## Mailmark Letters - Specification Requirements

The document sets out physical design, Indicia, addressing, barcoding, and other Royal Mail Mailmark specifications that are required when posting Letters using Mailmark. Note that specific design requirements are provided for machineable Polling Cards and Do Not Redirect items.

The specifications within this document are designed to ensure that Royal Mail Letter processing machines can process and read Letters effectively at high speed, without the need for manual or other intervention. All the specifications as set out in this document are required.

To help you with identifying how Royal Mail treats items which do not meet the specification, we have categorised and noted individual requirements as Mandatory (M), High Risk (H) or Low Risk (L) :

- Letters that fail to meet the 'Mandatory' requirements are regarded as unmachineable and are very likely to have Adjustments applied.
- Letters which fail to meet the requirements that are identified as 'High Risk' have a higher likelihood of performing poorly through our letter processing machines. Letters that fail to meet these requirements are more likely to have Adjustments applied and may become damaged in our processing machines.
- Letters which fail to meet the requirements that are identified as 'Low Risk' may perform poorly through our letter processing machines. However, the risk is lower than that posed by failure to meet the 'High Risk' specifications and there is less chance, but still a possibility, of Letters being damaged or Adjustments being applied.

We have provided guidance footnotes that explain some of the risks associated with not meeting the 'Recommended' requirements. At the end of the document we have also provided all of the Figures which are referenced throughout the document, and which provide illustrative examples of the specification requirements.

The requirements apply to the finished Letters as presented to Royal Mail.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Shape	Rectangular or square with straight sides and 90° corners	М
	Orientation	Landscape or portrait	М
	Size(H×L)	RectangularMinimum – 90mm x 140mm, Maximum – 165mm x 240mmSquareMinimum – 140mm x 140mm, Maximum – 165mm x 165mm	м
	Thickness	Minimum – 0.25mm, Maximum – 5mm	М
	Weight	Maximum – 100g	М
Shape	Content / Inserts	<ul> <li>One or two standard size staples (maximum 24mm x 6mm) or paper clips (maximum 23mm long) may be inserted in the Letter.</li> </ul>	М
Size &		• Other metal objects such as keys, pens, coins etc. must not be placed in the Letter.	м
Si		<ul> <li>Inserts other than paper that are placed in an envelope should be fixed in position and attached to the largest paper insert. e.g. bank cards.</li> </ul>	H 1
		• The spines on booklet inserts should be located on the reference edge.	L <sup>2</sup>
	Lateral Movement	There are limitations on the lateral movement space that the insert may have. They are dependent upon the thickness of the Letter, and apply to the largest paper insert (see Figure 1):	
		• Where the thickness is 2mm – 5mm the lateral movement should be no more than 20mm.	H <sup>3</sup>

### 1.1 Mailmark Letters - Physical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lowers the risk of moving inserts breaking through the Letter edges.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This reduces the potential for mail damage following jams.

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	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
Cont	Lateral Movement Cont.	• Where the thickness is 0.25mm – 2mm, the lateral movement should be no more than 30mm.	L <sup>3</sup>
Shape Cont.	Flexibility	<ul> <li>Each Letter must be capable of being transported around a pulley with a radius of 140mm with a max force of 26 N (See Figure 2) <sup>4 5</sup>.</li> </ul>	м
		• Perfect Bound mailers and content are not acceptable.	м
	Material	• Envelopes must be made from paper only and have NO open apertures <sup>6</sup>	м
		• The preferred location for the flap is on the long top edge and on the back of the Letter	Η 7
	Flaps	<ul> <li>If the flap is on a short side of the Letter, it should be on the back left edge as viewed from the front of the Letter.</li> </ul>	L7
		<ul> <li>Where the flap folds to the front (address side) of the Letter, its edge should not fall within the Codemark clear zones.</li> </ul>	L <sup>8</sup>
	Reference Edge <sup>9</sup>	The reference edge must also be a fold. (This is the edge beneath the address for landscape rectangular and square Letters, and the long edge to the left of the address for portrait Letters.) (See Figure 3)	м
ign		<ul> <li>Adhesives used must be dry and must not leak onto the outside of the Letter or produce protruding mounds on the Letter.</li> </ul>	м
, Des	Sealing	Letters must not be stuck or caught together.	м
Envelope Construction & Design		• Letters must be securely sealed on the front, back, and all edges.	м
struct		• The adhesive must be fully cured prior to presentation of the mailing to Royal Mail.	м
Cons		• Letters must be flat and must not be curled.	м
elope	Joanny	• The adhesive must not be brittle or easily broken.	м
Enve		• The sealing adhesive(s) must be no more than 80 microns thick.	м
		• Letters presented in trays should be sealed to within a minimum of 35mm from the fold of the envelope flap, and 35mm from the envelope sides (see Figure 4)	L 10
		• For all other Letters, the flap should be sealed to within a minimum of 35mm from the fold of the envelope flap, and 25mm from the envelope sides (see Figure 5).	L <sup>10</sup>
		Minimum - 70gsm for envelopes	М
	Paper Weight	Recommended minimum 200gsm for postcards	H 7
	Opacity	<ul> <li>The paper used should be at least 85 % opaque (BS ISO 2471 - Paper and board. Determination of opacity)</li> </ul>	H 11
	Absorbency	<ul> <li>The paper used should have an absorbency of 15–35 gsm of water in 1 minute (BS EN 20535 - Paper and board. Determination of water absorptiveness.)</li> </ul>	H 12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Where the Letter thickness is variable and lateral movement is high, there is an increased risk of the Letter content being separated from the envelope or wrap.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Letters must be flexible enough to wrap around a cylinder of 280mm diameter without being damaged.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> From a non-technical perspective, items should be flexible enough to bend into an 'S' shape along the longest edge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> If you wish to apply a Mailmark barcode to Letter format Mailing Items that are poly-wrapped, unwrapped (naked) or not sealed you can do so provided that you present, declare, and pay for the items as Large Letters.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This ensures that the Letter is strong enough to withstand the rigours of mechanical and manual handling.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Tag codemark reading supports Mailmark reporting.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The reference edge is a fold on a particular edge of the Letter, which enables it to be processed through the machines efficiently

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> This may result in the unsealed portion of the flap being torn during processing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> This facilitates Mailmark, address, and Indicia reading.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> This facilitates the application of codes and artwork to the Letter (i.e. the ink soaks in and does not rub off).

#### Mailmark Mailing Requirements for Letters

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Porosity	<ul> <li>The paper used should have a porosity value of less than 700 ml per minute (BS 6538-2 - Air permeance of paper and board.)</li> </ul>	L <sup>13</sup>
Envelope Construction & Design Cont.	Finish - Digitally Printed Mail	When digital printing is used for mail, the pigment may rub off, transfer to adjacent surfaces (inserts and the envelope), crack, and become marked both during the manual and automated handling processes. The application of an ultraviolet (UV) cured varnish has been found to reduce the wear to digitally printed mail items. This provides a protective coating over the pigment. It should only be applied to the non-address side of the Letter as the characteristics of the varnish may make the mail unmachineable if applied to both sides <sup>14</sup> . The pressure exerted on the Letter during automated processing may cause colour offset on digitally printed items. Therefore, it is recommended that there should be no off set of print or colour transfer when the item is exposed to a pressure of 3.43kPa (35g per cm2). This equates to a weight of 8.5kg spread over the surface of a DL envelope, and 13.5kg for	L <sup>15</sup>
uction	One-Piece	C5 envelopes. • See One-Piece Mailer Specification (including one-piece mailers, wrap mailers, coupon	
onstr	Mailer	mailers, feature mailers, Fold & Seal Mailers and machineable postcards) in section 2.6.	-
relope (	Perforated Mailers	<ul> <li>See Perforated Mail Specification (including perforations, zip tie, and pressure seal envelopes) in section 2.6.2. No other form of perforated mailer is permitted</li> </ul>	-
ШЧ	Do Not Redirect	See separate Do Not Redirect Specification	-
	Logos & Advertising	<ul> <li>Any logo or advertising slogan printed on the Letter should not look like a payment indicia or address or include a geographical location, country or a Royal Mail bag or bundle label.</li> <li>Any graphic outside of the indicia area, which looks like a payment indicia. e.g. stamp,</li> </ul>	L <sup>16</sup>
		<ul> <li>Ally graphic outside of the match area, which tooks like a payment match. e.g. stamp, PPI should be avoided.</li> <li>Slogans where the company name contains the words 'Return', 'Address' and 'Undelivered' should be avoided.</li> </ul>	L <sup>16</sup>
	Fixing	<ul> <li>Envelopes with apertures must have a window film covering the aperture, and the film must be securely sealed to the inside of the envelope on all sides of the aperture.</li> </ul>	м
		• The Delivery Address must be visible through the window.	м
		• The window film should be flat and fixed evenly across the surface area it is in contact with.	H <sup>17</sup>
		<ul> <li>The window film should be robust enough not to become creased, crumpled or otherwise deformed.</li> </ul>	H <sup>17</sup>
Window	Number	• There should be no more than 2 windows on the front of the Letter (or alternatively 1 on the front and 1 on the back).	L <sup>18</sup>
	Size	<ul> <li>The window(s) on the front of the Letter must take up no more than 50% of the surface area.</li> </ul>	М
		• Front windows should be rectangular (with rounded corners), or circular and no more than 85mm in diameter (see Figure 6).	L <sup>17</sup>
	Size & Shape	• Where there are both front and back windows, the back window must be circular. The back window no more than 48mm in diameter and be centred 31mm, plus or minus 2mm up from the bottom edge of the Letter.	L <sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> This facilitates the singulation of the mail at machine infeed (i.e. fewer double fed Letters and missorts).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> They may have 'window-like characteristics' that reduce mechanical handling capability, increase static cling, and compromise codemark printing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The impact of this is limited to the artwork and it is highly unlikely to result in poor processing performance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> This will reduce any potential for address reading errors,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> This ensures that the Letter is strong enough to withstand the rigours of mechanical and manual handling and facilitates Mailmark and address reading.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> This facilitates Mailmark and address reading.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Position	• Windows on the front of the envelope must avoid the indicia area and the codemark clear zones, and must be located at least 15mm from the top, left and right edges, and at least 18mm from the bottom edge. (See Figure 10 - Figure 13)	М
Window Cont.		<ul> <li>Windows on the back of the Letter must be at least 18 mm from the bottom edge of the Letter and be at least 15mm from the edge for the remaining three sides. (See Figure 10 - Figure 13)</li> </ul>	м
Wing	Gloss	• The maximum gloss value for the window should not exceed 150 when measured at 60°, in accordance with American Standard Test Method (ASTM) 2457.	H 17
	Haze	• The maximum haze value for the window should not exceed 75% in accordance with (ASTM D1003-00 Procedure A (Hazemeter)).	H <sup>17</sup>

### **1.1.1** Mailmark Letters - Labels

Labels may be used for address and/or indicia content and/or Mailmark code content.

Requirements for the location of the indicia, delivery address block, return address block, and Mailmark codes remain as specified in sections 2.2 - 2.6.

Requirements for Mailmark code quality, clear zones, skew, opacity etc. remain unchanged.

