

Appendix 1 – Definitions of ABA, ABC and ABB Remail

ABA Remail

ABA remail occurs when a customer resident in country A posts mail in country B (either directly or through an agent) for delivery back into country A (ABA remail). ABA remail may take the form of:

- ABA physical remail – mail produced in the US, transported out of country and then re-entered as inbound international letter post under foreign (“B” country) indicia,
- ABA virtual remail – mail produced in the US and entered into the USPS mailstream as inbound international mail, and
- ABA electronic remail (also called non-physical remail) – mail not printed in the US, but instead possibly prepared (designed and stored in electronic format) in the US, printed in a foreign country, and posted to the US as inbound foreign origin mail.

ABC Remail

ABC remail occurs when a customer resident in country A posts mail in country B (either directly or through an agent) for delivery in country C (ABC remail). ABC remail may take the form of:

- ABC physical remail – mail produced in Country A and transported abroad (to Country B) and then re-entered as international mail to the US under Country B’s indicia,
- ABC electronic remail (also called non-physical remail) – mail not printed in Country A, but instead possibly prepared (designed and stored in electronic format) in Country A, then printed in Country B and posted to the US under Country B’s indicia, and
- ABC virtual remail –
 - a) mail produced in Country A with the international indicia of Country B and then routed from Country A to Country C, or
 - b) mail produced in Country C with the international indicia of Country B, but entered into Country C’s international mail stream without ever crossing the border.

ABB Remail

ABB remail occurs when a customer resident in country A posts mail in country B (either directly or through an agent) for delivery back into country B (ABB remail also called direct entry). ABB remail may take the form of:

- Outbound ABB - In the outbound mode, a remailer (or consolidator) transports US origin mail to a foreign country and injects it into that country’s domestic delivery system. Such mail “bypasses” the US Postal Service, and in general would serve to reduce the contribution made by outbound international mail (since outbound letter post more than covers its volume-variable costs).
- Inbound ABB - For inbound ABB, the remailer or foreign postal administration directly injects foreign origin mail into US delivery system. Since US domestic rates are designed to cover costs, from the USPS perspective, ABB merely provides foreign mailers the same access to domestic rates that US customers have.