

How the U.S. Postal Service STD-4C Regulation Affects Centralized Mailbox Selection

Q1. WHAT IS THE NEW “4C” POSTAL STANDARD?

As of October 5, 2006, all NEW CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR RENOVATION projects require U.S. Postal Service STD-4C compliant mailbox systems.

The new USPS 4C Standard for wall-mounted mailboxes includes the following specifications:

- New compartment form factor minimum size requirement of 12”w × 15”d × 3”h.
- Eliminates the vertical form factor (5”w × 6”d × 15”h) design.
- Introduces parcel locker requirement based on a 1:10 parcel locker to customer compartment ratio.
- Strengthens security requirements for the entire receptacle.
- Standardizes and improves tenant compartment lock design.
- Meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.



Q2. HOW DO THE NEW REGULATIONS AFFECT HOW I BUY CENTRALIZED MAILBOXES?

The three (3) simple questions below will help you determine the right wall-mounted mailbox product for your project.

1. **Are the mailboxes being used in new construction?**
 - a. If so, only “4C” rated wall-mounted mailboxes or free-standing CBU products can be used.
2. **If renovating – are the mailboxes simply being replaced *using the same rough opening (RO)*?**
 - a. If so, then “4B+” rated verticals or horizontals can be used.
 - b. If adjusting RO, then new “4C” rated mailboxes must be used.
3. **Is the mailbox installation inside or outside?**
 - a. If inside, any model can be used depending on answer to Q1a & Q2a/b above.
 - b. If outside and “unprotected”, install 4C or CBU products as 4B+ rated verticals and horizontals are NOT rated for outside use.



Q3. WHAT DOES “MAJOR RENOVATION” MEAN?

A “major renovation” would occur anytime the condition of the wall is being modified where the existing wall-mounted mailboxes are presently installed. If the cavity of the wall is altered in such a manner the mailboxes can’t be reinstalled on a one-for-one basis, the renovation would be considered “major” and mailboxes complying with the new USPS STD-4C regulation should be installed.

If you have any questions about which USPS mailbox Standard will be applied to a specific project requiring “USPS Approved” mailboxes, please contact the local Postmaster or Postal Delivery Planning Official for guidance prior to purchasing any wall-mounted mailbox systems.