

Notice to Food Mail customers concerning shipments to certain types of businesses and government agencies

This notice is intended to clarify whether Food Mail shipments can be made directly to certain types of businesses and government agencies in isolated northern communities eligible to receive Food Mail.

The objective of the Food Mail Program is to reduce the cost of nutritious perishable food and other essential items, thereby improving nutrition, health and well-being in isolated northern communities. While most shipments are made to retailers, other kinds of businesses and individual households are also eligible to receive shipments, provided that their suppliers in the south have a Food Mail account with Canada Post.

Traditionally, mines in or near such communities voluntarily refrained from using the program to subsidize the shipment of food or other goods required for their operations. In recent years, however, some suppliers in the south have begun to make direct shipments to resource companies and to government establishments such as weather stations. Additional suppliers have requested permission to do so.

It is not the intent of the program to subsidize the operations of resource companies, construction companies and government establishments. Therefore, direct shipments to the following kinds of businesses and establishments will not be permitted under the Food Mail Program, effective October 1, 2005:

- ☒ mining companies
- ☒ oil and gas companies
- ☒ exploration companies and camps
- ☒ companies providing support activities for mining and oil and gas extraction, exploration and development
- ☒ surveying and mapping services
- ☒ construction companies
- ☒ environmental cleanup operations
- ☒ electricity companies
- ☒ weather stations
- ☒ research stations and projects
- ☒ military establishments and operations

Northern retailers will continue to be allowed to sell products received under the Food Mail Program to the types of businesses and establishments listed above. Employees and owners of such businesses in eligible destinations will also be allowed to receive personal Food Mail orders. However, shipments to individuals acting as agents for southern suppliers or for northern businesses and establishments of the types listed above, with the intention of enabling shipments to these kinds of businesses and establishments to occur, will not be allowed.

Direct shipments to individuals, organizations, establishments and businesses providing day care services, school breakfast programs, healthcare and similar services to northern residents will continue to be allowed. Directs shipments to tourist operations (hotels, restaurants, outfitters, camps, etc.) will also be allowed. Many businesses in this sector also supply food and other goods to northerners through their retail stores, and it is not possible to prohibit sales of such products received under the Food Mail Program to tourists.

For further information, contact foodmail@inac.gc.ca or the Food Mail Program Coordinator at (819) 994-4810.