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Selling The Plan: The PMG at the National Postal Forum— Analysis

Speaking June 3 at the opening general session of the 2024 National Postal Forum, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy took a different approach in his usual rant about what was wrong when he arrived to lead the Postal Service in June 2020.

Rather than simply decrying his predecessors’ lack of a plan, he reviewed the operational and ratemaking fundamentals in place for the first 35 years of the agency’s existence. His basic argument was that there was balance: the USPS was a functional bureaucracy, executing its universal service obligations and providing services sought by ratepayers, funded by a cost-of-service ratemaking process that ensured that revenues covered costs. Passage of the *Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act* in 2006 disrupted this, he argued, framing the situation almost sympathetically:

“... At almost the same time the digital revolution compounded with the Great Recession, caused mail volume to decline at an extraordinary pace. Immediately, losses began mounting!

“Well, the bureaucracy, and now defunct monopoly, and Title 39, and 900 Policies and Procedures manuals, and union agreements, and regional executive judgment, and the committed public servants well-experienced in delivering universal service under the old rules, with their massive infrastructure, did not have an adequate answer or the time to develop one, for how to overcome this dramatic shock to the business model, which no longer ensured that costs would be covered.

“Such began the 15-year aftershock, and the fallout, which brought the Postal Service to near catastrophic failure when I arrived here in June of 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. And there was no plan to solve for this anywhere, from anyone! Looking back to 2006, how could the Postal Service have had an answer? How could a massive bureaucracy, populated with hundreds of thousands of dedicated public servants, who were the product of an ingrained institutional memory, wholly focused on providing universal service to the American people and a decades-long understanding that costs would be covered by the system....

“Adding to the problem, and just like today, after passing the PAEA, Congress did not change their expectations of the service obligations even a little. They remained in love with the Universal Service Mission.”

This relatively compassionate retrospective continued for several minutes, effectively painting a picture for listeners of an institution struggling to adapt to an altered business environment in which it had no experience.

(Early along in his review of the post-PAEA situation, he repeated his frequent complaint about the Postal Regulatory Commission, blaming it for what he saw as the Postal Service’s inadequate revenues, overlooking that the commission can’t arbitrarily waive the legally-mandated CPI cap on rates and perpetuate a cost-of-service ratemaking process.)

For perhaps the first time, his comments reflected an understanding of his predecessors’ situation – continued legacy obligations that had to be met without the revenue model that had been in place, all requiring changes for which there had been neither the time nor the preparation to enable an orderly transition.

The pitch

Of course, this artful review set the stage for the balance of his speech in which, characteristically, he framed himself and his 10-Year Plan as the only path to salvation for the USPS.

First he constructed his opposition – Congress, the PRC, and “stakeholders” (read: commercial ratepayers) who “resisted change” because it was “too politically and financially untenable for our stakeholders to even consider.” “To this day,” he added, critics “fail to accept the sweeping changes required, the speed at which they need to be accomplished, and the imperfection that materializes when taking on such an endeavor.” Then came the pitch.

“When I arrived, the trajectory was in plain sight. ... We have a plan. ... It’s called the Delivering for America plan, and we are making great progress on the strategies it identifies. And that is what I hope you come away with from this forum. Our efforts do not come without uncomfortable consequences, to our customers, to the American people, and to our employees. But they must be made. We are doing the necessary and important work for the nation, to develop a new path forward.”

While it was somewhat refreshing to hear the revised, and relatively effective, retrospective that set up his pitch, he still reverted to his habit of having to construct demons to fight, simplistically categorizing any disagreement or question of his Plan as stark and total opposition. (Maybe we need to wait until the next Forum to see if *that* changes.)

Tulino

As would be expected at an NPF presentation, there were the usual professionally-produced videos, showing spiffed-up

facilities and vehicles, and featuring executives and employees filled with evangelical spirit, singing the praises of The Plan. Such vignettes are supposed to convince the audience – mostly people whose normal lives don't expose them to postal news – that what they're seeing and hearing is reality.

After the first such video, Deputy PMG Doug Tulino took the stage to provide his supportive comments. Like DeJoy, he relied on framing opposition from unnamed stakeholders to symbolize the enemies of what The Plan seeks to accomplish.

Interestingly – especially given Tulino's other role as head of HR – he faulted those stakeholders' role in "prior attempts to make changes" because their "primary objective was to focus on cost-cutting through labor reductions." Apparently, in his view, trimming complement and employee costs is bad.

However, most ironically, particularly to people aware of how DeJoy *et al* have operated, Tulino asserted that it's "important to Louis and me that we are transparent with all stakeholders," adding that they've given stakeholders "an opportunity to understand what we are doing."

Anyone at all familiar with how the network changes have been implemented knows that the Postal Service has never provided ratepayer and mailer groups with *any* "official" listing of the RPDC, LPD, and S&DC facility sites or their activation status. Rather, those "stakeholders" must rely on information provided to the unions (as required by contracts) then leaked to others. Moreover, though the PMG regularly harangues mailer organizations, neither he nor his senior executives have *ever* held an open session where questions could be asked and answered, and discussions held so that the "understanding" Tulino alleges could be developed.

Of course, given the naïveté of most of the audience, Tulino's assertion was taken as fact.

The business model

DeJoy returned, and picked up where he left off – saying the USPS is an organization that has "a costly public service obligation and lacks a funding source adequate to cover the cost, in the manner that we serve." Continuing, he reflected on the post-PAEA environment, stating

"When product volume and reimbursable revenue changed, so that its cost to provide these services could not be covered, it was unable to adjust its service in a meaningful way to reduce its cost of operations. Thus, the broken business model. We are now trying to fix the broken business model."

This essentially sums up the disconnect between a basic underlying principle of the PAEA ratesetting process, the external cost circumstances of the USPS, and DeJoy's view of how it all should be funded.

The changes to ratemaking made in 2006 were an attempt to make the Postal Service live within its means, i.e., to stop expecting a blank check as an alternative to reasonable cost control; DeJoy doesn't get that – he wants blank checks.

What he fails to articulate clearly, and to use his political assets to seek to change, is the Universal Service Obligation conundrum. The cost of that obligation may have once been arguably supportable through monopoly product revenue, but no more. The feebleness of that revenue stream now, combined with the growing costs of universal service, appropriately can be called a "broken business model."

However, in the *Postal Service Reform Act of 2022*, DeJoy embraced codification of six-day delivery – likely as a *quid pro quo* for the carriers' unions' support for the legislation that also repealed the "prefunding" obligation. At the NPF, however, his tune was different, complaining about the cost of six-day delivery and claiming that "more than half of our carrier routes lose money." That may win the support of those in the audience who don't know the whole story. (And though he avoided the term "half-full trucks," he still emphasized the drive for "more cubic volume.")

Beyond that, despite his bluster in public forums, DeJoy knows well that proposing to diminish the USO would have no political support. Nonetheless, the eventual need for public funding to underwrite the USO is being realized more often. While politically distasteful, it may become necessary as the gulf widens between the USO's costs and the willingness of commercial ratepayers to foot the bill. So far, DeJoy has only bemoaned the "broken business model" but hasn't taken steps to manage its costs or find new revenue sources to pay for it – more packages likely aren't the answer, either.

The infrastructure

In describing the many processing and transportation networks that had evolved over the decades before his arrival, DeJoy may have correctly noted the net inefficiency that they caused but, unfortunately, couldn't stop himself from being needlessly derisive, calling them "silly" and "random," with "dilapidated facilities." His capacity to understand his predecessors' circumstances apparently had run out.

Moreover, still needing an enemy to fight, he characterized the existing processing and transportation networks as a "sacred cow" that's "a shrine to political nonsense, failed practices, and resistance to change."

Modernizing the postal infrastructure is one topic on which there's little argument from the commercial mailer community. Most opposition is from the unions and politicians concerned about losing jobs at local facilities, yet DeJoy paints everyone with the same brush, discarding potential support.

Regardless, DeJoy assured the audience that all the planned changes "improve our productivity dramatically and significantly reduce our transportation cost, while providing reliable service." Whether productivity and cost reduction will be provided has yet to be shown, but service quality has worsened as *can* be proven by the Postal Service's own data.

The video that followed this segment featured the new Atlanta Regional Processing and Distribution Center, starring the predictable upbeat employees and managers and clever camera angles. However, it also focused on packages and package processing – not mail – and echoed the PMG's fixation about transportation "efficiency" as defined by fewer trips and full trucks; no mention was made of any impact on timely service.

As with other parts of the speech, the video was meant to give attendees the impression of a happy workforce operating a modern and efficient processing center. People who've visited or monitored the Atlanta RPDC know differently, but full disclosure of the facts wasn't DeJoy's objective.

Following the video was Greg White, Executive Director, Service Quality Assurance. An industrial engineer who was

lifted from routine field project work into the PMG's office, White was predictably enthusiastic about the changes to the network and an obvious acolyte of DeJoy and his Plan.

Another video followed, this one set in the South Atlanta S&DC, and filled with the more laudatory comments from employees and managers, emphasis on the facility's efficient package processing, and the availability of "amperage" for new electric vehicles. (To hear some employees, making them happy only required painting the break room and installing an ice machine.) Not discussed – and therefore not presented to the audience – was the open question of how many more carriers and vehicles will be needed to offset the lost street time as the S&DC's carriers drive through Atlanta traffic to reach their now-distant delivery routes.

Following that was Linda Crawford, the Southern Area VP for Retail and Delivery Operations, someone responsible for ensuring the area's S&DCs operate as advertised. Establishing the S&DCs was "genius," she asserted, "and the right thing to do." Reflecting The Plan's emphasis on packages, she described challenges to the retail network "as it shifted from a more mail-driven to a more package-driven marketplace." (The use of the past tense might surprise some listeners who still think mail is important.)

Yet another video followed, also set in the Atlanta area, but focused on the delivery vehicles being deployed to replace the thirty-plus-year-old fleet of "long-life vehicles." Interestingly, though the video extolled the electric fleet that's been ordered, the shiny new trucks that were shown were mostly gas-powered Ram delivery vans.

Next came Luke Grossman, Senior VP for Finance and Strategy, who, for some reason, was assigned to speak about changes in the Postal Service's sales and marketing functions – to sell more packages, of course – and to declare that USPS Ground Advantage and USPS Connect Local are a "success."

His script writer provided a carefully worded assurance that implementing the related elements of The Plan sets the USPS on a "path to becoming the leader in package shipping throughout the United States while remaining dedicated to serving as your reliable partner for mail."

In the succeeding video, the script explained that "we decided to focus on creating products that would grow our business" and other sales and marketing ideas as if it was all revelatory when introduced to the Postal Service's marketing and sales teams.

However, the video did feature the Direct Effect Program, "a collaboration between the Postal Service, industry, and academia to educate the next generation of marketers about direct mail" before cutting back to more shots of packages and trucks zipping around.

After a short return to the stage, DeJoy introduced yet another video, this one about the agency's sustainability efforts. In this production more than any other, not only were measures to assure "full trucks" and "optimize" routes front and center, they were shamelessly greenwashed as environmentally desirable; any service impact wasn't mentioned.

DeJoy came back to close, both the 80-minute speech and the pitch for his Plan, before unenthusiastically sending everyone off to enjoy the Forum and quickly moving off stage.

Observations

Though the opening session speeches by the sitting PMGs customarily were positive reports on what the agency was doing and its important initiatives, the traditional content of the NPF has been commandeered, replaced by a days-long live infomercial for DeJoy as visionary and his Plan as dogma.

A picture on the big screen behind him showed the covers of his Plan and two subsequent annual updates. A third should be due, and it will be interesting to read how the situation after three years – finances, facilities, prices, and service – is spun to assert that everything is fine, his employees are supportive, and it's all going to work out as planned.

While the Postal Forum audience may never hear anything to the contrary, people more informed know he was selling his Plan and painting as pretty a picture of its success as he can.

Unfortunately for DeJoy and his cadre of sycophant cheerleaders, the gap between what we're to believe and what we can see for ourselves is becoming too wide for him and his apostles to paint over.

OIG Audits Finds Issues with S&DCs

Two recent audits conducted by the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General found issues with the new sorting and delivery centers being established by the Postal Service.

