail or rate of postage. Lower size or weight standards apply to certain APO/FPOs and Department of State mail.

## Mail Processing Categories (C050)

Based strictly on the physical dimensions of the mailpiece regardless of address placement, all mail is assigned to one of the five mail processing categories listed below.

### Letter-Size Mail

Dimensions:

- Minimum: 5 inches long, 3-1/2 inches high, and 0.007 inch thick.
- Maximum: 11-1/2 inches long, 6-1/8 inches high, and 1/4 inch thick.

For automation rate letters, see Quick Service Guide 810.

### Flat-Size Mail

Dimensions:

- Minimum: more than 11-1/2 inches long, or more than 6-1/8 inches high, or more than 1/4 inch thick.
- Maximum: 15 inches long, 12 inches high, and 3/4 inch thick (Standard Mail Enhanced Carrier Route rate pieces may not be more than 14 inches long, 11-3/4 inches high, and 3/4 inch thick).

May be wrapped, unwrapped, sleeved, or enveloped.

For automation rate flats, see Quick Service Guide 820.

### Machinable Parcels

Dimensions:

- Not less than 6 inches long, 3 inches high, and 1/4 inch thick.
- Not more than 34 inches long or 17 inches high or 17 inches thick.

Weight: at least 6 ounces but not more than 35 pounds (25 pounds for books and other printed matter).

### Irregular Parcels (Nonmachinable)

Parcels that do not meet the dimensional criteria of machinable parcels and other parcels that cannot be processed by parcel sorters, including:

- Rolls and tubes up to 26 inches long and merchandise samples not individually addressed.
- Unwrapped, paper-wrapped, or sleeve-wrapped articles that are not letter-size or flat-size (e.g. Bound Printed Matter, catalogs, directories).
- Articles enclosed in envelopes that are not letter-size, flat-size, or machinable parcels.

### Outside Parcels (Nonmachinable)

Parcels that exceed the dimensions and standards for the other categories. (See C050.6 for specific criteria.) Might be subject to surcharge if Parcel Post (E711).

## Packaging and Acceptability (C010)

The USPS accepts properly packaged and marked parcels but reserves the right to refuse nonmailable or improperly packaged articles or substances. Items must be packaged to withstand mail processing and transportation (C010.3). Markings for handling, content, and service are placed below the postage and above the address (C010.9).

## Restricted and Nonmailable Matter (C020, C030)

For restricted or nonmailable articles or substances, see C020. For nonmailable written, printed, and graphic matter, see C030.

Additional Resources:

Pub. 2, *Packaging for Mailing*

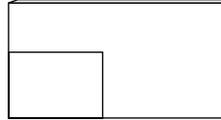
Pub. 14, *Prohibitions and Restrictions on Mailing Animals, Plants, and Related Products*

Pub. 52, *Acceptance of Hazardous, Restricted, or Perishable Matter*

This guide is an overview only. For the specific DMM standards applicable to this category of mail, consult the DMM sections referenced above and the general sections within each DMM module.

### Letter-Size Mail

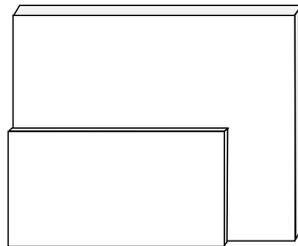
For automation letters, see Quick Service Guide 810.



	Minimum	Maximum
Height	3-1/2"	6-1/8"
Length	5"	11-1/2"
Thickness	0.007"	1/4"

### Flat-Size Mail

May be wrapped, unwrapped, sleeved, or enveloped.  
For automation flats, see Quick Service Guide 820.



	Minimum*	Maximum
Height	6-1/8"	12"
Length	11-1/2"	15"
Thickness	1/4"	3/4"

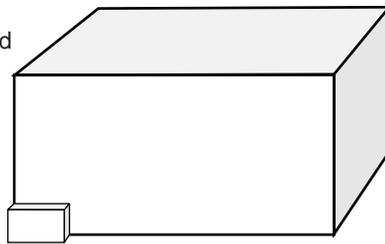
**Standard Mail ECR Carrier Route Flat**

Height	6-1/8"	11-3/4"
Length	11-1/2"	14"
Thickness	1/4"	3/4"

\*Must exceed at least one of these letter-size maximums.

### Machinable Parcels

Weight: at least 6 ounces but not more than 35 pounds (25 pounds for books and other printed matter).

