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International mailing address format usa

Here's a quick guide to typing the address of two common types of U.S. postal address: Housing and POST Box. Residential addresses The format for US residential addresses is very similar to UK addresses, but there are some important differences to note: UK address format US address format Mr. James Smith Flat 7 118 Blackhorse Grove London W6 7HB UK Ms Alice Smith Apartment 1c 213 Derrick Street Boston, MA 02130 USA 1. You will need to write the name of the state where the city, city or village you send to is located. Use two-letter state abbreviation, such as MA for Massachusetts as shown above. 2. You must also add a five-digit zip code (zip code). There may be an extended number (ZIP+4) where a hyphen and four additional digits (-1234) are added to the five-digit code, but this is usually not required. 3. Enter the name of the city/city/village, the state and the postal code on the same line, as shown above. POSTBoxes The format for sending to a PO Box is very similar. UK address format US address format Mr James Smith Transglobal Express BOX Box 1234 Bromborough CH62 3NX UK Ms. Globelle Paragon Productions PO Box 5404 Los Angeles, CA 90210 USA When sending a package or letter to a post office box in the United States: 1. Type the addressee's name and company name (if applicable) on the first lines. Type the pobox number on the next line. 2. Underneath the PO Box number, write the city, state and zip code. 3. Once again, an extended ZIP+4 number is not required, but for p.o. boxes it will usually repeat all or part of your PO Box number. 4. In general, you do not need to include a street address for PO boxes. But if you do, put it over the PO Box number, which the U.S. Postal Service sorts from the last lines of your address and post box numbers are more important! Please note that many carriers have p.o. box restrictions, so please check before you try to send a package or letter to a post office box in the United States. You can send to a private mailbox with the same address format as above, but you need to put PMB or # instead of POST Box. If this line in the address also contains a secondary number such as a rural route box or a suite number, you must use PMB and not # to avoid confusion. Are you looking to send a package to the United States? We have a range of couriers to choose from, including UPS, DHL, TNT and USPS. • SAVE THE POST OFFICE • WHY THE POST OFFICE MATTERS • A World Without The Mail • APVU • AALC • Postlandia • Smithsonian National Postal Museum • United States Postal Service: An American History • USPS Officials Order Historic Murals Covered in 1 2 States Author: Frank da Cruz New York City fdc@columbia.edu Latest Update: Mon Nov 16 10:49:38 2020 Eastern US Time Quick Access: Go to INDEX and click on a country name. Para los latinoamericanos: Buscar códigos post ATEASE Disclaimer: Maintenance of this document is where a public service of the ex-KERMIT AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. It was originally written for our own purposes (international shipping of our software in pre-Internet days) and does not claim to be definitive, complete, systematic, or unopinionated. All opinions and conclusions are those of the author (or the contributing or references mentioned). Apologies for any inappropriate terminology, especially since this document aims to eradicate it. Format: handmade HTML with accent or non-Roman characters encoded in UTF-8, correctly announced to allow the inclusion of text in many languages and scripts. For more information about UTF-8 CLICK HERE and HERE. Background: This document started in the 1980s as a short tip-sheet, organized geographically, with sections for regions or specific countries. Since about 1990, everything changed – the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany, the dissolutions of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. This document reflects the changes, rather than just starting over, because at the time we were facing a major address conversion problem. Such events will continue to happen over time so it is good to recall their impact, even in this small area of human endeavour. Hence the sections known as the Former Soviet Union, the Former Yugoslavia, etc. Updates: The November 14, 2000 release adds links to postal authorities in many countries, which are recapitulated alphabetically (in English) in index at the end. On May 15, 2001 edition adds ISO 3166-1 codes to the country list in index; this is the familiar Internet top level