

# Update on MaltaPost Postage Paid Envelopes

by  
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The following is an update of the article originally published in the PSM Journal Issue 36/1 of April 2007 and concerns the issue of the subsequent versions of postage paid envelopes released by MaltaPost. The first was issued sometime around October 2010 (designated as Group 5) while the second in August 2011 (designated as Group 6).

The major differences in the Group 5 version lie in the sizes of both the imprinted stamp, which is now significantly smaller than that used on the Group 4 lot which measured 49.00 x 22.50 mm; and that of the logo. Of particular interest to us philatelists is that this is the first time around that the size of the area used for indicating prepayment is less than the regulatory minimum requested for such impressions by the UPU, as it measures 39.0 mm by 6.5 mm (253.5 mm<sup>2</sup>). The full text of the section of the Letter Post – Conv. Art 8; RL 115 presently relating to these kinds of impressions reads as follows:

\* “3.1 Franking impressions obtained from a printing press or by another printing or stamping process shall bear the name of the member country of origin and, if appropriate, of the office of posting in roman letters, which may be supplemented by the same information in other letters. They shall also bear an indication that postage has been prepaid, for example in the form “Taxe perçue” (Charge collected). **In every case, the phrase adopted shall be shown in bold letters in a space the area of which shall not be less than 300 mm<sup>2</sup>.** The date-stamp, if used, shall not appear in this space.”

*\*The UPU Letter Post Manual (Berne 2009 International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union)*

As for the previous versions, it looks that MaltaPost are still of the opinion that the printing quality of these envelopes does not give rise to a security concern, since both the imprint and the blue ink colour shade used still remain very inconsistent between one print and another. Under these circumstances, collectors can still find a large range of shades for both the printed stamp and envelope. For the sake of simple classification it is best to keep defining these colour shades mainly into two, namely dark blue and light blue, although for the record it must be mentioned that there also exist blue shades with a greenish tinge.

A general note on the Group 1 to Group 5 MaltaPost Postage Paid envelopes is that from a study of hundreds of such envelopes, it has since been observed that the