

# 9 Inquiries, Indemnities, and Refunds

## 910 Reports Encouraged

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Customers are urged to report losses, nondelivery, or mistreatment of mail, even though there may be no provision for indemnity. Such reports can lead to improved service.

## 920 Inquiries and Claims

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### 921 **Inquiries**

#### 921.1 **Definition**

“Inquiry” is a general term that includes:

- a. Requests concerning the disposition of an item mailed to or from a foreign country.
- b. Complaints or reports concerning the loss, damage, missing contents, or improper delivery or return of an item mailed to or from a foreign country.

#### 921.2 **Initiating an Inquiry**

Inquiries can be initiated for Global Express Guaranteed (GXG) items, Express Mail International items, registered items, and insured and ordinary parcels. Inquiries are not accepted for ordinary letters, Priority Mail International Flat Rate Envelopes, Priority Mail International Small Flat Rate Priced Boxes, or M-bags. Customers must wait a reasonable amount of time for an international item to be delivered in the foreign country before initiating an inquiry. Customers must initiate inquiries within the time limits in [Exhibit 921.2](#).

Exhibit 921.2  
**Time Limits for Inquiries**

Product or Extra Service	Who	When to File (from mailing date)	
		No Sooner Than	No Later Than
Global Express Guaranteed	U.S. Sender Only	3 days	30 days
Express Mail International	U.S. Sender Only	3 days	90 days
Express Mail International With Guarantee	U.S. Sender Only	3 days	30 days
Registered Mail or insured or ordinary parcels	Sender or Addressee	7 days	6 months

**Note:** Inquiries are not accepted for First-Class Mail International items, Priority Mail International Flat Rate Envelopes or Small Flat Rate Priced Boxes, or M-bags.

921.3 **How to Initiate**

Customers must call the International Inquiry Center at 800-222-1811 within the time limits listed in [Exhibit 921.2](#) to initiate an inquiry. Customers will be asked to provide information regarding the mailing, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Mailing receipt number or barcode number of the article.
- b. Names and addresses of the mailer and addressee.
- c. Date of mailing.
- d. Description of contents.

921.4 **Inquiry Process**

After the Postal Service customer provides the International Inquiry Center with the relevant mailing information, the International Inquiry Center will correspond with the appropriate foreign post and advise the customer of the results of the inquiry. Customers must allow foreign posts approximately 60 days to research and respond to the International Inquiry Center for inquiries on registered items and insured and ordinary parcels. When there is a determination that an item has been lost, the International Inquiry Center will mail a claim packet to the customer. The packet will include a letter of instruction on how to complete and submit the claim.

921.5 **General Procedures**

921.51 **Nondelivery**

The U.S. Postal Service will initiate an inquiry within the time frames specified in [921.2](#) with the destination postal administration in any case involving an Express Mail International item, a registered item, or an insured or ordinary parcel that has not been delivered. Inquiries are not accepted for ordinary letters, Priority Mail International Flat Rate Envelopes, Priority Mail International Small Flat Rate Priced Boxes, or M-bags. For nondelivery of Global Express Guaranteed shipments, see [212.46](#).

**921.52 Return Receipts Improperly Completed or Not Received**

If the sender receives an improperly completed return receipt (see [341](#) for completion at destination) or if a return receipt is not received, the sender may go to any Post Office and request a refund of the return receipt extra service fee. If the sender wants to inquire about the delivery of the article, the sender must call 800-222-1811 to initiate an inquiry (see [921.1](#)).

**921.53 Express Mail International Items, Registered Mail Items, and Insured and Ordinary Parcels With Damaged or Missing Contents**

Customers must go to a Post Office to report items that are damaged or are missing contents. Postal personnel should complete PS Form 673, *Report of Rifled Parcel*, in accordance with POM 169.3 or PS Form 2856, *Damage Report of Insured Parcel and Contents*, in accordance with POM 146.112 for international and/or domestic articles as applicable.