Category		Specification Requirement	M/R
al	Peel adhesion	The peel adhesion strength of the label must be sufficient to ensure that fibre tear is be exhibited on separation	М
Physical	Shape	Labels should be rectangular or square and have radiused corners	H 19
	Opacity	The paper used should be at least 85 % opaque (BS ISO 2471 - Paper and board. Determination of opacity)	H <sup>20</sup>

## 1.2 Mailmark Letters - Network Access Indicium & Customer Access Indicator

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	General	• All Letters must carry an approved Indicium which has been agreed by Royal Mail and the customer.	М
m		Only one Indicium must be printed on the Letter.	м
Indicia	Location	The Indicium must be located on the front of the Letter, above and to the right of the Delivery Address and in the top right corner of the Letter in the Indicium area. This area is 75mm long & 40mm high. (See Figure 10 - Figure 13) If the smaller indicia of 20mm x 15mm is used, then the indicia area may be reduced to 75mm x 30mm.	М

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> This facilitates address reading and optimises label adhesion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> This facilitates Mailmark, address, and Indicia reading.

	<u> </u>		14/5
	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Access PPI	Delivered by     Delivered by     Delivered by       Royal Mail     C1 12345     C1 12345       Positive Form     Negative Form	
		• The small Indicium is 20mm high x 15mm wide (see Figure 7)	м
	Indicium Size	• The large Indicium is 30mm high x 15mm wide (see Figure 7)	м
		The Indicium must not be scaled.	м
or – PPI	C9 Licence No.	• The unique licence number in the form AN NNNNN must printed beneath the cruciform and 1.25mm above the bottom border.	м
dicato		• The Licence number must be printed centred justified and using Arial 8.3pt Bold font.	м
ss Inc		• A clear zone of 5mm must be provided to the left and below the PPI.	м
Royal Mail Access Indicator – PPI	Clear Zones	• A clear zone of 5mm, plus or minus 2mm should be provided above, and to the right of the PPI.	L <sup>21</sup>
Royal M	Indicium Format / Colour	<ul> <li>Where the Indicium is in positive colour form, it will be printed in dark colour on a light-coloured substrate</li> </ul>	м
		<ul> <li>Where the Indicium is in 'negative' colour form, it will be printed in white on a dark coloured substrate.</li> </ul>	м
		All elements should be sharp, solid, and distinct.	H <sup>22</sup>
		• The Indicium should be printed at a minimum resolution of 300dpi.	H <sup>22</sup>
	Indicium Printing	<ul> <li>Where the Indicium is darker than the background, the Indicium contrast on homogeneous backgrounds should be at least 20%, and at least 40% for inhomogeneous backgrounds.</li> </ul>	H <sup>22</sup>
		<ul> <li>Where the Indicium is lighter than the background, the Indicium contrast on homogeneous backgrounds should be at least 80%, and at least 60% for inhomogeneous backgrounds.</li> </ul>	H <sup>22</sup>
	Indicium Skew	The skew should be no more than plus or minus $15^\circ$ from the horizontal axis.	L <sup>21</sup>
	Location	This must be located 5mm to the left of the Royal Mail Access Indicator.	М
dicator	Shape	• The Customer Access Indicator associated with the 20mm high and 15mm wide PPI Indicium must be no more than 20mm high and no more than 50mm wide.	м
Cust Access Indicator	эпаре	• The Customer Access Indicator associated with the 30mm high and 15mm wide RM Access Indicium must be no more than 30mm high and no more than 50mm wide.	м
	Content	Any words used within the Indicator must be printed using a font size of at least 10 points.	М
	Clear Zones	A clear zone of 5mm, plus or minus 2mm should be provided above, below, and to the left of the Indicator.	L <sup>23</sup>
Stamp-Like Indicia Se		See Stamp-Like Indicia Specification.	-
[	Digital Stamp	See Digital Stamp Specification.	-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Indicia may facilitate the orientation of the Letter in the event of the Mailmark code not being read.
<sup>22</sup> This ensures that the Indicia is human readable.
<sup>23</sup> This is a preference that has no impact on mail processing.

### 1.3 Mailmark Letters - Addressing

In this section, Mandatory requirements ensure that sufficient address content is provided to enable Royal Mail to read the address, and to deliver the Letters to the correct address. Recommended requirements enable effective processing when Letters cannot be processed against a Mailmark code.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Delivery Address Elements	Mailer Defined InformationVJC100(if required)AddresseeMs A N Other]OrganisationRoyal Mail] DeliveryThoroughfare185 Farringdon Road] AddressLocalityLondon] blockPostcodeEC1A 1AA]	м
		Only one Delivery Address must be printed on the Letter.	м
		• The Delivery Address must be printed on the front of the Letter, on the same side and in the same orientation as the Indicia.	м
		• No other addresses and nothing else that can be construed as looking like a Delivery Address must be printed on the Letter (with the exception of the Return Address).	м
	General	<ul> <li>A maximum of 2 lines of addressee information may be included above the PAF address. This may be included in English, Welsh, or bi-lingual English / Welsh.</li> </ul>	м
		• Bi-lingual address content is not acceptable. e.g. Abertawe or Swansea may be used but NOT Abertawe Swansea. The Delivery Address may include a Welsh language alternative where the Welsh alternative is included in PAF. e.g. Abertawe may be used as an alternative to Swansea.	М
		<ul> <li>Mailer Defined Information (MDI) may optionally be included as an additional single line immediately above the addressee's name. It must not include a barcode of any kind.</li> </ul>	М
Delivery Address	Mailer Defined	<ul> <li>The mailer defined information should be in a typeface (not underlined) and may comprise letters, numerals, punctuation marks, and ideograms in a single line above. the addressee e.g. a reference number or Standard Selection Code (SSC).</li> </ul>	L
Deliven	Information (Optional)	<ul> <li>The mailer defined information should be left justified and aligned to the rest of the Delivery Address block.</li> </ul>	L
		• The content may be of a different font and size to the other Delivery Address block elements.	L
		The line spacing should be consistent with the rest of the Delivery Address block.  The level of the second state of the	L
		• The length of the mailer defined information should not exceed 64 characters.	L
		• The Delivery Address must be a current PAF address that includes at least one premise element, one thoroughfare element, one locality element <sup>24</sup> , and the postcode.	М
	Content	<ul> <li>A maximum of 2 lines of addressee information may be included above the PAF address.</li> </ul>	L
		• The number of characters per line of the delivery address block should not exceed 64 characters (including spaces).	L
		No counties or UK countries should be included within the Delivery Address block.	L
		<ul> <li>The Delivery Address must be provided as a 'block' of left justified text with uniform line spacing (1-4mm) and with no blank lines.</li> </ul>	М
	Structure &	<ul> <li>Each individual element of the address must be on a separate line. Note that the house number and the street name must always be printed on the same line.</li> </ul>	м
	Format	• The Postcode must always be printed in 'UPPER CASE' and must be on the last line of the Delivery Address.	м
		• There should be a gap of 1-2 spaces between the 2 parts of the postcode.	L

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Where there is both a locality and a post town in the corresponding PAF record it is recommended that both are included.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		• The posttown may precede the postcode on the last line of the address if they are separated by 1-2 spaces. i.e. London EC1A 1AA.	L
	Structure &	• Only punctuation that is included with the PAF address should be included, or alternatively all punctuation may be removed <sup>25</sup> .	L
	Format Cont.	• The Delivery Address should be printed in 'Title Case' (preferred) or 'UPPER CASE'.	L
		• The word spacing should be 1-2 spaces and no more than 5mm.	L
		• The Delivery Address block skew should be no more than plus or minus 5°.	L
		<ul> <li>A Single font should be used for the whole Delivery Address block, and this should be printed using :         <ul> <li>10-12pt font</li> <li>Normal character spacing</li> <li>Pitch set at 10-12 characters per inch.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	L
Delivery Address Cont.	Preferred Fonts	<ul> <li><u>Preferred Non-Proportionally Spaced Fonts are :-</u></li> <li>Courier, Courier New, Letter Gothic, Lucida Console,</li> <li>Lucida Sans Typewriter, OCR B Word Gothic</li> <li><u>Acceptable Proportionally Spaced Fonts are :-</u></li> <li>Arial, Avant Garde, Calibri, Estrangelo Edess<b>E</b>urostile Frankfurt Gothic,</li> <li>Franklin Gothic (Book), Gautami, Geneva, Gill Sans, Helvetica, Latha, Lucida</li> <li>Sans, Mangal, News Gothic MT, Optima, Ravi, Shruti, Trebuchet MS,</li> <li>Tunga Univers, Verdana</li> </ul>	L
Delivery /	Fonts - General	Any fonts that are used should be simple and easy to read. The following recommended specifications should be followed:	н
		• <i>Italic</i> , <b>bold</b> , pseudo script, serifs, computer zero (Ø) and <u>underlining</u> should be avoided.	н
		• There should be clear vertical gaps of at least 0.25mm between extremities of adjacent characters.	Н
		Height: 2mm min, 7mm max, Width: 7mm max	н
		• Ratio of lower case height (b) to 'UPPER CASE' height (a) of between 2:3 and 3:4; and ratio of width (c) to height (a) of approximately 2:3. (See Figure 8)	н
		• Character quality should be complete, clear and of high resolution, with individual stroke having a uniform thickness of 8% - 16% of the height of the character.	н
		• The Delivery Address block MUST be printed using a dark colour (preferably black) on a light background.	М
		<ul> <li>The paper opacity value should be at least 85 % (BS ISO 2471 - Paper and board. Determination of opacity (paper backing)).</li> </ul>	L
	Print Quality	• The contrast ratio for addresses printed on envelopes should be at least 50 % (window inserts 55%).	L
		• Print quality should be such that characters are not blurred, smudged, deformed, or incomplete.	L
		• There should be no splashing or ink spatter around the characters.	L
		• We recommend that you regularly check the quality of your print output for clarity.	L

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> If commas are used and show in the data files, they may impact the formatting of Mailmark Direct Data files which are in a csv format.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		<ul> <li>The Delivery Address block must be positioned on the front of the Letter below and to the left of the Indicia (See Figure 10 -</li> <li>Figure 13).</li> </ul>	М
		<ul> <li>The Delivery Address block must not be printed in the Indicia Area. This area is in the top right corner of the Letter and is 75mm long &amp; 40mm high.</li> <li>The Delivery Address block must not be in the border area:</li> </ul>	м
÷		<ul> <li>Landscape – Border area is 15mm top 15mm left and right, &amp; 18mm at the bottom,</li> <li>Portrait – 18mm left, 15mm top, right and bottom.</li> </ul>	
s Cor	Location	<ul> <li>The Mailmark code must be at least 2mm from the Delivery Address block.</li> </ul>	м
ddres		• The Delivery Address block should not be printed over the edge of the envelope flap.	L
Delivery Address Cont.		• With the exception of the Mailmark code, a clear zone of at least 5mm is required around the Delivery Address block (including the MDI). No text, patterning, or graphics should be printed within the Delivery Address block and its clear zones. (See Figure 9)	н
		<ul> <li>The last line of the Delivery Address block should always be at least 50mm from the top edge of the Letter.</li> </ul>	L
		• The Delivery Address block should not encroach into the tag codemark clear zone. (See section 2.5).	L
	Window Clear Zone	Where window envelopes are used, a minimum clear zone of 2mm within the window and 3mm on the envelope should be used. The clear zone requirements apply always, including after the Letter is tapped on all four edges to induce maximum insert movement. i.e. The whole of the PAF Delivery Address should always be visible.	L
	Return Address Example	Return Address Royal Mail Rowland Hill House Swindon SN3 5TQ	М
		Only one return address must be printed on the Letter.	М
	General	• Nothing else that looks like a return address must be printed on the Letter.	м
		<ul> <li>The return address may be printed in English or Welsh (where provided in PAF). The inclusion of return addresses printed in both English and Welsh is not permitted.</li> </ul>	м
		• The return address must be prefixed with the words Return Address in English <sup>26</sup> .	М
ress		• The addressee information must be included beneath the Return Address prefix(es),	м
Return Address		<ul> <li>The return address must be a PAF address that includes a premise element, thoroughfare element, locality, and the postcode.</li> </ul>	м
Ret	Content	• Bi-lingual address content is not acceptable. e.g. Abertawe or Swansea may be used but NOT Abertawe Swansea. The Delivery Address may include a Welsh language alternative where the Welsh alternative is included in PAF. e.g. Abertawe may be used as an alternative to Swansea.	м
		• The number of characters per line of the return address block should not exceed 64 characters (including spaces).	L
		• No counties or UK countries should be included within the return address block.	L
	Structure &	• The return address must be provided as a 'block' of left justified text with uniform line spacing (1-4mm) and with no blank lines.	м
	Format	• The return address must be printed in 'Title Case', with the exception of the Postcode that must always be printed in 'UPPER CASE'.	м

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Cyfeiriad Dychwelyd (the Welsh language Return Address wording) may be printed beneath words Return Address.

