

Mailman Administration Guide: Moderation

Moderation, Sender Filters, & Recipient Filters

What is Moderation?

Moderation is one of the most powerful tools offered by mailman. This allows the owner and moderators of a list to review messages sent to the list address before they are posted to the list. The administrator or moderator can choose to discard, reject, or allow/post the message.

How does Moderation work?

When someone posts a message and it violates one of the rules for the list, it might be held for moderation. If it is, they owner/moderators will receive an email saying a post is being held for moderation. This email will contain sender and the reason the message was held.

To tend to these pending requests, you can click on the link in the email about the request, or you can log in to your administrative interface (<http://lists.ncmail.net/mailman/admin/listname>) and choose “Tend to Pending Moderator Requests” from the “Other Administrative Activities” Section.

On this list of administrative requests, it is possible to deal with all messages from an individual at once. To view with the messages individually, choose “view all messages from” or select the number beside the message you want to deal with. *Please review the content of the message and be sure it is appropriate for the list in question before accepting the post.*

Actions:

Defer	Leaves the message as a pending request. Takes no action on the message.
Accept	Posts the message to the list, resulting in the membership receiving the message.
Reject	Bounce the message back to the sender. Message does not get sent to the list membership.
Discard	Throw the message away. Message does not get sent to the list membership.
Forward messages to	Send the message to the list owner (or whatever address is filled in the box below). This is performed in addition to the Defer, Accept, Reject, or Discard action above.
Clear this member's moderate flag	If the sender is a member, you may see this option. This gives you the option of clearing the member's moderation flag, so future messages from this member will not be held for the reason “Post to moderated list”. This is performed in addition to the Defer, Accept, Reject, or Discard action above.
Add <email address> to one of these sender filters	If the sender is not a member of the list, you may see this option. It controls what happens to future posts from this email address. This is performed in addition to the Defer, Accept, Reject, or Discard action above.
Ban <email address> from ever subscribing to this mailing list	If the post is from a non-member, you may see this option. It puts the email address in the banned list for this email listserve. This is performed in addition to the Defer, Accept, Reject, or Discard action above.

Reasons a message can be held for moderation:

Reason: Post to moderated list

This reason is caused when someone without permissions to email through to the list sends a message to the list address. To prevent this for all future emails for this member, you can remove the checkbox from the “mod” box after their name/email address in the membership list.

Reason: Post by non-member to a members-only list

This is the reason given whenever a non-member tries to post to a list that is configured to only allow members to post. You can add them as an allowed sender by choosing Privacy Options... from Configuration Categories, then choose Sender Filters, then put that individual's address in the “List of non-member addresses whose postings should be automatically accepted.” box, and click submit. You can also specify domains in this box with this format:

^.*@domain.name

If want absolutely anyone to be able to email your list and you are getting this reason on moderated messages. Check that “By default, should new list member postings be moderated?” is set to No and that “Action to take for postings from non-members for which no explicit action is defined.” is set to Accept (under Privacy Options...Sender Filters).

Reason: Message has implicit destination

This is the reason given when a message is BCCed to the list address. By default, mailman is configured to hold these messages for moderation. If you would like these messages to pass through without moderation, you can choose Privacy Options... from Configuration Categories, then choose Recipient Filters and set “Must posts have list named in destination (to, cc) field (or be among the acceptable alias names, specified below)?” to No.

Reason: Too many recipients to the message

This reason is given when there are more than the specified number of addresses in the To: and CC: fields of a message. This is not a limit on the number of people in the list. This is a limit to the number of people copied on the message in addition to the list's email address. You can adjust this limit by choosing Privacy Options... from Configuration Categories, then choosing Recipient Filters, and changing the number in the “Ceiling on acceptable number of recipients for a posting.” field. If you would like to remove this restriction, set this field to 0.

Notifications:

By default, both the owner/moderator(s) and the sender get notifications that the message is being held for approval. Each of these immediate notifications can be disabled. These settings are in the “Notifications” section of the General Options configuration category.