

International Shipping

Your step-by-step guide on how to ship packages across the world using the USPS.

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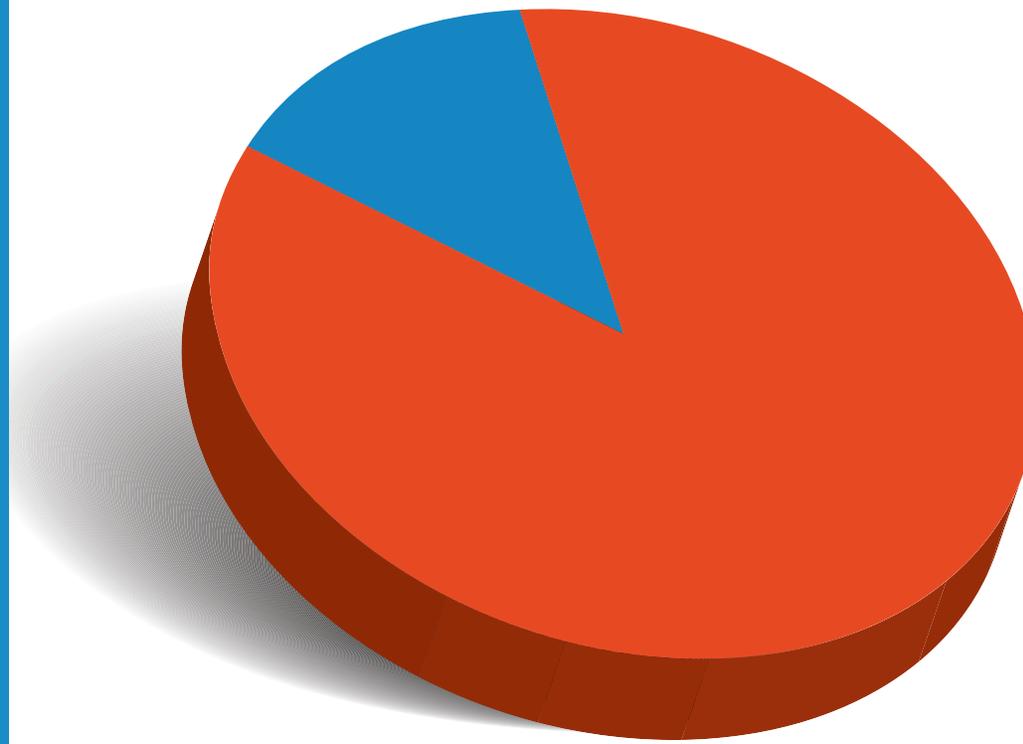


Why sell internationally?

E-commerce sales worldwide are expected to reach \$1.7 trillion in 2015. Of the 1.22 billion digital buyers across the world, the U.S. will only account for 168.7 million buyers or 14% of the market in 2015. With the demand for American-made products higher than ever, e-commerce sellers cannot afford to ignore the growing segment of international customers that makes up 86% of the global market.

