

## CHAPTER FOUR

## POSTAL RATE INFORMATION

It is surprisingly difficult to obtain authoritative information on post-war postal rates, possibly as postal historians have concentrated on pre-war events. The following has been compiled from a variety of published sources.

**Rates effective from 22 October 1945:**

Rate	To Malaya, Singapore.	To other Empire and Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	8c. per 2 oz.	8c. for first oz., 2c. per additional oz.	15c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.
Post cards (surface)	4c.	4c.	4c.
Air mail	No publicly announced air mail service was provided until 1 January 1946, but urgent mail to the UK was briefly carried at the 8c. pre-war "all-up" rate by RAF aircraft. All such mail seen by the author has been business mail from UK-owned companies to their head offices.		

Other rates applicable at this date are not known.

**Air mail rates effective from 1 January 1946:**

Air mail: From 1 January 1946, BOAC resumed public passenger services and a 50c. air mail rate to UK was introduced.

Air mail routes were still negotiated on a case-by-case basis as new routes were opened up. It is therefore not possible to give a simple table of rates to all destinations before the rates were eventually grouped into zones. For a list of known rates, readers are advised to consult Chapter 3 of *The Postal History of Malaya*, Volume I, by E. B. Proud, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published by Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd. in 2000.

**Rates effective from 1 April 1946:**

Light air letter: 25c. Light air letter rate for aerogrammes for all destinations introduced.

**Surface mail rates effective from 1 January 1947:**

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Empire and Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters	10c. for first 2oz., 5c. per additional oz.	10c. for first oz., 6c. per additional oz.	15c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.
Printed matter <sup>1</sup>	3c. per 2 oz.	3c. per 2 oz.	3c. per 2 oz.
Post cards	4c.	6c.	6c.

"Light Letter Service" (aerogramme) rates to some commonwealth and foreign countries were amended from 1 April 1947.<sup>2</sup>

Other rates applicable at this date are not known.

**Internal air mail rates effective from 1 May 1947:**

Internal air mail within Malaya was introduced with a 15c. letter rate for the first ounce and 8c. for each additional ounce. Mail leaving Malaya after the internal flight had to carry the appropriate normal postage to the destination in addition to the internal air fee. It has been suggested that postcards were carried at an 8c. rate.<sup>3</sup>

The registration fee was increased from 15c. to 20c. on 15 August 1947.<sup>4</sup>

During 1948, the internal printed paper rate was increased from 3c. to 4c. per 2 oz. The external rate rose from 3c. to 6c. for the first 2 oz. and 3c. per additional 2 oz.<sup>5</sup>

**Internal air mail rates effective from 6 September 1947:<sup>6</sup>**

Internal air mail rate within Malaya for letters was reduced to 13c. air fee for the first ounce and 6c. for each additional ounce. I have been shown a postcard sent airmail Singapore to Penang on 10 December 1948 at 6c. rate.<sup>7</sup> The internal air mail service ceased to be offered to the public circa June-July 1949. Mail was then carried by the "quickest available service, whether by road, rail or air".

**Surface mail rates effective from 24 June 1949:**

Malayan Post Office Circular 35/49 of 24 June 1949)

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Empire and Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters	10c. for first 2oz., 5c. per additional oz.	10c. for first oz., 6c. per additional oz.	15c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.
Post cards	6c.	6c.	6c.
Insurance fee.	No service (This service had been suspended during 1948).		

Other rates applicable at this date are not known.

**Surface mail rates effective from 22 February 1950:**

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters	10c. for first 2oz., 5c. per additional oz.	12c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.	18c. for first oz., 10c. per additional oz.
Post cards	6c.	8c.	6c.
Insurance fee.	No service.		

**Surface mail rates effective from 1 April 1951:**

It would appear that there was considerable resistance to these rate increases as several announced rates were revised before or very soon after the rates came into force.

