

USPS Container Requirements for Adult Birds

The container must be designed with consideration of the birds' comfort, awareness, health, and welfare. In addition, the container must:

1. Remain intact and withstand crushing during transportation.
2. Prevent the bird(s) from puncturing or breaking any part of the container with their own force, or escaping from the container.
3. Contain shavings or similar absorbent material to prevent damage to the bottom of the container.
4. Have a plastic window for inspection of the birds. The window must be covered by a fiberboard flap that can be lifted for inspection.
5. **Be marked:**
 - a. **Live Birds - USPS Approved Container # (once issued).**
 - b. **With directional arrow indicating "up" position.**
 - c. **With a complete delivery and return address.**
6. Provide sufficient exposure to air to allow the birds to breath normally through filter covered ventilation that minimize the chance of handler contact with solid or aerosolized waste.
7. Be tested using a full container of live birds through-out a three day period of challenge. The test must be conducted by competent authorities to satisfy the following:
 - a. Confinement of live birds in the container must neither endanger the health of the birds nor subject them to inhumane treatment.
 - b. Environmental temperatures as high as 99 degrees Fahrenheit must pose no greater physiological stress on birds confined in the container than on birds in containers with conventional ventilation.
 - c. Environmental temperatures of 0 degrees Fahrenheit and lower for extended periods shall pose no greater physiological stress on birds confined in the container than on birds in containers with conventional ventilation.
 - d. A reduced level of light and absence of visual stimuli should be evident in the container design in order to reduce the birds' awareness of, being moved, sense of alarm due to the presents of humans or other animals nearby, and reduce their psychological stress.

A ready-to-mail bird container must be provided to the office of *Product Classification US Postal Headquarters 475 L'Enfant Plz SW, Rm. 4446, Washington, DC 20260-0004* along with package test results that indicate each criterion was satisfied when tested by an independent testing facility.