

# US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Periodical stamps



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Postmasters should be accommodating, but are not required to lose the fractions of cents in selling; if the postmaster cannot readily make change the purchaser must tender the exact price of the quantity wanted.

**Sec. 176. Exchange of Postage Stamps Prohibited.**—The exchange of postage stamps or stamped envelopes for those of other denominations to accommodate private parties is strictly prohibited, except in redemption of stamped paper as provided in section one hundred and eighty-one.

**Sec. 177. Postmasters not Required to Accept Mutilated Currency.**—Postmasters are not required by law to redeem or accept in payment of post-office dues, money orders, stamps, or stamped envelopes, any currency which may be so mutilated as to be uncurrent; nor is it any part of their duty to receive and transmit to the Treasury for redemption, mutilated currency belonging to individuals, except as regular mail matter, forwarded in the usual manner, at the risk of the owner, postage prepaid. Such packages are entitled to registration without fee. (Section 1047.)

**Sec. 178. What Money not Receivable.**—Foreign gold and silver coins, not being a legal tender in the United States, should not be accepted by postmasters, nor should they accept any coins which have been mutilated (perforated or abraded), because the Treasury Department will not receive such coins. If counterfeit money be accepted the postmaster must bear the loss. Minor coins of the United States—five cent, three-cent, and one-cent pieces—are legal tender to the amount of twenty-five cents. (See section 187, *note*.)

**Sec. 179. Newspaper and Periodical Stamps** are never to be sold to any persons, nor loaned to other postmasters. Their only proper use is to be affixed and immediately canceled on the stub of each receipt given for second-class matter accepted for mailing, at the rate of one cent a pound or fraction thereof. The exact amount should be affixed by using stamps of different denominations, and the stamp must not be cut to alter its value. Ordinary stamps cannot be used for this purpose. Second-class matter, elsewhere defined, must be brought to the post-office and there weighed in bulk, and the true weight stated in the receipt and stub, which will be furnished by the Department in convenient book form. For convenience the postmaster may receive from the publisher of a daily newspaper the deposit of sufficient money in advance to pay more than a single mailing, but must affix the proper stamps to the stub representing each mailing, charging the deposit accordingly, and never exceeding it. Postmasters must return punctually at the end of every quarter, to the Third Assistant Postmaster-