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters	10c. for first oz., 5c. per additional oz.	12c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.	20c. for first oz., 12c. per additional oz.
Post cards	6c.	8c.	12c.
Printed papers	4c. per 2oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.
Newspapers (per copy)	4c. per copy up to 4oz., 4c. per additional 4oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.
Commercial papers	4c. per 2oz.	20c. first 8oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.	20c. first 8oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.
Sample packets	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz, 4c. per additional 2oz.
Insured box (postage only)	50c. first 10oz, 10c. per additional 2oz.	50c. first 10oz, 10c. per additional 2oz.	80c. first 10oz, 16c. per additional 2oz.
Blind Braille literature	2c. per 2 lb.	2c. per 2 lb.	2c. per 2 lb.
Registration fee.	20c.	20c.	20c.
Insurance fee.	\$1 per cent	35c. per \$200. Revised to: 20c. for first \$100, 15c. per additional \$100.	35c. per \$200. Revised to: 20c. for first \$100, 15c. per additional \$100.
Cash On Delivery	30c. for first \$20, Despatch Fee 15c. per additional \$10.	30c. for first \$20, 15c. per additional \$10.	30c. for first \$20, 15c. per additional \$10.
CoD Delivery Fee	15c.	15c.	15c.
Advice of receipt.	12c.	12c.	15c.
Enquiry fee for registered or insured item.	16c.	16c.	20c.
Certificate of posting.	3c.	3c.	3c.

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Parcels	50c. up to 3 lbs. 80c. up to 7 lbs. \$1.10 up to 11 lbs. \$1.70 up to 22 lbs. Revised to: 80c. up to 3 lbs. \$1.10 up to 7 lbs. \$1.30 up to 11 lbs. \$2.30 up to 22 lbs.	According to destination.	According to destination.

#### Air mail rates effective from 1 April 1953:

Air mail rates to the United Kingdom <sup>8</sup> rose as follows:

Light air letter:	30c.
Postcard:	35c.
Letter:	70c. per ½ oz.

#### Mail rates effective in 1955:

The actual date of introduction of these rates is unknown, but was probably in July 1954.

Rate	Inland (surface or air)	To other Commonwealth countries (surface).	To Rest of world (surface).
Letters	10c. for first oz., 5c. per additional oz.	12c. for first oz., 8c. per additional oz.	20c. for first oz., 12c. per additional oz.
Post cards	6c.	8c.	12c.
Printed papers	4c. per 2oz. (7c. by internal airmail)	8c. first 2oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.
Newspapers (per copy)	4c. per copy up to 4oz., 4c. per additional 4oz. (3c. extra per 2 oz by air)	8c. first 2oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.	8c. first 2oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.
Commercial papers	4c. per 2oz. (7c. by internal airmail)	20c. first 8oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.	20c. first 8oz., 4c. per additional 2oz.
Parcels	60c. up to 2 lbs. 80c. up to 3 lbs. \$1.10 up to 7 lbs. \$1.50 up to 11 lbs. \$2.30 up to 22 lbs. Airmail: Parcel rate plus 30c. per lb.	According to destination.	According to destination.
Registration fee	20c.	20c.	20c.

#### Rates effective from 16 November 1964:

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	15c. for first oz., 10c. per additional oz.	20c. for first oz., 10c. per additional oz.	25c. for first oz., 15c. per additional oz.
Post cards (surface)	10c.	10c.	15c.
Small packets (surface)	40c. for first 10 oz., 8c. per additional 2 oz.	50c. for first 10 oz., 10c. per additional 2 oz.	50c. for first 10 oz., 10c. per additional 2 oz.
Printed papers (surface)	6c. for first 2 oz., 4c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Newspapers (per copy) (surface)	6c. for first 4 oz., 6c. per additional 4 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Commercial papers (surface)	As printed paper.	25c. for first 8 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	25c. for first 8 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Registration fee. <sup>9</sup>	40c.	40c.	40c.
Insurance fee.	\$1 per \$100 or part thereof.	20c. for first \$100 15c. per additional \$100	20c. for first \$100 15c. per additional \$100
Advice of receipt.	12c. at time of posting, 16c. after posting.	12c. at time of posting, 36c. after posting.	15c. at time of posting, 40c. after posting.