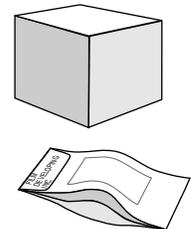
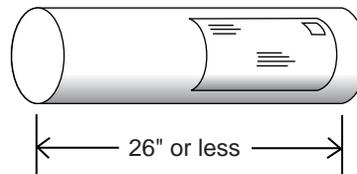


	Minimum	Maximum
Height	3"	17"
Length	6"	34"
Thickness	1/4"	17"

### Irregular Parcels (Nonmachinable)

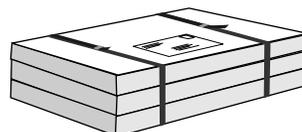
Parcels that do not meet dimensional criteria of machinable parcels and other parcels that cannot be processed by parcel sorters, including:

- Rolls and tubes up to 26 inches long and merchandise samples not individually addressed.
- Unwrapped, paper-wrapped, or sleeve-wrapped articles that are not letter-size or flat-size.
- Articles enclosed in envelopes that are not letter-size, flat-size, or machinable parcels.

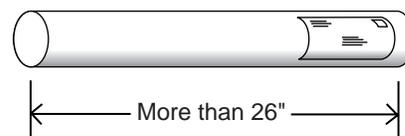


### Outside Parcels (Nonmachinable) (C050.6)

Parcels that exceed dimensions and standards for other categories.



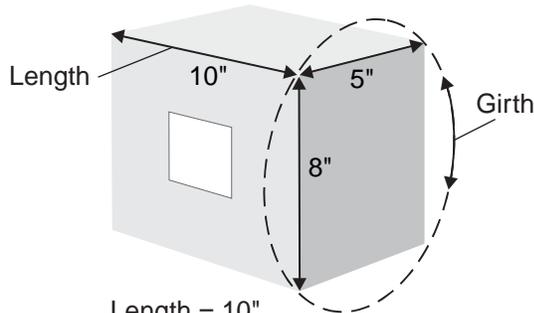
Metal-strapped boxes



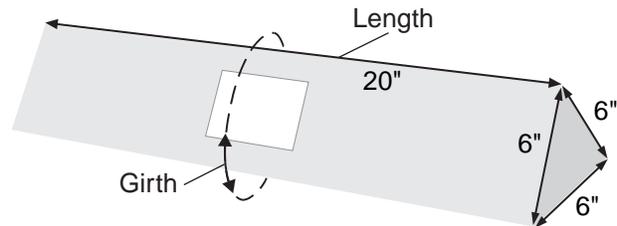
Liquid containers

## How to Measure Length and Girth

For parcels, length is the measurement of the longest dimension and girth is the distance around the thickest part (perpendicular to the length).



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Length} &= 10'' \\ \text{Girth } (8 + 5 + 8 + 5) &= 26'' \\ \text{Length} + \text{Girth} &= 36'' \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Length} &= 20'' \\ \text{Girth } (6 + 6 + 6 + 6) &= 18'' \\ \text{Length} + \text{Girth} &= 38'' \end{aligned}$$

Measurement	Maximum
Length + Girth	108 inches <sup>1</sup>
Weight	70 pounds

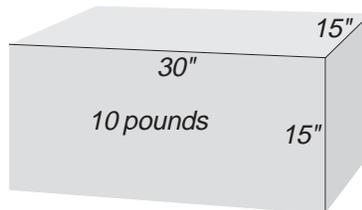
1. Except for Parcel Post, no mailpiece may measure more than 108 inches in length and girth combined. Parcel Post pieces measuring over 108 inches but not more than 130 inches in combined length and girth are mailable at the applicable oversized rates (R700).

## Examples of Balloon Rate, Nonmachinable Surcharge, and Oversized Rates

### Priority Mail and Parcel Post

#### Balloon Rate if:

- Weight less than 15 pounds *and*
- Length plus girth combined is more than 84 but not more than 108 inches

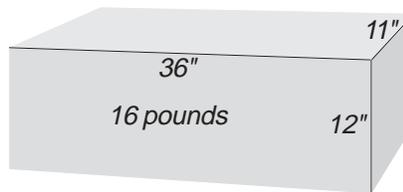


Nonmachinable Surcharge: No  
Balloon Rate: Yes  
Oversized Rate: No

### Parcel Post Nonmachinable

#### Surcharge if:

- Length more than 34 inches *or*
- Height more than 17 inches *or*
- Width more than 17 inches *or*
- Weight more than 35 pounds (25 pounds for books and other printed matter) *or*
- Meets any criteria listed in C700.2.

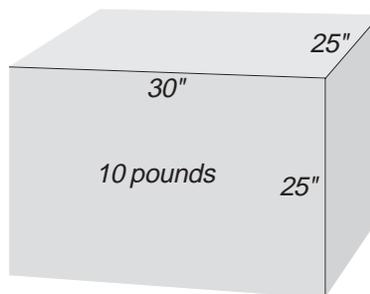


Nonmachinable Surcharge: Yes  
Balloon Rate: No  
Oversized Rate: No

### Parcel Post Oversized Rate if:

- Length plus girth combined is more than 108 but not more than 130 inches

The nonmachinable surcharge does not apply to the oversized rate or pieces with special handling fee.



Nonmachinable Surcharge: No  
Balloon Rate: No  
Oversized Rate: Yes

Nonmachinable surcharge: Parcel Post only.  
Balloon rate: Priority Mail and Parcel Post only.

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