

## Royal Mail Swiftair Tariff 1980 - 2003

The Royal Mail charged a fee for the Swiftair service in addition to postage appropriate to the destination of the item. Use of the Swiftair service is confirmed by the payment of the appropriate fee in addition to the use of a Swiftair etiquette.

| Date Fee Became Effective | 13-Oct-80 | 01-Feb-82 | 05-Sep-88 | 02-Oct-89 | 17-Sep-90 | 16-Sep-91 | 28-Jun-93 | 26-Apr-99 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Fee in pence              | 125       | 150       | 165       | 175       | 185       | 195       | 270       | 285       |



Above: 2x 30p + 35p machins +£2- Castle pay the £2-70 Swiftair fee + 25p postage to non-EEC European destinations up to 20g

### Reduced tariff for combined Swiftair and Registered/Recorded Delivery Services 1996-2001

From 29 January 1996 Swiftair could be combined with the International Recorded or the International Registered services at a rate less than the two individual services added together: The maximum level of compensation was also increased for Registered items from £1,000- to £2,200-.

| Date Fee Became Effective | 29-Jan-96           |                       |        | 26-Apr-99           |                       |        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|                           | Swiftair + Recorded | Swiftair + Registered |        | Swiftair + Recorded | Swiftair + Registered |        |
| Service                   |                     |                       |        |                     |                       |        |
| Compensation limit        |                     | £500                  | £2,200 |                     | £500                  | £2,200 |
| Fee in pence              | 330                 | 380                   | 450    | 350                 | 400                   | 475    |

So far two types of label dedicated to each of the combined Swiftair + Recorded and Swiftair + Registered Services have been noted. In addition there is one earlier label which provides the option for use with either combination. To date the author has seen none of the five used on envelope.

### Introduction of Airsure and the phasing out of Swiftair 2002-2003

In a leaflet printed in July 2002 Royal Mail announced the introduction of Airsure which offered electronic tracking of mail all the way to its final destination, rather than with Swiftair only tracking electronically to the point the item left the UK. A signature was obtained for the delivery of Swiftair mail, but where priority handling was not required customers were directed to the International Signed For Service. Initially Airsure was limited to certain (mainly European) specified destination countries.

Royal Mail literature confirms the Swiftair fee as £3-30 per item during this period. Compensation for lost items was set at maximum of £30-. Additional cover increasing compensation to between £250- and £500-, depending on the destination country, was available for a charge of £1-.

By August 2003 Airsure coverage had progressed to the extent Royal Mail announced Swiftair was no longer available.