

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED
SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE INDICATORS

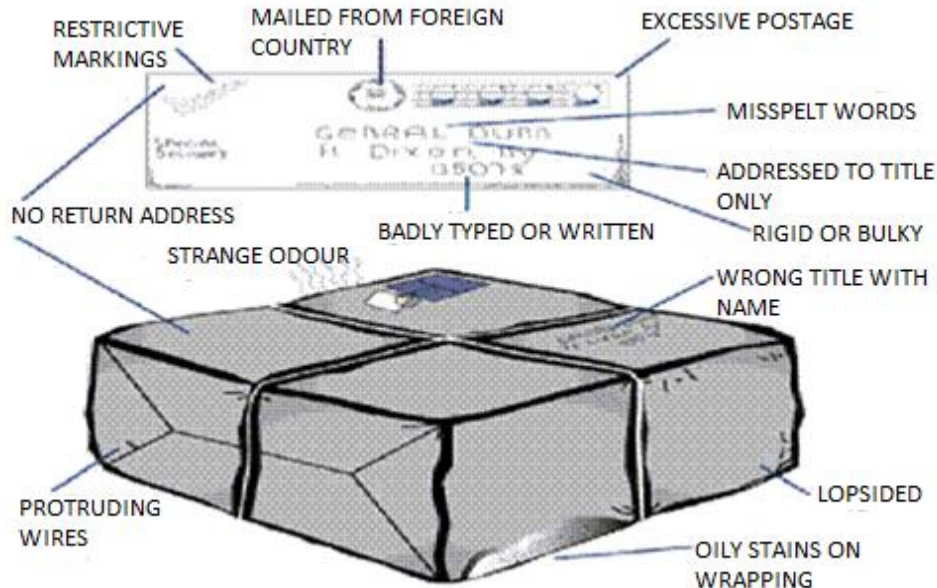


**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING

SPECIALIST OPERATIONS

Why is a package suspicious?



General Indicators

General indicators that a delivered item may be of concern include:

- unexpected item, especially if hand delivered
- a padded envelope ('Jiffy Bag') or other bulky package
- additional inner envelope or other contents that may be difficult to remove
- labelling or excessive sealing that encourages opening at a particular end or in a particular way
- oddly shaped or lopsided
- envelope flap stuck down completely (normally gummed envelope flaps leave slight gaps at edges)
- marked 'to be opened only by...' 'personal' or 'confidential'
- item addressed to the organisation or a title (rather than a specific individual)
- unexpected or unusual origin (postmark and/or return address)
- no return address or return address that cannot be verified
- poorly or inaccurately addressed address printed unevenly or unusually
- unfamiliar writing or unusual style
- unusual postmark or no postmark
- more stamps than needed for size or weight of package
- greasy or oily stains emanating from package
- odours emanating from package

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Explosive or incendiary indicators

Additional explosive or incendiary indicators include:

- unusually heavy or uneven weight distribution
- small hole(s) in envelope or wrapping

"White powder" indicators

Additional chemical, biological or radiological (CBR) indicators include:

- powders, liquids emanating from package
- wrapping stained by liquid leakage
- unexpected items or materials found in package on opening or X-raying (loose or in a container) such as powdered, crystalline or granular solids; liquids; sticky substances or residues
- unexpected odours observed on opening
- sudden onset of illness or irritation of skin, eyes or nose

IMPORTANT NOTE

These indicators should not be viewed in isolation when making judgements about the nature of packages entering your site.

Handling Information

While this guidance does not carry a protective marking, it is recommended that due care and consideration is taken when identifying individuals within your organisation for further dissemination.

Disclaimer

The purpose of this document is to provide the reader with an overview of indicators that could be considered suspicious. These indicators are not exhaustive and should be viewed in the context of the site, and circumstances, in which it is being applied.