#### Mailmark Mailing Requirements for Letters

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		<ul> <li>Each individual element of the address must be on a separate line. Note that the house number and the street must always be printed on the same line.</li> </ul>	М
	Structure &	• The Postcode must be printed on the last line of the address or may be printed on the same line as the posttown (with a gap of 1-2 spaces).	М
	Format Cont.	<ul> <li>Only punctuation that is included with the PAF address must be included, or alternatively all punctuation may be removed.</li> </ul>	М
		• The word spacing must be no more than 5mm.	м
		• The return address block skew must be no more than plus or minus 5°.	м
Return Address Cont.	Fonts	<ul> <li>Letter Gothic or Lucida Console font must be used for the whole return address, and this must be printed using:         <ul> <li>10-12pt font (12pt preferred)</li> <li>Normal character spacing</li> <li>Pitch set at 10-12 characters per inch</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	м
Ret	Print Quality	The same specifications which apply to the Delivery Address must be met.	М
	Location	<ul> <li>The return address must be either located:</li> <li>On the back of the Letter and centred within the top 40mm. This is the preferred location as it avoids any confusion with the Delivery Address block (See Figure 14).</li> <li>On the front of the Letter in the top left corner with no element closer than 75mm to the right edge and no closer than 12mm to the Delivery Address. (See Figure 15 &amp; Figure 16).</li> </ul>	М
	Clear Zones	• No text, patterning, or graphics must be printed within the return address area.	М
	Clear Zones	• There must be a clear zone of 5mm around the return address.	М

## **1.4** Mailmark Letters – Mailmark Code

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		• Only one <b>Mailmark</b> 2D code or 4-state barcode must be printed on the Letter (the only exception being 4-State Consolidator Barcode which may be printed onto Letters that bear another Mailmark code).	М
		• The Mailmark 2D code or 4-state barcode content must be aligned to the human readable attributes that are printed on the Letter and be appropriate for the service used.	м
ral	General	• The Mailmark 2D code or 4-state barcode must always be located on the same side of the envelope as the Indicia and the Delivery Address block.	м
General		• The Mailmark 2D code or 4-state barcode and clear zone must remain visible at all times.	м
		• The Mailmark 2D code or 4-state barcode must not be printed over the edge of the envelope flap.	м
	E Manifest Handling Spec	Mailings must meet the requirements of the E Manifest Handling System Customer Upload Specification (process and implementation).	м
	Mailmark Barcode Specific	The Mailmark codes must meet the requirements of Mailmark Barcode Specification (2D $\&$ 4-State Code and content definition).	м
	Code Type	You must use a Data Matrix type ECC200 code complying with the international standard ISO/IEC 16022:2006. Formats 7, 9, or 29 may be used.	м
		Format 7         Format 9         Format 29           (24 x 24 modules)         (32 x 32 modules)         (16 x 48 modules)	
	Data Content	The data content must comply with the C40 encodation scheme (Basic Character set – Uppercase Alphas, Numerals and SPACE only) as described within ISO 16022:2006. Full details of the required Mailmark 2D code content is provided in the EIB Barcode Definition Document.	м
	Size & Shape	The Mailmark 2D code must have a module size of 0.5 – 0.7mm	м
		Every module must be square.	M
2D Codes		<ul> <li>The Mailmark 2D Code may be orientated horizontally or vertically but must not be printed with any degree of skew.</li> </ul>	М
2D (		• No other text, patterning, or graphics shall be printed in an area around the 2D code that is at least 4 times the module size (i.e. at least 2mm when the module size is 0.5mm, and at least 2.8mm when the module size is 0.7mm).	м
	Clear Zone	• The clear zone requirements apply at all times, including when windows envelopes are used and after the Letter is tapped on all four edges, to induce maximum insert movement i.e. The whole of the 2D code and the Delivery Address block together with their required clear zones must be visible at all times.	м
		The 2D code must not be printed in the Letter border area (See Figure 10 - Figure 13).	м
		<ul> <li>Landscape - 15mm top, left and right, and 18mm at the bottom;</li> </ul>	м
		• Portrait - 18mm left, 15mm top, right and bottom;	м
	Location	• The 2D code may encroach into the Indicia area provided sufficient space is left for the indicia and its associated clear zone. (i.e. top right corner (landscape or portrait) in an area 75mm long & 40mm high);	м
		• The 2D code must not be printed in the tag codemark clear zone (i.e. 60mm up from the bottom right corner of the Letter, and 10mm high x 100mm long);	м

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Location Cont.	<ul> <li>Where the address and Mailmark code are printed onto a label, the Mailmark clear zone (including the clear zone to the edge of the label) must be maintained. The Delivery Address clear zone may be limited to 2mm.</li> </ul>	М
Ŀ,		• The 2D code shall be printed in black on a background that is of consistent contrast by design, with a positive contrast for the symbol (dark on a light background).	М
2D Codes Cont.	Print Quality	• The 2D code must be printed to ISO 15415:2011 grades 4(A) or 3(B) when read under white light. Note: A and B are the equivalent ANSI standards understood by American standard users. (A Module size of 0.5mmequates to 6 dots when printed at 300dpi, whilst a module size of 0.7mm equates to 8 dots when printed at 300dpi).	М
		<ul> <li>No other text, patterning, or graphics shall be printed in the area occupied by the 2D code.</li> </ul>	м
		<ul> <li>Printing or embossing of security backgrounds, if essential, should be faint, of uniform consistency and be on the inside of the envelope.</li> </ul>	L <sup>27</sup>
	Code Type	<ul> <li>The 4-State barcode is a barcode that uses 4-State symbology. The data is encoded to produce a barcode that includes bars in 4 possible states - "D" = Descender bar, "A" = Ascender bar, "F" = Full bar, "T" = Track bar (DAFT). Two codes are available:</li> <li>Barcode C - Consolidators - 66 bars, and up to 84mm long</li> </ul>	Μ
		<ul> <li>Barcode L – High volume Mailers – 78 bars and up to 99mm long.</li> </ul>	
		վեսեղեկներուկեկողնդեղներինըներինըներիորեկիրիին	
	Data Content	The code content must be aligned to the human readable attributes that are printed on the Letter and be appropriate for the product used.	м
		• The 4-State barcode must be printed at a pitch of 20-24 bars per 25.4mm.	М
	Size & Shape	• The barcode pitch must be consistent throughout the length of the code.	м
arcode		• The Ascender and Descender bars are 1.6 to 2.16 mm high; the Track bar is 1.02 to 1.52 mm high, and the bar width is 0.38 to 0.63 mm, with the full bar being 4.22mm to 5.84mm high. The width requirements apply throughout the whole bar. i.e. No part of the bar can be less than 0.38mm wide or greater than 0.63mm wide.	Μ
4-State B	Symmetry & Skew	• The vertical alignment of the code must be consistent. The track element of the bars must be symmetrical about the centre line of the code, plus or minus 10% of the height of the centre line (see Figure 17).	м
		• The barcode skew must be less than 5° (see Figure 18 & Figure 19).	м
		• A clear zone of 2mm must be maintained on all four sides of the 4-State barcode.	М
	Code Clear Zone	• The clear zone requirements apply at all times, including when window envelopes are used and after the mail item is tapped on all four edges, to induce maximum insert movement (i.e. the whole of the 4-State barcode and the address block together with their required clear zones must be visible at all times.	м
		The 4-State barcode must not be printed in the border area (See Figure 10 - Figure 13) :-	м
		• Landscape - 15mm top, left and right, and 18mm at the bottom;	м
		• Portrait - 18mm left, 15mm top, right and bottom;	м
	Location	• The 4-State barcode may encroach into the Indicia area provided sufficient space is left for the indicia and its associated clear zone. (i.e. top right corner (landscape or portrait) in an area 75mm long & 40mm high);	м
		• The 4-State barcode must not be printed in the tag codemark clear zone. i.e. 60mm up from the bottom right corner of the Letter, and 10mm high x 100mm long.	М

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> The presence of security backgrounds or embossing may limit 4-State barcode reading performance. Such instances are infrequent.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		• The 4-State barcode must not be printed over the edge of the envelope flap.	М
	Location Cont.	<ul> <li>Where the address and Mailmark code are printed onto a label, the Mailmark clear zone (including the clear zone to the edge of the label) must be maintained. The Delivery Address clear zone may be limited to 2mm.</li> </ul>	м
		• The 4-State barcode must be printed in a contrast medium, typically black bars on a white background.	м
ode Cont		<ul> <li>No other text, patterning, or graphics shall be printed or present in the barcode area and its clear zone (i.e. this may be design graphics or Letter substrate characteristics).</li> </ul>	м
4-State Barcode Cont.	Print Quality	<ul> <li>A minimum Print Contrast Ratio (PCR) and a minimum Reflective Difference (RD) must be applied. These values are:         <ul> <li>Minimum PCR is 40%</li> <li>Minimum RD is 30%</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	м
		• The print quality should be consistent throughout the code. i.e. There must be no gaps between printed dots that may be used to print the code.	H <sup>28</sup>
		• The edges of the 4-State Mailmark barcode should be sharp and clearly defined.	H <sup>28</sup>
		<ul> <li>Printing or embossing of security backgrounds, if essential, should be faint, of uniform consistency and be on the inside of the envelope.</li> </ul>	L <sup>27</sup>

### **1.5** Mailmark Letters – Codemark Clear Zones

These clear zones relate to the typical location of the orange barcodes that are applied to Letters by Royal Mail to facilitate automated Letter processing.

Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	The Mailmark code must not be printed in the Tag Codemark clear zone	М
Tag Codemark <sup>29</sup>	This is located 60mm up from the bottom right corner of the Letter, and covers an area 10mm high, and 100mm long (from the right edge of the Letter). This area should be free of any text and graphics. (See Figure 10 - Figure 13)	L <sup>30</sup>
Route Codemark <sup>29</sup>	This is in the bottom right corner of the Letter and covers an area 18mm high (from the bottom edge of the Letter), and 130mm long (from the right edge of the Letter). This area should be free of any text and graphics. (See Figure 10 - Figure 13)	L <sup>30</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ink jet 4-State codemarks that consist of individual dots (rather than a complete bar) may be read. However, any reduction in print quality may limit 4-State barcode reading performance.<sup>29</sup> Note that windows are not permitted in the codemark areas.
<sup>29</sup> Note that windows are not permitted in the codemark areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> The printing of the codemark may impair the artwork visuals.

