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PEACE OF THE SEASON, PEACE OF MIND

Flat-rate boxes, Click-N-Ship, insurance help make the holidays easier

Washington, DC – The U.S. Postal Service values packages as much as its customers do. This holiday season, chose from a variety of services designed to make shipping and packaging as easy as possible.

“This year, we’re offering a number of services and options to our customers to make shipping packages with the US Postal Service quick, easy and convenient,” said James Cochrane, Manager, Package Services. “We’re going to handle each package as if we’ve sent it ourselves.”

The Postal Service has a number of recommendations to help make shipping packages easy, Cochrane said.

Ship almost anything and pay one, flat rate using Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes and envelopes. Chose the size and pay one low price to ship it Priority Mail. Mail flat rate boxes for \$7.70 and envelopes for \$3.85 regardless of weight or destination. Order envelopes and boxes online at usps.com for home delivery or pick them up at the neighborhood Post Office. Flat-rate pricing takes the guesswork out of calculating postage. Combine Flat Rate Boxes with Carrier Pickup and shipping packages has never been easier.

Print shipping labels and pay postage from a desktop or laptop using Click-N-Ship. Pay postage with a credit card and print shipping labels using plain paper. Ship locally or internationally and know when the package arrives with free Delivery Confirmation service. Click-N-Ship allows customers to purchase customized postage labels, pay for postage with a major credit card, calculate and compare postage, find a ZIP Code and purchase insurance up to \$500.

Add insurance for peace of mind. Security is key when sending valuables through the mail. Whether it’s jewelry, an antique or a child’s masterpiece for Grandma, insurance provides that security. For \$1.30, customers can purchase insurance worth up to \$50. For \$3.20, insurance coverage for up to \$200 can be purchased. Insurance can be purchased online with a \$200 limit; through an Automated Postal Center (APC) in Post Offices for up to \$200; or at a Post Office for up to \$5,000 worth of coverage.

Know that the package has arrived safely. A number of extra services are available at Post Offices to help customers. Delivery Confirmation provides dates and times of delivery. Signature Confirmation provides dates and times of delivery, the name of the person signing for the item and signature proof of delivery. Customers receive a postcard with the date of delivery and recipient's signature with Return Receipt. And Special Handling adds special care for fragile or perishable items.

Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits 142 million homes and businesses every day, six days a week and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$69 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 206 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves seven and a half million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide. Its website, usps.com, attracts more than 21 million visitors each month.