

European Regulation: EN 13724 for Postboxes

1. Classification of the 4 different types of mail slot openings (exterior, interior, thru-wall (e.g. fence or wall), door sides or side walls).
2. Identification of 2 different mail slot sizes (325–400 mm for vertical insertion of test envelope and 230–280 mm for horizontal insertion, mail slot height 30–35 mm).
3. Resistance capacity against corrosion according to DIN EN 1670 (pertains principally to locks and other installed materials, to verify this a 240 hour salt spray test, among other things, is used) and against water penetration (to test this a special sprinkling system is used, maximum penetration allowed is 1 ccm).
4. Resistance to theft through use of stable materials and locks with 2 security levels.
5. Guarantee of the minimum size of a mailbox: A test envelope in format C4 must fit, without being folded or damaged. This way the proper delivery of normal parcels is guaranteed. The test envelope is ca 24 mm thick. The minimum volume is established as a pile height of at least 40 mm postal goods in format C4.
6. The midpoint of the mail slot should be between 700 mm and 1700 mm, in cases of exception the midpoint can be between 400 mm and 1800 mm. That is a regulation on the constructor in order to ease the work of the postman.
7. To guarantee safety, the components of the mail slot may not have sharp corners. That minimises the danger of injury to the postman.
8. To guarantee privacy, the postboxes must be equipped without view window.
9. Retrieval security against meddlers. For this, the post box must be equipped with retrieval security, which, depending on the mailbox type, must have a minimum size and a fixed inclination in the insertion direction of the mail.

This norm is a recommendation, which however, through inclusion in tenders, becomes an obligation. Moreover, attention should be paid to the fact that litigation is always decided upon the current technical status – that is, the corresponding norm (see examples from court decisions).

The advantages of purchasing a post box manufactured to the DIN EN 13724 standards:

- No crinkled, folded or otherwise damaged letters and newspapers,
- No trip to the post office to pick up undeliverable mail,
- No wet mail by appropriate delivery (complete insertion of letters, newspapers and advertisements)
- Best quality against rust through fixed corrosion-resistant materials
- Optimum security against vandalism and theft of mail through fixed security standards