
NOTICE

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

New USPS Postmark Procedures Could Affect Time-Sensitive Forms

The Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR) is alerting taxpayers and tax professionals to recent updates to the United States Postal Service (USPS) procedures that may affect postmark dates on mailed tax returns, payments, appeals, and other time-sensitive correspondence.

On December 24, 2025, USPS began postmarking letters and packages with the date mail is first processed at a regional facility rather than the date an item is dropped off at a local post office or mailbox. Under this new system, the postmark date may occur days after a taxpayer deposited mail with USPS. For more information about USPS post marks, visit <https://about.usps.com/what/strategic-plans/delivering-for-america/assets/overview-of-dmm-section-on-postmarking.pdf>.

Why does this matter?

ALDOR, the IRS, and other agencies use the postmark date to determine if your filing was on time. A delayed postmark could lead to late penalties, interest charges, or rejected filings.

How to avoid problems if you file or pay by mail:

- Mail early. Do not wait until the due date to mail — allow extra time for postmarking and delivery.
- Go to the counter. Request a hand-stamped postmark showing the actual mailing date.
- Buy postage at the counter. The printed label includes the correct acceptance date.
- Use Certified or Registered Mail. These services provide a receipt with the mailing date for proof.

ALDOR strongly encourages taxpayers to consider e-filing and making e-payments if possible.

Returns may be e-filed by a paid tax professional or for self-prepared returns through tax preparation software or directly with the department through My Alabama Taxes. To learn more about e-filing, visit <https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/individual-corporate/individual-income-tax-electronic-filing-options/>.

For electronic payment options, visit <https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/make-a-payment/>.

Contact

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