

US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Postage due stamps



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General, by registered mail, in special envelopes provided for the purpose, the stubs of all receipts given for newspaper and periodical postage collected during the quarter, together with the statement required by section two hundred and fifty-six.

Before returning the stubs, the calculations and footings should be reviewed and made correct. The stubs should then be detached from the book, arranged in numerical order, fastened together at the upper left-hand corner, and the name of the post-office, county, and State written thereon. The postmaster will continue to use what is left of the stub book. The stamps attached to the stub book must never be removed, nor the books disposed of other than as herein directed. Postmasters should never neglect to attach to the stub book the full amount of stamps to cover all postage collected for this class of matter, as failure so to do will be evidence tending to show embezzlement.

Sec. 180. Postage-Due and Special-Delivery Stamps.—Postage-due stamps are to be used for matter of the first, third, and fourth classes and matter of the second class when mailed by others than publishers or news agents (see section 351) which has passed through the mails and arrived at destination with the postage partly or wholly unpaid. The manner of using these stamps is explained in sections 557-559.

Special-delivery stamps can be used only to obtain immediate delivery of letters as provided in chapter twenty.

Sec. 181. Redemption of Spoiled Stamped Paper.—When stamped envelopes or newspaper wrappers, belonging to private persons, shall have been spoiled by misdirection, they may be redeemed at the face value of the stamps thereon in adhesive stamps or postal cards, by any postmaster, if they be presented in substantially a whole condition, and he be satisfied that they have never been used, and that the misdirection occurred at the place at which his office is situated. Stamped envelopes which have become unserviceable to the owners through mistakes in printing or because the printed addresses thereon are no longer suitable to use, may be likewise redeemed on the same conditions.

In any case of doubt the postmaster should refer the question, with a careful statement of the facts, to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General.

Sec. 182. Disposition of Redeemed Stamped Paper.—Stamped paper redeemed under the preceding section must be sent to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General (Stamp Division), in a special letter, registered, stating the number and amount of each denomination; and the postmaster must have a disinterested witness to the mailing thereof. Unless the letter be registered, credit for its contents will not be allowed

double rates. When it is apparent from the envelope or wrapper that a stamp has been on it and has been wholly or partially lost off, the postmaster may assume the matter to have been prepaid. But the evidence that the stamp has been affixed must be from the blank in the impression of the canceling stamp. In such case, first-class matter will be presumed to have been prepaid one full rate only, as that would entitle it to be forwarded. Letters on which postage-due stamps, but no other, are affixed, arriving at the office of destination, must be charged double rate on delivery, as the postage upon mailing cannot be paid in postage-due stamps. The mailing postmaster should in such cases be reported to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, who will charge his account with such stamps.

Sec. 559. Time of Affixing Postage-due Stamps.—At all other than free-delivery post-offices postmasters will affix the postage-due stamps when, and not until, the delivery of the matter has been requested; and hence not to matter forwarded by request of the addressees, returned to writer, or sent to the Dead-Letter Office. But at free-delivery post-offices they will be affixed on all deficient matter as soon as received; unless an order is on file for the letter to be forwarded, in which case, if practicable, it will be forwarded without affixing such stamps.

When matter arrives at a post-office with postage due thereon, and the postmaster has no postage-due stamps on hand, he will collect the amount due, and so soon as he shall obtain postage-due stamps affix the amount in such stamps to a sheet of paper, cancel, and forward the same to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General with statement of the facts.

If the postage stamps upon a registered letter or parcel do not cover the proper postage and registration fee, the receiving postmaster must proceed according to section one thousand one hundred and fourteen.

Sec. 560. Credit for Postage Stamps Affixed to Undelivered Matter.—When at free-delivery offices postage-due stamps have been affixed to refused, unclaimed, or other undelivered matter, credit must be claimed therefor, when sent to the Dead-Letter Office, on the dead-letter bill for "postage-due stamps canceled on undelivered mail matter." When returned to writer, or forwarded to another post-office within the United States, a numbered postage-due bill, stating amount due and name of person from whom it is to be collected, must be attached to and sent with the letter. The postmaster receiving the same must detach the bill and return it by next mail with amount of uncanceled postage-due stamps inclosed to the postmaster issuing the bill, who, in case of failure to get a return of bill and stamps within a reasonable time, may obtain proper credit and expose the delinquent postmaster by making a