Postmasters

The first, *Network Modernization: The Changing Role of Postmasters*, released May 22, was performed "to review the changing role of postmasters in offices impacted by S&DC implementations." As the OIG noted,

"These changes impact the daily roles of postmasters at both the S&DC (hub) and losing office (spokes). For example, while the number of carrier routes could triple for an S&DC postmaster, all carrier routes and related delivery operations at a spoke post office could be transferred to the associated S&DC. Updating postmaster roles and workloads to reflect these changing operations will be crucial to capturing efficiencies and ensuring productivity as more than 60 S&DCs are scheduled to be activated by September 2024 (involving at least 175 spoke offices).

"... According to the Postal Service, this initiative will standardize operations and drive efficiencies in transportation and mail

handling costs by reducing travel between facilities and delivery times. It also should drive efficient investments in equipment, customer service, and local business opportunities.

"Phase 1 of this initiative occurred between November 2022 and June 2023 and included:

- 56 facilities: It created 12 S&DCs (hub offices) that absorbed delivery operations (which include nearly 494 carrier routes and related mail and package sortation) from 44 nearby offices (spoke offices).
- 49 postmasters: It impacted 37 postmasters from spoke offices and 12 from the newly created S&DCs. Affected postmasters crossed a variety of pay and grade levels as determined by the Postal Service's Executive Administrative Schedule (EAS), where postmasters with more staff and responsibilities (e.g., retail and delivery operations) are assigned a higher grade level and pay, ranging between EAS level 18 to 24 ...

"With nearly 400 S&DCs eventually planned nationwide, the Postal Service's ability to update postmaster roles to reflect the new daily operations will be crucial to capturing operational efficiencies and ensuring productivity at each S&DC and spoke office."

“Finding #1: Inadequate Management of Spoke Postmaster’s Changing Roles

“S&DC implementations affected the daily roles and workloads of S&DC and spoke office postmasters. The Postal Service’s strategy for managing the changing role of S&DC postmasters was inadequate. Officials throughout the Postal Service prioritized S&DC implementation efforts and, therefore, were actively involved in analyzing operations and conditions and providing general support related to their new roles, workloads, and office space utilization.

“However, the Postal Service’s strategy for managing the changing role of spoke postmasters was inadequate. ... District management said they provided spoke postmasters’ general guidance on assignments to fill the newly created workload gap resulting from the removal of delivery operations. ... Concerning their future roles, some postmasters raised concerns about the long-term sustainability and productivity of these interim assignments.

“These postmasters also stated they were unclear about how to utilize the newly created excess space at their offices due to the removal of delivery operations and associated equipment. ...

“We found these concerns and uncertainties resulted from an overly general strategy that did not include detailed procedures for updating new postmaster roles, including workload expectations for offsetting lost delivery operations workhours, and space utilization for affected spoke offices. ...

“Postal Service management stated they did not develop detailed procedures because their primary focus was on implementing the S&DC operational changes nationwide. ...

“While we recognize these considerations, the lack of detailed procedures is driving uncertainty and inefficiency among spoke postmasters and their office space utilization. These inadequacies could prevent the Postal Service from fully capturing the S&DC optimization benefits.

“Finding #2: Enhance Communications Related to Postmaster Performance Assessment Changes

“All the spoke and S&DC postmasters we met with between November 2023 and March 2024 expressed uncertainty as to how the S&DC implementation efforts would impact their individual performance assessments. ...

“Postal Service senior leadership issued a letter to various organizations involved in the S&DC implementation in late November 2023 that described processes for making changes to employee fiscal year (FY) 2023 NPA scores in affected S&DC and spoke offices. The letter also specifically mentioned that these processes should be communicated with impacted offices and employees. The uncertainty surrounding these NPA processes as raised to us by the spoke and S&DC postmasters and other parties we met with, however, raises concerns about the effectiveness of this communication strategy.”

The OIG offered two recommendations:

- “... coordinate to develop and implement detailed procedures for updating postmasters’ roles (including workload expectations) and space utilization at offices impacted by S&DC implementation. These new procedures would include specifying responsible parties and processes for analyzing office conditions, evaluating alternatives, communicating decisions, and monitoring performance.
- “... develop actions to better disseminate communication to affected S&DC and spoke office postmasters about potential national performance assessment changes.”

The OIG noted that “management disagreed” with its findings but agreed with the recommendations.

Implementation

The second report, *Sorting and Delivery Center Impacts in the Florida 1 District*, released May 28, sought to

“... assess the impact of the Postal Service’s S&DC implementation in the Postal Service’s Florida 1 District. ...”

The OIG stated that the USPS had converted the Gainesville and Panama City Processing & Distribution Facilities into S&DCs during the first round of deployment in February 2023.

“As of February 2024, the Gainesville S&DC has consolidated carrier routes from two of 12 potential local delivery units under consideration within a 30-minute drive from the S&DC [and] the Panama City S&DC has consolidated carrier routes from four of six potential local delivery units within a 30-minute drive from the S&DC.

“Finding #1: Limited Cost and Trip Reduction

“We found that actual cost savings from eliminating HCR trips and consolidating carrier routes did not meet the Postal Service estimates for FY 2023 in the Florida 1 District. Despite the plan of eliminating all morning and afternoon HCR trips, the S&DC core team officials eliminated only morning trips to local delivery units, while leaving afternoon HCR trips in place. As a result, overall HCR trip mileage declined only slightly following S&DC implementation. ...

“The Gainesville S&DC estimate was based on absorbing 81 carrier routes from three delivery units, while Panama City’s was based on absorbing approximately 60 carrier routes from four delivery units. However, we found that actual changes to HCRs resulted in FY 2023 savings of only \$54,933 for Gainesville and \$14,152 for Panama City. As of February 2024, the Gainesville S&DC had absorbed only 15 carrier routes from two local delivery units, and the Panama City S&DC had absorbed only 31 carrier routes from three delivery units.

“These conditions occurred due to shortcomings in planning and coordination between the S&DC core team and local officials, and construction delays. Postal Officials stated that they planned to consolidate carrier routes into the S&DCs in a “phased” approach. ... However, the afternoon HCR transportation between the S&DCs, P&DCs, and delivery units was not eliminated because the additional time and distance would have extended rural route carrier hours beyond their contractual agreement. ...

“Further, the Postal Service’s S&DC core team and local officials did not account for growth in mail volume, nor did they fully coordinate to ensure that local transportation needs were met following implementation, as required by policy. ...

“... While the Postal Service made some efforts to mitigate impacts and address safety and security concerns, shortcomings in the S&DC implementation planning and communication between internal stakeholders, combined with natural and man-made construction challenges that could occur often in a program as significant as the S&DC implementation, can increase risk to achieving the cost savings and network modernization goals.

“Finding #2: Lack of Truck Utilization Data at Panama City S&DC

“We found that the Panama City S&DC does not use SV to perform container ‘load’ and ‘unload’ scans. SV is the system of record used to calculate truck utilization. ... The lack of scanning results in inaccurate truck utilization data.

“We interviewed multiple Postal Service Headquarters and S&DC officials, but they were not aware that the Panama City S&DC is not a designated SV scanning site, even though data collected by SV Web is used to assess S&DC performance.

“Finding #3: Late Delivery Unit Post Office Box Up-Times

“The delivery units whose carrier functions were absorbed into the Gainesville and Panama City S&DCs have not consistently met scheduled up-time for PO Box mail since the implementation of the S&DCs in February 2023. ...

“During our site visits, the postmasters at the consolidated delivery units stated that late mail delivery after the PO Box up-time had been an ongoing issue since the initiation of the S&DCs.

“Finding #4: Difficulty Tracking Redelivery Mailpieces

“We found that the postmasters and delivery unit clerks had difficulty tracking packages, and the customers were dissatisfied with attempted delivery mail procedures and mail visibility at the Panama City S&DC. During our site visits to the four delivery units with carrier routes that were absorbed by the Panama City S&DC, some postmasters and delivery unit clerks stated that customers have been unable to locate mail that should have been available at the delivery unit on the pickup day specified on the redelivery notice. ...

“This occurred because Postal Service did not communicate operating procedures outlining the requirements for handling attempted delivery packages at the delivery units that are consolidated into the S&DCs.

“Finding #5: Priority Mail Express Missing Collection Deadline

“We identified opportunities for the Postal Service to mitigate risk resulting from Priority Mail Express not meeting its service standard in the Florida 1 district.

“According to Postal Service officials, the originating critical entry time for the Jacksonville PSA is 8pm. However, if transportation from the Gainesville S&DC does not arrive at the Jacksonville P&DC by 7:15pm or earlier, Priority Mail Express will not make its guaranteed next-day delivery service commitment. ...”

The OIG offered several recommendations:

- “... develop detailed lessons-learned reports for Gainesville and Panama City S&DCs, discussing key challenges involving planning and implementation as a guide for future activations.

- “... develop and implement an action plan to address the construction challenges at the Gainesville Sorting and Delivery Center, including a timeline to complete the unfinished items.
- “... evaluate whether the Panama City Sorting and Delivery Center should be designated as a Surface Visibility scanning site to accurately track truck utilization and ensure that employees have the appropriate training and resources to conduct scanning to improve data collection and facilitate route optimization.
- “... instruct local management to use Mail Transport Equipment Labeler placards as scans are performed.
- “... coordinate activities between the Sorting & Delivery Centers, delivery units, and plants in the Florida 1 District to consider whether to adjust PO Box up-time schedules or determine if other adjustments are necessary to meet PO Box up-times.
- “... ensure that standard work procedures outlining the requirements for handling attempted delivery packages at the delivery units are communicated to employees at the S&DCs.
- “... conduct a review of Priority Mail Express operating times and retail unit acceptance cut-off times in the Jacksonville and Gainesville service areas and determine if updates are needed for the Express Mail tables.”

These audits of delivery facilities noted situations common with past audits of processing operations: poor communication between upper management, implementation teams, and field managers and postmasters; and the shoot-ready-aim errors caused by underplanned, hurried implementation.

How Leading Companies Create a Culture of Problem-Solving

In an earlier article, we discussed the steps involved in problem-solving. However, we did not explain that a problem-solving culture is one way that leading companies are different than the rest.

There’s an old adage of uncertain origin that nonetheless imparts a profound insight: “If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you always got.” This statement encapsulates the essence of problem-solving and its paramount importance in the corporate world. Leading companies recognize this significance and place a strong emphasis on cultivating a culture of problem solvers.

Culture

The ability to effectively solve problems is a defining attribute of successful organizations. By nurturing a problem-solving mindset and fostering a culture that encourages innovation and creative thinking, companies can position themselves as leaders in their respective industries. This requires a proactive approach to addressing challenges rather than relying on conventional methods that may yield stagnant or suboptimal outcomes.

To gauge your own problem-solving prowess, it’s essential to reflect on your current skill set and strategies. Are you equipped with the necessary tools and techniques to tackle complex issues? Are you fostering an environment where employees are encouraged to voice their ideas and contribute to problem-solving efforts? These are critical questions to consider as you work towards building a culture of problem solvers within your organization.

Developing a culture of problem solvers entails creating an environment that values continuous improvement, critical thinking, and collaboration. It involves providing employees with the necessary training and resources to enhance their

problem-solving skills, empowering them to identify and resolve issues at various levels of the organization. This may involve implementing problem-solving methodologies, encouraging cross-functional collaboration, and fostering a growth mindset that embraces challenges as learning opportunities.

Moreover, leading companies understand that problem-solving is not a one-time endeavor. It is an ongoing process that requires constant evaluation and refinement. They actively seek feedback from employees and stakeholders, promoting a sense of shared responsibility in identifying and addressing problems. By continuously striving for improvement and embracing change, these companies remain agile and adaptable in an ever-evolving business landscape.

In summary, problem-solving is a key attribute of leading companies.

By adopting a proactive approach and building a culture of problem solvers, organizations can position themselves for success. Assessing your problem-solving capabilities and taking steps to foster a culture of innovation and continuous improvement will enable you to stay ahead of the competition and drive positive change within your organization. Remember, it is through effective problem-solving that true growth and transformation can be achieved.

This article was produced by industry consultant Howie Fenton. With over 30 years of experience, he’s established himself as a leading advisor, author, and trainer in the graphic arts industry. His subject matter expertise lies in benchmarking operational and financial performance, which is underpinned by both practical experience and extensive market research. Fenton has worked with leading organizations such as GATF, PIA, NAPL, and Keypoint Intelligence. Today, he heads his own company, applying his understanding of process improvement and best practices to provide training and consulting. For more information, visit howiefentonconsulting.com or email him at howiefenton@gmail.com.