**921.54 Wrapper Found Without Contents****921.541 Parcels of Domestic Origin**

When the contents of a parcel of domestic origin become separated from the wrapper, Postal Service personnel should inform the sender in accordance with the instructions on PS Form 3760, *Parcel Search Request*.

**921.542 Parcels of Foreign Origin**

If the parcel is of foreign origin, send PS Form 3760, appropriately modified, to the addressee.

**922 Claims****922.1 General Description**

A claim is a request by a U.S. Postal Service customer for an indemnity payment that resulted from the loss, damage, or missing contents of a GXG, Express Mail International, or registered item, or an insured or ordinary parcel. See [222.71](#), [320](#), [330](#), and Individual Country Listings for information on indemnity limits. See [930](#) and [940](#) for information on indemnity payments and postage refunds.

**922.2 Filing a Claim**

Claims may be filed for GXG, Express Mail International, registered items, and insured and ordinary parcels as noted in [Exhibit 922.2](#). Claims may not be filed for ordinary letters or M-bags. Claims for registered items and insured and ordinary parcels may not be filed until after an inquiry has been completed in accordance with the procedures in [921](#). Claims for items that have damaged or missing contents should be filed immediately. Claims for registered items and insured and ordinary parcels delivered to the addressee in damaged condition or with missing contents are payable only to the addressee, unless the addressee waives the right to payment, in writing, in favor of the sender. All claims for inbound international registered items and insured and ordinary parcels received in damaged condition or with missing contents must be supported by PS Form 2856. If the addressee does not accept delivery and the item is returned to the sender, the sender will be the payee.

Exhibit 922.2  
**Filing Claims**

Product or Extra Service	Who	How	
		Lost Article	Damaged/ Missing Contents
GXG and Express Mail International	U.S. Sender Only	800-222-1811	800-222-1811
GXG and Express Mail International (article returned to sender)	U.S. Sender Only	N/A	Any Post Office* (PS Form 1000)
Registered Mail or insured or ordinary parcels	Sender or Addressee	800-222-1811	Any Post Office* (PS Form 1000)

\* *Must immediately present the article, mailing container, wrapping, packaging, and any other contents received in damaged condition or with missing contents to a Post Office for inspection. Customers in receipt of an item from Canada that is in damaged condition or has some or all of its contents missing must instruct the Canadian sender to file a claim.*

922.3 **Claims Process**

When there is a determination that an item was lost or has damaged or missing contents, the customer will receive PS Form 1000, *Domestic or International Claim*.

922.31 **Evidence of Indemnity Coverage**

Indemnity claims for GXG, Express Mail International, Registered Mail, and insured and ordinary parcels must be supported as follows:

- a. If mailed in the United States:
  - (1) For Global Express Guaranteed items, the original receipt of the GXG Air Waybill/Shipping Invoice.
  - (2) For Express Mail International items, PS Form 2861, *Express Mail International Service Inquiry*, received from the International Inquiry Center.
  - (3) For registered items and insured parcels, the original mailing receipt and sender's copy of PS Form 2976-A, *Customs Declaration and Dispatch Note — CP 72*, issued at the time of mailing. Copies are not acceptable.
  - (4) For ordinary parcels, the customer copy of PS Form 2976-A, *Customs Declaration and Dispatch Note — CP 72*.
- b. If mailed from a foreign country: The original mailing receipt if available, the customs label, the wrapper, and any other markings or endorsements on the mailing container that indicate how it was sent.

**Note:** Mailing particulars must also be verified with the country of origin before a claim can be settled.

922.32 **Evidence of Value**

The customer must submit acceptable evidence to establish the cost or value of the article at the time it was mailed. Other evidence may be requested to help determine an accurate value. Examples of acceptable evidence include:

- a. Sales receipt, invoice, or statement of value from a reputable dealer.
- b. Customer's own statement describing the lost or damaged article, including the date and place of purchase, the amount paid, and whether new or used (only if a sales receipt, invoice, or statement of

value from a reputable dealer is not available). If the article is handmade, the statement must include the price of the materials and labor used. The statement must describe the article in enough detail to determine whether the value claimed is accurate.

