

Canal Zone Domestic Rates and Fees

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Domestic Surface First-Class Rates

These rates applied to destinations in the Canal Zone and in the United States, US Possessions, and Canada.

The drop-letter rate applied initially only to envelopes where the origin and destination were the same Canal Zone town. By 1960, however, this rate also applied to letters between nearby towns.

The rates for postcards and postal cards were always identical except from April 15, 1925, to June 30, 1928, when the postcard rate was 1¢ higher.

<i>LETTER per ounce</i>	<i>POSTCARD & POSTAL CARDS</i>	<i>DROP-LETTER per ounce</i>
2.5¢ -- 06/24/1904	1¢ -- 06/24/1904	
2¢ -- 07/18/1904		1¢ -- by 1908
	2¢ -- 04/15/1925 postcards only	
	1¢ -- 07/01/1928	
3¢ -- 07/06/1932		
	2¢ -- 01/01/1952	2¢ -- 01/01/1952
4¢ -- 08/01/1958	3¢ -- 08/01/1958	3¢ -- 08/01/1958
5¢ -- 01/07/1963	4¢ -- 01/07/1963	4¢ -- 01/07/1963
6¢ -- 01/07/1968	5¢ -- 01/07/1968	5¢ -- 01/07/1968
8¢ -- 05/16/1971	6¢ -- 05/16/1971	ended 01/01/71
10¢ -- 03/02/1974	8¢ -- 03/02/1974	
10¢ -- 09/14/1975	7¢ -- 09/14/1975	
9¢ add'l ounces		
13¢ -- 12/31/1975	9¢ -- 12/31/1975	
11¢ add'l ounces		
15¢ -- 06/05/1978	10¢ -- 06/05/1978	
13¢ add'l ounces		

Starting September 14, 1975, letter rates were "two-tiered". The initial amount in the chart applied to the first ounce only; additional ounces were charged at the second, lower rate.

Domestic Airmail Rates

The following rates applied to airmail to the United States and, until November 1, 1953, to Canada. Starting October 1, 1946, they applied to all US Possessions.

Domestic airmail rates were effectively abolished on January 10, 1976, for first-class mail. From that date all mail from the Canal Zone bearing first-class surface postage was given "fastest available transportation", i.e., airmail service to the United States.

The 17¢/15¢ airmail rate continued to be useful to obtain air service on insured envelopes (since insurance was then restricted to only 3rd-class mail which was not accorded fastest available service otherwise) until July 18, 1976.

Steamer-Plane Service (1924-46): LETTERS and POSTCARDS.

By Steamer to continental USA, then by air inside USA.

NUM	RATE	Begin Date	End Date
1	8¢ per oz airmail per US zone + 2¢ per oz surface	07/01/24	01/31/27
2	10¢ per oz overnight airmail on NY-Chicago segment + 2¢ per oz surface	07/01/25	01/31/27
3	10¢ per half oz	02/01/27	07/31/28
4	5¢ for 1 st oz	08/01/28	07/05/32
4a	+ 10¢ per add'l oz	08/01/28	07/05/32
5	8¢ for 1 st oz	07/06/32	06/30/34
5a	+ 13¢ per add'l oz	07/06/32	06/30/34
6	6¢ per oz	07/01/34	03/25/44
7	8¢ per oz	03/26/44	09/30/46

Rate 7 was probably never implemented for the Canal Zone. No examples are known.

Airmail Service (1929-79):

LETTERS

POSTCARDS

NUM	RATE	Begin Date	End Date	NUM	RATE	Begin Date	End Date
1	25¢ per half oz & 2¢/oz	02/10/29	03/19/29	1	25¢ air and 1¢ surface per card	02/10/29	03/19/29
2	25¢ per half oz	03/20/29	12/31/29	2	25¢ per card (same as letter)	03/20/29	12/31/29
3	20¢ per half oz	01/01/30	11/30/37	3	20¢ per card (same as letter)	01/01/30	11/30/37
4	15¢ per half oz	12/01/37	03/31/45	4	15¢ per card (same as letter)	12/01/37	03/31/45
5	6¢ per half oz	01/19/42	09/30/46	5	6¢ per card (same as letter)	01/19/42	09/30/46
6	10¢ per half oz	04/01/45	09/30/46	6	10¢ per card (same as letter)	04/01/45	09/30/46
7	5¢ per oz	10/01/46	12/31/48	7	5¢ per card (same as letter)	10/01/46	12/31/48
8	6¢ per oz	01/01/49	07/31/58	8	4¢ per card	01/01/49	07/31/58
9	7¢ per oz	08/01/58	01/06/63	9	5¢ per card	08/01/58	01/06/63