PQ II/FY 2023	Service Std or Entry Type	vs SPLY	Total # of Pcs (RPW-ODIS) (a)	# of Pcs Eligible for FS IMB (b)	# of FS IMB Pcs Incl in Measurement (c)	% of FS IMB Pcs in Measurement (c/b)	# of FS IMB Pcs Excl from Meas'mnt (d)	% of FS IMB Pcs Not in Measurement (d/b)	# of Pcs in Measurement (e)	# of Pcs Not in Measurement (a-e)	% of Pcs in Measurement (e/a)	% of Pcs Not in Measurement ((a-e)/a)	
Letters	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	8,996,979,159	8,745,815,150	7,247,921,923	83.96%	1,384,627,509	16.04%	7,247,921,923	1,749,057,236	80.56%	19.44%	
	Destination Entry 2-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	9,099,187,237	8,759,880,685	7,380,909,282	85.17%	1,284,725,825	14.83%	7,380,909,282	1,718,277,955	81.12%	18.88%	
	Dest Entry 3-to-5-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	6,669,679,914	6,604,609,998	5,466,044,908	81.23%	1,138,564,990	17.23%	5,466,044,908	1,203,635,006	81.95%	18.05%	
	Dest Entry 5-Day & Above	FY24Q2 SPLY	840,924,713	840,924,713	767,213,671	91.23%	73,711,042	8.77%	767,213,671	73,711,042	91.23%	8.77%	
	End-to-End 3-to-5-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	977,997,247	977,997,247	902,091,156	92.24%	75,906,091	7.76%	902,091,156	75,906,091	92.24%	7.76%	
	End-to-End 6-to-10-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	317,116,889	317,116,889	296,142,517	93.24%	21,000,000	6.62%	296,142,517	21,000,000	93.24%	6.62%	
	End-to-End 11-Day & Above	FY24Q2 SPLY	672,332,359	672,332,359	641,648,816	95.58%	30,683,543	4.56%	641,648,816	30,683,543	95.58%	4.56%	
	Flats	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	458,041,451	436,705,185	319,583,014	77.11%	94,871,867	22.89%	319,583,014	138,458,437	69.77%	30.23%
	Destination Entry 2-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	514,459,808	473,873,964	368,608,831	80.79%	87,646,228	19.21%	368,608,831	145,850,977	71.65%	28.35%	
	Dest Entry 3-to-5-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	228,246,968	228,246,968	166,293,740	72.86%	61,953,228	27.14%	166,293,740	61,953,228	72.86%	27.14%	
	Dest Entry 5-Day & Above	FY24Q2 SPLY	68,759,932	68,759,932	62,297,147	90.60%	6,462,785	9.40%	62,297,147	6,462,785	90.60%	9.40%	
End-to-End 3-to-5-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	93,032,481	93,032,481	86,271,900	92.73%	6,760,581	7.27%	86,271,900	6,760,581	92.73%	7.27%		
End-to-End 6-to-10-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	22,809,365	22,809,365	20,318,410	89.10%	2,490,955	10.90%	20,318,410	2,490,955	89.10%	10.90%		
End-to-End 11-Day & Above	FY24Q2 SPLY	66,723,735	66,723,735	69,083,582	103.54%	2,359,847	3.54%	69,083,582	2,359,847	103.54%	3.54%		
EDDM	Two-Day	FY24Q2 SPLY	148,861,321	140,663,704	0	0%	0	0%	89,580,949	59,280,372	60.18%	39.82%	
Periodicals	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	671,248,976	636,373,766	346,339,531	68.90%	156,329,760	31.10%	346,339,531	324,909,445	51.60%	48.40%	
In-County	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	737,409,113	710,314,810	406,225,464	70.28%	171,765,892	29.72%	406,225,464	331,183,649	55.09%	44.91%	
Dest Entry	FY24Q2 SPLY	120,276,330	114,852,975	7,342,828	6.40%	112,933,502	93.60%	7,342,828	112,933,502	6.40%	93.60%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	112,154,540	104,803,791	8,354,572	7.45%	103,449,219	92.55%	8,354,572	103,449,219	7.45%	92.55%		
Outside County	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	550,972,646	521,520,791	338,996,703	65.00%	182,523,913	35.00%	338,996,703	211,975,943	61.53%	38.47%	
Dest Entry	FY24Q2 SPLY	625,254,573	605,511,019	397,870,892	65.63%	227,383,681	36.37%	397,870,892	227,383,681	63.63%	36.37%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	406,038,318	406,038,318	276,784,802	68.17%	129,253,516	31.83%	276,784,802	129,253,516	68.17%	31.83%		
Package Services	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	463,625,806	463,625,806	328,371,525	70.83%	135,254,281	29.17%	328,371,525	135,254,281	70.83%	29.17%	
BPM Flats	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	144,934,328	144,934,328	62,211,901	42.92%	82,722,427	57.08%	62,211,901	82,722,427	42.92%	57.08%	
Dest Entry	FY24Q2 SPLY	161,628,767	161,628,767	69,499,367	43.00%	92,129,400	57.00%	69,499,367	92,129,400	43.00%	57.00%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	35,218,482	34,800,497	8,253,838	23.44%	26,964,644	76.56%	8,253,838	26,964,644	23.44%	76.56%		
Package Services	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	27,797,172	27,162,029	8,309,420	30.23%	19,487,752	69.77%	8,309,420	19,487,752	29.89%	70.11%	
BPM Flats	Combined Entry Types	FY24Q2 SPLY	35,218,482	34,800,497	8,253,838	37.43%	13,800,266	62.57%	8,253,838	26,964,644	23.44%	76.56%	
Dest Entry	FY24Q2 SPLY	27,797,172	27,162,029	8,309,420	51.17%	7,928,403	48.83%	8,309,420	19,487,752	29.89%	70.11%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	31,543,040	31,543,040	7,801,711	24.73%	23,741,329	75.27%	7,801,711	23,741,329	24.73%	75.27%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	24,466,311	24,466,311	7,779,348	31.80%	16,686,963	68.20%	7,779,348	16,686,963	31.80%	68.20%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	3,675,442	3,675,442	452,127	12.30%	3,223,315	87.70%	452,127	3,223,315	12.30%	87.70%		
End-to-End	FY24Q2 SPLY	3,330,861	3,330,861	530,072	15.91%	2,800,789	84.09%	530,072	2,800,789	15.91%	84.09%		

Appropriations Bill Offers “Concerns” About USPS

Congressional politicians continue to signal their displeasure over aspects of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s 10 Year Plan insofar as it impacts processing facilities.

The latest example is the statement of the House Committee on Appropriations contained in its report on the *Financial Services And General Government Appropriations Bill, 2025*, approved by the committee on June 13. Some were local issues – the need for a post office or ZIP Codes not aligned with municipal boundaries – but others are matters to which the PMG might want to pay attention, including

“Postal Consolidations. ... The Committee is concerned with the USPS’s aggressive approach to consolidating processing and distribution centers into local processing centers and the notification and justification provided to customers and postal workers. Early consolidations in Richmond, VA and Atlanta, GA have already encountered setbacks, such as reduced mail service performance and unexpected cost overruns. With planned consolidations like Fayetteville, AR, and Reno, NV, that propose to transport mail across state lines, the Committee is deeply concerned about the potential negative impacts on mail service to the American

people, customer satisfaction, and cost overruns potentially undermining the goals outlined in the DFA plan.

“Processing and Distribution Centers.—In recent years, USPS has announced the downsizing of several processing and distribution centers to local processing centers. The Committee remains concerned that these consolidations have contributed to reduced services and harmed postal performance. The Committee encourages the USPS to halt any realignment, consolidation, or partial consolidation of processing or logistics facilities that provide services to postal districts that at any point over the past calendar year have failed to meet 93% on-time delivery performance for two-day single-piece First-Class mail and 90.3% on-time delivery performance for three- to five-day First-Class mail.

“Facility Modernization.—USPS shall communicate clearly planned network modernization activities and take appropriate steps to protect against service disruptions that could impact elections.

“Postal Office Locations.—The Committee is concerned that many cities, including the City of Eastvale, California currently lacks a post office within city boundaries, causing significant disruptions to mail services for residents. No later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Committee directs the United States Postal

Service to report to the Committee on metrics used to determine the construction or acquisition of new postal facilities. Additionally, the report should include a comprehensive analysis related to the construction or acquisition of a new post office in the City of Eastvale.

“Mail Theft.”—The Committee continues to remain concerned about mail theft in the United States and the adverse impact it is having on postal customers, including extended disruptions of regular service and theft of personally identifiable information. The Committee also recognizes that the current process for victims of mail theft in some localities places an undue burden on customers.

“Postal Public Safety.”—The Committee continues to remain very concerned about mail theft and violence against mail carriers and other postal employees. The Committee urges the Postal Service to remove restrictions implemented in 2020 preventing Postal Police Officers from fully executing their duty to ensure public safety and mail security, and protect postal assets within the Nation’s mail system, whether on postal property or beyond the perimeter of postal property.

“Accurate Address Listing.”—The Committee looks forward to reviewing the report directed in H.R. 118–145 that directed the USPS to conduct an internal review on the numerous instances, nationwide, where assigned zip-codes overlap municipal jurisdictions resulting in multiple city listings or incorrect listings. Additionally, the Committee looks forward to suggested solutions that

could be utilized to ensure proper designations in the future, including options to designate a single, unique zip code for jurisdictions affected by this issue including Miami Lakes, FL.

“Mail Theft Notifications.”—The Committee reminds the USPS of the importance of notifying the public when it is evident that their mail has been stolen. Timely notifications can help mail theft victims take actions to prevent identity theft, fraud, and other crimes. The Committee urges the USPS to make these notifications a priority.

“Modernized Passport Acceptance Services Pilot Program.”—The Committee notes that the USPS plays a leading role in processing passports. The current process is susceptible to evolving risks posed by potential image manipulations and document fraud. The Committee urges USPS to carry out pilot programs (in at least five rural zip codes and at least five non-rural zip codes) utilizing self-service kiosks offering live portrait capture and direct electronic submission.

“USPS Recruitment and Retention.”—The Committee is concerned about the impact of workforce shortages on timely delivery of mail and directs USPS to brief the Committee within 90 days of enactment on significant barriers to recruitment and retention.”

The many instructions in the report indicate that members of Congress remain attentive to the USPS, particularly facility changes related to the 10-Year Plan. Whether the PMG will stay his course or take the hint remains to be seen.

All the Official Stuff

Federal Register

Postal Service

NOTICES

June 11: Sunshine Act Meetings, 49245-49246.

June 12: International Product Change [2]: Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, and First-Class Package International [2], 49920, 49921.

June 13: Product Change [35]: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreement [28], 50383, 50384, 50384, 50384, 50385, 50385, 50385, 50385, 50385, 50386, 50386, 50386, 50386, 50387, 50387, 50387, 50387, 50388, 50388, 50388, 50388, 50388, 50389, 50389, 50389, 50389, 50390; Priority Mail and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreement [7], 50383, 50384, 50384, 50386, 50387, 50388, 50389.

PROPOSED RULES

June 14: Securing Bundles of Flats, 50542-50543.

FINAL RULES

June 10: New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products, 49056-49079.

Postal Regulatory Commission

NOTICES

June 4: New Postal Products, 48001-48002.

June 5: New Postal Products, 48202.

June 6: New Postal Products, 48448-48449.

June 7: New Postal Products, 48694.

June 11: New Postal Products, 49245.

June 12: New Postal Products [2], 49919, 49920.

June 13: New Postal Products, 50382-50383.

June 17: New Postal Products [2], 51378, 51379.

PROPOSED RULES

[None].

FINAL RULES

[None].

DMM Advisory

[None].