- c. Picture from a catalog showing the value of a similar article (only if a sales receipt, invoice, or statement of value from a reputable dealer is not available). The date and place of purchase must be included.
- d. Paid repair bills, if the claim is for partial damage; estimates of repair costs or appraisals from a reputable dealer. Repair costs may not exceed the original purchase price.
- e. Receipt or invoice of costs incurred for the reconstruction of nonnegotiable documents.

#### 922.4 **Processing Claims for Damaged or Missing Contents**

The customer must:

- a. Present the damaged article, mailing container, wrapping, packaging, and any other contents received to any Post Office for inspection.
- b. Complete all fields on PS Form 1000.

#### 922.41 **Postal Service**

Postal Service personnel must:

- a. Verify that all applicable fields on PS Form 1000 are complete.
- b. Prepare a damage report on PS Form 2856, *Damage Report of Insured Parcel and Contents*, detailing the condition of the item at the time of delivery, and indicate whether or not the item was properly packaged to withstand normal handling in international mail.
- c. Attach the damage report and the documentation described in [922.3](#) to the claim.
- d. Send PS Form 1000 and related documents, including the customs label and the wrapper, if appropriate, to:

INTERNATIONAL CLAIMS  
ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
PO BOX 80146  
ST LOUIS MO 63180-0146

#### 923 **Disposition of Damaged Mail**

Dispose of damaged Registered Mail, insured parcels, and ordinary parcels for which claims have been filed as follows:

- a. International Registered Mail (except Canadian Registered Mail — see [923b](#)) must be returned to the customer, whether or not the article has salvage value.
- b. International insured parcels, ordinary parcels, and Canadian Registered Mail:
  - (1) If the claim is for *partial* damage, return the article to the customer.

- (2) If the claim is for *total damage and the article has salvage value* (\$25.00 or more), retain the article and the packaging at the Post Office facility until the claim is settled and disposition instructions are received from Accounting Services. Provide the customer a copy of PS Form 3831, *Receipt for Article(s) Damaged in Mails*. Endorse the original receipt "Claim Filed [date]," date-stamp it, and initial it. Return the receipt to the customer. Instruct the customer to keep the receipt until the claim is settled. If the claim is denied, the article must be returned to the customer after all time frames for appeals have elapsed (see [931.3](#)).
- (3) If the claim is for *total damage and the article has no salvage value* (under \$25.00), return the article to the customer, or with the customer's consent, dispose of the article with the understanding that the Postal Service will assume no responsibility if the claim is denied.

## 930 Indemnity Payments

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### 931 **Adjudication and Approval**

#### 931.1 **When to Be Instituted**

Claims for indemnity are initiated upon receipt of a completed PS Form 1000 with appropriate documentation by International Claims, Accounting Services, PO Box 80146, St. Louis, MO 63180-0146.

#### 931.2 **International Claims**

#### 931.21 **Indemnity Claims for International Registered Mail, Insured Parcels, and Ordinary Parcels of U.S. and Foreign Origin**

Indemnity claims relating to international Registered Mail and insured and ordinary parcels of both U.S. and foreign origin are adjudicated by Accounting Services in St. Louis, Missouri.

#### 931.22 **Country of Origin Pays Indemnity**

Payment is made as follows:

- a. Express Mail claims are paid by the country of origin to the sender. Payments to U.S. senders will be made by the U.S. Postal Service.
- b. Indemnity for the loss of Registered Mail and insured and ordinary parcels is paid by the country of origin to the sender. Payments to U.S. senders will be made by the U.S. Postal Service. The sender may waive the right to payment, in writing, in favor of the addressee. Payment in such cases will be made by the destination administration.
- c. Claims for items delivered in damaged condition or with missing contents may be made to the addressee by the destination administration. If the addressee waives the right to payment, in writing, in favor of the U.S. sender, payment will be made to the sender by the U.S. Postal Service.