domain (TLD) for each country (in most cases), and these are also used on international mail containers, machine-readable passports, and in national currency identifiers. Lots of corrections and expansion in January 2003. The February 2003 version is very extended, including new tables and sections for Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and with each country name in the Index linking back to the relevant section of the main document. In June 2003, the tables of English, Scottish and Welsh counties, which are no longer used in UK addresses, were moved to a separate file and the UK part was modernised. The conversion-8 conversion was made on January 20, 2003; the previous ISO-8859-1 Latin Alphabet 1 version, current as of this date, remains available HERE (but will not be updated). The UTF-8 version contains text in Greek, Cyrillic, Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tibetan, Thai, Khmer, and other scripts that cannot be represented in Latin-1 but are easily accommodated by UTF-8. Most of this text can be found in the COUNTRY INDEX. Anyone who can deliver missing country names or other relevant items in native language and scripts are welcome to submit them; I'll be happy to add them (with credit, of course). Periodic updates of any postal reference are necessary because countries change, postcodes change, addressing standards and recommendations The Internet is making things at the same time better and worse: better because now we can link to authorities in each country and to other relevant websites, worse because URLs are constantly changing out from below us. Thus any document like this is doomed to lapse over time if it is not constantly maintained. The last update time appears at the top. Feel free to report outdated links, or send corrections, suggestions or new information, by e-mail to fdc@columbia.edu. Admissions: Aleida Morel (Dominican Republic), Mari Carmen Fonseca, Juan Castro, Patrick Decker, Andrew Leonard, Beth Espy, Tom Doan (México), Fernando Cabral, Steve Slayton (Brazil), Roberto Homs (Cuba), بهار عبیدات / Baha Obeidat (Palestine), Felipe Zapata Roldán (Colombia), Josh Gross, Kevin Tarr (Costa Rica); Johnny Franco Arboine (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Ecuador); Craig Hartnett, Doug Ewell, Alexis Hunt, John Sawyer, Benoît Le Nabeç (Canada), Irineu de Assis (Bolivia, Paraguay and Colombia), Iord Wischhöfer, ISO 3166/MA Secretariat (Europe & North Africa), Darrell K. McKown, U.S. Army Postal Operations, Universal Postal Union, Berne, Kjetil Torgirg Homme (Norway), Xander Jansen, Gert Grenander, Abigail, Sjoerd Cranen, Reimier Ollislagers, Ken Martin, Roland Witvoet, Richard Paul, Liza R, Marco van der Wal (Netherlands), John Kiensin, Alexander Svensson, Alex Bochannek, Asmus Freytag, Otto Stolz, Claus Langhans, Clemens Gutweller, Ralph Babel, David Krings, Jens Peter Hammer, Christian Asche (Germany), Christoph Páper (Liechtenstein, Lëtzebuerg), Marco Cimarosti, Peter J. Russell (Italy), Александр Лысков / Alex Lisikov, Bill Conerly (Russia), Олександр Лисков / Alex Lisikov (Ukraine), Алер Гайко / Alëh Haikò (Belarus), Peter Russell (Lithuania), Klein Tamás Márton, Zsbán Ámbrus (Hungary), Eduard Vopicka, Radovan Garabik (Czech Republic and Slovakia), Dustin Du Cane (Poland), Marjan Baçe, Sindi Keenan, David Vidmar, Bojan Milenkovic (The former Yugoslavia), Վաթե Կընդակը / Vaçe Kundakçi (Armenia), Giorgi Lebanidze (Georgia), رومی پورنادر / Roozbeh Pournader (Iran), Sannidhya Misra, Stewart Evans, Yateendra Joshi (India), Eric Nedervold, Dieter Walter (Nepal), Anthony Fok Tung-Ling, Stephen Yang, Tom Tschnitter, Henry Groover (China), Paul Hastings (Thailand), Graham Rhind, Arthur Marsh, Doug Moncur, Kevin K., Andrew Donnellan (Australia), Elizabeth Eggers, Ken Westmoreland, Ben Arnold, Derek Sivers, Andrew Kerkham, Paul (New Zealand), Peter Reynolds (Nigeria), Ken Westmoreland (Kenya), Eberhard Wisse (Namibia), Topi Linkala, Miikka-Markus Alhonen, Jarkko Hietaniemi, Era Eriksson (Finland), Craig Hartnett (Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rhodesia, Nyasaland), John Hagerson (Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Vietnam, Israel, Serbia, Egypt), Mordecai Clickman (Israel), Avery Yen (Taiwan), Kenneth Joseph Vella (Malta), Andy Bell (Hong Kong), Samuel Dickey, Agroni (Kosovo), Joshua Holman (St. Martin & St. Barthélemy; Diego García) Fridjon Gudjohansen (Iceland), Gerben Vos, Ir. P. (Peter) Mazereeuw, John Robertson (the former Dutch Pekka Pihlajasaari (Malaysia), Giselle Giselle Pitto, Ken Westmoreland (Gibraltar), Darrell K. McKown, U.S. Army