Postal Bulletin (PB 22652, June 13)

- Effective **July 1**, Labeling Lists L001, L009, L011, L012, L201, L606, and L607 are revised to reflect changes in mail processing operations. Mailers are expected to label according to these revised lists for mailings inducted on or after the July 1, 2024, effective date through the August 31, 2024, expiration date. For an online listing of changes, see postalpro.usps.com/operations/labeling-lists/changes-july-2024.
- Effective **July 14**, USPS will engage in enhanced post-acceptance examination efforts to enforce customs declaration form requirements for mail sent to or from addresses at any overseas Military Post Office (MPO). This includes any Army Post Office (APO) for the US Army or US Air Force, any Fleet Post Office (FPO) for the US Navy or US Marine Corps, and to or from addresses at any Diplomatic Post Office (DPO), in accordance with DMM 608.2.4.4 and 703.2.3.6 through 703.2.3.8. Mail sent between these locations that weighs 16 ounces or more (regardless of contents, value, shape, or mail class) or that contains a good (regardless of weight, shape, or mail class) must bear a properly completed, computer-generated customs declaration form. Additionally, data associated with the customs form must be electronically transmitted to USPS using USPS-approved software. Except for certain mail under existing exemptions specified in DMM section 703.2.3.9, overseas APO, FPO, and DPO mail that is not in compliance with these customs requirements will be returned to sender beginning July 14, 2024. Any changes to the exemptions specified in DMM 703.2.3.9 will be set forth in a final rule to be published later.
- Effective **June 13**, the IMM Individual Country Listing for Belarus is revised to note that Belarus is implementing changes to customs duties and taxes on the import of goods addressed to a private individual.
- Effective **June 13**, the IMM Individual Country Listing for Indonesia is revised to revise a prohibition and to add a restriction on certain items mailed to Indonesia.
- Effective **June 13**, Publication 431, *Post Office Box Service and Caller Service Fee Groups*, is revised to include the listed changes.

USPS Industry Alerts

June 3, 2024

Webinar on Mail Growth Incentives Overview of the Postage Credit Claim Process Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 3 PM ET

The Postal Service is offering the First-Class Mail and Marketing Mail Growth Incentives during calendar year 2024. Registration opened on November 29, 2023, and will close on June 30, 2024. Both incentives are running concurrently from January 1 through December 31, 2024. The Mail Growth Incentive program offers Mail Owners the opportunity to earn postage credits provided they meet specific requirements. Steven Mills, Director, Product Management Mailing Services, will lead a webinar to provide an overview of the Postage Credit Claim Process of the Mail Growth Incentives on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 3pm ET. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions during the webinar via the chat box. Please note: If you are unable to attend the webinar, the presentation will be recorded and posted, along with additional information, on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/msi>. To join: Please click the link below to join the webinar: <https://usps.zoomgov.com/j/1600303912?pwd=NW8zb3RpVmFwOEdRSUNoQ1ZlY1lLQT09;Passcode:929936>. Or One tap mobile : US: +15033361236,,1600303912#,,,,*929936# or +1952-229-5070,,1600303912#,,,,*929936# or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 503 336 1236 or +1 952-229-5070 or +1 650-581-7094 or +1 855-860-4313 or +1 678 317 3330. Webinar ID: 160 030 3912; Passcode: 929936. International numbers available: <https://usps.zoomgov.com/u/acUyLYnEyR>. Or an H.323/SIP room system: H.323: sip.zoomgov.com; Meeting ID: 160 030 3912; Passcode: 929936; SIP: 1600303912@sip.zoomgov.com; Passcode: 929936.

June 6, 2024

Chief Commerce and Business Solutions Officer and Executive Vice President Announces Retirement

Jacqueline (Jakki) Krage Strako, Chief Commerce and Business Solutions Officer and Executive Vice President (CCBSO), has announced her intent to retire from the Postal Service on July 12, 2024, after 34 years of exemplary service. Jakki began her career with the United States Postal Service as an Industrial Engineer at Headquarters in 1989. Jakki served in several executive roles to include Area Manager of Operations Support and the Area Finance Manager in the Great Lakes area. In all her roles, Jakki has leveraged her passion for process, analytics, and finance which prepared her for larger leadership roles. During Jakki's distinguished career, she has served in many key Officer roles. In 2012, Jakki was appointed to her first Officer position as the Area Vice President of Great Lakes. Jakki was responsible for a workforce of over 61,000 employees, 20 plants, and 3,500 post offices, that served 36 million customers across five states. In 2018, Jakki was appointed Chief Customer and Marketing Officer where she was responsible for leading five organizations: Sales and Customer Relations, Global Business, Product Innovation, Customer Experience, and Marketing. In this role, she drove corporate strategies and initiatives to increase revenue, strengthen relationships with mailers and shippers, and the innovation of new products, services and solutions while instilling a customer-centric culture. Jakki's experiences prepared her for her most recent role, Chief Commerce and Business Solutions Officer and Executive Vice President, which she was appointed to in 2020. She was instrumental in the launch of USPS Connect suite of solutions, development, and implementation of Ground Advantage, redefining our channel strategy and implementing Connect eCommerce, creating solution selling processes, driving product simplification for our customers and product improvements to align to network modernization cost reduction initiatives. Her deep understanding of operations, passion for providing customer-centric solutions, and ability to drive transformational change made these initiatives successful and set the stage for the future.

June 10, 2024

Updates and Reminder for Payment Required Prior to Shipment of Domestic Mail Packages

As part of our commitment to improve efficiency, improve security, and enhance visibility and transparency for our customers, the US Postal Service is issuing an industry alert updating customers on changes to the non-payment metric emails and reminding customers of the upcoming webinars about payment check process taking effect August 1, 2024. Updates: Non-Payment Metric Emails: The Non-Payment Metric Email has been updated to include information regarding a customer's quality shipper score; The Frequently Asked Questions section has been updated with additionally answered questions from customers. Reminder: August 1, 2024: All WebTools customers must migrate to the USPS API platform. USPS APIs can be found at <https://developer.usps.com/>; Available APIs may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/apis>; Instructions for enrolling in USPS APIs can be found at <https://developer.usps.com/getting-started>; The Domestic Label API may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/api/71>; The International Label API may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/api/75>. All shippers must provide payment documentation prior to entry of packages. The Postal Service will begin enforcement of payment documentation and any packages that do not have valid payment documentation prior to entry are considered abandoned and subject to interception and destruction.

Upcoming Webinars: • June 13 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST; Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_21OifeqLSR6kaLF1iJ9FxFQ; Meeting ID: 161 040 9133; Password: 970190. • June 20 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST; Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_RhDk0xekSwio4maRgLrwEg; Meeting ID: 160 888 9606; Password: 09104. • July 11 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST; Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5_nnYdOcQBAPVkk-Q_8saQ; Meeting ID: 160 209 5233; Password: 262085. Join Audio by the options below: Call using Internet Audio; Dial: 1-855-860-4313, 1-678-317-3330, or 1-952-229-5070 & follow prompts.

What will be covered: Proper manifest and file submissions; USPS systems and processes; Quality mailer scoring; Next steps and communications. Why: Effective August 1, 2024, all shippers must provide payment documentation prior to entry of packages. The Postal Service will begin enforcement of payment documentation and any packages that do not have valid payment documentation prior to entry are considered abandoned and subject to interception and destruction. As a reminder, all mailers must pre-pay postage, fees, and charges for extra services before the mailing is accepted by the US Postal Service and processed in a US Postal Service facility. Additional Links: Counterfeit Postage and Fraud Prevention Information | PostalPro (usps.com).

June 11, 2024

Labeling Lists L601 Correction

Please be aware that effective June 5, 2024, modifications were made to the L601 Labeling Lists. In the June 1st Labeling Lists release, the L601 was published with a duplicate 3-digit MXD record for every 3-digit NDC. Corrections have been made to remove the duplicate 3-digit MXD record from the L601 and to properly reflect only the 3-digit NDC in the L601. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact labellist.ncsc@usps.gov.

June 12, 2024

Area Vice President of Retail and Delivery Operations, Central Area Announces Retirement

Eric E. Henry, Area Vice President of Retail and Delivery Operations, Central Area, has announced he will be retiring from the Postal Service on June 30, 2024, after 35 years of exemplary service. Eric will continue to lead the Central Area through the end of the month and will spend the next three weeks transitioning with Michael Rakes who will serve as the acting Area Vice President, effective July 1, 2024. Eric began his career with the United States Postal Service as a Casual Employee in 1989. He has served in several executive roles to include District Manager and Area Manager of Delivery Program Support, which positioned him to lead one of the most successful Areas during his time as the Central Area Vice President. Throughout Eric’s distinguished career, he was responsible for overseeing operations including delivery, customer service, and administrative functions that served approximately 76 million customers, spanning over 815,000 square miles in 14 states. This included more than 33.6 million delivery points and 11,571 Post Office facilities. During his tenure as the Area Vice President, he led the Central Area Retail and Delivery team in driving performance improvement and service excellence—moving his Area from last in the country to the number one spot for six consecutive quarters. Eric has a passion for leading and growing leaders and invested his own personal time to ensure the safety and growth of the employees within his organization. He has been a champion for our customers – leveraging technology and analytics to improve the customer experience. Eric was instrumental in the development of several national processes and tools to improve the retail and delivery organization’s ability to analyze and improve key performance indicators across the country. His contributions were no less than stellar as he worked to ensure his team was equipped with the right people and resources to execute the Delivering for America plan and to deliver to the communities we serve.

June 12, 2024

JULY PRICE CHANGE 2024 – REMINDER: Scheduled Commercial System Releases June 30, 2024

On Sunday, June 30, 2024, the United States Postal Service has scheduled software updates in support of July-Price Change-2024 (effective July 14, 2024). The following Commercial Systems are impacted: PostalOne System Release 60.0.0.0; Program Registration Release 27.0.0.0; Facility Access and Shipment Tracking (FAST) Release 62.0.0.0; Business Intelligence Data Store (BIDS) Release 55.2.0.0; Seamless Acceptance and Service Performance (SASP) Release 31.2.0.0; EPS/eBill (eBilling) Release 6.3.0.0. During the cited timeframe, there will be a brief impact to USPS Returns and Outbound service data feeds via Informed Visibility-Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR).Based on assessments of forecasted volume, it is anticipated impacted data will be current no later than end of day on the same day [Sunday, July 14, 2023]. However, following standard protocol - data processing will be monitored; and updated status assessments provided. REMINDER: PostalOne System Release 60.0.0.0 includes a new REQUIRED Mail.dat client. After implementation activities conclude, users should download Mail.dat client 60.0.0.0_PROD from the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) using the following path: Mailing Services > Electronic Data Exchange [Go to Service] > Mail.dat download (Windows 32-bit, Windows 64-bit or Solaris). Please reference the July 2024 Pre-Release Notes document posted to PostalPro @ July 2024 Price Change Release Notes | PostalPro (usps.com). We apologize for any inconvenience. All Business Service Administrators (BSAs) should alert their impacted stakeholders. During normal business hours M-F (7:00 AM CT – 5:00 PM CT), please direct any inquiries or concerns to the IV Solutions Center via eMail [InformedVisibility@usps.gov] or telephone [800.238.3150, Option 2].

June 14, 2024

Business Customer Gateway eDoc Training Series – Business Customer Gateway (BCG)/ Postal Wizard (PW)

The Postal Service is hosting bi-weekly webinars on utilizing the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) for electronic documentation (eDoc) and postage statement submission. The topics alternate between using the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) / Postal Wizard (PW) and Intelligent Mail for Small Business (IMsb) Tool applications. Learn how to eliminate hard copy postage statements and submit Full-Service mail! Software customers should work with their software provider to find eDoc solutions. As an additional tool to assist mailers with the conversion to Electronic Postage Statement submission, the Postal Service has published a video outlining how to use the Business Customer Gateway and Postal Wizard postage statement submission available on PostalPro: Industry Session: Business Customer Gateway and Postal Wizard Recording | PostalPro (usps.com). Also, a recording of the IMsb Tool session has been posted on PostalPro: Industry Session: Intelligent Mail Small Business (IMsb) Tool Recording | PostalPro (usps.com). Upcoming webinars: June 18, Business Customer Gateway (BCG)/ Postal Wizard (PW); July 2, Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb); July 16, Business Customer Gateway (BCG)/ Postal Wizard (PW) June 4, Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb). Join us for the next session – Business Customer Gateway (BCG)/ Postal Wizard (PW) on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 1:00 PM EST. Meeting URL: <https://usps.zoomgov.com/j/1603767418?pwd=TTFONWNVVMXQ2UW1wcUVc-cEt5WFILZz09>; Meeting ID: 160 376 7418; Password: 996767. If requested, enter your name and email address; Enter meeting password: 996767. Join Audio by the options below: Call using Internet Audio; Dial: 1-855-860-4313, 1-678-317-3330 or 1-952-229-5070 & follow prompts. Note: Meeting links and presentations are also posted on PostalPro and can be found at Mailing Services | PostalPro (usps.com).