- d. Claims for items mailed in foreign administrations that are delivered in damaged condition or with missing contents may be paid to the addressee. Payments will be made to the U.S. addressee by the U.S. Postal Service. The addressee may waive the right to payment in favor of the sender. Payment in such cases will be made by the origin administration.

### 931.3 Appeals

#### 931.31 Appealing a Claims Decision

A customer may appeal a claims decision by filing a written appeal within 60 days of the date of the original decision. The customer must send the appeal directly to International Claims Appeals, Accounting Services, PO Box 80146, St. Louis, MO 63180-0146.

#### 931.32 Final Postal Service Decision of Claims

If the manager of International Claims Appeals at the St. Louis ASC sustains the denial of a claim, the customer may submit an additional appeal within 60 days for final review and decision to the Consumer Advocate, International Claim Appeals, 475 L'Enfant Plz SW Rm 10343, Washington, DC 20260-2200, who may waive standards in favor of the customer.

### 932 General Exceptions To Payment – Registered Mail, Priority Mail International Insured Parcels, and Priority Mail International Ordinary Parcels

Indemnity may not be paid:

- a. In excess of the limit prescribed for the insurance or registry fee paid or greater than that corresponding to the actual amount of loss (except Registered Mail service), damage, or the missing contents. Allowance must be made for depreciation or for needed repairs, and in the absence of purchase receipts or invoices, the contents must be described in sufficient detail.
- b. When an item cannot be accounted for due to the destruction of service records by *force majeure*.
- c. When the contents are prohibited.
- d. For an item seized by customs or any other government agency.
- e. When no inquiry or application has been made by the claimant or a representative within 6 months, commencing with the day following the mailing of the item. In the case of insured mail with Canada, however, the time limit may be waived when it is satisfactorily established that the delay was unavoidable and not the fault of the claimant.
- f. For damage that results from the characteristics of the contents- that is, its inability, due to its nature, to withstand the ordinary incidents of the contemplated carriage.
- g. When full compensation or reimbursement has otherwise been made by the U.S. Postal Service or by any outside firm or corporation whatsoever except on a pro rata basis as coinsurer.

- h. For sentimental values arising from association. Also, in the absence of a complete description, the claimant must satisfactorily establish the ordinary market value at the time of mailing, particularly in the case of heirlooms or antiques.
- i. For an amount in excess of the maximum prescribed for the insurance or registry fee paid, unless responsibility rests with the United States and it is shown to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that the sender was charged a fee less than that required to cover the amount of indemnity desired, through error on the part of the U.S. Postal Service. On such a showing, the deficiency in fee may be collected from the sender and postal indemnity paid, within the limit fixed for the higher fee.

## 933 **Payments for Priority Mail International Insured Parcels and Priority Mail International Ordinary Parcels**

### 933.1 **General Provisions**

#### 933.11 **Insured Parcels**

Indemnity may be paid for loss, damage, or missing contents, based on the actual value of articles at the time and place of mailing.

#### 933.12 **Indemnity Will Not Be Paid**

In addition to the general exceptions to payment described in [932](#), indemnity will not be paid:

- a. When other countries report delivery of parcels without external trace of damage or missing contents and acceptance by the addressee or an agent without reservation concerning the condition of the contents, and when delivery was made under conditions prescribed by the domestic regulations of the country of destination for mail of the same kind or on presentation of a regular postal identity card.
- b. When loss, damage, or missing contents has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or the addressee or the representative of either, such as failure to endorse the parcel conspicuously to show the nature of the contents or to provide adequate packing for the length of the journey and for the protection of the contents.
- c. When the claimant, with intent to defraud, has declared the contents of a parcel to be above their real value.
- d. For parcels that:
  - (1) Contain matter of no intrinsic value.
  - (2) Contain matter that did not conform to applicable postal conventions.
  - (3) Were not posted in the manner prescribed. In the event of loss, damage, or missing contents of mail erroneously accepted for insurance to other countries, limited indemnity may be paid as if it had been addressed to a domestic destination — i.e., on the basis of the indemnity limits for domestic insured mail. If postage

was erroneously collected at other than a parcel price, but the parcel was otherwise properly accepted for insurance, indemnity may be paid pursuant to the general provisions of this section and the special provisions of [933.2](#).