Postal Operations, Germany (APO/FPO/DPO), Gabriel Sroka, California State University, Ed Callaway (Kyrgyzstan), Andrew Ljepins (Mauritius), United Kingdom and Ireland: John Benton, Ross Chandler, Craig Cockburn, Peter Crabb-Wyke, David Levy, James Grinter, Ian Morrison, Shane Wilson, George D. Hugh Dunne, David Goddard, Johannes Eggers, Christy Looby, Finlay Smith, Gerard Lardner, Robert Gormley, G.S. Sinclair, Chris Cooke, Colin Russ, Stewart Potter, Bill Bedford, Chris Harrison, P. Breathnach, Michael Everson, Mark Dyche, David Gowdy, Guy Alan Berry, Ken Westmoreland, Jonathan Nigel, Peter Reynolds, Martin Spamer, Chris Davies, Benjamin Brundell, Mark Jolly, Liam McGee, William Wallace, Andy Paterson, Sarah Woodhouse, Mark Brader, Paul Black, Bernard Treves Brown, Greg Bo Peter Kirk, Michael T. Farnworth, Andrew Leonard, Chris Woodhouse (Royal Post), Philip Woods, John Marsh, Paolo Montanelli, Angela Watts, Gary Delaney, Kevin Tarr, Rick, Cian Brennan. General information and corrections: Daniel Schwarz, Marty Simon, Linda Beek, Dan Olsson, Peter Russell, Ken Westmoreland, Gert Grenander, Marcy Strawmyer, Mark Brader, László Kende, Tex Texin, Helgi Jonsson, Roozbeh Pournader, Tom Gewecke, Magda Danish, Stuart Brown, Noah Levitt, Herman Ranes, Miikka-Markus Alhonen, Marco Cimarosti, Kent Karlsson, Celvin Niklas Jojakin Ruisdael, Hans Schievelkamp, Pete Russel, Doug Ewell, Philip Newton, Jim Brent, Christian Rosner, Howard Laker, Cassandra Phillips-Sears, Austin Knight, G. Herbke, Joshua Holman, George Rhoten, Jay Davis, Tom Richards, Malik Kalfane, Jean-Christophe Deschamps, Chris Morris, Bettina Morton, Gregg Lobdell, Paul Buhler, Steve Williamson, John Sawyer, IBM International Components for Unicode (ICU) library, and the country name website in various languages by Werner Fröhlich for several of the native country scripts (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, etc). Reference: Law, Gwillim, administrative subdivisions of countries, McFarland & Company (1999). Updates available on the web. See this reference for states, provinces, or other subdivisions of any country. Resources: Issues: Privatization of National Postal Networks INTRODUCTION [Next] [Top] [Content] [Index] [Home] This document tries to describe - or invent when needed - conventions to address mailings from within the United States to other countries that are both (a) effective (i.e. have a good chance of working), and (b) as inoffensive as possible when dealing with elections can be controversial. Note that the general problem – how to address mail from country A to country B, for all A's and B's – is an n × n problem, as this document tries to address only one dimension: mail from the Us to elsewhere. But even this is a moving goal like addressing the guidelines and formats of each country constantly being revised. The very term country can be what is a country and what is not? The criterion used in this document is simple: if the USPS lists it in its index to countries and localities, we treat it as a country. Thus some localities (such as Reunionisland) which are not distinct countries are listed, whereas other localities considering themselves countries (such as western Sahara) are not listed (but still discussed). Justification: if you address mail from the United States to Western Sahara, usps won't know what to do with it. If you want to send mail to SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON (part of France that is in Canada) from the United States, it makes no sense for the post office to go all the way to France and back. Similarly, saying that a particular country exists in Europe or Africa or Latin America or Asia or the Middle East can be controversial. Where does Russia go? Turkey? Egypt? Falkland Islands (Malvinas)? I have done a few groupings such as this for convenience, for example, in the name of the european Union. The best international addressing strategy is a strategy that is not only consistent and unatnial, but also achieves to what extent possible several potentially conflicting objectives: The address is consistent with the country of origin (US guidelines for addressing) (US in this case) and sent to the right destination country without delay caused by the address itself. The address meets the destination country's addressing requirements and is sent to the destination address without address-related delay. The address fits your own organization's database and record keeping needs, ideally allowing reports and choices by country, city, etc. When this document was first written for internal use in