Calendar

To register for any Mailers Hub webinar, go to [MailersHubWebinars.com](https://mailershub.com/webinars)

June 18 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

July 9 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

July 14-17 – NACUMS Educational Conference, Austin (TX)

July 30 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

August 13-14 – MTAC Meeting, USPS Headquarters

August 20 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

September 10-12 – Printing United Expo, Las Vegas (NV)

September 17 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**


October 1 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

October 15 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

October 22-23 – MTAC Meeting, USPS Headquarters

November 12 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

December 3 – **Mailers Hub Webinar**

 <p>BRANN & ISAACSON ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW</p>	<p>The services of Brann & Isaacson are now available to provide legal advice to subscribers. The firm is the Mailers Hub recommended legal counsel for mail producers on legal issues, including tax, privacy, consumer protection, intellectual property, vendor contracts, and employment matters. As part of their subscription, Mailers Hub subscribers get an annual consultation (up to one hour) from Brann & Isaacson, and a reduced rate for additional legal assistance. The points of contact at Brann & Isaacson are: Martin I. Eisenstein; David Swetnam-Burland; Stacy O. Stitham; Jamie Szal. They can also be reached by phone at (207) 786-3566.</p>
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USPS PROPOSED RULE – Securing Bundles of Flats

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Securing Bundles of Flats

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is proposing to amend *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) to modify the requirements for securing bundles of flats.

DATES: Submit comments on or before July 15, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to the Director, Product Classification, US Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4446, Washington, DC 20260-5015. If sending comments by email, include the name and address of the commenter and send to PCFederalRegister@usps.gov, with a subject line of "Securing Bundles of Flats." Faxed comments are not accepted.

You may inspect and photocopy all written comments, by appointment only, at USPS Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor North, Washington, DC 20260. These records are available for review on Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm, by calling 202-268-2906.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Kennedy at (202) 268-6592 or Doriane Harley at (202) 268-2537.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Currently, the standards in DMM section 203.4.5 require bundles of flats to be secured with banding, shrink-wrap, or shrink-wrap plus one or more bands. Additionally, it allows the use of rubber bands and twine/string as banding materials on bundles of flats.

The Postal Service is proposing to amend the standards in DMM section DMM 203.4.4 to include an exemption for mailings of 500 flat-sized pieces or fewer entered at the BMEU from bundle preparation. Applicable mailings may be prepared loose in flat trays instead of in bundles. The Postal Service is also proposing to amend the standards in sections 203.4.5, 203.4.8, and 203.4.9 to require all bundles of flats to have two or more cross-strapped bands or be shrink-wrapped with two or more cross-strapped bands and to eliminate the use of rubber bands and twine/string for securing bundles of flats. Additionally, section 245.9.5(d) would be amended to reflect that shrink-wrapped multi carrier route bundles require two or more cross-strapped bands.

The Postal Service is proposing to implement this change effective August 18, 2024.

We believe that the proposed revisions will enable the Postal Service to process bundled flats in a more efficient manner.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c)) regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 USC 410(a), the Postal Service invites public comment on the proposed revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes if our proposal is adopted.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, the Postal Service proposes the following changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (see 39 CFR 111.1):

PART 111 – [AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 USC 552(a); 13 USC 301-307; 18 USC 1692-1737; 39 USC 101, 401-404, 414, 416, 3001-3018, 3201-3220, 3401-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3629, 3631-3633, 3641, 3681-3685, and 5001.

2. Revise the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as follows:

Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

200 Commercial Letters, Cards, Flats, and Parcels

203 Basic Postage Statement, Documentation, and Preparation Standards

4.0 Bundles

[Revise the title of 202.4.4 to read as follows:]

4.4 Exception to Bundle Preparation--Full Letter and Flat Trays and Small Flat Mailings

[Add a sentence at the end of 4.4 to read as follows:] *** In mailings of 500 or fewer flat-sized pieces, mailers are not required to prepare bundles and may place said pieces loose in flat trays.

4.5 Securing Bundles of Flats

Bundles must be able to withstand normal transit and handling without breakage or injury to USPS employees, and are subject to the following requirements:

[Revise the text of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. Bundles must be secured with two or more cross-strapped bands or shrink-wrapped with two or more cross-strapped bands. Banding includes plastic bands, and similar material. Use of wire or metal banding is not permitted.

USPS PROPOSED RULE – Securing Bundles of Flats

[Delete current item (b) in its entirety]

[Renumber item (c) as item (b); then revise the text to read as follows:]

- b. Bundles must be cross-strapped (encircle the length and girth of the bundle at least once). Additional bands may be used if none lies within 1 inch of any bundle edge.

[Add a new item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. Rubber bands and twine/string are not permitted to use as banding to secure bundles.

4.8 Preparing Bundles in Sacks and Flat Trays

In addition to following the standards in 4.5 through 4.7, mailers must prepare bundles placed in flat trays and sacks as follows: ***

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. Bundles of pieces with covers of “coated stock” (glossy covers) that are not individually enclosed in an envelope or mailing wrapper must be secured with at least two plastic straps or with shrink-wrap plus two plastic straps and must not exceed 6 inches in height.

4.9 Preparing Bundles on Pallets

In addition to general bundling standards in 4.1, bundles on pallets must meet the following standards:

[Revise item 4.9(a) to read as follows:]

- a. Bundles must be secured with appropriate banding or shrink-wrap supplemented by two or more bands. Banding includes plastic bands (recommended) or similar material.

245 Mail Preparation

9.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Flats

9.5 Multi Carrier Routes Bundle

A mailer may combine individual eligible bundles of USPS Marketing Mail Enhanced Carrier Route basic price mail into a multi carrier routes bundle of the same 5-digit ZIP Code under these conditions: ***

[Revise the text of item 9.5(d) to read as follows:]

- d. The multi carrier routes bundle must be secured with at least two cross-strapped bands, one around the length and one around the girth, or shrink-wrapped with two or more cross-strapped bands.

Christopher Doyle, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

USPS FINAL RULE – New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: On April 9, 2024, the Postal Service (USPS) filed a notice of mailing services price adjustments with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC), effective July 14, 2024. This final rule contains the revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)* to implement the changes coincident with the price adjustments and other DMM changes.

DATES: Effective July 14, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Doriane Harley at (202) 268-2537 or Dale Kennedy at (202) 268-6592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 30, 2024, the PRC favorably reviewed the price adjustments proposed by the Postal Service. The price adjustments and DMM revisions are scheduled to become effective on July 14, 2024. Final prices are available under Docket No. R2024-2 (Order No. 7155) on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website at www.prc.gov.

Different Additional Ounce Rates for First-Class Mail Flats

Currently, First-Class Mail flats incur a first ounce price and a uniform additional ounce price that is applied at each level from the second to the thirteenth ounce. The Postal Service will implement a change to allow the Pricing department to provide a distinct price at each ounce increment.

USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped – Separating Lightweight and Heavyweight Rate Categories

The Postal Service will implement a change that will divide some USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces into two distinct pricing categories, lightweight (0 to 4 ounces) and heavyweight (from above 4 ounces up to 16 ounces). Lightweight pieces will continue to have only a piece-price component, with dropship discounts available for different entry points. Heavyweight pieces will have per-piece and per-pound price components, the per-pound components apply to the entire weight of the piece, with per-pound dropship discounts available for different entry points.

Business Reply Mail (BRM) Simplification

The Postal Service will incentivize Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM) customers to enroll in Intelligent Mail Barcode Accounting (IMbA) by waiving annual account maintenance and quarterly fees and by reducing the per-piece fee. Customers who link current QBRM permits to an Enterprise Payment Account (EPA) and successfully complete the onboarding process will have subsequent annual and quarterly fees waived and receive a reduced QBRM IMbA per-piece fee.

Elimination of Simple Samples (Product Samples)

The Postal Service will eliminate Simple Samples, also referred to as Product Samples, as a product offering due to low customer usage. Alternative, economical products are available.

Catalog Price Incentive – Marketing Mail and Bound Printed Matter

The Postal Service will revise the mailpiece requirements for catalogs and offer a price incentive to mailers who mail catalogs that meet these revised requirements. The incentive and revisions will apply to all USPS Marketing Mail products except for EDDM-Retail and to Bound Printed Matter flats and parcels.

Enlarge Maximum Size for Plus One

The Postal Service will increase the maximum size for Plus One mailpieces to 6" x 11".

Adding Optional Preparation Standards to USPS Marketing Mail Carrier Route Automation Letters

The Postal Service will implement an optional tray preparation for High Density and High Density Plus letters. This optional tray preparation will allow mail preparers to combine multiple mail owner's eligible HD and HD+ letters with 5-digit letters in one tray to reduce the volume of residual trays entered in the mailstream.

Matching Nomenclature & Classification Standards to Network Redesign

New Network Future State Nomenclature Mapping – Under Phase 1 of the Postal Service network future state, the Postal Service is revising the DMM to provide site mapping nomenclature for facilities (e.g., NDC/RPDC). Phase 1 will not include site mapping in the *Quick Service Guides (QSGs)* or revisions to destination entry pricing nomenclature or labeling lists. In some cases where there is overlapping of nomenclature in the DMM for market dominant and competitive products (e.g., DMM 705.8.0) the site mapping nomenclature is included in the *Federal Register* Notice for the domestic competitive products price change.

Mail Growth Incentives Continuation in Calendar Year 2025

For calendar year 2024, the Postal Service introduced two new incentives designed to promote the growth of First-Class Mail (the "First-Class Mail Growth Incentive") and USPS Marketing Mail (the "Marketing Mail Growth Incentive"). The effective dates of both incentives is January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The Postal Service will continue both incentives for calendar year 2025.

2025 Promotions

The Postal Service has been incenting mailers to integrate mobile technology and use innovative print techniques in commercial mail since 2012. These promotions have become an integral way for industry to try new things and innovate their mail campaigns. A 2025 Promotions Calendar is planned with opportunities for mailers to receive a postage discount by applying treatments or integrating technology in their mail campaigns.

These revisions will provide consistency within postal products and add value for customers.

Market Dominant Comments on Proposed Changes and USPS Responses

The Postal Service did not receive any formal comments on the April 2024 proposed rule (89 FR 27330-27353).

The Postal Service adopts the described changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)*, incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, the Postal Service amends *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)*, incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations* as follows (see 39 CFR 111.1):

PART 111 – [AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

USPS FINAL RULE – New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

Authority: 5 USC 552(a); 13 USC 301-307; 18 USC 1692-1737; 39 USC 101, 401-404, 414, 416, 3001-3018, 3201-3220, 3401-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3629, 3631-3633, 3641, 3681-3685, and 5001.

2. Revise the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)* as follows:

Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

100 Retail Mail Letters, Cards, Flats, and Parcels

140 USPS Marketing Mail Flats Every Door Direct Mail-Retail (EDDM-Retail)

145 Mail Preparation

1.0 Preparation of EDDM-Retail Flats

1.1 General Information

[Revise the text of 1.1 to read as follows:] All pieces mailed as EDDM-Retail mailings must be bundled under 1.3 and presented directly to the correct delivery Post Office or destination delivery unit (DDU)/Sorting & Delivery Center (S&DC), or mailed to the DDU/S&DC via Priority Mail under 146.

146 Enter and Deposit

1.0 Basic Options

1.1 Entry at Delivery Post Office

[Revise the text of 1.1 to read as follows:] All EDDM-Retail mailings must be entered directly at the Post Office (or DDU/S&DC) responsible for the Post Office Box or carrier route delivery for which the mailing is prepared, or shipped to that Post Office under 1.2.

200 Commercial Mail Letters, Cards, Flats, and Parcels

201 Physical Standards

4.0 Physical Standards for Flats

4.1 General Definition of Flat Size Mail

[Delete item (d) and renumber item (e) as (d):]

[Delete section 201.4.9 titled "Catalogs" in its entirety]

8.0 Additional Physical Standards by Class of Mail

8.4 USPS Marketing Mail Parcels

8.4.2 Marketing Parcels

[Delete item (e) in its entirety]

203 Basic Postage Statement, Documentation, and Preparation Standards

3.0 Standardized Documentation for First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Flat-Size Bound Printed Matter

3.2 Format and Content

For First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Bound Printed Matter, standardized documentation includes:

d. For bundles on pallets, list these required elements:

[Revise item d(4) to read as follows:]

4. Separate columns with the number of pieces for each price reported in the mailing, and a continuous running total of pieces (group information either in ZIP Code order and by sortation level or by sortation level and within each sortation level, by ZIP Code). Document SCF/LPC, ADC/RPDC, or NDC/RPDC pallets created as a result of bundle reallocation under 705.8.11, 705.8.12, or 705.8.13 by designating the protected pallet with an identifier of "PSCF" (for an SCF/LPC pallet), "PADC" (for an ADC/RPDC pallet), or "PBMC" (for a NDC/RPDC pallet). These identifiers are required to appear only on the USPS Qualification Report; they are not required on pallet labels or on any other documentation.