- e. For indirect loss or loss of profits.
- f. For an amount in excess of the maximum prescribed for the insurance fee paid, unless full or partial responsibility rests with the other country and the sender requested full coverage at the time of mailing, but a deficient and unauthorized insurance fee was collected. In such case, the sender must be paid for full value, less the amount of the deficient fee, but not exceeding the limit fixed for the appropriate insurance fee.
- g. When evidence of insurance coverage has not been presented.
- h. Payment for parcels delivered with damaged or missing contents is made to the addressee unless the addressee waives payment, in writing, in favor of the sender.

933.13 **Ordinary Priority Mail International Parcels — Indemnity Limitations**

Coverage is limited to the actual value of contents or the maximum indemnity based on the weight of the article, whichever is less.

933.14 **Ordinary Priority Mail International Parcels — Exceptions to Indemnity**

In addition to the general exceptions to payment described in [932](#), indemnity may not be paid:

- a. For parcels containing coins; banknotes; currency notes (paper money); securities of any kind payable to bearer; traveler's checks; platinum, gold, and silver; precious stones; jewelry; watches; and other valuable or prohibited articles.
- b. For consequential losses, delay, concealed damage, spoilage of perishable items, articles improperly packaged, and articles too fragile to withstand normal handling in the mail.
- c. When other countries report delivery of parcels without external trace of damage or missing contents and acceptance by the addressee or an agent without reservation concerning the condition of the contents, and when delivery was made under conditions prescribed by the domestic regulations of the country of destination for mail of the same kind or on presentation of a regular postal identity card.
- d. When loss, damage, or missing contents has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or the addressee or the representative of either, such as failure to endorse the parcel conspicuously to show the nature of the contents or to provide adequate packing for the length of the journey and for the protection of the contents.
- e. When the claimant, with intent to defraud, has declared the contents of a parcel to be above their real value.
- f. For indirect loss or loss of profits.
- g. When evidence of the value of the ordinary indemnity coverage on an ordinary parcel has not been presented.

- h. To the addressee for parcels delivered to the addressee in damaged condition or with missing contents unless the addressee waives payment, in writing, in favor of the sender.

### 933.2 **Special Provisions**

The sender may be paid only such indemnity for loss, damage, or missing contents occurring after redispach by the original country of address to a third country, if the country in which the mistreatment occurred is willing or obliged to pay under any agreement between the countries involved.

## 934 **Payments for Registered Mail**

### 934.1 **General Provisions**

#### 934.11 **Indemnity Paid by Country of Origin**

Indemnity for loss is paid by the country of origin for registered items and is made according to [934.2](#).

#### 934.12 **Parcels Erroneously Accepted as Registered Mail**

If a parcel is accepted in error as Registered Mail, indemnity may be paid under the conditions in [934.2](#).

#### 934.13 **Indemnity Will Not Be Paid**

In addition to the general exceptions to payment described in [932](#), indemnity will not be paid:

- a. To anyone in the United States, other than the sender, for the loss of an outbound or an inbound registered item. The sender may waive payment, in writing, in favor of the addressee.
- b. To anyone in the United States, other than the addressee, for items delivered in damaged condition or with missing contents. The addressee may waive payment, in writing, in favor of the sender.
- c. In excess of the limits in [934.2](#) for domestic registered letters bearing foreign return addresses that are forwarded under [762.2](#).

#### 934.14 **Indemnity Paid by Country of Destination**

Indemnity for damage and loss of contents is made by the country of destination to the addressee unless the addressee waives payment, in writing, in favor of the sender.

