

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Cost of a first class piece of mail goes up one cent this month.

Beginning Jan. 27, postage increases to 46 cents an ounce.

The U.S Postal Service is also introducing a first class global Forever Stamp. For a set price of \$1.10 postal customers can mail letters anywhere in the world.

The new 46-cent Forever stamp will reach a destination anywhere within the U.S. and will remain good for mailing a one-ounce letter at any time in the future even if prices change.

Customers can stock up on the stamps and be assured they are forever usable.

Remaining unchanged is the cost of postage for each ounce above that.

It will still cost 20 cents per ounce to mail a letter above the one-ounce cost of 46 cents.

Postcards are increasing one cent to 33 cents each.

New Shipping Services

The U.S. Postal Service has announced new shipping services products that will be available in January:

- Free tracking will be offered to all competitive packages, including retail Priority Mail and Parcel Post (recently renamed Standard Post).
- Customers shipping Critical Mail letters and flats will now have the option of receiving a signature upon delivery as part of the service offering.

Flat Rate

A large variety of flat-rate boxes and envelopes for Express Mail and Priority Mail, including the padded and legal-sized flat rate envelopes will continue to be offered by the Postal Service.

New domestic retail pricing for Priority Mail Flat Rate products include:

Small box — \$5.80

Medium box — \$12.35

Large box — \$16.85

Large APO/FPO box — \$14.85

Regular envelope — \$5.60

Legal envelope — \$5.75

Padded envelope — \$5.95

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

New Stamps

In 2013, the Postal Service will introduce 30 new limited-edition stamps portraying American experiences.

From landmark history like the Emancipation Proclamation to the celebration of budding romance with the Sealed with Love Stamp in time for Valentine's Day cards and letters, each limited-edition stamp is unique and taps into an American passion.