3.6 Detailed Entry Listing for Periodicals

3.6.3 Entry Abbreviations

Use the price name or the authorized entry abbreviation in the listings in 3.0 and 207.17.4.2:

[Revise the list in 3.6.3 to read as follows:]

Zone abbreviation	Price equivalent
ICD	In-County, DDU
IC	In-County, All Others
DDU/S&DC	Outside-County, DDU
SCF/LPC (letters/flats)	Outside-County, DSCF
SCF/RPDC (parcels)	Outside-County, DSCF
ADC/RPDC	Outside-County, DADC
OC	Outside-County, All Others

3.7 Bundle and Container Reports for Outside-County Periodicals Mail

USPS FINAL RULE – New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

3.7.2 Outside-County Container Report

The container report must contain, at a minimum, the following elements: * * *

[Revise item (d) to read as follows]

d. Container entry level (origin, DDU/S&DC, DSCF/LPC (letters/flats), DSCF/RPDC (parcels), DADC/RPDC, or DNDC/RPDC). * * *

4.0 Bundles

4.6 Address Visibility for Flats and Parcels

[Revise item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Bundles of mailpieces at carrier route prices entered at a destination delivery unit (DDU) or Sorting & Delivery Center (S&DC). * * *

[Revise the heading of 4.10 to read as follows:]

4.10 Additional Standards for Unsacked/Untrayed Bundles Entered at DDU/S&DC Facilities

[Revise the introductory text of 4.10 to read as follows:] Mailers may enter unsacked, untrayed, or nonpalletized bundles of carrier route, Periodicals, or USPS Marketing Mail flats and unsacked Bound Printed Matter (BPM) flats or irregular parcels (BPM only) at destination delivery units (DDUs)/sorting & distribution centers (S&DCs) if all the following conditions are met:

[Revise the text of item 4.10(b) to read as follows:]

b. Mailers must enter bundles at DDUs/S&DCs according to the appropriate deposit and entry standards (e.g., 207.23.4.2 for Periodicals, 246 for USPS Marketing Mail flats).

5.0 Letter and Flat Trays

5.5 Letter Tray Strapping Exception

[Revise the second sentence of 5.5 to read as follows:] * * * If the processing and distribution manager gives a written waiver, strapping is not required for any mixed AADC or ADC letter tray of First-Class Mail or for any letter tray that originates and destines in the same SCF/LPC, ADC, or AADC (mail processing plant) service areas.

5.6 Use of Flat Trays

5.6.2 Preparation for Flats in Flat Trays

All flat tray preparation is subject to these standards:

[Revise item 5.6.2(h) to read as follows:]

h. Pieces prepared as automation flats under the tray-based preparation option in 235.8.0 do not have to be grouped by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix in ADC/RPDC trays or by ADC in mixed ADC trays if the mailing is prepared using an MLOCR/barcode sorter and standardized documentation is submitted.

[Revise the first sentence of 5.6.2(i) to read as follows:]

i. When pieces in a Periodicals mailing remain after one or more full trays are prepared for a 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, SCF/LPC, or ADC/RPDC destination, an additional tray to the destination must be prepared if the remaining pieces reach the required volume. * * *

6.0 Sacks

6.1 General Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 6.1 to read as follows:] Applicable mailings must be prepared in sacks. Containers for Customized MarketMail are specified in 705.1.0. The following additional standards apply:

7.0 Optional Endorsement Lines (OELs)

Exhibit 7.2.5 OEL Labeling Lists

[Revise the text of footnote 2 to read as follows:]

2. LO10 if mail entered by mailer at a destination ASF/RPDC or NDC/RPDC or for mail placed on an ASF/RPDC or NDC/RPDC pallet under 705.8.0.

207 Periodicals

2.0 Price Application and Computation

2.1.4 Applying Pound Price

Apply pound prices to the weight of the pieces in the mailing as follows:

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

b. In-County pound prices consist of a DDU/S&DC entry price and a non-DDU/S&DC entry price for eligible copies delivered to addresses within the county of publication.

2.1.9 Applying Outside-County Container Prices

[Revise the second sentence of 2.1.9 to read as follows:] * * * The container level is determined by the least-finely presorted bundle that container could contain according to standards (for example, an "SCF/LPC pallet" may contain SCF, 3-digit, 5-digit, and carrier route bundles and would always pay the 3-digit/SCF pallet price). * * *

17.0 Documentation

17.4 Detailed Entry Listing for Periodicals

USPS FINAL RULE – New Mailing Standards for Domestic Mailing Services Products

17.4.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the first sentence of 17.4.1 to read as follows:] The publisher must be able to present documentation that supports the number of copies of each edition of an issue, by entry level, at DDU/S&DC, DSCF/LPC (letters/flats), DSCF/RPDC (parcels), DADC, All Others, and In-County prices.***

17.4.2 Format

Using one of the following formats, report the number of copies mailed to each 3-digit ZIP Code area at entry prices:

[Revise the first sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. Report copies by zone (In-County DDU/S&DC, In-County others, Outside-County DDU/S&DC, Outside-County DSCF/LPC (letters/flats), Outside-County DSCF/RPDC (parcels), Outside-County DADC and Outside-County All Others) and by 3-digit ZIP Code, in ascending numeric order, for each entry level.***

17.4.3 Entry Abbreviations

Use the price name or the authorized entry abbreviation in the listings in 17.3 and 17.4.2.

[Revise the list in 17.4.3 to read as follows:]

Zone abbreviation	Price equivalent
ICD	In-County, DDU
IC	In-County, All Others
DDU/S&DC	Outside-County, DDU
SCF/LPC (letters/flats)	Outside-County, DSCF
SCF/RPDC (parcels)	Outside-County, DSCF
ADC/RPDC	Outside-County, DADC
OC	Outside-County, All Others

18.3 Presort Terms

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (o) through (q) to read as follows:]

- o. Origin/entry 3-digit(s): the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces begins with one of the 3-digit prefixes processed at the sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC [letters/flats]) or regional processing distribution center (RPDC [parcels]) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered.
- p. SCF: the separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC [letters/flats]) or regional processing distribution center (RPDC [parcels]) (see L005).
- q. Origin/entry SCF: the separation includes bundles for one or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC [letters/flats]) or regional processing distribution center (RPDC [parcels]) (see L002, Column C, or L005) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered.

18.4 Mail Preparation Terms

For purposes of preparing mail:

[Revise items (r) and (s) to read as follows:]

- r. An origin 3-digit (or origin 3-digit scheme) tray/sack contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for a 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area processed by the SCF/LPC (letters/flats)/RPDC (parcels) in whose service area the mail is verified. A separate tray/sack may be prepared for each 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area.
- s. An origin/entry SCF flat tray or sack contains all 5-digit and 3-digit bundles (regardless of quantity) for the SCF/LPC(letters/flats)/RPDC (parcels) in whose service area the mail is verified. At the mailer's option, such a flat tray/sack may be prepared for the SCF/LPC/RPDC area of each entry Post Office. This presort level applies only to nonletter-size Periodicals prepared in flat trays/sacks.

[Revise item (v) to read as follows:]

- v. Entry [facility] (or origin [facility]) refers to the USPS mail processing facility (for example, "entry SCF/LPC/RDPC") that serves the Post Office at which the mail is entered by the mailer. If the Post Office where the mail is entered is not the one serving the mailer's location (such as for plant-verified drop shipment), the Post Office of entry determines the entry facility.

[Revise item aa(1) to read as follows]

aa. Machinable flats are:

1. Flat-size pieces meeting the standards in 201.6.0 that are sorted into 5-digit, 3-digit, ADC/RPDC, and mixed ADC bundles. These pieces are compatible with processing on the AFSM 100.***

20.0 Sacks and Trays

20.1 Basic Standards

20.1.1 General

[Revise the text of 20.1.1 to read as follows:] Mailings must be prepared in letter trays (letters), flat trays (flats) under 22.7 and 25.5, or sacks (carrier route, 5-digit scheme cr-rt and 5-digit cr-rt flats, nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats, nonpalletized carrier route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin), nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin), and nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin), and all periodicals parcels). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. Palletized mail is subject to 705.8.0. See 203.5.0 and 203.6.0 for tray and sack standards.

20.1.2 Origin/Entry 3-Digit/Scheme Trays

[Revise the text of 20.1.2 to read as follows:] For letter-size Periodicals, after all finer sort levels are prepared, an origin/entry 3-digit (or for barcoded letters, 3-digit scheme) tray must be prepared for any remaining mail for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area serviced by the SCF/LPC serving the origin Post Office, and may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area served by the SCF/LPC where mail is entered (if different).

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20.1.3 Flats and Irregular Parcels – Origin/Entry SCF Sacks

[Revise text of 20.1.3 to read as follows:] For flats and irregular parcels, after all finer sort levels are prepared, an origin/entry SCF sack or flat tray (for flats) must be prepared for any remaining bundles for the 3-digit ZIP Code area(s) serviced by the SCF/LPC (letters/flats)/RPDC (parcels) serving the origin Post Office, and may be prepared for the area served by the SCF/LPC/RPDC/plant where mail is entered (if different).

22.0 Preparing Nonbarcoded (Presorted) Periodicals

22.4 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

- a. Place bundles in only 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays, as appropriate.
- b. Place bundles on only merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme, merged 5-digit, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC pallets.

22.6 Sack Preparation

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 22.6 to read as follows:] Sack preparation is allowed only for the following: Parcels; Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats; Nonpalletized carrier route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. For mailing jobs that also contain a barcoded mailing, see 22.1.2. For other mailing jobs, preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.***

[Revise introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. Origin/entry SCF/LPC, required for the SCF/LPC of the origin (verification) office, optional for the SCF/LPC of an entry office other than the origin office, (no minimum).***

[Revise the introductory text of item (e) to read as follows:]

- e. ADC/RPDC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.***

22.7 Tray Preparation – Flat-Size Nonbarcoded Pieces

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 22.7 to read as follows:] Mailers must place machinable and nonmachinable (26.0) flat-sized pieces in flat trays (203.5.6) instead of sacks, unless prepared as the following: Direct carrier route; 5-digit scheme carrier route; 5-digit carrier route (23.4.1, 705.9.0 and 705.10.0); Nonpalletized residual 5-digit entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier-route flats; Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); or nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). Bundling in flat trays is optional, and any bundles must be trayed and labeled separately from loose flats prepared in flat trays. The trays are subject to a container charge and any bundles are subject to a bundle charge. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling:

[Revise the introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.***

[Revise the introductory text of item (e) to read as follows:]

- e. Origin SCF/LPC (required) and entry SCF/LPC(s) (optional), no minimum, labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (f) to read as follows:]

- f. ADC/RPDC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.***

23.0 Preparing Carrier Route Periodicals

23.4 Preparation – Flat-Size Pieces and Irregular Parcels

23.4.2 Exception to Flat Traying and Sacking

[Revise the first sentence of 23.4.2 to read as follows:] Sacking or traying is not required for carrier route bundles entered at a DDU/S&DC when the mailer unloads bundles under 29.6.5.***

23.6 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise item 23.6(b) to read as follows:]

- b. Place bundles on only merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme carrier routes, merged 5-digit, 5-digit carrier routes, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC pallets.

25.0 Preparing Flat-Size Barcoded (Automation) Periodicals

25.1 Basic Standards

25.1.7 Exception – Barcoded and Nonbarcoded Flats on Pallets

[Revise the last sentence of 25.1.7(c) to read as follows:]

- c. *** The nonbarcoded price pieces that cannot be placed on ADC/RPDC or finer pallets may be prepared as flats in flat trays and paid for at non-barcoded prices.

