

## **Standard Mail (Bulk Rate)**

### **Advantages:**

- **Low Cost:** The Post Office gives standard mail users a low postage rate.
- **Up to 3.3 ounces:** While first class postage increases with every ounce, standard mail gives you the same low rate of postage up to 3.3087 ounces.
- **Incremental postage increase:** After 3.3 ounces, postage goes up incrementally as the weight goes up.

### **Disadvantages:**

- **Slow Delivery:** Standard mail generally takes 4 to 8 business days, in-state. Across the U.S., 10 days to 3 weeks is normal delivery time. Worse yet, there is no guarantee that a portion of the mail will not take longer.
- **Not required to return mail:** The Post Office is not required to return undeliverable mail, and in fact throws most undeliverable standard mail away. While a mailer can use an endorsement to be notified of moves or bad addresses, it is not a free service.
- **Weight Restriction:** Weight of a single piece cannot exceed 1 pound, unless your piece qualifies for bulk printed matter.
- **Qualification:** To qualify for standard mail, one must have 50 lbs. or 200 pieces of mail. Either way, all the pieces must have identical weight.