

Lao People's Dem. Rep.

Current postal regulatory landscape

National legislation

- Name of the act/law/rule: Law on Postal Services
- Year of last amendment: 25 December 2013 (second amendment)
- All the postal legislation in place (Conventions/Rules/Regulations, etc.):
 - Postal licensing agreement;
 - Postal penalty agreement;
 - Postal prohibited articles agreement;
 - Postal products and quality of service standard agreement;
 - Postal service location standard agreement.

Coordinating body for postal policies

- Name of the coordinating body/ministry/committee/agency: Department of Post of the Ministry of Technology and Communications
- Level (Ministry or other): ministry

Licensing body

- Agency/authority responsible for issuing postal service operation licences to postal service operators:
 - The Department of Post of the Ministry of Technology and Communications issues licences for international and nationwide post services.
 - The Provincial Department of Technology and Communications issues licences for postal services within the province (messenger and local delivery services).
- Types of licence required:
 - Postal services licence;
 - Courier, express and parcel licence.

Universal service obligations

Products and services covered by universal service obligation: A universal service obligation (USO) is yet to be formally established, although there are plans to provide for one in 2025.

Price regulations

Currently, postal service prices are not regulated and are determined by market mechanisms. However, a plan is in place to introduce price regulation in 2026.

Taxation

Some postal services/products are tax-exempt, while others (especially commercial goods) require compliance with tax regulations.

Cross-border regulations

Threshold value regarding import duties: 50 USD