25.1.8 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise items 25.1.8(a) through (d) to read as follows:]

- a. Place 5-digit and 3-digit bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC flat trays, as appropriate, that contain at least 24 pieces, or in merged 3-digit flat trays that contain at least one 6-piece carrier route bundle, or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays.
- b. Place 5-digit and 3-digit bundles on only merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme, merged 5-digit, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC pallets, as appropriate.
- c. Place 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 3-digit, and SCF/LPC flat trays, as appropriate, that contain at least 24 pieces, or in merged 3-digit flat trays that contain at least one 6-piece carrier route bundle, or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays.

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d. Place 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles on only 3-digit and SCF/LPC pallets, as appropriate.

25.4 Sacking and Labeling

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 25.4 to read as follows:] Sack preparation is allowed only for nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats, nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin), and nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. For mailing jobs that also contain a machinable nonbarcoded price mailing, see 25.1.9 and 705.9.0. Other mailing jobs are prepared, sacked, and labeled as follows:

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. SCF/LPC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces; fewer pieces not permitted; labeling:***

[Revise the Introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

d. Origin SCF/LPC (required) and entry SCF/LPC(s) (optional), no minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the Introductory text of item (e) to read as follows:]

e. ADC/RPDC, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces; fewer pieces not permitted; labeling:***

25.5 Tray Preparation – Flat-Size Barcoded Pieces

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 25.5 to read as follows:] Mailers must place machinable flats (under 201.6.0) in flats trays (see 24.0) instead of sacks, unless prepared as the following: Direct carrier route; 5-digit scheme carrier route; 5-digit carrier route; Nonpalletized residual 5-digit and entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats; Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); or nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). Mailers must group together all pieces for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, SCF/LPC, and ADC/RPDC destination. Bundling in flat trays is optional, and any bundles must be trayed and labeled separately from loose flats prepared in flat trays. The trays are subject to a container charge, and any bundles are subject to a bundle charge. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling:

[Revise the introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

d. SCF/LPC (required), 72-piece minimum, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (e) to read as follows:]

e. Origin SCF/LPC (required) and entry SCF/LPC(s) (optional), no minimum, labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (f) to read as follows:]

f. ADC/RPDC (required), 72-piece minimum, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted, no overflow tray allowed; labeling:***

28.0 Enter and Deposit

28.3 Exceptional Dispatch

28.3.2 Intended Use

[Revise the first sentence of 28.3.2 to read as follows:] The provision for exceptional dispatch is intended for local distribution (In-County and DDU/S&DC) of publications with total circulation of no more than 25,000 and is not to be used to circumvent additional entry standards.***

29.0 Destination Entry

[Revise the heading of 29.2 to read as follows:]

29.2 Destination Network Distribution Center/Regional Processing Distribution Center

29.2.1 Definition

[Revise the text of item 29.2.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, destination network distribution center (DNDC)/Regional Processing Distribution Center (RPDC) includes the facilities and ZIP Code ranges as noted in L601 and L602, or a USPS-designated facility.

29.2.2 Price Eligibility

DNDC container prices apply as follows:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

a. Pieces must be prepared in bundles or in sacks or trays on ADC/RPDC or more finely presorted pallets under 705.8.0.

b. Mailers may claim a DNDC container price if the facility ZIP Code (on Line 1 of the container label) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC or ASF at which the container is deposited, under L601 and L602.

29.3 Destination Area Distribution Center

29.3.2 Price Eligibility

Determine price eligibility as follows:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

a. Pound Prices. Outside-County pieces are eligible for DADC pound prices when placed on an ADC/RPDC or more finely presorted container, deposited at an ADC/RPDC (or USPS-designated facility), and addressed for delivery to one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes served by the facility where deposited. Automation pieces in AADC trays placed on optional SCF/LPC pallets under 705.8.10.2 are eligible for DADC prices when the 3-digit ZIP Code on the tray label is within that SCF/LPC/RPDC's service area according to L005.

b. Pieces must be prepared in bundles or in sacks or trays on ADC/RPDC or more finely presorted pallets under 705.8.0.

[Revise the heading of 29.4 to read as follows:]

29.4 Destination Sectional Center Facility/Local Processing Center

29.4.1 Definition

[Revise the text of 29.4.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC [letters/flats])/regional processing distribution center (RPDC [parcels]) includes the facilities listed in L005, or a USPS-designated facility.

29.4.2 Price Eligibility

Determine price eligibility as follows:

[Revise items (a) through (c) to read as follows:]

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- a. Pound Prices. Outside-County pieces are eligible for DSCF pound prices when placed on an SCF or more finely presorted container, deposited at the DSCF/LPC (letters/flats)/RPDC (parcels) or USPS-designated facility (see also 29.4.2b), and addressed for delivery within the DSCF/LPC/RDPC's service area. Nonletter-size pieces are also eligible when the mailer deposits 5-digit bundles at the destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) (the facility where the carrier cases mail for delivery to the addresses on the pieces) and the 5-digit bundles are in or on the following types of containers:
 1. A merged 5-digit scheme or merged 5-digit sack/flat tray.
 2. A merged 5-digit scheme, merged 5-digit, or 5-digit scheme pallet.
- b. Container Prices. Mailers may claim the DSCF container price for SCF and more finely presorted containers that are entered at and destined within the service area of the SCF/LPC/RPDC at which the container is deposited.
- c. Nonpalletized carrier route, 5-digit scheme carrier route, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit, or 3-digit flats may be prepared in sacks when entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container.

[Revise the heading of 29.5 to read as follows:]

29.5 Destination Delivery Unit/Sorting & Delivery Center

29.5.1 Definition

[Revise the text of 29.5.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, the destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) is the facility where the carrier cases mail for delivery to the addresses on the pieces in the mailing.

29.5.2 Price Eligibility

Determine price eligibility as follows:

[Revise items (c) and (d) to read as follows:]

- c. Container Prices. Outside-County mailers may claim a DDU container price for 5-digit scheme and more finely presorted containers that are entered at and destined within the service area of the DDU/S&DC at which the container is deposited.
- d. Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats remaining after a carrier route sortation may be prepared in sacks and deposited at the DDU/S&DC along with a carrier route mailing.

29.5.4 Deposit Schedule

[Revise the text of 29.5.4 to read as follows:] The mailer may schedule deposit of DDU/S&DC mailings at least 24 hours in advance by contacting the DDU/S&DC or through FAST, available at fast.usps.com. The mailer must follow the scheduled deposit time. The mailer may request standing appointments for renewable 6-month periods by written application to the DDU/S&DC. Mixed loads of Periodicals and other classes of mail require advance appointments for deposit. For mail entered under exceptional dispatch, the application for exceptional dispatch required under 28.3 also serves as a request for standing appointments.

235 Mail Preparation

1.0 General Definition of Terms

1.3 Terms for Presort Levels

1.3.1 Letters and Cards

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (f) and (g) to read as follows:]

- f. Origin/optional entry 3-digit(s): the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces begins with one of the 3-digit prefixes processed at the sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Subject to standard, a separation is required for each such 3-digit area regardless of the volume of mail.
- g. Origin/optional entry SCF: the separation includes bundles for one or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L002, Column C, or L005) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Subject to standard, this separation is required regardless of the volume of mail.

1.3.2 Flats

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (c) through (e) to read as follows:]

- c. Origin/optional entry 3-digit(s): the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces begins with one of the 3-digit prefixes processed at the sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Subject to standard, a separation is required for each such 3-digit area regardless of the volume of mail.
- d. ADC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same area distribution center (ADC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L004).
- e. Mixed ADC: the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one ADC/RPDC.

1.4 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail:

[Revise items (h) and (i) to read as follows:]

- h. An origin 3-digit (or origin 3-digit scheme) tray contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for a 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area processed by the SCF/LPC in whose service area the mail is verified. If more than one 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area is served, as indicated in L005, a separate tray must be prepared for each. A tray may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area served by the SCF/LPC/plant where mail is entered (if that is different from the SCF/LPC/plant serving the Post Office where the mail is verified). In all cases, only one less-than-full tray may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area.
- i. An origin AADC tray contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for an AADC ZIP Code area processed by the AADC or SCF/LPC in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Only one less-than-full tray may be prepared for each AADC area.

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[Revise item (l) to read as follows:]

- l. Entry [facility] (or origin [facility]) refers to the USPS mail processing facility that serves the Post Office at which the mail is entered by the mailer. If the Post Office where the mail is entered is not the one serving the mailer's location, the Post Office of entry determines the entry facility. Entry SCF/LPC includes both single-3-digit and multi-3-digit SCFs.

8.0 Preparation of Automation Flats

8.6 First-Class Mail Optional Tray-Based Preparation

Tray size, preparation sequence, and Line 1 labeling:

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. Origin 3-digit: required for each 3-digit ZIP Code served by the SCF/LPC of the origin (verification) office; no minimum; for Line 1, use L002, Column A for 3-digit destinations.

[Revise the first sentence of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. ADC: required (90-piece minimum); one less-than-full or overflow tray allowed; group pieces by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix; for Line 1, use L004 (ZIP Code prefixes in Column A must be combined and labeled to the corresponding ADC/RPDC destination shown in Column B). * * *

240 Commercial Mail USPS Marketing Mail

243 Prices and Eligibility

Overview

[Delete index listing 8.0 and renumber 9.0 as 8.0]

1.0 Prices and Fees

1.2 USPS Marketing Mail Prices

USPS Marketing Mail prices are applied as follows:

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. A price determined by adding the per piece charge and the corresponding per pound charge applies to any USPS Marketing Mail piece that weighs more than the following: Nonmachinable letters and flat-sized mailpieces that weigh more than 4.0 ounces, presorted Marketing Parcels and Irregular parcels that weigh more than 3.3 ounces, and machinable parcels that weigh more than 3.5 ounces.

[Delete item (c), renumber item (d) as (c), and add new item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. Items qualifying as a catalog under 601.10 are eligible for an incentive discount when appropriately identified on the postage statement and/or the eDoc.

1.5 Computing Postage for USPS Marketing Mail

1.5.4 Per Piece and per Pound Charges

[Revise the text of item 1.5.4 to read as follows:] The per piece charge is computed based on the total number of addressed pieces for each price category claimed. The minimum price may apply to each piece as detailed in 1.2. Otherwise, the per piece charge must be added to the per pound charge to determine total postage. Where applicable, the per pound charge is computed based on the total weight of the addressed pieces for each price category claimed and is added to the per piece charge to determine total postage. For example, a quantity of pieces weighing 100.25 pounds is charged 100.25 times the applicable price per pound, based on the price claimed, plus one unit of the applicable per piece charge for each addressed piece.

1.5.5 Computing Affixed Postage for Piece/Pound Price Mailpieces

[Revise the text of 1.5.5 to read as follows:] To compute postage to be affixed to each piece/pound price piece, multiply the weight of the piece (in pounds) by the applicable price per pound; add the applicable per piece charge and any surcharge; and round the sum up to the next tenth of a cent. See 244.2.0 for affixing postage.

2.0 Content Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

2.1 General

[Add a second sentence to 2.1 to read as follows:] * * * Mailpieces prepared as catalogs must meet the standards in 601.10.

3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

3.4 IMpb Standards

[Revise the first sentence of 3.4 to read as follows:] All USPS Marketing Mail parcels must bear an Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) prepared under 204.2.0. * * *

4.0 Price Eligibility for USPS Marketing Mail

4.1 General Information

[Revise the text of 4.1 to read as follows:] All USPS Marketing Mail prices are presorted prices (including all nonprofit prices). These prices apply to mailings meeting the basic standards in 2.0 through 4.0 and the corresponding standards for Presorted prices, Enhanced Carrier Route prices, and automation prices under 5.0 through 7.0, or Customized MarketMail prices under 243.8.0. Except for Customized MarketMail pieces, destination entry discount prices are available under 246.2.0 through 246.6.0. Nonprofit prices may be used only by organizations authorized by the USPS under 703.1.0. Not all processing categories qualify for every price. Pieces are subject to either a single minimum per piece price or a combined piece/pound price, depending on the weight of the individual pieces in the mailing.

4.2 Minimum per Piece Prices

The minimum per piece prices (the minimum postage that must be paid for each piece) apply as follows:

[Delete the next to the last sentence of item (c) that references Product Samples:]

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4.3 Piece/Pound Prices

[Revise the last sentence of 4.3 to read as follows:] * * * Flats that exceed 4 ounces are subject to a two-part piece/pound price that includes a fixed charge per piece and a variable pound charge based on weight.