Online Buyers Worldwide in 2015

14%
168.7 million
U.S. buyers in 2015



86%
1.06 billion
international
buyers in 2015

31%: China
24%: Europe
12%: Latin America,
the Middle East
and Africa

Source: eMarketer

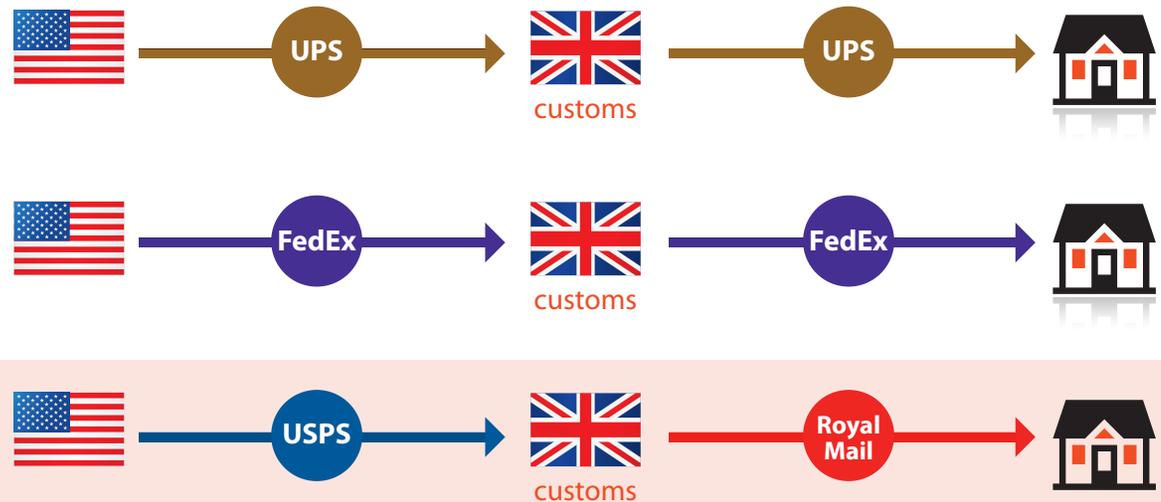
Comparing carrier package delivery

Private carriers like FedEx® and UPS® handle package delivery from the sender in the U.S. all the way to the recipient in the destination country. The U.S. Postal Service® (USPS) handles package delivery up to customs at the destination country, at which point, the host postal service of the destination country handles package delivery to the recipient.

How International Shipping Works

How carriers deliver packages to international addresses:

Example: 2 lb. package from Los Angeles to London



Surcharges add to the total shipping costs

On top of the shipping rates, FedEx and UPS charge additional fees like fuel surcharges to deliver packages internationally. The USPS is the only carrier that does not include any surcharges in its shipping costs, making it the lowest cost option to ship packages internationally.

How International Shipping Works

Comparing carrier costs

Savings Example: 2 lb. package from Los Angeles to London

2 to 5 Business Days Delivery		
FedEx International Priority \$79.19 + \$2.77 fuel surcharge = \$81.96	UPS Worldwide Saver \$78.40 + \$3.72 Fuel Surcharge = \$82.12	USPS Priority Mail Express International \$56.81 + \$0.00 Fuel Surcharge = \$56.81 <small>LOWEST COST</small>
6 to 10 Business Days Delivery		
FedEx International Economy \$76.55 + \$2.68 fuel surcharge = \$79.23	UPS Worldwide Expedited \$75.80 + \$3.60 Fuel Surcharge = \$79.40	USPS Priority Mail International \$44.50 + \$0.00 Fuel Surcharge = \$44.50 <small>LOWEST COST</small>
11 to 20 Business Days Delivery		
FedEx Not Available	UPS Not Available	USPS First-Class Package International Service \$21.63 <small>LOWEST COST</small>

FedEx and UPS Rates include 20% volume discount off Standard List Rates.
FedEx Rates include 3.50% Fuel Surcharge (as of April 2015).
UPS Rates include 4.75% Fuel Surcharge (as of April 2015).

USPS International Mail Classes

The USPS offers several international service options to deliver mail and packages to over 180 countries.

Mail Class	Delivery Time	Ideal For	Shipment Value	Tracking Capabilities
Global Express Guaranteed®	1 to 3 business days	Mail and packages weighing up to 70 lbs.	Unlimited	Date specific delivery (managed by FedEx Express)
Priority Mail Express International	3 to 5 business days	Mail and packages weighing up to 70 lbs.	Unlimited	Tracking information available with USPS Track & Confirm Tool
Priority Mail Express International Flat Rate	3 to 5 business days	Mail weighing up to 4 lbs. and packages weighing up to 20 lbs.	Unlimited	Tracking information available with USPS Track & Confirm Tool
Priority Mail International	6 to 10 business days	Mail and packages weighing up to 70 lbs.	Unlimited	Tracking information available with USPS Track & Confirm Tool
Priority Mail International Flat Rate	6 to 10 business days	Mail weighing up to 4 lbs. and packages weighing up to 20 lbs.	Up to \$400*	Tracking information available with USPS Track & Confirm Tool
First-Class Package International Service	11 to 20 business days	Small packages weighing up to 4 lbs.	Up to \$400	Free USPS Tracking information for select destinations
First-Class Mail International	Varies by destination	Mail (postcards, letters and large envelopes) weighing up to 4 lbs.	Up to \$400	None