### **1.6** Other Physical Mailmark Letter Requirements

### 1.6.1 One Piece & Paper Wrap Letter Mailers

For the purposes of this document, a One-Piece Mailer is defined as :- 'A rectangular or square shaped mailpiece made from rectangular or square paper that is folded and sealed. It may be designed to be opened or to enclose an insert. Its unfolded edges are sealed using either inner adhesive spots or a continuous adhesive line.'

This section defines the specific construction characteristics of One-Piece Mailers (including the machineable postcard that is in effect a permanently sealed one-piece mailer). Other physical requirements together with Indicia, addressing and Mailmark requirements remain as standard.

### 1.6.1.1 One Piece & Paper Wrap Letter Mailers

Physical Reqts	One-Piece Mailer / Paper Wrap	Advertising Paper Wrap Letters	
Purpose	This option covers the multi-fold mailer, together with designs that provide a one-piece alternative to the traditional envelope.	This option covers the multi-fold mailer, together with designs that provide a one-piece alternative to open or poly-wrapped large letters that are no more than 248mm long.	
Inserts	Only Paper inserts are permitted <b>(H <sup>32</sup>)</b>		
Shape	(M) Rectangular or Square		
Multiple Folds	(M) The long edges of the finished mailpiece must be fo	lds, and the short edges and flap must be sealed.	
Reference Edge <sup>31</sup> Dimensions	<ul> <li>(M) The reference must be a folded edge on the mailpiece</li> <li>(M) For landscape the folded reference edge is the edge beneath the address.</li> <li>(M) For portrait items the reference edge is the longest left edge.</li> <li>(M) For square mailers, the reference edge is the edge beneath the address.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(M) The reference must be a folded edge on the mailpiece</li> <li>(M) For landscape the folded reference edge is the edge beneath the address.</li> <li>(M) For portrait items the reference edge is the longest left edge.</li> <li>(M) Minimum mailpiece dimensions applies and the maximum permitted is 165mm high x 248mm long.</li> </ul>	
Thickness	(M) Minimum and maximum mailpiece thickness	<b>(M)</b> Minimum mailpiece thickness dimension applies, and the maximum is 3mm	
Max Weight	(M) Minimum and maximum mailpiece weight.	(M) Minimum mailpiece weight & maximum 70g	
Paper Weight	(M) Minimum 100gsm		
Flaps	<ul> <li>The Mailer must include a flap (M)</li> <li>Flap should be at the top of the mailer and run parallel to the reference edge and may be on the front or back of the mailer. (H <sup>32</sup>)</li> <li>The width of flap width should be 20-40mm. (L <sup>32</sup>)</li> </ul>		
Adhesive Application	Where there are gaps in the continuous seal adhesive application, they should be ideally located at top of the mailer and may be on left and / or the right side and should be no more than 5-10mm long <b>(H</b> <sup>33</sup> <b>)</b>		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> The reference edge is a fold on a particular edge of the Letter, which enables it to be processed through the machines efficiently.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> These requirements relate to the designs that have been tested.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> This aims to maximise the strength of the side seals, whilst preventing bursting and potential machine input issues.

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Physical Reqts	One-Piece Mailer / Paper Wrap	Advertising Paper Wrap Letters	
Sealing	With Inserts(M) All unfolded sides (including the flap) must be glued with a continuous seal.No Inserts(M) All unfolded sides must be glued using a spot seal or a continuous seal.	<b>(M)</b> All unfolded sides (including the flap) must be glued with a <b>continuous seal</b> .	
Peel Adhesion	<b>(M)</b> The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a n exhibited on separation.	ninimum of 0.4N or paper fibres and fibre tear must be	
Spot Gluing	<ul> <li>Adhesive spots may be circular or elliptical. (H <sup>32</sup>)</li> <li>Distance between two closest edges of adhesive spots should be no more than 10mm (H <sup>32</sup>)</li> <li>Size of spots should be at least 5mm in diameter / length. (H <sup>32</sup>)</li> <li>Maximum distance from edge of mailpiece should be 5mm, plus or minus 2mm (H <sup>32</sup>) (See Figure 24)</li> </ul>	<b>(M)</b> This is not permitted	
Continuous Gluing	A minimum 4mm wide sealed to within 3mm of the edge <b>(H <sup>32</sup>)</b> (See Figure 25)		
Finish	<ul> <li>Matt finish is preferred. (H <sup>34</sup>)</li> <li>Digitally Printed Mail – See Note in section 2.6.1</li> </ul>		
Clear Zone inside the Letter	It is advised that there is a 10mm clear zone around the adhesive properties of the adhesive are not impaired. <b>(L</b>		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Silk and gloss finished mailpiece are more likely to stick together (i.e. higher double fed mailpieces and missorts).

# 1.6.1.2 Feature & Coupon Mailers

Physical Reqts	Feature One-Piece Mailer	Coupon One-Piece Mailer
Purpose	This mailer is specifically designed to open out easily into a full-page feature that is not damaged by fibre tear because of adhesive.	This mailer is specifically designed to provide a pocket in which a small booklet can be inserted.
	<b>(M)</b> The adhesive must be strong to ensure that the Mailer remains sealed during processing and delivery.	
Inserts	<b>(M)</b> No Insert is permitted	<ul> <li>(M) The booklet must be paper only.</li> <li>(M) The booklet must rest on the reference edge (the longest edge opposite the Indicia)</li> <li>(M) The booklet must be affixed to the inside the mailer to prevent movement during processing.</li> <li>The booklet insert should be no more than 85mm x 130mm in size and the mailer should be no more than 2mm thick (H <sup>35</sup>)</li> </ul>
Shape	(M) Rectangular or Square	(M) Rectangular only
Multiple Folds	<b>(M)</b> Maximum 1 fold	Folded three times to produce a pocket as follows (L <sup>35</sup> ) :- Fold 1 - 70mm from bottom edge. Fold 2 - 215mm from bottom. Fold 3 - 360mm from bottom
Reference Edge <sup>36</sup>	<ul> <li>(M) The reference must be a folded edge on the mailpiece</li> <li>(M) For landscape the folded reference edge is the edge beneath the address.</li> <li>(M) For portrait items the reference edge is the longest left edge.</li> <li>(M) For square mailers, the reference edge is the edge beneath the address.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(M) Must be a folded edge.</li> <li>(M) For landscape this is the longest edge beneath the address.</li> <li>(M) For portrait items this is the longest left edge.</li> </ul>
Dimensions	<b>(M)</b> Minimum and maximum mailpiece dimensions with the front and the back of the mailer being of equal size.	165mm (L) plus or minus 5mm x 145mm (H) plus or minus 5mm. <b>(L <sup>35</sup>)</b>
Thickness	(M) Minimum and maximum mailpiece thickness	Minimum mailpiece thickness & Maximum 2mm including insert. <b>(H <sup>37</sup>)</b>
Max weight	(M) Minimum and maximum mailpiece weight.	No more than 20g <b>(L <sup>35</sup>)</b>
Paper Weight	<b>(M)</b> 150gsm – 190gsm	<b>(M)</b> Minimum 115gsm <sup>38</sup>
Paper Thickness	0.13mm - 0.175mm <b>(H <sup>35</sup>)</b>	Not applicable
Flaps	Not applicable	<ul> <li>(M) The Mailer must include a flap</li> <li>Fold 3 forms a sealing flap 35mm deep at the bottom of the mailer. (L <sup>35</sup>)</li> </ul>
Adhesive Application	Where there are gaps in the continuous seal adhesive a mailer and may be on left and / or the right side and sh	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> These requirements relate to the designs that have been tested.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> The reference edge is a fold on a particular edge of the Letter, which enables it to be processed through the machines efficiently.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> This enables effective presentation to the machine and subsequent processing.
 <sup>38</sup> Stronger adhesives should be considered where the minimum paper weight is exceeded.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> This aims to maximise the strength of the side seals, whilst preventing bursting and potential machine input issues.

Physical Reqts	Feature One-Piece Mailer	Coupon One-Piece Mailer
Sealing	<b>(M)</b> All unfolded sides must be glued using a hot melt <b>spot or continuous seal</b>	<b>(M)</b> All unfolded sides must be glued with a <b>continuous seal.</b>
Peel Adhesion	<ul> <li>(M) The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a minimum of 0.2N on the sides.</li> <li>(M) The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a minimum 0.25N on the long edge.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>(M) The peel adhesion strength of adhesive used for the side seals must be a minimum of 0.25N and fibre tear must be exhibited on separation.</li> <li>(M) The peel adhesion strength of the flap must be minimum 0.2N and fibre tear must be exhibited on separation.</li> </ul>
Spot Gluing	<ul> <li>Adhesive spots may be circular or elliptical.</li> <li>Side spots should be at least 11mm in diameter and should be no more than 25mm apart. (H <sup>40</sup>)</li> <li>Long edge spots be at least 15mm in diameter / length and should be no more than 45mm apart. (H <sup>40</sup>)</li> <li>Maximum distance from edge of mailpiece should be 5mm, plus or minus 2mm (H <sup>40</sup>) (See</li> <li>Figure 26)</li> </ul>	Not applicable
Continuous Gluing	Not applicable	<ul> <li>Continuous 10mm band of adhesive to the side edges of the mailer. (H <sup>40</sup>)</li> <li>Long edge of flap sealed with 6mm-9mm wide line of adhesive or 2 lines of 2mm-3mm wide adhesive that are 2mm-3mm apart. (H <sup>40</sup>)</li> <li>(M) The adhesive must be no more than 5mm from the edge of the flap.</li> <li>The sides of the flap should be sealed to the edge of the mailpiece with 6mm-9mm wide adhesive that are 2mm-3mm apart. (H <sup>40</sup>)</li> <li>(See Figure 20 &amp; Figure 21)</li> </ul>
Finish	<ul> <li>Matt finish is preferred. (H <sup>41</sup>)</li> <li>Digitally Printed Mail – See Note in section 2.6.1</li> </ul>	

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> These requirements relate to the designs that have been tested.
 <sup>41</sup> Silk and gloss finished mailpiece are more likely to stick together (i.e. higher double fed mailpieces and missorts).

