

Items for the blind

"Cécogrammes" for letters and parcels

Items for the blind – so-called "cécogrammes" – are postal items weighing no more than 7 kg that are addressed to or sent by blind people, those who are visually impaired and institutes for the blind (all of which are referred to hereinafter as "the blind"). These consignments are transported postage-free within Switzerland and abroad if certain conditions are met.



CEC barcode

For labelling domestic parcels as well as registered mail (R), A Mail Plus (A+) and Dispomail (A). Your Customer Adviser can provide you with a label.

Permitted content

- Documents in braille printing
- Sound recordings by or for the blind
- Goods, equipment, resources and other products that have been created or adapted to support blind people or to make their lives easier

This also includes, but is not limited to, writing aids, speaking clocks/watches, canes for the blind, special mobile phones, MP3 players, colour recognition devices, board games, wallets/purses and so on.

Excluded items

- Items that are not specifically designed for the blind, even when they contribute toward improving their situation (e.g. walking aids)
- Texts in capital letters do not belong to the category „items for the blind“
- Consignments and articles that serve commercial purposes

The latter also includes return, guarantee or repair consignments of corresponding content, even if the associated services are offered free of charge.

Trading and selling at cost price and without pursuit of profit is permitted, however, provided that customers can include the necessary information and documents at the request of Swiss Post in order to benefit from the postal charge exemption.

Preparing the consignments

Items for the blind to be delivered within Switzerland may be sealed or unsealed before they are handed over for delivery. International consignments must be unsealed when handed over for delivery.

Letter mail within Switzerland

Labelling

At least one of the following must be handwritten on the consignment: "Item for the blind", "envoi pour les aveugles" or "cécogramme". Alternatively, the CEC barcode may be affixed to the consignment. The CEC barcode must be affixed for registered mail (R), A Mail Plus (A+) and Dispomail (A).

For A Mail and B Mail individual items, the handwritten "Blindensendung", "envoi pour les aveugles" or "Cécogramme" labels must be affixed to the consignment.

For A Mail items for the blind, the letter "A" must be clearly marked on the letter. For example by using an adhesive label, a handwritten note or a postmark.

If no A Mail label is affixed, items for the blind are processed as B Mail.

Maximum dimensions

Posting as letter mail within Switzerland (A, B1 or B2)

- Up to B5 format (25 × 17.6 cm), up to 5 cm thick and up to 250 g
- Up to B4 format (35.3 × 25 cm), up to 2 cm thick and up to 1,000 g

Any items for the blind that exceed these dimensions must be sent as parcels.

SWISS POST 

Parcel consignments within Switzerland

Labelling

Parcels must include both the consignment barcode and the CEC barcode. For Priority parcel consignments, the PRI Priority value-added service code must be affixed to the parcel.

If no value-added service code is provided, the parcel is processed as Economy.

Maximum dimensions

Posting as a parcel consignment (PostPac Economy or PostPac Priority).

- Maximum format: 100 × 60 × 60 cm; maximum weight: 7 kg

International shipping

Labelling

The consignment must be marked with either "envoi pour les aveugles" or "Item for the blind".

Notes

Items for the blind which are to be sent abroad may not display any remarks or contain any correspondence and are always sent as letter mail.

Maximum dimensions

The following formats and weights apply:

- Up to B5 format (25 × 17.6 cm), up to 2 cm thick and up to 100 g
- Up to B4 format (35.3 × 25 cm), up to 2 cm thick and up to 1,000 g
- Maxi letter: length + width + height = max. 90 cm and up to 7,000 g

Any consignment that exceeds these dimensions will be subject to charges.

Postal charge exemption and subject to approval

Included in the postal charge exemption are services such as registered mail, return receipts or electronic cash on delivery. Basic services PostPac Promo, Bulky goods Economy, Bulky goods Priority, Swiss-Express "Moon", SameDay Swiss afternoon and SameDay Swiss evening are excluded here.

Consignments which exceed the maximum limits are also subject to charges, even if they are labelled with "Item for the blind" or "Cécogramme".

Swiss Post is entitled to carry out the necessary enquiries and retain items for the blind until authorization for postal charge exemption has been clarified.

All requirements must be met to qualify for a free delivery service. If this is not the case, the consignments will be delivered and charged at the standard rates for Swiss Post services.

Liability

In the event of any loss, damage or delay to postal items, only the provisions of the General Terms and Conditions for Swiss Post services may be applied for the individually selected and rendered Swiss Post transport service.

The parties will not be liable among themselves or to third parties for non-performance or poor performance of their contractual obligations, unless the action constitutes wilful intent or gross negligence. Evidence must be provided by those who intend to file any liability claims against Swiss Post.

Swiss Post cannot be held liable for any indirect damage, consequential damage, data loss, damage suffered by third parties and lost earnings.

For further information, please contact your Customer Advisor or the Swiss Post Customer Service.

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