

# US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Poste restante



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their contents the same as domestic registered matter received for delivery.

**Sec. 1160. Return Receipts.**—When a return receipt accompanies a letter or parcel from a foreign country, it must be signed by the recipient of the matter when delivery is made, and postmarked and returned, under cover of a penalty envelope, to the postmaster at the United States exchange post-office from which the matter was received. If no return receipt accompany the matter, it may be assumed that none is required. In such a case the postmaster delivering the letter or parcel will simply require the addressee to receipt for it upon the delivery book.

**Sec. 1161. Return Receipts for Undelivered Letters or Parcels.**—In the case of non-delivery of a foreign letter or parcel, the return receipt accompanying it must be indorsed with the cause of non-delivery, postmarked, and sent to the United States exchange office whence it came. The return receipt must never be sent to the Dead-Letter Office, but only the letter or parcel.

**Sec. 1162. Undelivered Foreign Matter.**—Should a foreign letter or parcel remain undelivered at the expiration of thirty days from the time of its receipt (unless it is specially directed to be held for delivery) it must, even though bearing the name and address of the sender, or a return request, be sent to the Dead Letter Office, in the manner prescribed by section eleven hundred and thirty-eight.

**Sec. 1163. Return of Undelivered Matter to Canada.**—Letters and parcels originating in Canada, on which the names and addresses of the senders appear, whether printed or written, are excepted from the preceding regulation. Such letters and parcels, in case of non-delivery, should be re-registered to the senders and sent back to the exchange office from which they were received, in accordance with any return requests that may appear upon them, or, if they bear no return requests, then at the end of thirty days.

See also section 1127 as to disposal of matter when addressee is dead.

**Sec. 1164. Matter Specially held for Delivery.**—When a postmaster has good reason to believe that a registered letter or parcel remaining uncalled for can be delivered to the person addressed, he may indorse it "SPECIALLY HELD FOR DELIVERY," and retain it not longer than three months before sending it to the Dead-Letter Office. Registered letters indorsed "POSTE RESTANTE," or "TO BE CALLED FOR," and those addressed to a sailor or a passenger on a vessel to arrive, must also be held not longer than three months.

**Sec. 1165. Matter Liable to Customs Duties.**—The regulations respecting ordinary mail matter subject to customs duties (see section 621) govern