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Enquiry fee for registered or insured item.	16c.	36c.	40c.
Certificate of posting.	3c.	3c.	3c.
Air mail (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	6c. per 2oz above surface rate.	Details to be requested at counter.	Details to be requested at counter.

Note: At 30 December 1966, the local rate express letter fee was 75c.

#### Rates effective from 8 July 1968:

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore, Christmas Island & Brunei.	To other Commonwealth countries.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	15c. for first oz., 10c. per additional oz.	20c. for first oz., 10c. per additional oz.	25c. for first oz., 15c. per additional oz.
Post cards (surface)	10c.	10c.	15c.
Small packets (surface)	40c. for first 10 oz., the 8c. per additional 2 oz.	50c. for first 10 oz., 10c. per additional 2 oz.	50c. for first 10 oz., 10c. per additional 2 oz.
Printed papers (surface)	6c. for first 2 oz., 4c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Newspapers (per copy) (surface)	6c. for first 4 oz., 6c. per additional 4 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	10c. for first 2 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Commercial samples (surface)	24c. for first 8 oz., 4c. per additional 2 oz.	25c. for first 8 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.	25c. for first 8 oz., 5c. per additional 2 oz.
Customs clearance fee.	40c. per item (within Malaysia only)	-	-
Registration fee.	60c.	60c.	60c.
Insurance fee.	\$1 per \$100 or part thereof.	50c. per \$200 or part thereof.	50c. per \$200 or part thereof.
Postage on insured boxes	50c. for first 10 oz., 10c. per additional 2 oz.	80c. for first 10 oz., 15c. per additional 2 oz.	\$1 for first 10 oz., 20c. per additional 2 oz.
Advice of receipt.	12c. at time of posting or 16c. after posting.	12c. at time of posting or 36c. after posting.	15c. at time of posting or 40c. after posting.
Enquiry fee for registered or insured item.	16c.	36c.	40c.
Advice of payment of money order	15c. at time of posting or 20c. after posting.	15c. at time of posting or 40c. after posting.	15c. at time of posting or 40c. after posting.
Certificate of posting.	3c.	3c.	3c.
Parcels	\$1.20 for first 2 lb. \$1.50 up to 3 lb, \$2.10 up to 7 lb, \$3 up to 11 lb, \$4.50 up to 22 lb.	According to destination.	According to destination.

Blind persons' Braille literature was posted free.

The local express letter fee may have risen from 75c. to \$1.50 at this point. Covers dated between 24 October 1968 and 21 November 1978 are known with that rate.

#### Overseas airmail rates:

	Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam.	Ceylon, China, Formosa, India, Macao, Nepal, Pakistan, Tibet.	Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Countries in the Pacific, Portuguese Timor.	Middle East, Egypt & Europe.	Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).
Letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	30c. per ½oz.	40c. per ½oz.	50c. per ½oz.	75c. per ½oz.	£1.05 per ½oz.
Letters (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	15c. per ½oz.	20c. per ½oz.	20c. per ½oz.	30c. per ½oz.	35c. per ½oz.
Postcards	15c.	20c.	25c.	40c.	55c.
Air letters.	30c.	30c.	30c.	30c.	30c.

**Rates effective from 1 January 1972:**

From this date, metric weights were applied. <sup>10</sup>

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	20g	15s.	25c.	30c.
	50g	25s.	40c.	55c.
	100g	40s.	50c.	70c.
	250g	80s.	\$1.15	\$1.60
	500g	\$1.50	\$2.10	\$3.00
	1kg	\$2.50	\$3.50	\$5.00
	2kg	\$4.00	\$5.60	\$8.00
Postcards		10c.	?	?
Printed paper (surface)	50g	10s.	?	?
	100g	15s.		
	250g	20s.		
	500g	35c.		
Small packets (surface)	100g	15s.	?	?
	250g	30s.		
	500g	50c.		
Newspaper (surface)	100g	10s.	?	?
	250g	15s.		
	500g	30c.		
Registration fee.		60c.	60c.	60c.