## 1.6.1.3 Machineable Postcard

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
		This mailer is specifically designed to provide a postcard of 2/3 ply <sup>42</sup> . The 3-Ply element provides a reference edge for the mailer, and the varied thickness ensures the items do not stick together. Two physical design options are available :-	
	Purpose	<ol> <li>The 3-ply paper must be cut finished so all three layers form a single bottom (reference) edge. i.e. the edge consists of 3 layers of paper and 2 layers of adhesive. The finished cut edge must look as if it is a single edge. (See Figure 22)</li> </ol>	
		<ol><li>The paper must be folded such that the first fold creates an internal flap. The second fold must form another flap that covers the internal flap and ends 1mm short of the bottom (reference) edge. (See Figure 23)</li></ol>	
	Design	The card must be produced from a sheet of paper that is cut, folded twice, and sealed on all sides. This shall provide a rectangular finished mailpiece in landscape orientation.	м
	Inserts	No Insert is permitted	М
_	Shape	As specified below	м
Machineable Postcard	Multiple Folds	The bottom of the finished mailpiece must have a 3-Ply paper thickness amounts to 45% of the height of the shorter edge of the finished mailpiece, whilst the top amounts to 55% of the height of the shorter edge of the finished mailpiece, (a manufacturing tolerance of plus or minus 2mm is permitted).	М
Machine	Reference Edge <sup>43</sup>	Must be a folded edge. (For landscape this is the longest edge beneath the address, and for portrait items this is the longest left edge.)	м
	Dimensions	Minimum and maximum mailpiece dimensions.	м
	Max weight	Minimum & maximum mailpiece weight	М
	Paper Weight	120gsm – 150gsm (150gsm recommended)	М
	Paper Thickness	2-Ply element minimum 0.18mm 3-Ply element minimum 0.27mm	м
	Sealing	All unfolded sides must be glued with a <b>continuous seal.</b>	м
	Peel Adhesion	The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a minimum of 0.4N and fibre tear must be exhibited on separation.	м
	Continuous Gluing	A permanent and continuous adhesive seal of 15mm width to the side edges of the mailer is required on both open sides of the mailpiece and on the internal flap.	М
	Finish	<ul> <li>Finish – Matt or Silk (Matt preferred)</li> <li>Digitally Printed Mail – See Note in section 2.6.1</li> </ul>	H 44

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> The bottom of the finished mailpiece must have a 3-Ply paper thickness, whilst the top must have a 2-Ply thickness
<sup>43</sup> The reference edge is a fold on a particular edge of the Letter, which enables it to be processed through the machines efficiently.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Silk and gloss finished mailpiece are more likely to stick together (i.e. higher double fed mailpieces and missorts).

## 1.6.1.4 Fold & Seal Mailer

This section defines the specific construction characteristics of the Fold & Seal mailer. This is a one page, folded, sealed mailpiece design with a perforated flap that is designed to open to give access to printed content inside.

Other physical requirements together with Indicia, addressing and Mailmark requirements remain as standard.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Shape	Rectangular with straight sides and $90^\circ$ corners	М
Size & Shape	Orientation	Landscape only	М
	Size <sup>45</sup>	Unfolded Pack – 297mm x 210mm Finished Pack -144mm high x 210mm long (see Figure 28)	М
0,	Thickness	At the flap – 0.41mm, Elsewhere – 0.28mm	М
	Content	No inserts of any kind are permitted	М
		• The pack is constructed from a sheet of A4 which has been folded twice to create the finished mailer. The first fold must be at 129mm, and the second at 273mm (leaving the flap 24mm deep). (See Figure 29)	М
		• Folds 1 & 2 must be perforated, perforations to meet the cut and bridge requirements detailed in this section.	м
		• There must be no open apertures or windows in the mailer.	м
	Design Options	• The flap must be fully sealed as is not intended to be opened	м
		• There are 3 variations of this design (see Figure 30) :-	м
		<ol> <li>Back perforated opener with Bottom Front Flap (Mailer with perforations on reverse and flap on the front at the bottom.)</li> </ol>	
sign		2. Perforated opener with Bottom Back Flap (Mailer with perforations on the front and flap on the reverse at the bottom.)	
Envelope Construction & Design		1. Front perforated opener with Top Back Flap (Mailer with perforations on the front and flap on the reverse at the top.)	
ructic		High quality white uncoated grade paper with the following properties :-	М
onst	Material <sup>46</sup>	<ul> <li>Paper weight – 120gsm</li> <li>Smoothness 230 Bendtsen</li> </ul>	
) edd	Material	o Opacity - 97% o Whiteness - 170 CIE	
nvelc		o Thickness - 0.152mm o Stiffness - 300/170 m/N	
Ш		• The Mailer must include a flap <sup>47</sup> (which is not intended to be opened).	М
	Flap	• The flap must be rectangular, 24mm deep and 210mm wide	М
		• The flap must be sealed on all 4 sides (See Figure 29)	М
		• All edges including the flap must be fully and completely sealed using continuous pressure seal adhesive. This adhesive will exhibit fibre tear.	М
	<b>C</b> 1: 48	• Adhesive must also be applied either side of Fold 2. (See Figure 29)	м
	Sealing <sup>48</sup>	• There must be no gaps in the adhesive or any paper distortion.	м
		• The adhesive strip must be 4mm wide and no more than 1.5mm from the edge of the mailpiece to which it has been applied.	м
	Peel Adhesion	Fibre tear must be exhibited on separation.	М
	1		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> A manufacturing tolerance of plus or minus 2mm is permitted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Sylvamo Preprint S Uncoated paper met this specification in November 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> The flap is NOT designed to be opened. It makes the mailer more robust and provides a variation in thickness that facilitates automated processing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Pressure seal adhesive with 20n T peel adhesive strength applied using Flexo with HF driers has been found to be effective. The peel adhesion strength of the label must be sufficient to ensure that fibre tear is be exhibited on separation.

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Fold Perforation	• Perforations are required along the length of Fold 1 and Fold 2 to facilitate construction.	М
	Opening Perforation	• Perforations are required on the back of design option 1 and on the front of design options 2 & 3.	
		• Perforations must be on the short sides and one long side of the mailer. Long edge perforations must open from the bottom edge for design options 1 & 2, and from the top for option 3.	м
		• The perforations must be inset from the edge of the mailpiece by 8mm.	м
Perforations	Opening Perforation Design	• The perforated corners of the mailers must be set at an angle of 45 <sup>0</sup> to the corner and have a radius of 13mm.	м
Perfo		• The indicia must not be printed over the perforations, but the Indicia clear zone may extend into the perforated border.	м
		• No other colour must be visible through the perforations that are in the Tag and Route codemark Clear Zones.	м
		• The perforations must be die cut into the mailpiece.	М
	Cuts & Bridges	• The cut of the perforations must be no more than 2.25mm, with a bridge of at least 0.5mm.	м
		• The cuts should be rectangular in shape and have a width of no more than 0.1mm.	м
		• Each cut should be of uniform size and each bridge should be of uniform size.	м

## 1.6.2 Perforated Letter Mailers - Requirements

For the purposes of this document, a Perforated Mailer is defined as :- 'A Letter that is designed to be wholly or partly opened by tearing off a perforated strip.'

Three design variations are available :-

- 1. Roulette Perforations opened by tearing off 3 perforation sides and designed to be tamper evident.
- 2. Zip Tie Perforations opened by tearing off a single 'zip strip'.
- 3. Pressure Seal Perforations opened by tearing off a perforated strip and designed to be tamper evident.

This section defines the specific construction characteristics of Perforated Letter Mailers. These include roulette and zip tie designs, together with the pressure seal mailer. Other physical requirements together with Indicia, addressing and Mailmark requirements remain as standard. No other forms of perforated mail designs are permitted.

### 1.6.2.1 Roulette Perforations

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Definition	These perforations consist of a line of cuts (holes) and paper bridges in the Letter. Access to Letter content is gained by tearing the Letter along the line of perforations.	the
	Orientation	The mailpiece must be in either landscape or portrait orientation (but not square).	н
		Inserts are not permitted.	М
		• The perforations should be located on both 'short' sides of the mailpiece, and on one of the long sides of the mailpiece. i.e. only 3 sides may be perforated.	н
		• The perforations should be inset from the edge of the mailpiece by 12mm, plus or minus 1mm.	н
	Design	• The 'short' side perforations should extend to each edge of the envelope.	н
	Design	• The 'long' side perforation should not extend beyond the 'short' side perforations.	н
rations		• The indicia should not be printed over the perforations, but the Indicia clear zone may extend into the perforated border.	Н
Roulette Perforations		<ul> <li>No other colour should be visible through the perforations that are in the Tag and Route codemark Clear Zones.</li> </ul>	н
ulette		The above requirements are illustrated in Figure 31 and Figure 32.	Н
Roi	Paper Weight	Minimum 100gsm.	М
		• The perforations should be die cut into the mailpiece.	Н
		<ul> <li>The cut of the short side perforations should be set at 1.3mm – 2mm long, with a bridge of at least 0.8mm (see Figure 33).</li> </ul>	н
	Cuts & Bridges	<ul> <li>The cut of the long side perforation should be set at 0.5mm – 1.4mm long, with a bridge of at least 0.4mm (see Figure 33).</li> </ul>	Н
		• The cuts should be rectangular in shape and have a width of no more than 0.1mm.	Н
		• Each cut should be of uniform size and each bridge should be of uniform size.	н
	Cooling	• The perforated edges should be securely sealed all round from the perforation to the letter edges.	Н
	Sealing	• The peak peel adhesion strength of the adhesive should be at least 4.5N, and fibre tear should be exhibited on separation.	н

## 1.6.2.2 Zip Tie Perforations

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R
	Definition	These perforations consist of 2 lines of parallel cuts (holes) and paper bridges in the Letter that a perforated strip on the flap of the Letter. Access to the Letter content is gained by tearing the strip along the lines of perforations in a particular direction.	
	Orientation	The mailpiece should be in either landscape or portrait orientation (square letters are not acceptable).	Н
		• The zip tie should always be placed on the back of the mailpiece.	Н
Zip Tie Perforations	Design	• The zip tie may be positioned either horizontally or vertically, but the 'Tear' direction of the tie is dependent upon the orientation of the mailpiece. (This is defined in Figure 34 and Figure 35; the orientation and 'Tear' directional requirements relative to position of the Indicia on the front of the Letter being illustrated).	н
Perf		• The zip tie should be located on a flap that is at least 40mm wide (see Figure 36).	н
p Tie		• The zip tie should be positioned at least 9mm from the edge of the flap (see Figure 36).	Н
Ż	Paper Weight	Minimum 150 gsm.	м
		Only one zip tie is permitted on each mailpiece.	н
		• The zip tie should be die cut into the mailpiece.	н
	Cuts & Bridges <sup>49</sup>	• The dimensional requirements for the cut of the zip tie are provided in Figure 37.	н
		• The cuts should be rectangular and have a width of no more than 0.1mm.	Н
		• All cuts and bridges should be of uniform size.	Н
	Sealing	• The perforated edges must be securely sealed all round from the perforation to the letter edges.	н
	Sealing	• The peak peel adhesion strength of the adhesive should be at least 4.5N, and fibre tear should be exhibited on separation.	н

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Cuts and bridges must be modified as necessary to ensure that they remain robust when heavier papers or inserts are required.