### 934.2 **Special Provisions**

Regardless of the declared value of a registered item, the maximum amount of indemnity payable for loss, damage, or missing contents is \$47.33.

## 935 **Payments for Express Mail International**

### 935.1 **When Authorized**

Express Mail International shipments are covered by document reconstruction and merchandise insurance in case of loss, damage, or missing contents. Indemnity will be paid by the Postal Service as specified in DMM 609 and 503 and IMM [222.71](#) and [935.2](#).

**935.2 When Prohibited**

Indemnity for Express Mail International items will not be paid:

- a. For delay in delivery.
- b. When the contents are prohibited.
- c. For any items seized by customs or any other government agency.
- d. When no inquiry or claim has been made by the mailer within 90 days from the date of mailing.
- e. For damage that results from the quality of the contents; that is, inability, due to its nature, to withstand the ordinary incidents of international Express Mail carriage. See DMM 609.
- f. When delivery was made under conditions prescribed for Express Mail International items by the country of destination.
- g. When evidence of mailing has not been presented.
- h. For any reason specified in DMM 609.

## 940 Postage Refunds

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**941 Postage Refunds for First-Class Mail International and Priority Mail International****941.1 General**

A refund may be made when postage, extra service fees, or other charges have been paid on First-Class Mail International and Priority Mail International items:

- a. For which full service was not rendered.
- b. Which were paid in excess of the proper price.

**941.2 Applications by Senders**

Senders requesting postage refunds should submit to the postmaster at the office at which the items were mailed:

- a. An application on PS Form 3533, *Application and Voucher for Refund of Postage, Fees, and Services*, in duplicate.
- b. When available, the envelope or wrapper, or the portion thereof having names and addresses of sender and addressee, canceled postage, and postal markings.
- c. Any other evidence of payment of the amount of postage, fees, or charges for which refund is desired.

**941.3 Processing Refund Applications****941.31 Items Originating in United States**

When the refund request relates to mail originating in the United States and there is no reason to believe that the other country is at fault, process the application as prescribed in DMM 604.

**941.32 Items Originating in a Country Other Than the United States**

When there is reason to believe that the other country is at fault, or when the request relates to mail originating in another country, forward the application with the wrapper and all supporting papers to the International Inquiry Center, US Postal Service, PO Box 39955, Denver, CO 80239-0955.

**942 Postage Refunds for Express Mail International Items****942.1 Who May File**

File requests for refunds as follows:

- a. U.S. senders of Express Mail International items must complete the inquiry process (see [922](#)) before filing for a postage refund. An inquiry **must** be initiated within 90 days of the date of mailing by calling the International Inquiry Center at 800-222-1811.
- b. U.S. senders of Express Mail International items With Guarantee service that did not meet the guaranteed delivery date must initiate a request for postage refund no later than 30 days from the date of mailing by calling the International Inquiry Center at 800-222-1811.

**942.2 Conditions****942.21 Express Mail International Refunds**

The Postal Service will refund postage of Express Mail International items only when:

- a. The inquiry process has confirmed that total loss, damage, or missing contents of an Express Mail International item has occurred.
- b. The customer has initiated an inquiry within the requisite 90-day filing period.
- c. The Expedited Service specialist has received verification from the Product Tracking System (PTS) or the International Inquiry Center that loss, damage, or missing contents has occurred.
- d. The customer has received PS Form 3533, *Application and Voucher for Refund of Postage, Fees, and Services*.

**942.22 Express Mail International With Guarantee Refunds**

The Postal Service will refund postage of Express Mail International With Guarantee service items only when:

- a. The customer has initiated a request for postage refund within the requisite 30-day filing period.
- b. The International Inquiry Center received confirmation from the foreign postal administration that the item did not meet the specified delivery standard.
- c. The customer has received PS Form 3533-GE, *Application and Voucher for Refund of Postage and Fees — Express Mail International With Guarantee Service*.