Overseas airmail rates:

	Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China Hong Kong, India Indonesia, Laos, Macao, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.	Australia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Portuguese Timor, Countries in the Pacific (except Hawaii).	Middle East, Egypt & Europe.	Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).
Letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	35c. per 10g.	50c. per 10g.	75c. per 10g.	\$1.00 per 10g.

Other rates effective at this date are not known.

**Rates effective from 1 July 1981:**

Domestic rates remained unchanged. All overseas rates were raised following the decision of the Universal Postal Union 1979 Congress at Rio de Janeiro to raise the standard fee paid to air carriers as well the basic international postage rate.

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia <sup>11</sup>	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	20g	15c.	40c.
	50g	25c.	65c.
	100g	40c.	
	250g	80c.	
	500g	\$1.50	
	1kg	\$2.50	
	2kg	\$4.00	
Post cards (surface)		10c.	20c.
Small packets (surface)	100g	15c.	Not known
	250g	30c.	
	500g	50c.	
	1kg	90c.	
	1kg	\$1.50	Not known
Parcels	1.5kg	\$2.00	
	3kg	\$2.80	
	5kg	\$3.80	
	10kg	\$5.70	

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia <sup>11</sup>	To Rest of world.
Printed papers (surface)	50g	10c.	30c.
	100g	15c.	35c.
	250g	20c.	
	500g	35c.	
	1kg	60c.	
	2kg	95c.	
Newspapers printed in Malaysia and Singapore (surface)	additional 1kg	45c.	
	100g	10c.	Not known
	250g	15c.	
	500g	35c.	
	1kg	60c.	
	2kg	95c.	

## Overseas airmail rates:

	Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam.	Bangladesh, China, India, Macao, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tibet.	Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Countries in the Pacific.	Middle East, Egypt & Europe.	Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).
Letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	40c. per 10g.	50c. per 10g.	60c. per 10g.	80c. per 10g.	\$1.10 per 10g.
Printed paper (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	25c. per 10g.	30c. per 10g.	30c. per 10g.	40c. per 10g.	45c. per 10g.
Postcards	20c.	25c.	30c.	40c.	55c.
Aerogrammes	40c.	40c.	40c.	40c.	40c.

The aerogramme rate within the Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei zone remained 30c. Other rates effective at this date are not known.

**Rates effective from 1 January 1983:** <sup>12</sup>

This price increase created a differential of 5c. between the printed matter rates applied by Malaysia and Singapore, which led to attempts by Malaysian companies to post their mail in Singapore. The Malaysian Post office fined the companies concerned under Rule 224 of the Post Office Rules and Article 23 of the Universal Postal Convention.

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface) (Still current Oct90)	20g	20c.	40c.
	50g	30c.	65c.
	100g	45c.	80c.
	250g	85c.	\$1.70
	500g	\$1.50	\$3.00
	1kg	\$2.50	\$5.00
Post cards (surface)	2kg	\$4.00	\$8.00
		15c.	20c.
Small packets (surface)	100g	20c.	20c.
	250g	35c.	70c.
	500g	55c.	\$1.10
	1kg	95c.	\$1.90
Parcels	1kg	\$2.00	On request.
	1.5kg	\$2.90	
	3kg	\$4.00	
	5kg	\$5.60	
	10kg	\$8.20	
Printed papers (surface)	50g	15c.	30c.
	100g	20c.	35c.
	250g	25c.	50c.
	500g	40c.	80c.
	1kg	65c.	\$1.30
	2kg	\$1.00	\$2.00
Newspapers printed in Malaysia and Singapore (surface)	additional 1kg	50c.	\$1.00
	100g	15c.	30c.
	250g	20c.	40c.
	500g	35c.	65c.
	1kg	50c.	\$1.00
	2kg	80c.	\$1.50

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Registration fee.		60c.	60c.
Advice of receipt.		15c. at time of purchase or 20c. thereafter.	20c. at time of purchase or 50c. thereafter
Certificate of posting.		10c.	10c.