## **1.6.2.3 Pressure Seal Perforations**

	Category	Specification Requirement	M/R					
	Definition	This form of Letter has roulette perforations through all layers in a perforated strip on the sho sides of the Letter, and a roulette perforation tear off strip on the back. i.e. The short side perforations go through the 3 layers on DL size Letters and through the 2 layers on C5 size L It is produced from a single sheet of paper and designed to be opened by removing the short perforated strips first; then removing the tear off strip on the reverse of the mailer to access t content.						
	Orientation	The Letter should be in either landscape or portrait orientation (square letters are not acceptable).						
	Design	Inserts are not permitted.	м					
		<ul> <li>The perforations should be located on both 'short' sides of the Letter (i.e. the perforated strip), with the roulette tear strip being on the back of the Letter.</li> </ul>	Н					
		• The long edge furthest from the indicia (bottom side on Landscape mail and left side on portrait mail) should be a fold.	Н					
		• The perforated strip should be inset from the sides of the Letter by 12mm, plus or minus 1mm (see Figure 38-Figure 39).	Н					
		• The perforated strip should extend to each edge of the envelope (see Figure 38-Figure 39).	Н					
		• The indicia should not be printed over the perforations, but the Indicia clear zone may extend into the perforated border.	Н					
_		Only one roulette tear strip should be on each Letter.	Н					
Pressure Seal		• The roulette tear strip should be at least 10mm from the long edge of the Letter and should be at least 10mm wide.	н					
nssa		• The roulette tear strip may extend into 'short' side perforations.	Н					
ۍ ۲	Paper Weight	• 3-ply DL design - Minimum 100gsm, 2-ply C5 design - at least 150gsm.	м					
	Short Edge Perforations	• The perforations should be die cut into the Letter.	н					
		<ul> <li>The cut of the 'short' side perforations should be set at 1.3 – 2mm long, with a bridge of at least 0.8mm (see Figure 33).</li> </ul>	Н					
		• The cuts should be rectangular and have a width of no more than 0.1mm.	н					
		• Each cut should be of uniform size and each bridge should be of uniform size.	Н					
	Long Edge Tear Off Strip	• The perforations should be die cut into the Letter.	Н					
		• The cut of the 'Tear Strip' perforations should up to 3.3mm long, with a bridge of at least 0.6 mm (see Figure 33).	Н					
		• The cuts should be rectangular and have a width of no more than 0.1mm.	н					
		• Each cut should be of uniform size and each bridge should be of uniform size.	н					
	Sealing	• The perforated edges should be securely sealed all round from the perforation to the letter edges.	Н					
		• Where the roulette tear strip may extend into 'short' side Perforations, it should be securely sealed <sup>50</sup> , and the sealed edge between the roulette tear strip and the edge of the Letter should be securely sealed along its entire length (including the part that extends into the perforated area).	Н					
		• The peak peel adhesion strength of the adhesive should be at least 4.5N, and fibre tear should be exhibited on separation.	Н					

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> This ensures that the Perforated Strips are totally sealed long their length.

## **1.6.3 Tabbed Letter Mailers**

This section defines the specific construction characteristics of Tabbed Mailers. These include mailers that are secured with tabs on either 2 or 3 sides. A folded reference edge is always required. Potential Tabbed mailer designs include :-

- A single sheet folded in half, with a long reference edge and secured with tabs folded over 3 sides
- A booklet with a long reference edge and secured with tabs folded over 3 sides
- A multiple folded mailer with folds on both long edges i.e. one long edge creating an opening flap and secured with tabs folded over 2 sides and sealing along the long edge flap.

Other physical requirements together with Indicia, addressing and Mailmark requirements remain as standard.

Category		Specification Requirement					
	Content / Inserts	Only paper inserts may be included.					
		• The Inserts may be placed in the mailer provided that the insert is no more than 10mm smaller than the mailer length and / or height.	H <sup>51</sup>				
		• Minimum – 100gsm for multi-fold mailers.	М				
	Paper Weight	• Minimum – 100gsm for booklet outer cover (front and back).	м				
		• 150gsm minimum for single fold cards.	H <sup>52</sup>				
uiler	Reference Edge <sup>53 54</sup>	• The reference edge must be a folded edge on the mailpiece.	М				
al Ma		• For landscape items the folded reference edge must be the edge beneath the address.	М				
<sup>2</sup> hysical Mailer		• For portrait items the reference edge must be longest left edge opposite the Indicia.	м				
<u> </u>		• For square mailers, the reference edge must be edge beneath the delivery address.	М				
	Flexibility	Each Letter must be capable of being transported around a pulley with a radius of 140mm with a max force of 26 N (See Figure 2) <sup>55</sup> .					
		Perfect Bound mailers and content are not acceptable.					
	Stitched Spines	Staples that are used to Stich the booklet must be fully pushed through the outer cover and bent flat on the inside.					
	Windows	Windows are not permitted for tabbed mailers.					
	Shape & Size	• Tabs must be rectangular (with rounded corners) or circular.	М				
		• Tab width / diameter must be no less than 25mm at the edge of the mailer when measured on both sides.	м				
	Material	Tabs made from paper must have a minimum paper weight of 63gsm.	М				
Tabs		Tabs made from polymer must have a minimum weight of 80gsm.	М				
Ĕ	Tear Strength	A tear strength of at least 0.6N is required.					
	Colour	Tabs must not be luminous.					
	Perforations	Perforated tabs are acceptable provided that they are strong enough to remain intact during processing and delivery. (Adjustments may be applied if the tabs fail.)					
	Peel Adhesion	• The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a minimum of 0.2N on the sides.					

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> This limits the movement of the insert and any consequent wear on the tab and ensures that the insert cannot fall out.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> This is intended to ensure that the Mailer is strong enough to withstand the rigours of mechanical and manual handling. It will also stop other Letters becoming entrapped within the tabbed mailer. Factors including the tab material, size, weight, bridge size and cut together with the mailer weight may all affect the strength of a tabbed mailer. It is strongly recommended that perforated tabs which are considered for use are tested by Royal Mail prior to using our machineable products.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> The reference edge is the fold on the longest edge of the Letter, opposite the Indicia, which forms the base of the item, therefore enabling it to be processed through the machines efficiently.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Mailers with 'open' reference edges are NOT machineable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Letters must be flexible enough to wrap around a cylinder of 280mm diameter without being damaged.

#### Mailmark Mailing Requirements for Letters

Category		Specification Requirement					
	Peel Adhesion Cont.	• The peel adhesion strength of adhesive must be a minimum 0.25N on the long edge.					
	Location	• Tabs must not be applied in the Tag Codemark area that is located 60mm up from the bottom right corner of the Letter, and covers an area 10mm high, and 100mm long (from the right edge of the Letter).					
		<ul> <li>Tabs must not be applied in the Route Codemark area that is in the bottom right corner of the Letter and covers an area 18mm high (from the bottom edge of the Letter), and 130mm long (from the right edge of the Letter).</li> </ul>					
Cont.		The Tabs should only be applied in the Letter border area :-					
Tabs Cont.		<ul> <li>Landscape - 15mm top, left and right, and 18mm at the bottom;</li> </ul>					
F		• Portrait - 18mm left, 15mm top, right and bottom;	L <sup>56</sup>				
		Tab positioning must ensure that the short side edge from the reference edge to the tab is not open more than 80mm high.	М				
	No. of Tabs	A minimum of 1 tab is required to secure each open edge of the mailer. Full details of the requirements for the number of Tabs required together with their locations are provided in the table below.					
	Gloss	The maximum gloss value for the tabs should not exceed 150 when measured at 60°, in accordance with American Standard Test Method (ASTM) 2457.					
sical	One-Piece Mailer	One Piece Mail requirements do not apply to tabbed mailers. This is because the two sets of requirements are independent of each other and considered within this section.					
Other Physical	Perforated Mailers	Perforations, Zip strips, pressure seals are not permitted for tabbed mailers.					
Ó	Do Not Redirect	Do Not Redirect is not permitted for tabbed mailers.					
	Location	The Indicium must be located on the front of the Letter, above and to the right of the Delivery Address and in the top right corner of the Letter in the Indicium area. This area is 75mm long & 40mm high (see Figure 40 - Figure 43).					
Indicia		Note that Tabs may be applied within the Indicia area provided that the indicia clear zone requirements are met.					
	Clear Zone	A clear zone of 5mm, plus or minus 2mm must be provided above, below, and to the right of the PPI. Where tabs are used, the clear zone requirements must apply between the indicia and the tab.					
-		• No text, patterning, or graphics must be printed within the return address.					
Ret Add	Clear Zones	• There should be a clear zone of 5mm around the return address. Where tabs are used, the clear zone requirements should apply between the Return Address and the tabs.					

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 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> This maximises the available space in the Indicia and retains the 'picture frame' around the Mailmark and Address areas.
 <sup>57</sup> The reduces potential light reflection that may limit Mailmark reading capability
 <sup>58</sup> This will maintain the ability to read the Return Address

	Category		Spe	cification Requirem	ent - N	/linimum	number of tab sea	als	
Orientation & Height		SHORT EDGE			LONG EDGE				
		Thickness	No. of Tabs	Location <sup>59 60</sup>	M/R	No. of Tabs	Location	M/R	Visual
	Landscape (up to 110mm high)	Up to 2mm	1 per side	70mm-80mm up from ref. edge	М	1	Centred with a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm	М	Figure 40
		More than 2mm	1 per side	18mm-35mm up from ref. edge	М	2	Each tab to be 5mm-15mm from each corner	М	Figure 41
	Landscape (up to 90mm high)	Any	1 per side	18mm-35mm up from ref. edge	М	2	Each tab to be 5mm-15mm from each corner	М	Figure 42
ion	Landscape (More than 110mm high)	Up to 2mm	1 per side	70mm-80mm up from ref. edge	М	2	Each tab to be 5mm-15mm from each corner	М	Figure 42
ers & Locat		•			М	2	Each tab to be 5mm-15mm from each corner	М	
Tab Numbers & Location		More than 2mm		70mm-80mm up from ref. edge		2+1	For thicker and heavier mailers an additional tab Centred with a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm	Н	
	Portrait (More than 110mm wide)	Up to 2mm	1 per side			2	Each tab to be 5mm-15mm from each corner	М	
		n from ref	70mm-80mm up from ref. edge	М	2+1	For thicker and heavier mailers an additional tab Centred with a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm	Н	Figure 43	

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> The tab must not encroach into the Tag and Route Codemark clear zones.
 <sup>60</sup> Tab positioning must ensure that the short side edge from the reference edge to the tab is not open more than 80mm high.

## 1.7 Mailmark Letters - Figures

## 1.7.1 Mailmark Letters – Physical Figures

#### Figure 1 – Letter Inserts (Not to Scale)

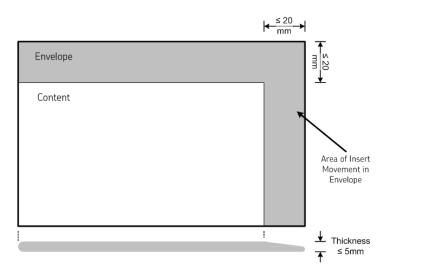
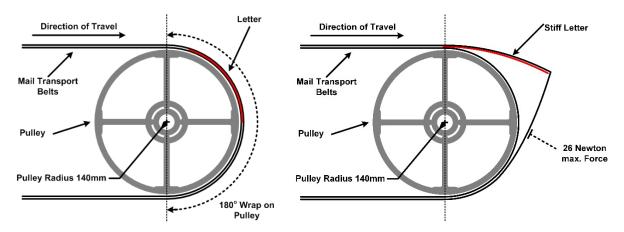
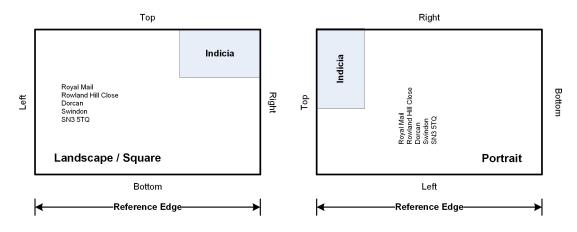


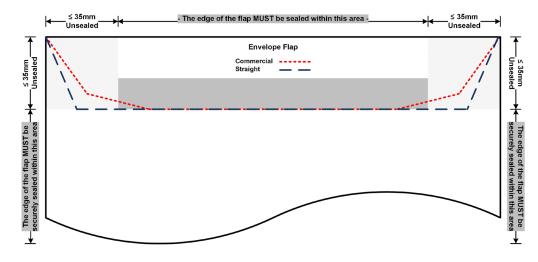
Figure 2 – Letter Flexibility (Not to Scale)