*Shipment value is unlimited for Priority Mail International medium and large boxes

An affordable mail class for small items

First-Class Package International Service is the lowest cost shipping option among all carriers to over 180 countries. The maximum allowable package weight is 4 lbs. Packages are delivered between 11 and 20 days, depending on the destination. This is a great option to use for small shipments that aren't time-sensitive.

First-Class Package International Service



Lowest cost option among all carriers for packages weighing up to 4 lbs.

- Great for shipping low cost items.
- Avoid paying \$50 for shipping on items that cost \$20.
- Delivery could take up to 21 days.
- Offers tracking to select destinations.

Tip: Shipping small, inexpensive products overseas? Save money by using First-Class Package International Service to ship items like books, clothing, accessories, health and beauty products. Just make sure your package weighs less than 4 lbs.

Packaging for International Delivery

When shipping internationally with the USPS, your packages will be handled by the destination country's carrier for final delivery. Since handling facilities in some destination countries may have different procedures, your shipments require a little more care during packaging.



STEP 1: Getting ready to ship

Choose the right box. Use a new, preferably corrugated box that is spacious enough to accommodate both your product and plenty of packing material on all sides.

Don't max out the weight limit of your box. Instead, use the number shown on the bottom flap. Keep in mind that every country has specific weight limits for each mail class.



STEP 2: Prepare and protect

Filler up. Start with at least 5 centimeters of cushioning material (bubble wrap, packing peanuts and/or foam pads) before you even put your product inside the box.

Merchandise in multiples? Wrap and cushion each item separately so they don't bump each other in transit.

Insulate against the elements. Anticipate damage caused by extreme temperatures and weather by wrapping and sealing your items.

Tape. Seal all flaps and seams securely with wide nylon-reinforced or pressure-sensitive plastic tape. Heavier packages will require more tape and in multiple directions for additional durability.

Label. Include a copy of the shipping label inside the package before you seal it.



STEP 3: Label your package

Attach a customs form to your package. For most mail classes, the customs form is your USPS shipping label for an international package. PS Form 2976 (short form) can be attached directly to the package. PS Form 2976-A (long form) must be inserted into the Customs Declaration Envelope (Form 2976-E), which then must be attached to the package on the address side.

Should I use customs forms?

Unless you are shipping an envelope that weighs less than 16 oz., you need to include a customs form with your international shipment. Customs forms summarize the contents of the package and identify the value of the shipped items. These forms make it possible for the destination country to examine mail and allow its entry without having to open and inspect each item one-by-one.

USPS Customs Forms

Mail Class	Commercial Invoice PS Form 6182	Short Form PS Form 2976 Customs Declaration CN 22	Long Form PS Form 2976A Customs Declaration & Dispatch Note CP 72
Global Express Guaranteed	●		
Priority Mail Express International		● under \$400 in value	● over \$400 in value
Priority Mail Express International Flat Rate		● under \$400 in value	● over \$400 in value
Priority Mail International			●
Priority Mail International Flat Rate		● Envelopes up to 4 lbs. Small boxes up to 20 lbs.	● Medium and large boxes up to 70 lbs.
First-Class Package International Service		●	
First-Class Mail International		● 16 oz. or more under \$400 in value	
All other packages			●

No customs forms are needed for envelopes that contain only documents and weigh less than 16 oz.

