

# ***Articles for the Blind Postal Service***

## **Introduction**

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Articles for the Blind is a free, First Class postal service for items designed for blind people. Anything that qualifies as a product specially designed for the blind can be sent to, or from a blind person for free. Organisations or institutions that have special arrangements with Royal Mail can also use the service. If you're visually impaired and find it hard to get to a postbox or Post Office™ to send your mail, give us a call on 08457 740 740 and we'll come and collect it. We do our best to make it easy for everyone to keep in touch.

## **So, what can you send?**

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- Books, papers and letters prepared for use by the blind or to be sent to or from a blind person ([please see press release below for clarification of font size](#))
- Relief maps
- Devices used to produce tactile information

And if you agree it with us first, organisations and institutions can also send the following:

- 'Talking' books and newspapers
- Games (including card games)
- Mathematical devices
- Watches, clocks, timers, tools, aids and measuring equipment designed for blind people
- Stationery supplies designed for sending things to blind people
- Collapsible walking sticks
- Guide dog harnesses
- Metal plates for producing materials for blind people or plates already impressed for blind people
- Computer disks and CDs specially prepared for blind people

To notify us that you may need to seal an item, due to it being large or fragile, please call 0845 607 6140.

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## **What can't you send?**

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Unfortunately there are some things we can't send:

- Music or entertainment, unless it's produced specifically for blind people. We can allow interludes, introductory and closing jingles of up to two bars as well as recordings with musical or entertainment features (such as a local orchestra) of no more than 10% of the total recording time
- Personal communications except for letters impressed or prepared for blind people. Letters aren't private because we need to open mail for inspection

## **How do you prepare your mail?**

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All you have to do is write 'ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND', and include your name and address clearly on the outside of the envelope or package, as well as the person you're sending it to. You'll need to leave your mail open for inspection, or at least make sure it's easy to open. If whatever you're sending is fragile, you can get permission from us to seal your package, please call us on 0845 607 6140.

## **How big and heavy can it be?**

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As for size, if it's rectangular, it can be up to 610mm x 460mm x 460mm. If it's cylindrical, it can be up to 900mm and the length added to twice the diameter of the packet must not be more than 1040mm in total. Whatever the shape, the package can weigh up to 7kg.

## **Who can use the service?**

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Anyone who is registered as blind or visually impaired, and has a close-up vision with spectacles of N12 or less, confirmed by an ophthalmologist, doctor or ophthalmic optician.

[Press Release:](#)

## **Royal Mail extends free postage for the blind and partially-sighted [22/08/2005]**

Royal Mail announced today, 22 August, that it is extending its Articles for the Blind scheme – the free postage service for blind and partially-sighted people.

This service allows people registered blind and partially-sighted to send and receive items specially designed for the visually impaired, for free.

The extension means that large print items – font size 16pt and above - can now also be sent for free under the scheme, and comes after working with the Royal National Institute of the Blind.

Large print materials now join other items that can already be sent for free under this service such as talking books and newspapers, collapsible walking sticks and guide dog harnesses.

Further information is available on our website [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com), or through our customer services team on 08457 740 740, or for businesses on 08457 950 950.

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