the late 1980s, the United States Postal Service (USPS) had no published guidelines for dealing with international mail – if it did, we would just have used them. There were no default names or recommended names for countries. The situation has improved since then with the appearance of the USPS International Mail Manual (IMM), including an index of countries and localities, first discovered (by me) in 2000, newly added in HTML so that we can link directly to it and to parts of it. The new HTML version also seems to be greatly expanded across the previous versions, such as containing long lists of cities with zip codes for each country (e.g.ISO, International Standard 11180, Postal Address (1993) (revoked 15 Jan 2004), by the way, was no help at all, except that it contained a reference to Universal Postal Union: that provides tip sheets to address each country. But there's no way to tell how authoritative or current UPU guidelines are – they're not dated, and they don't provide any references. But for some countries, UPU provides the only guidance available. It should also be noted that addressing guidelines are of an equal to UPU's primary which creates standards for the description of postal addresses (i.e. define and name the elements), not for their surrender, which is submitted to each country. August 2006: UPU's website has changed a lot since I wrote the previous paragraph. The addressing recommendations for each country found HERE now have dates, and have more information (e.g. lists of state/provincial abbreviations, additional examples), and there is a comprehensive page with links to zip code spreads for each Member State HERE. USPS Service Updates The United States Postal Service delivers mail to most of the countries on earth, but there are some exceptions and restrictions due to policies (Cuba), war (Gaza), natural disasters (Haiti), or other factors such as isolation (Pitcairn Island). To see the current list of affected countries, visit the USPS Service Updates page. Note: At some point the USPS converted its site from http: to https:, but without forwarding the old URLs to the new ones, which breaks every USPS link in this page, and in many other pages as well, no doubt. All USPS links on this page were converted to https in July 2017, but not every single one of them has been tested; if you find non-functional USPS (or any other) links, please let me know. Abbreviations and acronyms: IMMInternational Mail Manual (USPS) ISOInternational

Republic of South Sudan, South Sudan, (before July 2011) Sudan. SPAIN ES (Reino de) España, Kingdom of Spain SRI LANKA LK ශ්‍රී ලංකා (Urilaḱa) , இலங்கை (Ilaḱai), Lanka Prajathanthrika Prajathanthrika Janarajaya, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Ceylon SUDAN SD السودان , As-Sudan , جمهورية السودان , Jumhuriyat As-Sudan, Republic of Sudan, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan SURINAME SURINAME Suriname Suriname, Republic of Suriname, Netherlands Guiana, Netherlands SWAZILAND SZ Umbuso weSwatini, Kingdom of Swaziland SWEDEN SE (Kingdom) Sweden, Kingdom of Sweden, Kingdom of Sweden, SWITZERLAND CH Switzerland, Suisse, Svizzero, Confœderatio Helvetica SYRIA SY سوريا , Suriya, سورية العربية السورية , al-Jumhuriya al-Arabiya as-Suriya, Syrian Arab Republic , United Arab Republic TAIWAN TW (Taiwan), 中华 (Taiwan), 中中中中中(,), Republic Republic of China, ROC, Formosa TAJIKISTAN TJ Тоҷикистон, Таджикистан, تاجيستان, Tadjikiston, Todhzikiston, Todhzikiston, Todhzikiston, Таджикиская ССР, Tadjzhik SSR TANZANIA TZ Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, United Republic of Tanzania, Tanganyika and Zanzibar THAILAND TH ,,Prathet Thai, Thailand, Siam TINIAN MP (See Northern Mariana Islands) TOGO TG République Togolaise , Togolese Republic, French Togoland TONGA TONGA TO NGA , Friendly Islands TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TT Republic of Trinidad and Tobago TRUK FM Chuuk (See Micronesia) TUNISIA TN تونس , Tunis, الجمهورية التونسية, Al Jumhuriyah at Tunisiyah, Regency of Tunis TURKEY TR Türkiye Cumhuriyeti, Republic of Turkey TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS -- (Address through Turkey) TURKMENISTAN TM (Республика) Туркменистан (Respublika Turkmenistan), Trkūmenistan, Türkmenistan Jum hätyi , Republic of Turkmenistan, Туркменская ССР, Turkmen SSR, Turkestan TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS TC TUVALU TV Elice Islands UGANDA UG REPUBLIC OF UGANDA UKRAINE UA Украина (Ukrainian) , Украина (Russian) (Ukrayina, Ukrajina), Ukraine, Ukraina, Ukrainian National Republic, Українська ССР, Ukrainian