

United States Postal Service
USPS Notice to Rural Route Customers

Mail receptacles should be designed to protect the mail from weather, be neat in appearance, conveniently located, and safe to use. Neat, attractive mailboxes make a significant contribution to the appearance of the countryside and streets in suburban areas.

Mailboxes that meet these four important requirements contribute to a more efficient delivery operation, and the result is improved service to the entire route. There are two approved styles of boxes: (1) Traditional design in three standard sizes (see exhibit A), and (2) contemporary design (see exhibit B).

Mailboxes of the approved traditional or contemporary design are required whenever a mailbox is newly installed, or an unsuitable receptacle is replaced. Exception: Custom built rural type mailboxes may be used if prior approval is given by the postmaster.

Where box numbers are assigned, the box number must be shown on the side of the box visible to the approaching carrier, or on the door where boxes are grouped. Customers are encouraged to group boxes whenever this is practical, especially at or near crossroads, at service turnouts, or at other places where a considerable number of boxes are located.

In areas where snow removal is a problem, the use of a semi-arch or extended arm type of support is suggested (see exhibit C). This allows snowplows to sweep near or under boxes without damage to supports and provides easy access to the boxes by carrier and customers.

Mailboxes should be placed so that the front of the mailbox is at least 4 feet from the edge of the pavement (see exhibit D).

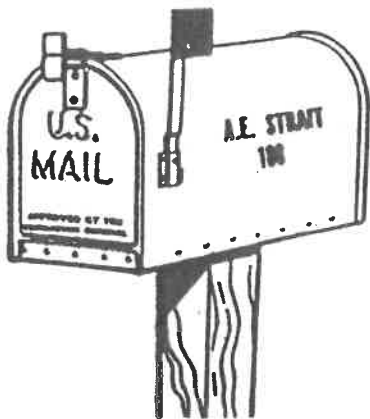


Exhibit A

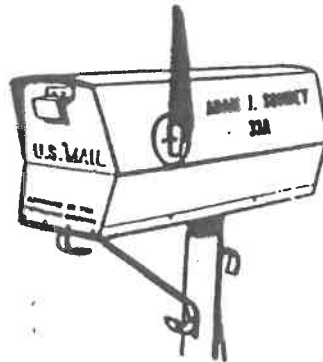


Exhibit B

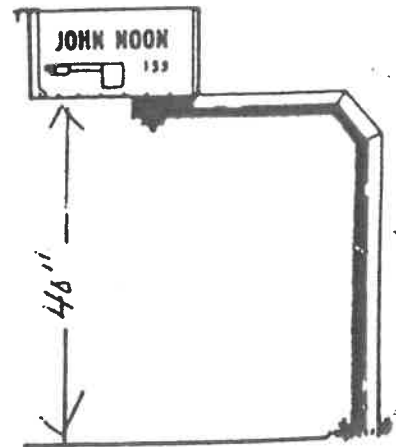


Exhibit C

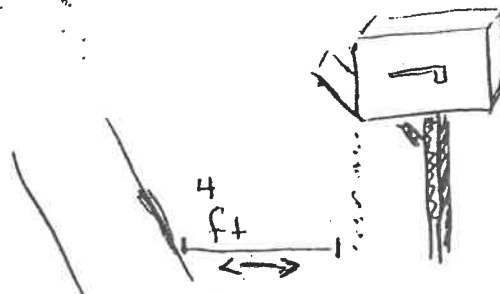


Exhibit D