



Prohibitions and Restrictions

Because safety comes first

Although we try to carry most things, there are certain items we can't accept for legal and safety reason. We may refuse to accept mail containing these items and if they're found in the post, we may return them to the sender, or dispose of them. In some cases we may hand them to HM Customs or the Police and the sender and/or addressee may be prosecuted.

To comply with strict transport regulations, Isle of Man Post does not carry any substance classified in the latest edition of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Technical Instructions as being dangerous. These dangerous goods are listed in the following nine hazard classes. Please note that the examples quoted are not exhaustive lists and Isle of Man Post also prohibits other materials and products that may be hazardous to their staff and operation. Additionally, some destinations will not accept specific items not listed here and some items are prohibited from being sent by certain services. Please note that some goods are excluded from inclusive compensation, and on some occasions the delivery speed guarantee is not valid.

Dangerous Goods

TOTAL PROHIBITION - domestic, import, export and transit. All dangerous goods are prohibited.

Dangerous goods are defined as those goods which meet the criteria of 1 or more of 9 UN hazard classes. These classes relate to the type of hazard and are detailed below.

Class 1 - Explosives

Any chemical compound, mixture or device capable of producing an explosive-pyrotechnic effect, with substantial instantaneous release of heat and gas. All explosives are prohibited.

Examples: Ammunition, Blasting caps, Christmas cracker snaps, Fireworks, Flares, Fuses, Igniters, Nitro-glycerine etc.

Class 2 - Gases compressed, liquefied or dissolved under pressure

Permanent gases, which cannot be liquefied at ambient temperatures; liquefied gases, which become liquid under pressure at ambient temperatures; dissolved gases, which are dissolved under pressure in a solvent.

1. All flammable compressed gases are prohibited.

Examples: Blowlamps, Butane, Cigarette lighters, Ethane, Gas cylinders for camping stoves, Hydrogen, Methane, Propane etc.

2. All toxic compressed gases are prohibited.

Examples: Chlorine, Fluorine etc.

3. All non-flammable compressed gases are prohibited,

Examples: Carbon dioxide, Neon, Nitrogen, Fire extinguishers containing such gases etc.

4. All aerosols are prohibited.

Class 3 - Flammable liquids

Liquids, mixtures of liquids, or liquids containing solids in solution or suspension which give off a flammable vapour. Any liquid with a closed cup flash point below 60.5°C is prohibited.

Examples: Acetone, Benzene, Cleaning compounds, Gasoline, Lighter fuel, Paint thinners and removers, Petroleum, Solvents etc.

Class 4 - Flammable Solids

Substances liable to spontaneous combustion. Substances which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases. Solid materials which are liable to cause fire by friction, absorption of water, spontaneous chemical changes, or retained heat from manufacturing or processing, or which can be readily ignited and burn vigorously.

Examples: Calcium carbide, Cellulose nitrate products, Matches (any type including safety), Metallic magnesium, Nitro-cellulose based film, Phosphorous, Potassium, Sodium, Sodium hydride, Zinc powder, Zirconium hydride etc.

Class 5 - Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides

Though not necessarily combustible themselves, these substances may cause or contribute to combustion of other substances. They may also be liable to explosive decomposition, react dangerously with other substances, and be injurious to health.

Examples: Bromates, Chlorates, Components of fibreglass repair kits, Nitrates, Perchlorates, Permanganates, Peroxides etc.

Class 6 - Toxic and infectious substances

Substances liable to cause death or injury if swallowed or inhaled, or by skin contact. All toxic substances are prohibited.

Examples: Arsenic, Beryllium, Cyanide, Fluorine, Hydrogen Selenide, Infectious substance containing micro-organisms or their toxins which are known or suspected to cause disease, Mercury, Mercury salts, Mustard gas, Nitrobenzene, Nitrogen dioxide, Pesticides, Poisons, Rat poison.

Pathogens in Risk Groups 4, and selected Risk Group 3 pathogens listed in Schedule 9, part 5 of the latest edition of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations are prohibited.

Examples: Ebola, Foot and mouth disease, Environmental, clinical and medical waste.

Class 7 - Radioactive material

All material and samples that are classified as radioactive using Table 2-12 of the latest edition of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Technical Instructions are prohibited.

Examples: Fissile material (Uranium 235, etc), Radioactive waste material, Thorium or Uranium ores, etc.

Class 8 - Corrosives

Substances which can cause severe damage by chemical action to living tissue, other freight, or the means of transport. All corrosive substances are prohibited.

Examples: Aluminium chloride, Caustic soda, Corrosive cleaning fluid, Corrosive rust remover/preventative, Corrosive paint remover, Electric storage batteries, Hydrochloric acid, Nitric acid, Sulphuric acid etc.

Class 9 - Miscellaneous dangerous goods

Substances which present dangers not covered elsewhere.

Examples: Asbestos, Dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), Magnetised material with a magnetic field strength of 0.159 A/m or more at a distance of 2.1m from the outside of the package.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION TOTAL PROHIBITION - domestic, import, export and transit

Arms and their component parts classified as munitions of war,

ammunition of any kind and firearms prohibited under the Firearms Acts 1947 may not be sent, received or transit by Isle of Man Post or partner services. Such items include automatic weapons (machine guns and sub-machine guns), self loading rifles, most hand guns and pistols, anti-tank rocket launchers, mortars and other military weapons, electric stun guns, firearms disguised as something else, CS gas sprays and pepper sprays and flick knives.