#### Figure 4 - Letter Sealing - Trayed (Not to Scale)



#### Figure 5 - Letter Sealing - Untrayed (Not to Scale)

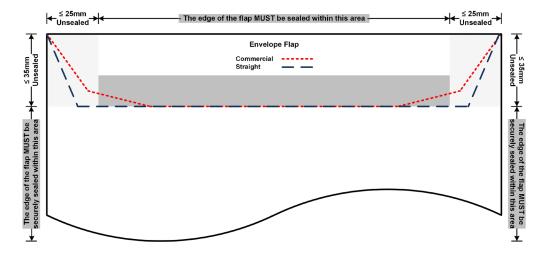
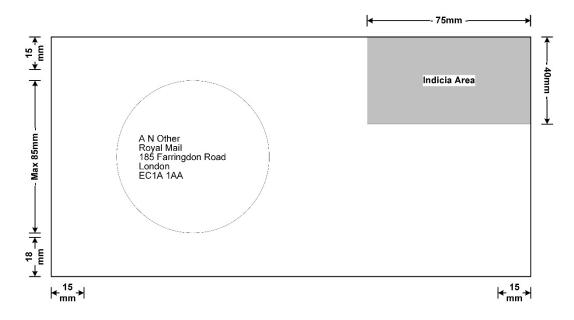
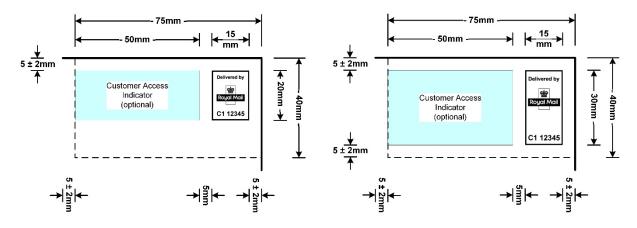


Figure 6 - Circular Window (Not to Scale)



## 1.7.2 Mailmark Letters - Indicia Figures

Figure 7 - Letter Indicia Location & Clear Zones



### 1.7.3 Mailmark Letters - Addressing Figures

Figure 8 – Letter Font Ratio



Figure 9 - Delivery Address Block (Not to Scale)

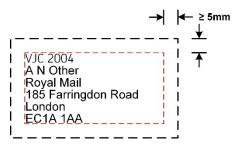
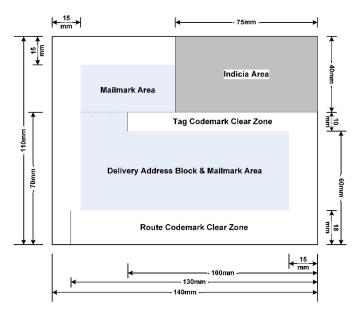


Figure 10 - Letter Clear Zones - Minimum Size (Not to Scale)



#### Figure 11 - Letter Clear Zones - DL Envelope (Not to Scale)

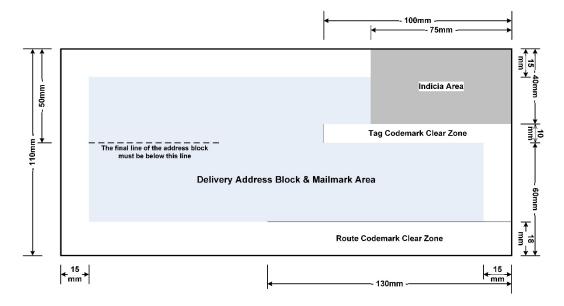
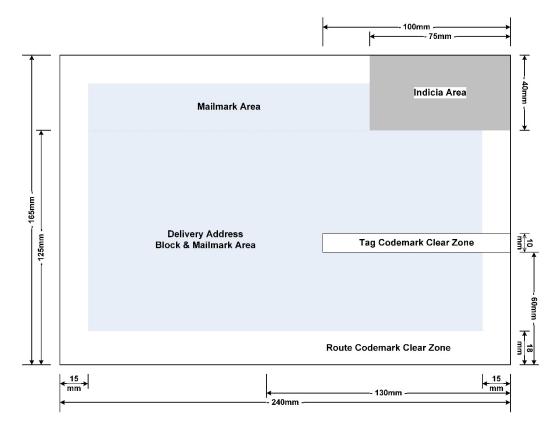
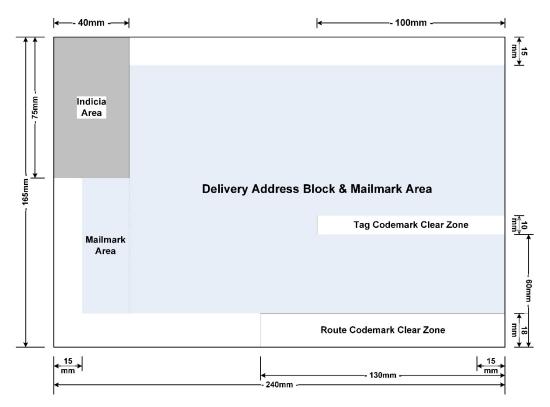


Figure 12 - Letter Clear Zones - Maximum Landscape (Not to Scale)

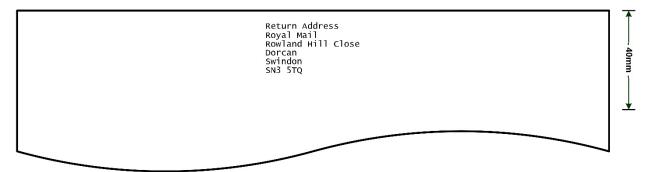


#### Mailmark Mailing Requirements for Letters

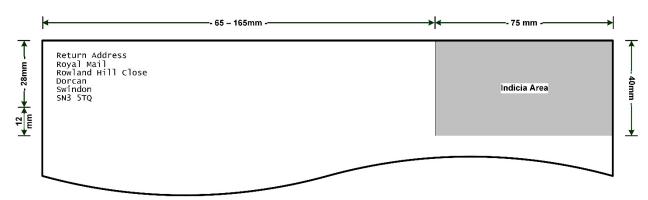
#### Figure 13 - Letter Clear Zones - Maximum Portrait (Not to Scale)

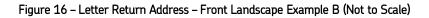


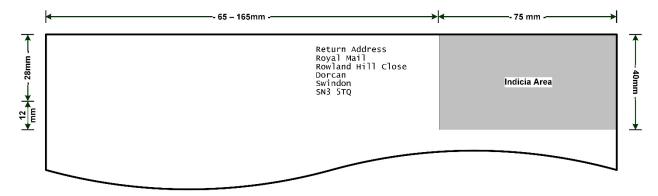
#### Figure 14 – Letter Return Address Preferred – Back (Not to Scale)



#### Figure 15 – Letter Return Address – Front Landscape Example A (Not to Scale)







## 1.7.4 Mailmark Letters - Mailmark Figures

Figure 17 – 4-State Mailmark Barcode Symmetry

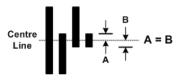


Figure 18 - 4-State Mailmark Barcode Bar Skew Y (Not to Scale)

Figure 19 - 4-State Mailmark Barcode Code Skew Z (Not to Scale)

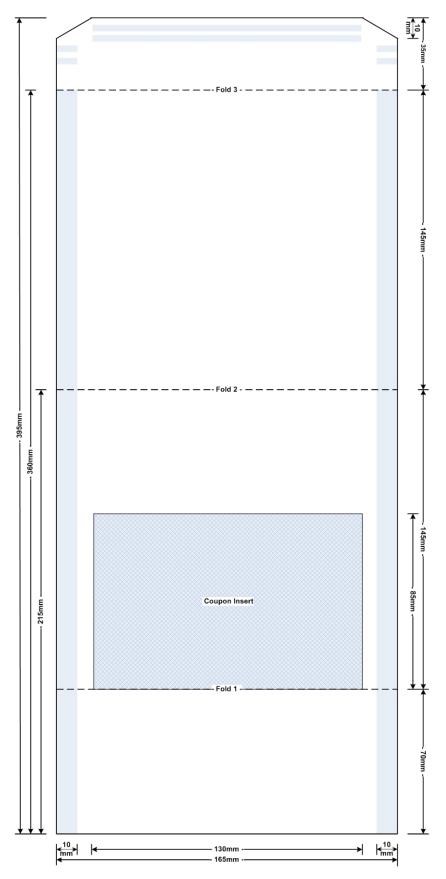
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իիկսիվըներկիկով x°

## 1.7.5 Mailmark Letters - Other Mailmark Mailer Figures

## 1.7.5.1 One Piece & Wrap Letter Mailer - Figures

Figure 20 - Coupon One-Piece Letter Mailer - Dimensions (Not to Scale)



#### Mailmark Mailing Requirements for Letters

Figure 21 - Coupon One-Piece Letter Mailer - Finished Back View (Not to Scale)

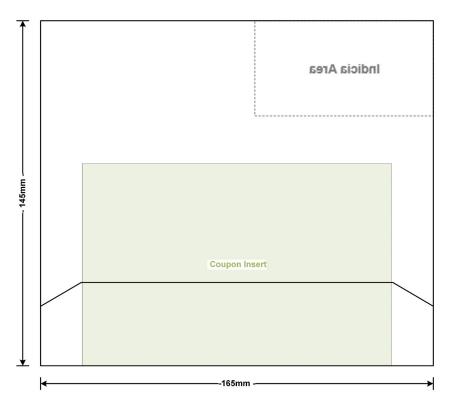
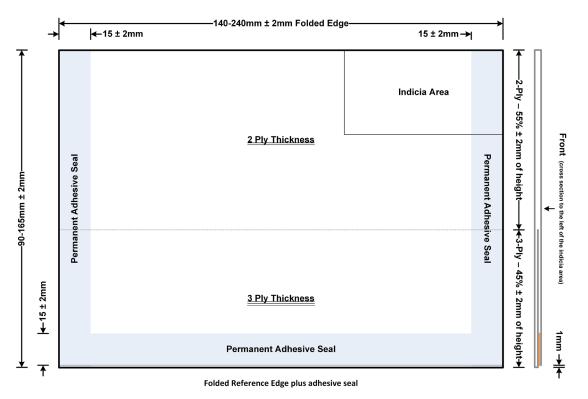


Figure 22 - Machineable Postcard - Option 1 (Not to Scale)



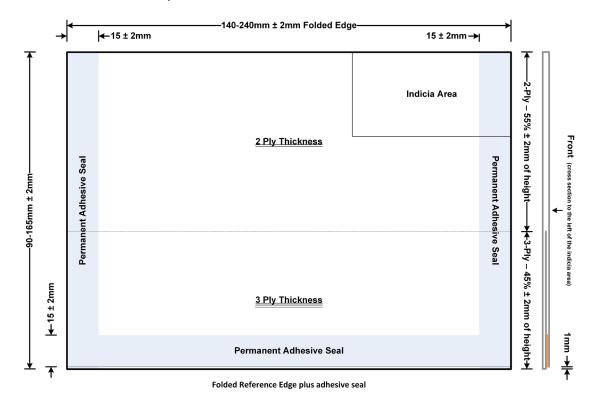




Figure 24 - Standard One-Piece Letter Mailer - Spot Weld Requirements (Not to Scale)