**Rate changes effective from 1 February 1985:**

The Insured post service had been withdrawn in 1948 during the Emergency. Although rate had been quoted in the interim, it is believed that the service remained suspended because of the inability to get insurance cover during first the Emergency and then the Confrontation in what was still technically a war zone. It was now made available to the public after a 37 year gap.

Rate	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Registration fee.	\$1.	\$1.
Insurance fee.	\$1 per \$100 or part thereof.	50c. per \$200 or part thereof.
Advice of receipt.	50c.	50s.

**Rate changes effective from 1 January 1986:**

Parcel and airmail rates to Singapore and Brunei were raised substantially.

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Parcels	1kg	\$2.00	\$12.00	On request.
	1.5kg	\$2.90	-	
	3kg	\$4.00	\$15.00	
	5kg	\$5.60	\$18.00	
	10 kg	\$8.20	\$22.50	

Airmail to Singapore and Brunei: \$12.30 first 100 grams, then \$1 per additional 250g up to 10kg limit.

International Reply Coupon: Raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

**Later (1987?):**

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Newspapers printed in Malaysia and Singapore (surface)	100g	15c.	15c.	30c.
	250g	20c.	20c.	40c.
	500g	40c.	40c.	80c.
	1kg	65c.	65c.	\$1.30
	2kg	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$2.00

**Rates effective from 1 May 1988:** <sup>13</sup>

This price increase for overseas mail created a differential between mail printed and published in Malaysia and mail printed and published in other countries, but Singapore newspapers continued to benefit from Malaysian rates.

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface) (Still current Oct90)	20g	20c.	40c.
	50g	30c.	80c.
	100g	45c.	\$1.20
	250g	85c.	\$2.50
	500g	\$1.50	\$4.50
	1kg	\$2.50	\$8.00
	2kg	\$4.00	\$14.00
Post cards (surface)		15c.	20c.
Small packets (surface)	100g	20c.	70c.
	250g	35c.	\$1.60
	500g	55c.	\$2.80
	1kg	95c.	\$4.00
Parcels	1kg	\$2.00	\$3 per kg if printed and published in Malaysia.
	1.5kg	\$2.90	Otherwise \$6/kg
	3kg	\$4.00	
	5kg	\$5.60	
	10 kg	\$8.20	

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Printed papers (surface)	50g	15c.	50c.
	100g	20c.	70c.
	250g	25c.	\$1.60
	500g	40c.	\$2.80
	1kg	65c.	\$4.00
	2kg	\$1.00	\$6.00
	additional 1kg	50c.	\$3.00
Newspapers printed in Malaysia and Singapore (surface)	100g	15c.	50c.
	250g	20c.	\$1.20
	500g	35c.	\$2.30
	1kg	50c.	\$3.30
	2kg	80c.	\$4.50
Registration fee.	(unchanged)	\$1	\$1
Advice of receipt.		15c. at time of purchase or 20c. thereafter.	20c. at time of purchase or 50c. thereafter
Certificate of posting.		10c.	10c.

## Overseas airmail rates:

	Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam.	Bangladesh, China, India, Macao, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tibet.	Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Countries in the Pacific.	Middle East, Egypt & Europe.	Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).
Parcels printed and published in Malaya	\$9.75	\$11.50	\$13.50	\$17.00	\$22.00
Parcels printed and published elsewhere	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$16.50	\$19.00	\$24.50

**Rates current July - October 1990 (effective date unknown):**

## Overseas airmail rates:

	Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam.	Bangladesh, China, India, Macao, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tibet.	Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Countries in the Pacific (except Hawaii).	Middle East, Egypt & Europe.	Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).
Letters	40c. per 10g.	50c. per 10g.	60c. per 10g.	80c. per 10g.	\$1.10 per 10g.