SSR, CIS United ARAB EMIRATES AE الإمارات العربية المتحدة, Al Imarat, دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة, Dawlat Al Imarat Al Arabiya Al Muttaahid Tru . The Emirates are: Abu Dhabi (أبو ظبي), Ajman (عجمان), Dubai (دبي), Fujairah (الفجيرة) , Ras al-Khaimah (رأس الخيمة), Sharjah (الشارقة), and um al-Qaiwain (ملقبيون) UK Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland Uruguay UY ROU, (Eastern) Republic of Uruguay U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS VI (Use USA address) USA USA USA USA, United States of America, EEUU, США USSR SU Союз Советских Социалистических Республик (СРСРС) , Советский Союз , The Soviet Republics, the Soviet Union. See: ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, ESTONIA, GEORGIA, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, MOLDOVA, RUSSIA, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, UKRAINE, UZBEKISTAN. UZBEKISTAN UZ Эъбекистон, Узбекистан, O'zbekiston (Respublikasi), Узбекская ССР, Uzbek SSR VANUATU VU Ripablik blong Vanuatu, Republic of Vanuatu, New Hebrides VATICAN CITY VA Holy See, Vatican City, Santa Sede, (Stata della) Città del Vaticano VENEZUELA VE República Bolivariana de Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela VIETNAM VN Viet Nam, Cáng Hòa Xã Hội Chủã Nghãa Việт Nam, by Viet Nam, Indochina, Annam WALES GB Cymru, United Kingdom, UNITED KINGDOM WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS WF WESTERN SAMOA WS (Independent State) Samoa Also see: US SAMOA Western Sahara * EH Spanish Sahara, Spanish West Africa. Not recognized by the USPS. address through Morocco. YEMEN YE اليمن , Al Yaman, الجمهورية اليمنية, Al-Jumhuriya Al-Yamaniya, Republic of Yemen YUGOSLAVIA YU (Федеративна Народна Република) Сyрославяса (ФНРС); Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Federated (or federal) People's Republic of Yugoslavia; Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. See: SERBIA-MONTENEGRO (Z). See also: BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA, MACEDONIA, SLOVENIA. ZAMBIA ZM Republic of Zambia, Northern Rhodesia ZIMBABWE ZW Republic of Zimbabwe, Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia Notes: USPS IMM lists the French name, Ivory Coast (complete with circumflex) and not the English name. The Finnish region of Kareel became the Finnish-Karean SSR, part of the USSR, in 1945. It is still part of Russia. QUIZ ANSWER Some of the Aleutian Islands, of Japan, as well as the French Caribbean; during the period 1940-1943, Martinique's Vichy government was technically at war with the United States and its allies. This was the setting for the Howard Hawks/Humphrey Bogart/Lauren Bacall film, To Have and Not Have, as well as the coming of age Franz Fanon, Nigerien or Nigerois. Queen Elizabeth I (who is the same person as Queen Elizabeth II of England) (of course this is controversial). The flag of England is: The Union Flag is: Britain of course, and ...? Ken Westmoreland sent the best answer so far: Australia (on coins and maybe some banknotes), New Zealand (on coins), Canada (on coins and \$20 note), Fiji (on both despite becoming a republic in 1987!!), Papua New Guinea, China and solomon islands Dollar, at least on coins. Scottish and Northern Ireland banknotes do not; Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man they do. Gibraltar, Falklands and Saint Helena do and still use sterling (although they are considered foreign by British banks!). Bermuda (dollar on par with banknote since 1970). British Virgin Islands use US dollars, other overseas territories in the region use eastern Caribbean dollars; not sure if they have the Queen on their coins (they do), although everyone except Dominica still has the Queen as head of state. Jamaica and Barbados still have the Queen as head of state, but don't have her on their money, although the Bahamas can do (like Bermuda, local dollars on par with the greenback). All banknotes and coins bearing HM's portrait in Hong Kong were withdrawn from circulation before the handover in 1997. [Andy Bell points out from Hong Kong in 2008 that coins before 1997 are still in circulation, as noted HERE (entry dated February 19, 2006.) Also: Belize notes and coins have the Queen's portrait. Somalia recently issued a 25 shilling coin with Queen Victoria's portrait. In January 2006, Mark Brown of Augusta State University reported that a definitive this issue, at least for banknotes, is contained in P.J. Symes The Portraits of Queen Elizabeth II as they appear on World Banknotes. [Top] (End) (End)

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