

& training

Department: Higher Education and Training REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## **SUBJECT: OFFICE PRACTICE**

LEVEL: 2

### **TOPIC 6: RECEIVE, DISTRIBUTE AND DISPATCH MAIL**

**MODULE NO 19: RECEIVE AND SORT MAIL** 

## **RECEIVE AND SORT MAIL**

After completing this topic, you will be able to:

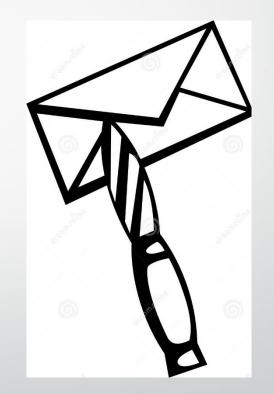
- Receive mail according to established procedures
- Sort mail according to established procedures within a appropriate time.
- Describe the importance of maintaining confidentiality and security of documentation in terms of receiving and sorting mail.
- Strictly observe confidentiality in terms of a mailroom code of conduct

# MAILROOM – TYPES OF MAIL:

- Incoming mail from an external source (to the business)
- Outgoing mail To an external source (from the business)
- Internal mail To other offices, departments and branches of the business

# **EQUIPMENT IN MAILROOM:**

- Letter Opener
- Trays for sorting mail
- Stationery like pens, staplers, staples
- Incoming mail register
- Remittance register for incoming payments
- Date stamp and inkpad



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#### **Remittance Register**

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## RECEIVING INCOMING MAIL & SORTING IT

- Open mailbag & sort it in presence of senior clerk
- Empty the mail bag on table
- Open letter at the short side of envelope
- Remove all contents from envelope & staple together
- Staple envelope behind letter if there is no sender's address, or date



- Date stamp the letter & enclosures
- Record documents like cash, cheques & postal orders in remittance register
- Record mail with no money in incoming mail register
- Place incorrect mail in basket for reposting write return to sender
- Don't open letters marked personal or private
- Classify mail urgent, routine, irregular, private
- Make copies of documents
- Distribute mail to departments

# HOW TO MAINTAIN MAILROOM CONFIDENTIALITY

- All mail must have specific room only (mailroom)
- Be in a safe part of building/premises
- Trained mailroom staff only to have access
- Criminal check, credit check & drug screening for mailroom staff
- Once mail is sorted & distributed, room must be locked
- Staff must be alert for drugs, dangerous packages e.g. bombs & anthrax powder

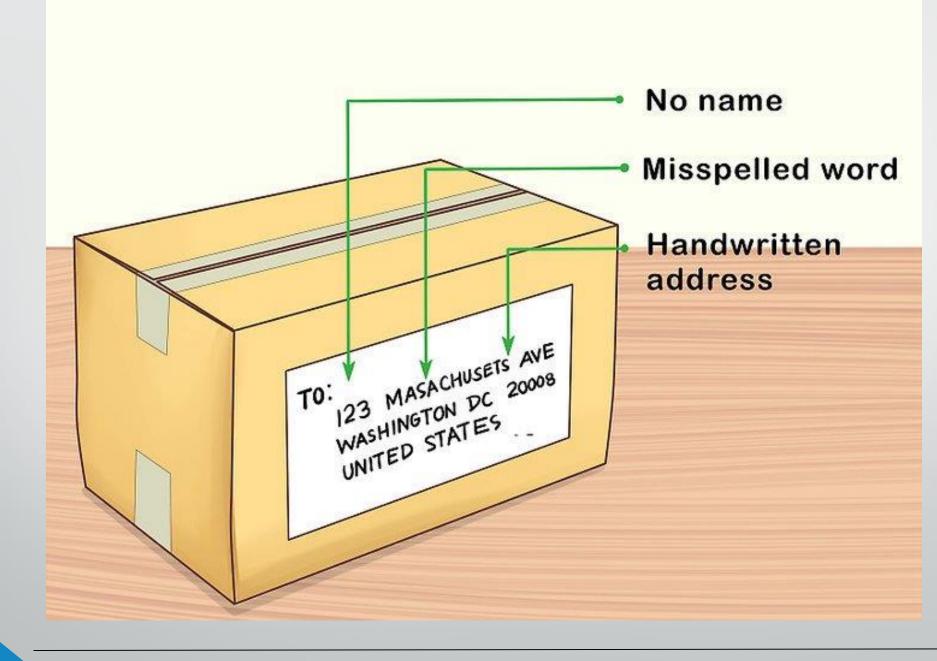


# **RISK INDICATORS IN MAILROOM**

- Strange shapes, unusual sizes
- Substance protruding from parcel
- No receiver or name on parcel
- No return address
- Strange colour or smell
- Residue like powder in/on envelope (anthrax white powder)



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# HANDLING SUSPECT LETTERS/PARCELS

- Don't remove contents
- Don't shake or blow onto parcel/envelope
- Don't touch any part of your body especially face
- Call security
- Wash hands thoroughly with antiseptic soap/hot water dry using a paper towel
- Evacuate and seal off mailroom if it is contaminated



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