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International Holiday Mailing Dates Approaching *Today's Holidays Need Today's Mail*

WASHINGTON, DC —Recent changes to U.S. Postal Service packaging and products will make it even easier — and greener — to send holiday mail to international destinations.

Earlier this year, the Postal Service simplified its international product offerings into four options: Global Express Guaranteed, Express Mail International, Priority Mail International and First-Class Mail International. The change makes it easy for customers to mail letters and packages worldwide.

Each of the products can be used for either domestic or international mail. There are no longer separate products for international mailing.

The changes to international products also give customers a little more time to prepare for the holidays. The first recommended mailing date is Dec. 4, for packages to Africa and Central and South America. But international mail can be sent as late as Dec. 19 for arrival by Dec. 25.

“Our customers have more international connections than ever before,” said Anita Bizzotto, chief marketing officer and executive vice president. “We’re giving them quick, easy international mail connections, whether they’re shipping to a business or family and friends. That’s the power of today’s mail.”

International mail products:

- Global Express Guaranteed is the premium international shipping option from the Postal Service, with delivery in one to three business days to more than 190 countries.
- Express Mail International is guaranteed to select destinations, arriving three to five business days to major destinations.
- Priority Mail International is an airmail service that offers reliable and economical means of sending correspondence and merchandise weighing up to 70 pounds.
- First-Class Mail International is the most economical way to mail overseas, replacing Airmail Letter Post and Economy Letter Post for convenience and efficiency.

Using Express Mail International and Priority Mail International also sends a very “green” message around the world. These products received “Cradle to Cradle”SM Certification at the Silver level for human and environmental health, exceeding even the highest standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Postal Service suggests that customers follow the recommended mailing dates listed below for international delivery of holiday cards and packages by Dec. 25.

International Mail Addressed to	Global Express Guaranteed (GXG)^{1/}	Express Mail International (EMS)^{2/}	Priority Mail International^{3/}	First-Class Mail International
Africa	Dec 19	Dec 12	Dec 4	Dec 4
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Australia/New	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11

Zealand				
Canada	Dec 20	Dec 18	Dec 11	Dec 11
Caribbean	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Central and South America	Dec 19	Dec 12	Dec 4	Dec 4
Mexico	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Europe	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11
Middle East	Dec 19	Dec 17	Dec 11	Dec 11

1/ GXG is available to over 190 countries via an alliance with Federal Express. See a retail associate at participating locations for a complete list of countries and money-back guarantee details, or go to pe.usps.com and click on *International Rates and Fees*, then *Country Listing*. You can also see the March/April 2007 issue of *MailPro*. Some restrictions apply. Purchase postage online and receive a 10 percent discount.

2/ EMS is available to over 190 countries with delivery in an average of three to five business days. Guaranteed, money-back service available to Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan and Republic of South Korea. Flat-rate shipping options are available with free packaging. Purchase postage online and receive an 8 percent discount.

3/ Priority Mail International is available to over 190 countries with delivery in an average of six to 10 business days. Flat-rate shipping options are available with free packaging. Purchase postage online and receive a 5 percent discount.

Visit the Holiday Press Room at usps.com.

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An independent federal agency, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that visits every address in the nation, 146 million homes and businesses, six days a week. It has 37,000 retail locations and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to pay for operating expenses, not tax dollars. The Postal Service has annual revenues of \$75 billion and delivers nearly half the world's mail.