**942.3 Applications by Senders****942.31 Express Mail International**

For Express Mail International refunds, mailers requesting postage refunds must submit the following items to the postmaster at the office at which the item was mailed:

- a. An application on PS Form 3533 in duplicate.
- b. The mailer's receipt (original copy of the mailing label) showing evidence of the amount of postage for which refund is desired.

**942.32 Express Mail International With Guarantee**

For Express Mail International With Guarantee service refunds, mailers requesting postage refunds must submit the following items to the address noted below:

- a. An application on PS Form 3533-GE.
- b. The mailer's receipt or the original copy of the mailing label showing the guaranteed delivery date and the amount of postage paid.

Mailers must submit these items to the following address:

SCANNING AND IMAGING CENTER  
US POSTAL SERVICE  
PO BOX 5212  
JANESVILLE WI 53547-5212

**942.4 Processing of Refund**

Express Mail International postage refund requests are processed under DMM 604. The mailer must complete Part I of PS Form 3533 in duplicate and submit it, along with the original customer copy of the mailing label (PS Label 11-B, *Express Mail Mailing Label – Post Office to Addressee*), to any Post Office facility. Refund requests for Express Mail International With Guarantee service are processed when a customer submits PS Form 3533-GE with appropriate documentation (see [942.2](#)) to:

SCANNING AND IMAGING CENTER  
US POSTAL SERVICE  
PO BOX 5212  
JANESVILLE WI 53547-5212

**942.5 Unallowable Refunds – Express Mail International With No Service Guarantee****942.51 Postage Refunds – Express Mail International**

Refunds for Express Mail International will *not* be made for the following:

- a. Delayed Express Mail International items.
- b. When the item contained prohibited matter.
- c. When the item has been seized or confiscated by customs or any other government agency of the destination country.

**942.52 Unallowable Refunds — Express Mail International With Guarantee Service**

Refunds will *not* be made for the following:

- a. Delivery was attempted but could not be made.
- b. The delivery address or postal code was incomplete or inaccurate.
- c. The item was detained or delayed by customs or any other government or law enforcement agency of the destination country.
- d. The item had to be forwarded to another address.
- e. Delay resulted from any defect or characteristic due to the nature of the shipment, even if known to USPS at acceptance.
- f. The item was delayed by any circumstance beyond the control of USPS and the foreign postal administration, acts of God, *force majeure*, terrorist activities, strikes, labor actions, war, insurrection, or civil disobedience.
- g. The item was held by customs at origin or destination for more than 24 hours. If the item was held by customs for less than 24 hours, the guarantee may be adjusted to account for the delay by customs.
- h. The item was not deposited at a designated USPS Express Mail facility.

**942.53 Consequential Damages**

USPS is not liable for consequential or special damages or other indirect loss. Consequential damage or loss includes but is not limited to loss of income, profit, interest, markets, and use of contents. See DMM 609 and 503 and IMM 221.3 and 935.2 for limitations of indemnity coverage.

**943 Processing Refund Applications****943.1 Items Originating in the United States**

Requests for refunds for ordinary letters and for Registered Mail, Priority Mail International, Express Mail International, and Express Mail International With Guarantee service originating in the United States are handled as follows:

- a. If there is no reason to believe that the other country is at fault, process the application under DMM 604.
- b. If there is reason to believe a registered, insured, or ordinary parcel originating in the United States was returned in error, or if the parcel was returned with no annotation showing reason for return, call the International Inquiry Center at 800-222-1811 to initiate an inquiry.
- c. Customers whose Express Mail International With Guarantee service did not meet the guaranteed delivery date must call 800-222-1811 within 30 days of the date of mailing to request a postage refund form (PS Form 3533-GE).

**943.2 Items Originating in a Country Other Than the United States**

When there is reason to believe the other country is at fault, or when the request relates to mail originating in another country, call the International Inquiry Center at 800-222-1811 to initiate an inquiry.