



Terms and Conditions

Prohibitions and Restrictions

Isle of Man Post, in conjunction with partners such as Royal Mail Group plc (inc. Parcelforce and Parcelforce Worldwide), complies with strict transport regulations and will not carry illegal, hazardous or harmful items.

Any letters or parcels identified as containing prohibited goods may be returned to the sender, destroyed or disposed of as Isle of Man Post deems appropriate. They may be handed to HM Customs or the Police and in some cases the sender and/or addressee may face prosecution.

Any items which contain any substance classified as dangerous in the latest edition of the Civil Aviation Organisation's Technical Instructions can not be carried by Isle of Man Post

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.

Restrictions vary from country to country and some destinations will not accept certain items not listed here, e.g. those with a high value may be prohibited by certain foreign postal services, and some items are prohibited from being sent by certain services.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Dangerous Goods

All dangerous goods are prohibited

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

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 also 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 prohibitions –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 any Isle of Man Post or partners service.

Such weapons include, but are not limited to ~ 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, flick knives (offensive weapons under the Criminal Justice Act 1991).

Conditional imports into the Isle of Man

The following articles may be admitted conditionally for import: sporting firearms (bolt and lever-action rifles, most shotguns, muzzle loading guns, rifles of .22 rimfire calibre), air weapons, cross-bows and most ammunition. All of these articles are subject to domestic controls on possession of the firearms and import licensing requirements for imports into the Isle of Man.

The item should be accompanied by a Visitors Permit. (Visitors will need to obtain a Visitors Permit from the appropriate local police authority. The Visitors Permit should be applied for through the organisers of shooting events in the Isle of Man and received by the sender prior to the item being despatched. In addition visitors from a Member State of the European Union will also need in their possession an European Firearms Pass.)

Conditional exports from the Isle of Man

The following articles may be admitted conditionally for export: sporting firearms (bolt and lever-action rifles, most shotguns, muzzle loading guns, rifles of .22 rimfire calibre), air weapons, crossbows and most ammunition.

These must be accompanied by the necessary documentation required by law (e.g. an export licence issued by the Isle of Man Treasury). This conditional export is only available to Isle of Man Post contract customers, and all such parcels must be sent on the International Datapost service only.

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 United Kingdom.

Any other item prohibited by law or that in the opinion of Isle of Man Post may be harmful or dangerous to Isle of Man Post employees

RESTRICTED ITEMS

Alcoholic beverages

Alcoholic content should not be greater than 70%. Alcohol that will result in excise duty may only be exported on the International Datapost service

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 United Kingdom.

Infectious substances

Only infectious substances in Risk Groups 1, 2 and 3 may be accepted. 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 United Kingdom.

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 Zones 1 to 3 :

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 Zones 1 to 3 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 delivery as a minimum requirement within 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. It is the responsibility of the shipper to package all perishable articles in such a manner that during transport within the system the contents are kept at an appropriate temperature that is unlikely to give rise to a risk to health. Any foodstuffs, whether perishable or not, cannot be exported using the 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 may be

sent by guaranteed services within the Isle of Man, UK and Channel Islands, and some by certain priority services to a limited number of Overseas destinations.

Works of art

Works of art cannot be exported using the Euro 48 service.

Plants

Live plants cannot be exported using the Euro 48 service.

Human remains

Human remains cannot be exported using the Euro 48 service.

SIZE AND WEIGHTS

Parcels must comply with the size and weight limits in the country of destination.

The maximum limits within Isle of Man, U.K. and Channels Islands are:

- size ~ 3 metres length and girth (measured around its thickest part) combined, and 1.5 metres for the greatest dimension.
- weight ~ 30kg

(certain Special Delivery services have reduced limits)