10	8¢ per oz ≤ 8 oz	01/07/63	01/06/68	10	6¢ per card	01/07/63	01/06/68
10a	+ 5¢/add'l oz > 8 oz	01/07/63	01/06/68				
11	10¢ per oz ≤ 7 oz	01/07/68	05/15/71	11	8¢ per card	01/07/68	05/15/71
12	11¢ per oz	05/16/71	03/01/74	12	9¢ per card	05/16/71	03/01/74
13	13¢ per oz	03/02/74	12/30/75	13	11¢ per card	03/02/74	12/30/75
14	17¢ per 1 st oz	12/31/75	01/09/76	14	14¢ per card	12/31/75	01/09/76
14a	+ 15¢ per add'l oz	12/31/75	01/09/76				

Thereafter, airmail transport was given to all Canal Zone first class mail to the U.S. and possessions for payment of the "surface" or Priority Mail rates. The following 1st-class rates are *de facto* domestic airmail rates to the U.S. and possessions.

15	13¢ per 1 st oz	01/10/76	06/04/78	15	9¢ per card	01/10/76	06/04/78
15a	+11¢ per add'l oz	01/10/76	06/04/78				
16	15¢ per 1 st oz	06/05/78	09/30/79	16	10¢ per card	06/05/78	09/30/79
16a	+13¢ per add'l oz	06/05/78	09/30/79				

Airmail Service for 3rd and 4th-Class Insured Mail – Rate Extension

NUM	RATE	Begin Date	End Date
14	17¢ per 1st oz on insured	01/10/76	07/17/76
14a	+ 15¢ per add'l oz on insured	01/10/76	07/17/76

The 17¢/15¢ airmail rate continued to be useful to obtain air service on insured envelopes since insurance was then restricted to only 3rd-class mail until July 18, 1976.

For domestic rates for air parcel post and priority mail, see CZSG Handbook No. 17 (*Canal Zone Airmail Rates*, by Brougham and Wilde).

Domestic Fees

Registration

REGISTRATION FEE	Begin Date
8¢ -- \$25 indemnity	08/19/04
10¢ -- \$50 indemnity	11/01/09
10¢ -- \$50 indemnity; 20¢ -- \$100 indemnity	11/01/23
15¢ -- \$50 indemnity; 20¢ -- \$100 indemnity	04/15/25
15¢ -- \$50 indemnity; and graduated to \$1 for \$1,000 indemnity to US	01/01/30
15¢ -- \$5 indemnity; and graduated to \$1 for \$1,000 indemnity; surcharges not allowed from Canal Zone	07/21/32*
20¢ -- \$5 indemnity; and graduated to \$1.35 for \$1,000 indemnity	03/26/44
25¢ -- no indemnity; 35¢ to \$1.50 graduated for indemnity from \$5 to \$1,000	01/01/49
30¢ -- no indemnity (ended 07/07/55); 40¢ to \$1.75 graduated for indemnity from \$5 to \$1,000	01/01/52
50¢ to \$4.25 for graduated indemnity amounts	07/01/57

60¢ to \$4.25 for graduated indemnity amounts	08/01/61
75¢ to \$4.25 for graduated indemnity amounts	03/26/66
80¢ to \$4.45 for graduated indemnity amounts	07/14/69
95¢ to \$5.15 for graduated indemnity amounts	05/16/71
\$1.25 to \$6.00 for graduated indemnity amounts	04/18/76
\$2.10 to \$6.20 for graduated indemnity amounts	07/18/76
\$3.00 to \$14.50 for graduated indemnity amounts	06/05/78*

*These implementation dates for the Canal Zone lag slightly behind those for the USA.

Other Domestic Fees

Begin Date	RETURN RECEIPT FEE	RESTRICTED DELIVERY	CERTIFIED	SPECIAL DELIVERY
1904	-	-	-	10¢
04/15/25	3¢	-	-	↓
07/09/34	↓	10¢	-	↓
03/26/44	4¢	20¢	-	↓
11/01/44	↓	↓	-	13¢
01/01/49	5¢	↓	-	15¢
01/01/52	7¢	↓	-	20¢
11/01/55*	↓	↓	15¢	↓
07/01/57	10¢	50¢	20¢	30¢
03/26/66	↓	↓	30¢	↓
07/14/69	15¢	↓	↓	45¢
05/16/71	↓	↓	↓	60¢
04/18/76	20¢	60¢	40¢	80¢
07/18/76	25¢	↓	60¢	\$1.25
06/05/78*	45¢	80¢	80¢	\$2.00