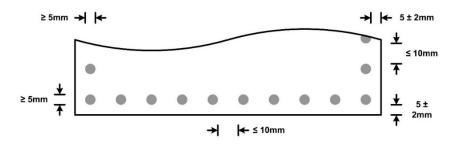
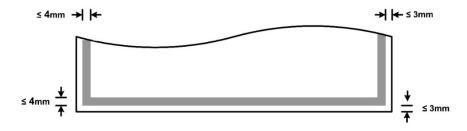


Figure 25 - Standard One-Piece Letter Mailer - Adhesive Line Requirements (Not to Scale)



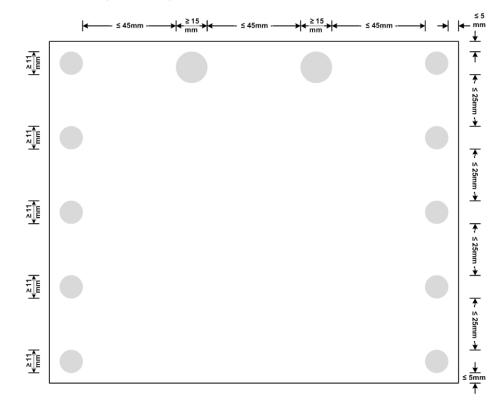


Figure 26 - Feature Letter Mailer (Not to Scale)

Figure 27 - Fold & Seal Mailer - Open Dimensions



#### Figure 28 - Fold & Seal Mailer - Finished Dimensions

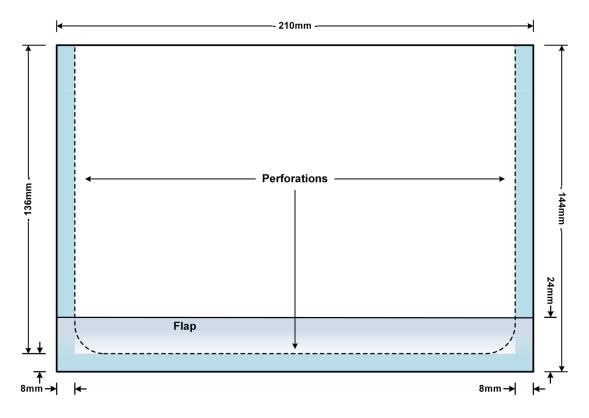
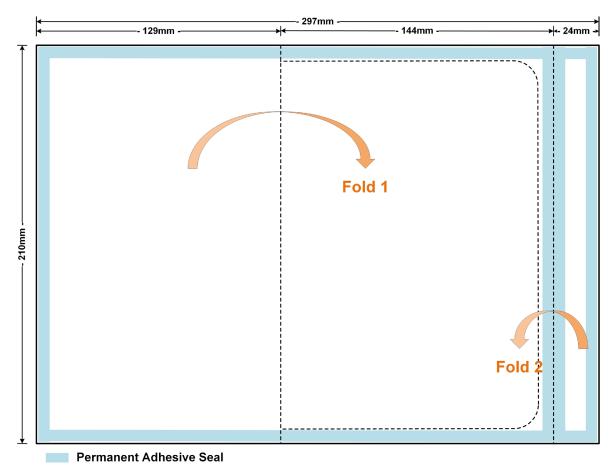
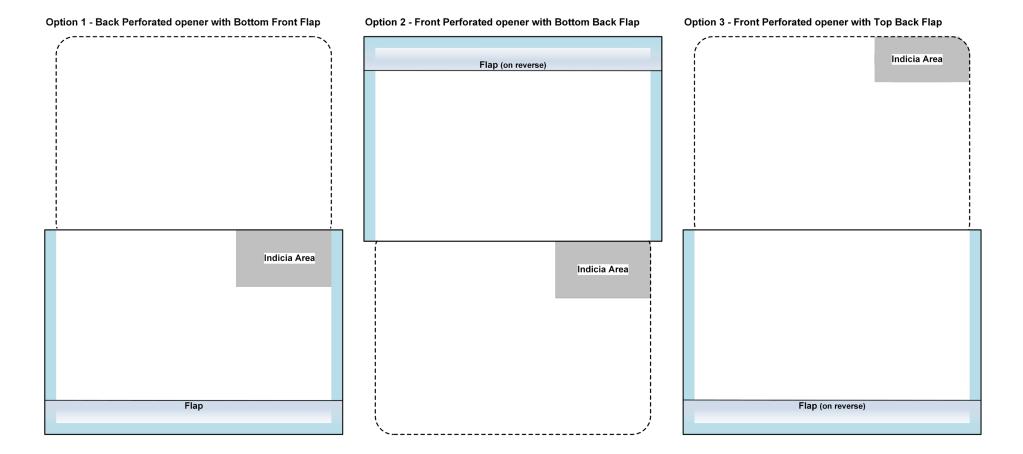


Figure 29 - Fold & Seal Mailer - Open Dimensions



#### Figure 30 - Fold & Seal Mailer Design Options



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### 1.7.5.2 Perforated Letter Mailers - Figures

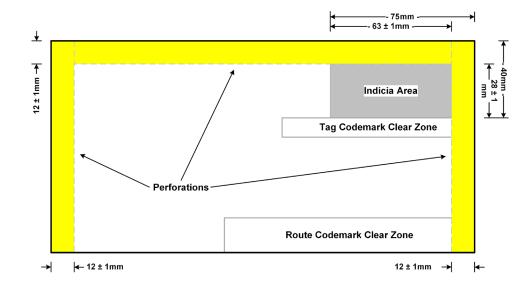
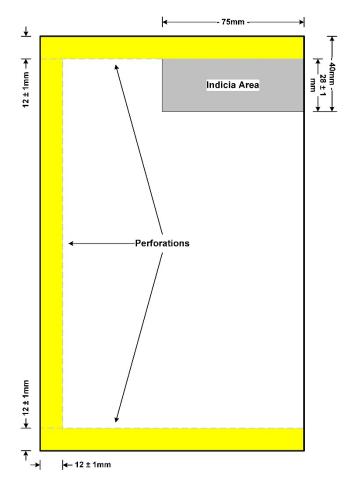


Figure 31 - Roulette Perforation Landscape Letter - Bottom Perforation (Not to Scale)

Figure 32 - Roulette Perforation Portrait Letter - Left Perforation (Not to Scale)



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#### Figure 33 - Roulette Perforation Dimensions (Not to Scale)

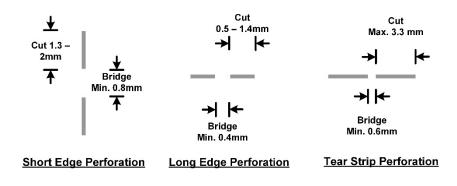


Figure 34 – Zip Tie Orientation (back view) – Landscape Mail (Not to Scale)

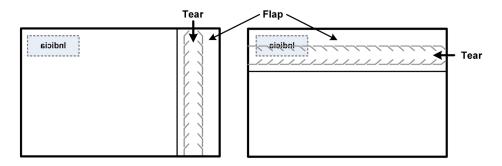


Figure 35 - Zip Tie Orientation (back view) - Portrait Mail (Not to Scale)

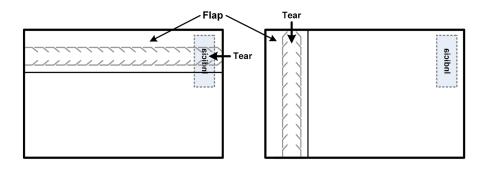
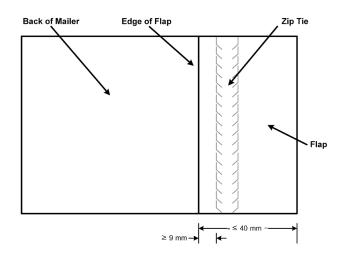


Figure 36 - Zip Tie 'Envelope' Flap (Not to Scale)





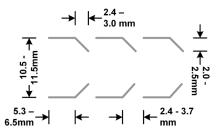


Figure 38 - Pressure Seal Letter Envelope - Front of Letter Perforations (Not to Scale)

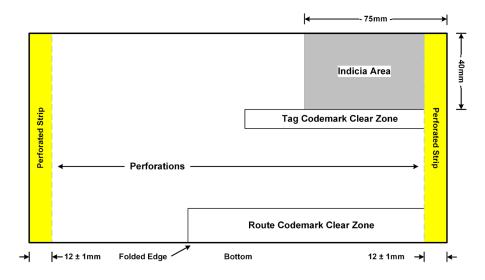
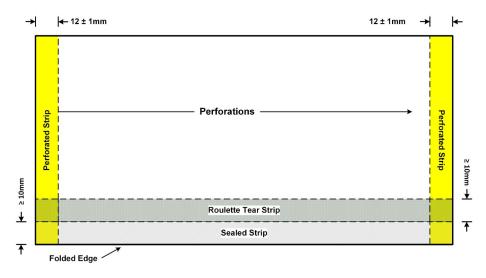


Figure 39 - Pressure Seal Letter Envelope - Back of Letter (Not to Scale)



### 1.7.5.3 Tabbed Mailer - Figures

Figure 40 - Tabbed - DL Thin Letter (Not to Scale).

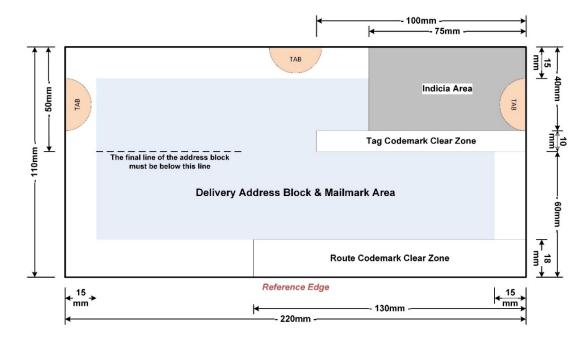
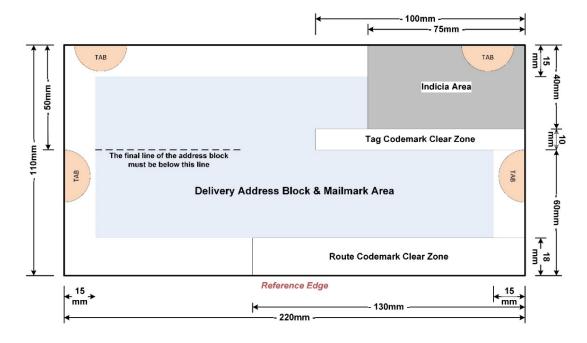


Figure 41 - Tabbed - DL Thicker / Heavier Letter (Not to Scale).



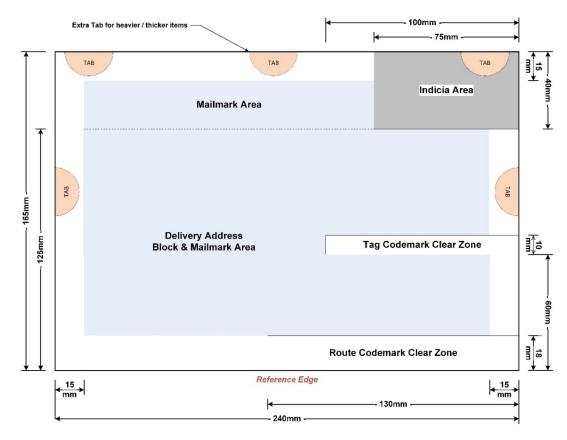


Figure 42 - Tabbed - Maximum Size Landscape Letter (Not to Scale).