**Rates current August 1991 (effective date unknown):**

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	20g	As before	As before	40s.
	50g			80s.
	100g			RM1.20
	250g			RM2.50
	500g			RM4.50
	1kg			RM8.00
	2kg			RM14.50
Registration fee.	(unchanged)	RM1	RM1	RM1

## Overseas airmail rates (unchanged from October 1990):

**Rates effective before April 1992<sup>14</sup>:**

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	20g	20s.		
Post cards (surface)		15s.	20s.	20s.
Small packets (surface)	100g	20s.	70s.	70s.
Surface parcels		RM2.00 for first kg.	RM6 for first kg.	
Printed papers (surface)	20g	15s.	50s.	



Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Registration fee.	(unchanged)	RM1	RM1	RM1

Overseas airmail rates:

Zones were introduced as follows:

Zone A: Brunei, Singapore

Zone B: Asia-Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Countries (Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Maldives, Nauru, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) and Pacific Islands(except Hawaii).

Zone C: Middle East, Egypt, Russia & Europe.

Zone D: Africa (except Egypt), Americas (including Hawaii).

	Zone A:	Zone B:	Zone C	Zone D
Air letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	As surface letter.	40s. for 10g.		
Air printed papers (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	As surface pp up to 500g, then RM1.50 surcharge per 500g.			
Air postcards & aerogrammes	40s.	40s.	40s.	40s.

#### Rates effective from April 1992 <sup>15</sup>:

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface) (current by April 1996)	20g.	30s.		
Post cards (surface)		20s.	30s.	30s.
Small packets (surface)	100g.	40s.	RM1	RM1
Surface parcels		RM2.50 for first kg.	RM13 for first kg.	
Printed papers (surface)	20g.	25s.	70s.	
Registration fee	(unchanged)	RM1	RM1	RM1

Overseas airmail rates:

	Zone A:	Zone B:	Zone C	Zone D
Air letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	As surface letter.	50s. for 10g.		
Air printed papers (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	As surface pp up to 500g, then RM1.50 surcharge per 500g.			
Air postcards & aerogrammes	50s.	50s.	50s.	50s.

#### Rates current in January 1995 - April 1996:

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)	20g	30s.	40s.	50s.
	50g	35s.	70s.	RM1.00
	100g	50s.	RM1.20	RM1.50
	250g	RM1.00	RM2.50	RM2.80
	500g	RM2.00	RM4.50	RM5.30
	1kg	RM3.50	RM8.00	RM10.00
	2kg	RM6.00	RM15.00	RM18.00

Overseas airmail rates: (current since at least January 1995)

	Zone A:	Zone B:	Zone C	Zone D
Air letters (1 <sup>st</sup> Class)	As surface letter.	55s. for 10g, 35s. for additional 10g.	90s. for 10g, 50s. for additional 10g.	RM1.10 for 10g, 70s. for additional 10g.
Air printed papers (2 <sup>nd</sup> Class)	As surface pp up to 500g, then RM1.50 surcharge per 500g.	40s. for 10g, 25s. for additional 10g.	45s. for 10g, 35s. for additional 10g.	50s. for 10g, 40s. for additional 10g.
Air postcards & aerogrammes	50s.	50s.	50s.	50s.

**Effective 10 February 1996**, Pos Malaysia reclassified some types of printed paper as letters. Following protests, this disguised rate increase was withdrawn on **1 March 1996**.<sup>16</sup>

