

Tag 57 Political Campaign Mail

The Postal Service™ recommends the use of **Tag 57, Political Campaign Mailing**, to identify trays and sacks that contain political campaign mail. Although use of the tag is optional, when used it provides greater visibility to containers of political campaign mail as they move through Postal Service processing and distribution operations.

Political Campaign Mail is defined as materials mailed at First-Class or Standard Mail rates for political campaign purposes by a registered political candidate, campaign committee, or committee of a political party. The most common format for political mail is a brochure promoting the candidacy of one or more individuals for elected offices on the local, state, or federal levels. Political campaign mailpieces bear an endorsement required by federal or state law that is similar to: "Paid for by the committee to elect John Smith and authorized by John Smith."

Mailings done by organizations other than those listed above, even if promoting or endorsing political candidates, referendums and so forth, are not classified as Political Campaign Mail and cannot use Tag 57. Mail from organizations, retiree associations, labor unions, religious groups, and others that endorse specific candidates or political issues is not political campaign mail.

Affix Tag 57 to the mail container as follows:

- *Strapped Letter Trays*: Attach Tag 57 using a wire twist tie to the strap at the end of the tray that bears the tray label.
- *Non-strapped Letter Trays*: For trays permitted to be tendered without strapping, attach Tag 57 to the tray with a rubber band that is double-looped through the tray handhold at the end that bears the tray label.
- *Sacks with Flat-Size Mail*: Depending on the type of sack, attach Tag 57 to either the strap or label holder on the sack.

Availability

To obtain Tag 57, political mailers should contact their local Post Office or mail acceptance unit.



Tag 191 Domestic and International Ballots

The Postal Service™ recommends the use of the new green **Tag 191, Domestic and International Ballots**, to identify trays and sacks that contain ballot mail. Although use of the tag is optional, when used it provides greater visibility to containers of ballot mail as they move through Postal Service processing and distribution operations.

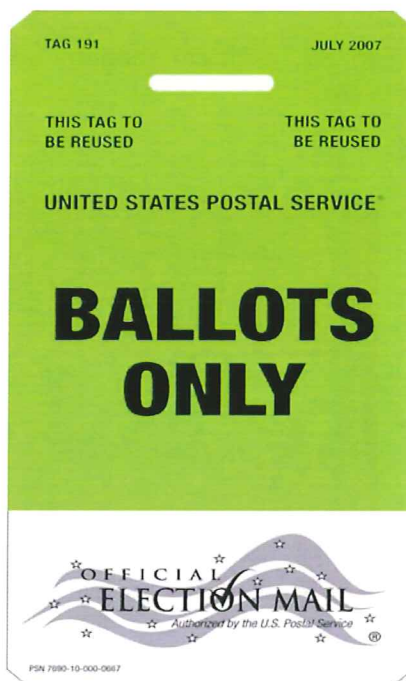
Tag 191 may only be used to identify ballot mail addressed for domestic or international delivery. The tag is not to be used to identify containers of other types of Official Election Mail, such as polling place notices, voter registration notices, or other election related materials. Tag 191 may not be used by organizations or individuals for Political Campaign Mail that promote political candidates, referendums, or political campaigns. Tag 57, *Political Campaign Mailing*, may be used to identify Political Campaign Mail (*see reverse*).

Affix Tag 191 to the mail container as follows:

- *Strapped Letter Trays*: Attach Tag 191 using a wire twist tie to the strap at the end of the tray that bears the tray label.
- *Non-strapped Letter Trays*: For trays permitted to be tendered without strapping, attach Tag 191 to the tray with a rubber band that is double-looped through the tray handhold at the end that bears the tray label.
- *Sacks with Flat-Size Mail*: Depending on the type of sack, attach Tag 191 to either the strap or label holder on the sack.

Availability

To obtain Tag 191, Election Officials should contact their local Post Office or mail acceptance unit. Post Offices should order Tag 191 through the Materials Distribution Center (MDC).



Special Procedures

APO/FPO Absentee Ballots

September 15, 2008 – November 3, 2008

The U.S. Postal Service and the Military Postal Service have again joined forces to expedite delivery of absentee ballots to overseas military personnel. We recognize the important role mail plays in the election process and are committed to ensuring that everyone who votes by mail experiences a smooth, well-organized process – one that provides them with the highest levels of trust and confidence. That's why we've developed Special Procedures for APO/FPO Absentee Ballots for the 2008 Presidential General Election.

Here is a summary of the program:

- Ideally, Election Officials should mail absentee ballots at least 45 days prior to the November 4th election. All military absentee ballots mailed by election offices between September 15th and November 3rd will receive special handling.
- Local election offices are requested to separate military absentee ballots to each of the three International Service Center (ISC) military gateways: New York, Miami and San Francisco. *See reverse side for directions and templates for marking the bundles.*
- Trays or containers of absentee ballot mail may be identified using Tag 191, Domestic and International Ballots, and presented to the Post Office. Contact your local Post Office for more information on standard procedures for election offices.
- APO/FPO absentee ballots will be sent from local Post Offices to the nearest Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) for further processing.
- The P&DC will expedite all military absentee ballots via Express Mail Service to each of the ISCs at no additional charge to the election office.
- At the ISC, absentee ballots receive special handling including, accelerated sortation, special tray identification and priority transportation.

See reverse side for directions and templates for marking the bundles.



APO/FPO AE 090

Absentee Ballots 090-099



APO/FPO AA 340

Absentee Ballots 340



APO/FPO AP 962

Absentee Ballots 962-966



APO/FPO MIXED

Absentee Ballots

ELECTION OFFICIALS: Separate military absentee ballots by preparing bundles for the three International Service Center (ISC) military gateways: New York, Miami and San Francisco. Use the facing slip templates above to identify the bundles. Each bundle must have a facing slip for the appropriate ISC.

ISC Name	ISC State Abbreviation	ISC ZIP Code Range
New York	AE	090 - 099
Miami	AA	340
San Francisco	AP	962-966

If there are less than five pieces to make a separate bundle, a mixed bundle may be prepared. This bundle must have the facing slip marked, "APO/FPO MIXED – Absentee Ballots."

When in doubt, ask your local Post Office.