

Japan

National legislation

- Name of the act/law/rule: Postal Act
Year of enactment: 1947
Year of last amendment: 2023
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/322AC0000000165
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on New Year's Postcards, etc. with Lottery
Year of enactment: 1949
Year of last amendment: 2012
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/324AC0000000224
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on Control of Imitation, etc. of Postal Stamps, etc.
Year of enactment: 1972
Year of last amendment: 2022
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/347AC0000000050
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on Shops for Postal Stamps, etc.
Year of enactment: 1949
Year of last amendment: 2012
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/324AC0000000091
- Name of the act/law/rule: Post Office Branch Act
Year of enactment: 1949
Year of last amendment: 2024
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/324AC0000000213
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on Japan Post Holdings Co., Ltd.
Year of enactment: 2005
Year of last amendment: 2022
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/417AC0000000098
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on Japan Post Co., Ltd.
Year of enactment: 2005
Year of last amendment: 2022
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/417AC0000000100
- Name of the act/law/rule: Act on Consignment of Mail Shipping
Year of enactment: 1949
Year of last amendment: 2022
Website link to the text of the act/law/rule: laws.e-gov.go.jp/law/324AC0000000284
- All the postal legislation in place (Conventions/Rules/Regulations, etc.): Postal Act
Act on New Year's Postcards, etc. with Lottery
Act on Control of Imitation, etc. of Postal Stamps, etc.
Act on Shops for Postal Stamps, etc.

Post Office Branch Act

Act on Japan Post Holdings Co., Ltd.

Act on Japan Post Co., Ltd.

Act on Consignment of Mail Shipping

Coordinating body for postal policies

- Name of the coordinating body/ministry/committee/agency: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)
- Level (Ministry or other): ministry
- Website: www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html

Regulatory authority

- Name of the coordinating regulator: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)
- Covered areas:
 - Functions relating to postal operations
 - Specifically, the MIC supervises Japan Post Co., Ltd. based on legislation, including the Postal Act, the purpose of which is to promote public welfare by providing postal services at costs that are as low as practicable on a universal and impartial basis.

Licensing body

- Is there an agency/authority that issues licences/registration to postal service operators: Yes
- Name of the coordinating body/ministry/committee/agency:
 - Licensing body: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)
 - Advisory body: Information and Communications and Posts Administrative Council

It is provided by law that Japan Post Co., Ltd. shall provide postal services. There is no licensing or registration system for engaging in postal services (article 2 of the Postal Act).

On the other hand, there is a licensing system for the correspondence delivery business of private business operators. It is provided by law that any person who intends to conduct correspondence delivery business (excluding Japan Post Co., Ltd.) shall obtain a licence from the MIC (Act on Correspondence Delivery by Private Business Operators).

Universal service obligations

- Products and services covered by universal service obligation: Yes
 - Japan Post Holdings Co., Ltd. and Japan Post Co., Ltd. assume duties to ensure that postal services, services for easy deposits, remittances, the settlement of claims and obligations, and life insurance services are made available in a user-oriented manner at post offices integrally and universally on a nationwide basis.
- Name of the universal service provider providing USO: Japan Post Co.,Ltd.
- Status of the universal service provider providing USO: Private company