

## **14 FAH-4 H-550 CONTAINERS**

*(CT:DPM-1; 06-28-2007)*  
*(Office of Origin: A/LM/PMP/DPM)*

### **14 FAH-4 H-551 POUCH CONTAINERS**

*(CT:DPM-1; 06-28-2007)*

- a. Pouch container size and weight are determined by restrictions imposed by host governments and the capacity of the mode of transport. There are no limitations other than those imposed by host governments. Refer to the latest A/LM/PMP/DPM cable for pouch size/weight/frequency restrictions.
- b. The standard pouch colors currently available, and their limitations on use are:
  - (1) Tangerine canvas or cloth used for (C) pouches only. Never use tangerine pouches for any other channel or dispatch.
  - (2) White canvas or cloth used for (A), (AX), (CX), and (S) channels.
  - (3) Red cloth used in (A) and (CX) channels using the postal system as mode of dispatch. This color is being phased out.
  - (4) Gray plastic used for (A) dispatches and are limited to two dispatch pouches (LTD).
- c. Do not substitute USPS mailbags for Department pouch bags.
- d. White pouch bags can be used for courier pouch shipments only when authorized by the Regional Courier Officer or Diplomatic Courier.

### **14 FAH-4 H-552 CONTAINER TYPES**

*(CT:DPM-1; 06-28-2007)*

Most commonly used pouch container types are: (Crate), (W), (O), (X), (B), (K), (G), and (LTD).

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.1 (Crate)**

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- a. Any container prepared and documented as a diplomatic pouch is called a (Crate) pouch. It is used when the item dispatched is too large to fit in the Department's standard size (O) pouch.
- b. (Crate) pouch coverings may be made of any material as long as it completely screens the item from view and makes casual penetration difficult.
- c. To meet security requirements, (Crate) pouches must be crossbanded with metal or plastic bands. Plastic bands are preferred for safety reasons. Most countries accept (Crate) pouches covered with burlap to maintain the "mailbag" atmosphere. It is the originating office's responsibility to burlap and band containers.
- d. These pouches may contain more than one item. If so, items must be packed to avoid damage.
- e. While exceptionally large, heavy crates will need skids for moving, the smaller (W/WT size) crates should not have skids on them.
- f. Triwall cardboard is preferred over wood. Wood crates are heavier and more costly to move.

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.2 (W) Bag**

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(W) bags are the largest type of canvas pouch currently available. Use them for single oversize items dispatched to countries that do not permit (Crate) pouches. Place only one item in a (W) bag. Maximum dimensions of the item are 30" x 30" x 30".

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.3 (O) Bag**

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This bag was designed specifically to contain a zero case and is slightly larger than the (X) bag. Maximum item dimensions are 13" x 24" x 30". Maximum weight is 66 pounds (30 kgs).

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.4 (X) Bag**

*(CT:DPM-1; 06-28-2007)*

This is the standard diplomatic pouch bag for the Department. It is designed to contain single or multiple items. Maximum single item dimensions are 13" x 16" x 26". Maximum weight is 66 pounds (30 kgs) for air cargo dispatch and 44 pounds (20 kilos) for postal dispatch.

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.5 (B) Bag**

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Use this bag for single or multiple postal dispatches (e.g., letters, flats, small parcels) that weigh no more than 44 pounds (20 kilos).

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.6 (K) Bag**

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Use this bag for lightweight courier (accompanied) pouches only. Maximum weight is 15 pounds (7 kilos).

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.7 (G) Bag**

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This is the smallest standard size bag. Use it for lightweight courier dispatches only. Maximum weight is 5 pounds (2 kgs).

## **14 FAH-4 H-552.8 (LTD) Bag**

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- a. This is a lightweight plastic that weighs 8 oz. It is limited to two dispatches. If the fabric is not torn, ripped, or frayed this bag can be redispached to the Department or laterally despite the marking "NOT FOR REUSE."
- b. Maximum single item dimensions are 13" x 16" x 26". Maximum weight is 66 pounds (30 kgs) for air cargo dispatch. Maximum weight is 44 pounds (20 kilos) for postal dispatch.
- c. (LTDs) received by the Department are destroyed. Surplus (LTDs) at post must be destroyed at post.
- d. Destroy (LTDs) by shredding or burning. Gases produced by burning are

not carcinogenic.

- e. Do not dispose of (LTDs) by any other means than destruction.
- f. Do not use this bag for other than its original purpose.
- g. Do not use for courier material.

## **14 FAH-4 H-553 CONTAINER MARKINGS**

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All containers used for pouches must have only the markings listed below on the outer surfaces.

- (1) Each container used as a diplomatic pouch must display on at least one surface:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIPLOMATIC POUCH

- (2) Unique number. All containers display a unique number on at least two of its opposite surfaces. Cloth or canvas bags use a number prefixed by the bag type indicator, i.e., "X3-12345." Crate pouches use the interior pouch invoice number. This number may be stenciled or written on the (Crate) in indelible ink.
- (3) All unclassified and classified nonletter mail must have the weight of its contents written on the flat or parcel indicated in lbs or kgs.

## **14 FAH-4 H-554 CONTAINER SEALS**

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- a. This section applies to anyone using container seals.
- b. Draw all seals tightly to the pouch with the Seal Crimping Device. Firmly crimp all seals, whether lead or plastic, with the Seal Crimping Device so that the seals do not slide on the cords and the name of the originating post can be read on the seal.
- c. Cross band all (Crates), regardless of the material with metal or plastic bands (preferred for safety reasons). Place the pouch seals at all locations where the bands cross.
- d. (W), (O), and (X) pouches have a belt and hasp around the throats.

Cinch the bag tightly and close the hasp over the staple. Lace the seal cords at least five times around the staple and the seal is crimped. Check the throat of the bag to ensure that no device for removing items can pass through the throat of the bag. If so, place another seal around the throat of the bag as indicated in (e) below.

- e. For other canvas, cloth or plastic bags, place the seal cord loops over the throat of the pouch, draw, and crimp. Do not place seals so low on the bag that the number or the diplomatic markings are obscured.
- f. Store Seal Crimping Devices in an approved security container, which is at a minimum, a bar-locked cabinet.

## **14 FAH-4 H-555 THROUGH H-559 UNASSIGNED**