**Rates current at June 1998** (as quoted in the 1998 Postcode Manual):

Rate	Weight not over	To Malaysia	To Singapore & Brunei.	To Rest of world.
Letters (surface)		As January 1995	As January 1995	As January 1995
Post cards (surface)		20s.	30s.	30s.
Small packets (surface)	100g	40s.	RM1	RM1
	250g	80s.	RM2.20	RM2.50
	500g	RM1.50	RM3.90	RM5
	1kg	RM2.80	RM6	RM10
Surface parcels		RM2.50 for first kg, then RM1 per additional kg up to 20kg.	“On request”	“On request”
Air parcels		“On request”	“On request”	“On request”
Printed papers (surface)	20g	20s.	30s.	40s.
	50g	25s.	50s.	70s.
	100g	35s.	90s.	RM1.20
	250g	50s.	RM2	RM2.40
	500g	70s.	RM3.90	RM4.50
	1kg	80s.	RM6	RM8.50
	2kg	RM1.20	RM10	RM16
	additional 1kg	80s.	RM6	RM8
			Limit 2kg (books 5kg).	Limit 2kg (books 5kg).
Printed papers (air)		As above plus RM1.50 air fee per 500g.	see below	see below
Special rates:	Literature for the blind: Free.			
	Newspapers published in Malaysia and Singapore: Printed paper rate.			
Registration fee	(unchanged)	RM1	RM1	RM1
Insurance fee	(added to registration, except for insured parcels).	RM1.50 per RM100 or part thereof declared value.	RM1.50 per RM100 or part thereof declared value.	RM1.50 per RM100 or part thereof declared value.
Certificate of posting.		20s.	20s.	20s.
Presentation to Customs charges	(packets & parcels)	RM1		

Overseas airmail rates remained unchanged since at least January 1995.

**Rates effective from 1 March 2005:**

From 1 March 2005, Malaysia abandoned the traditional letter, printed paper and small packet classes of mail in favour of “Standard”, “Non-Standard” and “Periodical”. Aerogrammes, Postcards and Parcels classes remained unchanged.

**National Rates:**

The former 30s. basic letter rate was applied to **Standard mail**, i.e. machine-processable, sealed, matt white envelopes, not over 20g (up to 50g can be sent for 40s.), size between 90mm x 140mm x 0.25mm and 165mm x 250mm x 6mm. The address must be properly structured and at least 15mm clear of the bottom of the envelope.

**Non-standard mail** could be sent for a minimum of 50s. (20g), with steps at 75s. (100g), RM1 (250g), RM2 (500g), RM3.50 (1kg), RM6 (2kg maximum).

**Periodicals** covered by permits from the Ministry of Home Affairs, posted at least twice a year (and pre-sorted if over 1000 items) benefited from reduced rates for a 5-day delivery service, starting at 25s. (up to 20g), with steps at 35s. (50g), 50s. (100g) and 70s. (250g maximum).

The domestic **registration fee** was raised to RM1.40. The overseas registration fee had risen to RM3.50 by early 2003.

**Postcards** remained 20s. and parcel rates were unchanged.

**International rates:**

These were simplified and raised to deter re-mailing in Malaysia of foreign mail:

Zone	Country	Air mail		Surface mail		Bulk air mail		Bulk surface mail	
		20g	Add'l 10g	50g	Add'l 50g	per kg	per item	per kg	per item
A	ASEAN countries	0.90	0.35	1.35	1.10	14.20	1.45	9.80	1.45
B	Other Asia-Pacific	0.95	0.35	1.40	1.10	15.80	1.45	10.40	1.45

Zone	Country	Air mail		Surface mail		Bulk air mail		Bulk surface mail	
		20g	Add'l 10g	50g	Add'l 50g	per kg	per item	per kg	per item
C	Japan, Australia, New Zealand	1.40	0.35	1.45	1.10	19.10	1.45	11.00	1.45
D	Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, Egypt	1.50	0.50	1.50	1.10	23.70	1.45	11.60	1.45
E	Americas, Africa	1.80	0.70	1.55	1.10	26.60	1.45	12.65	1.45

Pos Malaysia set service targets for 2007 of delivery in 2 working days within an urban area, 3 days between urban areas in the same state, 4 days between urban areas in different states or between urban and rural areas, 5 days between rural areas and 6 or 7 days between West and East Malaysia.

#### Rates effective from 1 October 2005:

The overseas Registration Fee was raised to RM3.90.