Conditional exports from the Isle of Man

All types of ammunition are prohibited. Sporting firearms (bolt and lever-action rifles, most shotguns, muzzle loading guns, rifles of .22 rimfire calibre) can be exported to the United Kingdom by the Parcelforce 9/10/12/24 services, with the exception of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Northern Ireland & the Scilly Isles where the Parcelforce 48 service must be used. Please note that the sender and recipients of firearms must be a Registered Firearms Dealer. For collection arrangements and payment details please contact the Parcelforce department 01624 698411. The sending and receiving of firearms is restricted to the above areas. The firearms must be accompanied by the necessary documentation required by law. Any enquiries relating to import and export licensing requirements for firearms, ammunition and components should be directed to Isle of Man Customs and Excise, tel. 01624 648138 or email: customs@gov.im or the Firearms Department, Isle of Man Constabulary, tel. 01624 631212.

OTHER PROHIBITED GOODS

Drugs

Controlled drugs may not be sent by any Isle of Man Post service.

Examples: Cocaine, Cannabis resin, LSD, Narcotics, Morphine, Opium, Psychotropic substances etc.

Filth

Foul or disgusting material is prohibited.

Indecent, obscene or offensive articles

Indecent, obscene or offensive communications, prints, photographs, books or other articles, and packets bearing grossly offensive, indecent or obscene words, marks or designs are prohibited.

Lottery tickets

Tickets and related advertisements for illegal lotteries are prohibited.

Miscellaneous manufactured articles

Goods made in foreign prisons, except those imported for a non-commercial purpose of a kind not manufactured in the UK.

OTHER RESTRICTED GOODS

Alcoholic beverages

Alcoholic content should not be greater than 70%. In addition, alcohol that will result in excise duty may only be exported by Parcelforce International Datapost.

Batteries

These articles may only be posted in their retail packaging.

Christmas crackers

May only be posted in complete made-up form and in their retail packaging.

Counterfeit currency and postage stamps

Prohibited unless no longer available for current use and therefore of value only as collectors items.

Diagnostic specimens

All diagnostic specimens must be posted in packaging that complies with Packing Instructions 650. The total sample volume/mass in any package shall not exceed 50ml/g. Diagnostic specimens are only permitted for destinations within the UK.

Infectious substances

We will only accept Infectious Substances in Risk Groups 1, 2 and 3. Samples known or suspected to contain Infectious Substances in Risk Group 4 are prohibited, as are selected Risk Group 3 pathogens listed in Schedule 9, part 5 of the latest edition of the Control of

Substances Hazardous to Health. All infectious substances must be posted in UN 2814 or 2900 approved packaging as detailed in Packing Instructions 602. The total sample volume/mass in any package shall not exceed 50ml/g. Infectious substances are only permitted for destinations within the UK.

Living creatures

Certain living creatures are accepted only if enclosed in packs constructed so as to prevent injury to Isle of Man Post staff, its agents or damage to other packages.

The following are accepted: Bees, Destroyers of noxious pests and other insects sent to or from officially recognized institutions, Leeches and certain parasites, Silkworms.

In addition the following may be sent to destinations in the UK (excluding the Channel Islands and the Republic of Ireland):

Caterpillars, Earthworms, Fish fry and eggs, Lugworms, Maggots, Mealworms, Pupae and chrysalides and Ragworms. To send any of the above, Parcelforce by 9.00am, Parcelforce by 10.00am, Parcelforce by 12 noon or Parcelforce 24 services must be used for the UK and International Datapost for Zones 4 to 12.

Misleading endorsements

Parcels must not bear words, marks or designs which are unauthorised and which may reasonably lead the recipient to believe that the packet has been sent On Her Majesty's Service.

Perishable articles and foodstuffs

Fresh fruit, meat, fish and other perishable articles should be able to withstand a journey of up to 2 days and must be sent by guaranteed next day to the UK. Packages must be clearly labelled "PERISHABLE".

Packages of fish should be smoked or chilled, and sealed in vacuum packs before consignment. In all cases they must be enclosed in adequate polystyrene containment to prevent contamination. Any foodstuffs, whether perishable or not, cannot be exported using the Parcelforce Euro 48 service. This includes seeds and other vegetable products intended for further processing.

Prescription drugs

Prescription drugs sent for medical or scientific purposes, for example from a medical practitioner to a hospital, must contain the address of the sender in case of non-delivery, so that they may be returned without delay. The properties of these drugs, should not meet any of the criteria of the 9 UN hazard classes when classified by the sender. Drugs in prescription quantities may be sent by private individuals in the case of emergencies. In all cases, the sender's address must be included on the inside of the package.

Sharp objects

These items may only be posted if they are packaged appropriately so that they do not present a risk to employees, other packages or recipients.

Financial documents

Money - bankers drafts, current bank notes, currency notes or coins, credit cards, debit cards, uncrossed postal orders which do not state to whom they are to be paid, cheques or dividend warrants which are uncrossed and made payable to the bearer, bearer securities including share warrants, scrips, or subscription certificates, bonds or relative coupons, unfranked postage or revenue stamps, (except a revenue stamp embossed or impressed on an instrument which has been executed); coupons, vouchers, tokens, lottery tickets, scratch cards or similar documents which can be exchanged themselves or with any other document for money, goods or services; national insurance stamps; all tickets, including travel and events. The above can be sent to UK destinations only.

Works of Art, Plants & Human remains

cannot be exported using the Parcelforce Euro 48 service.