How USPS International Tracking Works

The USPS provides different levels of package tracking for international packages depending on the mail class. For Global Express Guaranteed and Priority Mail Express International, you receive delivery status information using the Track & Confirm tool. For Priority Mail International, you can get delivery information for all packages with two exceptions: Tracking information is only provided optionally for select destinations when you use Priority Mail International Flat-Rate Envelopes or Small Flat-Rate Boxes.

International Package Tracking



USPS International Mail Class	International Tracking Capabilities	Example Number
Global Express Guaranteed®	Tracking to all destinations	82 000 000 00
Priority Mail Express International™	USPS Tracking for most destinations	EC 000 000 000 US
Priority Mail International®	USPS Tracking for most destinations. <i>Not available for Flat Rate Envelopes or Flat Rate Small Boxes.</i>	CP 000 000 000 US
First-Class Package International Service	USPS Tracking for Select destinations*	LZ 000 000 000 US
First-Class International Letters	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not available</i>

*FCPS tracking available only to: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Spain, and Switzerland.

Customs, Duties and Taxes

Who pays for customs, duties and taxes for international shipments? Generally, the package recipient is responsible for paying any local fees to receive the package including customs, duties and taxes. These fees are important as they can impact the total price a customer is willing to purchase a product. And if a package is denied at delivery, some carriers could invoice you for the fees.

Customs Fees



Customs Fees are costs that the host country charges to manage the flow of goods in and out of the country. All products go through Customs before going to the buyer, and there is a fee associated to manage this process.

Duties/Tariffs



Similar to Customs Fees, Duties/Tariffs are a type of tax placed on value of item, plus freight and insurance by country. Duties/Tariffs are designed to protect local businesses and industries in the host country.

Taxes



Taxes are not charged by every country, and they can vary based on the value of the product. This is an additional fee that a local government such as state, province or city, charges for delivering the package into their region.

International Product Restrictions

Many countries prohibit or restrict the types of products that can be imported due to cultural reasons or to protect local industry. Make sure you research each country's prohibited items before you open your sales to that market. Here are some seemingly innocuous items prohibited from being imported into some countries:



Tip: Know if your product is prohibited before you start selling to a country!

International Shipping Tips



Communicate delays to international buyers:

Mail disruptions may occur due to reasons out of your control such as natural disasters, weather, political or labor issues in your buyer's home country. Keep your international buyers happy by communicating any delays in a timely manner!

[Check daily service updates at www.usps.com.](http://www.usps.com)



Buy international package insurance:

Package Insurance protects the seller in case your package is lost or damaged. It's easy to purchase and recommended to include when your merchandise value is over \$50.



Use Priority Mail International:

All uninsured Priority Mail International packages (excluding Small Flat Rate boxes) automatically include indemnity coverage for loss or damage. Indemnity is the lesser of the actual value of the contents of the package or the maximum indemnity based on package weight and is paid to the package recipient.



Think twice before marking "gift":

Don't risk prosecution as a favor to your buyer. Marking sold merchandise as a "gift" to avoid additional fees is against the law if the item is truly not a gift from you to the recipient. Make sure you complete your customs forms according to the product being shipped.

About Stamps.com

Whether you ship one package a day or 10,000, from your garage or from a giant warehouse, Stamps.com has the tools to make your USPS shipping process faster, more efficient and more reliable than ever before. Take a look at all that Stamps.com has to offer.

E-commerce Integrations

- Retrieve order data directly from eBay®, Amazon.com® and more
- Shopping Cart Support including Magento® and Bigcommerce
- Multi-Carrier Shipping Software including Kewill Flagship and ShipWorks

Warehouse Shipping

- Gain access to substantial USPS discounted rates
- Scalable with existing equipment – printers, scales and barcode readers
- Multiple shipping stations or locations

#1 USPS Postage API

- Rate, ship and track packages from within your software
- Platform Independent – build both advanced desktop and cloud-based solutions
- Build and test on a safe sandbox environment without costs

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