#### Rates effective from 1 July 2010.

On 6 April 2010, Pos Malaysia announced that domestic postal rates were to rise on 1 July for the first time in eighteen years. The rate increases affected standard mail below 50g, non-standard mail below 100g, periodicals, PosDokumen (printed paper), registered mail and parcels. Standard mail up to 20g increased from 30s. to 60s. Group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Syed Faisal Albar stated that the decline in mail volume had forced Pos Malaysia to contain costs while maintaining productivity. He is quoted as saying that "This has also affected our ability to adjust the low salaries of postmen and counter clerks, which is 19% lower than their government counterparts".<sup>17</sup>

The following table is based on that officially published by Pos Malaysia on 1 July 2010. It should be noted that one rate for non-standard mail actually went down.

Category	Weight Step	up to 30 June	1 July
Standard Mail	up to 20g	0.30	0.60
	over 20g up to 50g	0.40	0.70
Postcard	-	0.20	0.30
Non-Standard Mail	up to 50g	0.50	0.80
	over 50g up to 100g	0.75	0.90
	over 100g up to 250g	1.00	1.00
	over 250g up to 500g	2.00	2.00
	over 500g up to 1kg	3.50	3.50
	over 1kg up to 2kg	6.00	5.50
Periodical	up to 20g	0.25	0.50
	over 20g up to 50g	0.35	0.60
	over 50g up to 100g	0.50	0.80
	over 100g up to 250g	0.70	0.90
PosDokumen (printed paper)	up to 500g	1.50	1.80
	over 500g up to 1kg	1.75	3.00
	over 1kg up to 2kg	2.50	4.50
Domestic parcel	up to 1kg	2.50	4.00, later 7.00 *
	over 1kg up to 2kg	3.50	5.50, later 7.00 *
	over 2kg (30kg max.)	RM1 per additional kg	RM1.50 per additional kg

\* Amended on the Pos Malaysia website by 17 October 2010.

#### PosDaftar Fee Details

Domestic	RM 2.20	Registration fee (RM 1.60) and posting fee less than 20g (RM 0.60)
International	RM 4.10	Included registration fee (RM 1.60) and delivery (RM 2.50) but did not include posting fee based on destination and weight
PosDaftar Envelope (Domestic)	RM 2.50	Registration fee and posting fee less than 50gm 3.0mm thickness limit.

Items, other than parcels, over 500g carried by air between East and West Malaysia were subject to a supplement of RM1.50 for each additional 500g. Parcels had to pay the fee on the first 500g as well. A further increase in non-standard mail fees was foreseen.

## NOTES

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- 1 SP 3/4/4.  
2 SP 3/4/4.  
3 Suggested by Mr. Ong Kuee Hong.  
4 SP 3/4/4. Official report.  
5 SP 3/4/4. Official report.  
6 SP 3/4/5. Official report.  
7 Shown by Mr. Ong Kuee Hong.  
8 For other destinations, consult Chapter 3 of The Postal History of Malaya, Volume I, by E. B. Proud, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, published by Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd. in 2000.  
9 This may have risen earlier. 40c. + 10c. Registration envelopes are known used from 27 July 1964 onwards.  
10 The 1973 stamp booklet correction slip still referred to weight steps of “1 auns, 2 auns, 4 auns, 8 auns and 16 auns”!  
11 It is believed that the same rates applied to Singapore and Brunei.  
12 SJ 37/69.  
13 PSM 19/3/10.  
14 These rates were included for comparison in the Straits Times of 24 January 1992. The Straits Times article only recorded a selection of (mostly basic) rates.  
15 These rate rises were announced in the Straits Times of 24 January 1992, effective from Hari Raya Puasa (expected 4-5 April 1992). The Straits Times article only recorded a selection of (mostly basic) rates. It is understood that the rate changes were delayed from 1991, hence the appearance of several series of 30s. stamps in late 1991/early 1992.  
16 Reported in The Penang Philatelist, Issue 37, 1998.  
17 Reported by Mr. Alan Teh Leam Seng and The Star newspaper 6 and 7 April 2010.