4.4 Extra Services for USPS Marketing Mail

4.4.2 Ineligible Matter

Extra services (other than certificate of mailing service) may not be used for any of the following types of USPS Marketing Mail:

[Delete item (d) and renumber item (e) as item (d):]

5.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Nonautomation USPS Marketing Mail Letters, Flats, and Presorted USPS Marketing Mail Parcels

5.3 Price Application

[Revise the last sentence of 5.3 to read as follows:] * * * When parcels are combined under 245.11.0, 705.6.0, or 705.21.0, all pieces are eligible for the applicable prices when the combined total meets the eligibility standards.

5.4.3 AADC USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise text of 5.4.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to AADC-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.5.3 5-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.5.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 5-digit-eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3a to 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.5.5 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.5.5 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 3-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.5.7 ADC USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise text of 5.5.7 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to ADC-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.6 Nonautomation Price Application--Flats

5.6.2 5-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.6.2 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 5-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.6.4 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.6.4 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 3-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.6.5 ADC Prices for Flats

ADC prices apply to flat-size pieces:

[Revise item 5.6.5(a) to read as follows:]

a. In a 5-digit/scheme, 3-digit/scheme, or ADC bundle of 10 or more pieces properly placed in an ADC/RPDC flat tray (see 245.1.4).

[Revise item 5.6.5(c) to read as follows:]

c. When palletized under 705.8.0 and 705.10.0 through 705.13.0, in an ADC bundle of 10 or more pieces; properly placed on an ADC/RPDC pallet.

5.6.6 ADC USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 5.6.6 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to ADC-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

5.6.7 Mixed ADC Prices for Flats

[Revise the text of 5.6.7 to read as follows:] Mixed ADC prices apply to flat-size pieces in bundles that do not qualify for 5-digit, 3-digit, or ADC prices; placed in mixed ADC flat trays or on ASF/NDC/RPDC, or mixed NDC pallets under 705.8.0.

5.7 Prices for Machinable Parcels

5.7.1 5-Digit Price

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 5.7.1 to read as follows:] The 5-digit price applies to qualifying machinable parcels that are drop-shipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC and presented:

[Revise item 5.7.1(c) to read as follows:]

c. As one or more parcels that mailers drop ship to a DDU/S&DC under 246.5.2.3. * * *

5.7.2 NDC Price

The NDC price applies to qualifying machinable parcels as follows under either of the following conditions:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

a. When drop-shipped to an ASF/NDC/RPDC and presented:

- a. In an ASF/NDC/RPDC sack containing at least 10 pounds of parcels, or
- b. On an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet, according to standards in 705.8.10, or
- c. In an NDC/ASF/RPDC container prepared under 705.21.0.

b. When presented at the origin acceptance office on an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet containing at least 200 pounds of pieces.

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5.7.3 Mixed NDC Price

[Revise the text of 5.7.3 to read as follows:] The mixed NDC price applies to machinable parcels that are not eligible for 5-digit or NDC prices. Place machinable parcels at mixed NDC prices in origin NDC/RPDC sacks or on origin NDC/RPDC pallets, then in mixed NDC sacks or on mixed NDC pallets. See 245.11.3 and 705.8.10.

5.8 Prices for Irregular Parcels and Marketing Parcels

5.8.1 5-Digit Price

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 5.8.1 to read as follows:] 5-digit prices apply to irregular parcels and to Marketing parcels that are drop-shipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC and presented:

[Revise item 5.8.1(c) to read as follows:]

c. As one or more parcels that mailers drop ship to DDU/S&DC under 246.5.2.2.

5.8.2 SCF Price

[Revise the text of 5.8.2 in its entirety to read as follows:] SCF prices apply to irregular parcels and to Marketing parcels that are drop-shipped and presented to a DSCF, DNDC, or RPDC:

a. In an SCF/RPDC sack containing at least 10 pounds of parcels.

b. On an SCF/RPDC pallet, according to 705.8.10.

c. In SCF/RPDC containers prepared under 705.21.0.

5.8.3 NDC Price

NDC prices apply to irregular parcels and to Marketing parcels as follows under either of the following conditions:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

a. When drop-shipped to an ASF/NDC/RPDC and presented:

1. In an ASF/NDC/RPDC sack containing at least 10 pounds of parcels, or

2. On an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet, according to standards in 705.8.10, or

3. In a NDC/ASF/RPDC container prepared under 705.21.0.

b. When presented at the origin acceptance office on an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet containing at least 200 pounds of pieces.

5.8.4 Mixed NDC Price

[Revise the text of 5.8.4 to read as follows:] Mixed NDC prices apply to irregular parcels and to Marketing parcels in origin NDC/RPDC or mixed NDC containers that are not eligible for 5-digit, SCF, or NDC prices. Place parcels at mixed NDC prices in origin NDC/RPDC or mixed NDC sacks under 245.11.4.3 or on origin NDC/RPDC or mixed NDC pallets under 705.8.10.

6.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail Letters and Flats

6.1 General Enhanced Carrier Route Standards

6.1.2 Basic Eligibility Standards

All pieces in an Enhanced Carrier Route or Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail mailing must:

[Add new item (j) to read as follows:]

j. Meet the standards in 245.6.10 for High Density and High Density Plus automation letter mailings prepared using the optional 5-digit tray preparation.

6.3 Basic Price Enhanced Carrier Route Standards

6.3.3 Basic Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.3.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to Basic Carrier Route-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3a to 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.3.6 Basic Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.3.6 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to Basic Carrier Route-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.4 High Density and High Density Plus (Enhanced Carrier Route) Standards – Letters

6.4.1 Additional Eligibility Standards for High Density and High Density Plus Prices

[Revise the first sentence of 6.4.1 to read as follows:] In addition to the general eligibility standards in 6.1, high density and high density plus letter-size mailpieces must be in a full carrier route tray or in a carrier route bundle of 10 or more pieces placed in a 5-digit carrier routes or 3-digit carrier routes tray unless prepared using the standards in 245.6.10.***

6.4.3 High Density and High Density Plus USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.4.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to High Density- and High Density Plus-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3a to 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.5.3 High Density Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-Digit/Direct Container (High Density-CR Bundles/Container Discount Eligibility) – Flats

[Revise the text of 6.5.3 to read as follows:] The High Density-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to 125 or more High Density-eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit merged, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 5-digit scheme carrier route pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, DSCF/LPC, or DDU/S&DC entry or in a carrier route sack or flat tray under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU/S&DC.

6.5.4 High Density Plus Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-Digit/Direct Container (High Density Plus-CR Bundles/Container Discount Eligibility) – Flats

[Revise the text of 6.5.4 to read as follows:] The High Density Plus-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to 300 or more High Density Plus-eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 a 5-digit merged, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 5-digit scheme carrier route pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, DSCF/LPC, or DDU/S&DC entry, or in a carrier route sack or tub under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU/S&DC.

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6.5.5 High Density USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.5.5 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 125 or more High Density-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.5.6 High Density Plus USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.5.6 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 300 or more High Density Plus-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.6 Saturation ECR Standards – Letters

6.6.3 Saturation USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.6.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to at least 90 percent or more of the total number of active residential addresses, or 75 percent or more of the total number of active possible delivery addresses, on each carrier route that are palletized under 705.8.10.3a to 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

6.7 Saturation Enhanced Carrier Route Standards – Flats

6.7.3 Saturation--(including EDDM) Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-Digit/Direct Container (Saturation-CR Bundles/Container Discount Eligibility) – Flats

[Revise the text of 6.7.3 to read as follows:] The Saturation-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to at least 90 percent or more of the total number of active residential addresses or 75 percent or more of the total number of active possible delivery addresses on each carrier route that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit merged, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 5-digit scheme carrier route pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, DSCF/LPC, or DDU/S&DC entry, or in a carrier route sack or tub under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU/S&DC.

6.7.4 Saturation USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 6.7.4 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to at least 90 percent or more of the total number of active residential addresses, or 75 percent or more of the total number of active possible delivery addresses, on each carrier route that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.0 Eligibility Standards for Automation USPS Marketing Mail

7.3 Maximum Weight for Automation Letters

7.3.2 5-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 7.3.2 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 5-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3a to 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.3.3 AADC USPS Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 7.3.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to AADC-eligible USPS Marketing Mail letter-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.4 Price Application for Automation Letters

7.4.2 5-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 7.4.2 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 5-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3d, 705.8.10.3e, and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.4.3 3-Digit USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise the text of 7.4.3 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to 3-digit-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

7.4.4 ADC USPS Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped Pieces SCF Pallet Discount Eligibility

[Revise 7.4.4 to read as follows:] The SCF pallet discount applies to ADC-eligible USPS Marketing Mail flat-shaped pieces that are palletized under 705.8.10.3e and 705.8.10.3f and entered at Origin (None), DNDC/RPDC, or DSCF/LPC entry.

[Delete section 243.8.0 in its' entirety and renumber 243.9.0 as 8.0, 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 respectively]

[Newly renumbered section 8.0]

8.0 Customized MarketMail

8.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the last sentence of renumbered 8.1 to read as follows:] * * * CMM must be entered at a destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC).

245 Mail Preparation

Overview

[Delete index listing 12.0 and renumber 13.0 as 12.0]

1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

1.2 Definition of Mailings

Mailings are defined as:

[Delete items b(5) and b(6) and renumber items b(7) through b(10) as b(5) through b(8) respectively:]

1.3 Terms for Presort Levels

1.3.1 Letters

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

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[Revise items (f) through (h) to read as follows:]

- f. Origin/entry 3-digit(s): the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces begins with one of the 3-digit prefixes processed at the sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Separation is optional for each such 3-digit area. Mail may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area served by the SCF/LPC/plant where mail is entered (if that is different from the SCF/LPC/plant serving the Post Office where the mail is verified – e.g., a PVDS deposit site). In all cases, only one less-than-full tray may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area.
- g. SCF: the separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L005), except that, where required or permitted by standard, mail for a single 3-digit area may be prepared in an SCF separation when no mail for other 3-digit ZIP Code areas is available. For pallets, the SCF sort may include mail for a single 3-digit ZIP Code area.
- h. Origin/optional entry SCF: the separation includes bundles for one or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L002, Column C, or L005) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Subject to standard, this separation is required regardless of the volume of mail.

[Revise item (j) to read as follows:]

- j. ASF/NDC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same auxiliary service facility (ASF) or network distribution center (NDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L601, L602, or L605).***

1.3.2 Flats

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (j) through (o) to read as follows:]

- j. Origin/entry 3-digit(s): the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces begins with one of the 3-digit prefixes processed at the sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Separation is optional for each such 3-digit area.
- k. SCF: the separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L005), except that, where required or permitted by standard, mail for a single 3-digit area may be prepared in an SCF separation when no mail for other 3-digit ZIP Code areas is available. For pallets, the SCF sort may include mail for a single 3-digit ZIP Code area.
- l. Origin/optional entry SCF: the separation includes bundles for one or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) (see L002, Column C, or L005) in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Subject to standard, this separation is required regardless of the volume of mail.
- m. When palletized under 705.8.0 and 705.10.0 through 705.13.0, in an ADC bundle of 10 or more pieces; properly placed on an ADC/RPDC pallet.
- n. ASF/NDC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same auxiliary service facility (ASF)/network distribution center (NDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L601, L602, or L605).
- o. When palletized under 705.8.0 and 705.10.0 through 705.13.0, in an ADC bundle of 10 or more pieces; properly placed on an ADC/RPDC pallet.

1.3.3 Marketing Parcels

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Delete item (a), renumber items (b) through (i) as (a) through (h) respectively, and revise newly renumbered items (d) through (g) to read as follows:]

- d. SCF: the separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L005), except that, where required or permitted by standard, mail for a single 3-digit area may be prepared in an SCF separation when no mail for other 3-digit ZIP Code areas is available. For pallets, the SCF sort may include mail for a single 3-digit ZIP Code area.
- e. ASF/NDC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same auxiliary service facility (ASF)/network distribution center (NDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L601, L602, or L605).
- f. Origin NDC: this separation includes all pieces addressed for delivery to ZIP Codes within the same NDC/RPDC (see L601) that serves the acceptance office that verifies the mailing. There is no minimum quantity requirement for this separation.
- g. Mixed [NDC, ADC, etc.]: the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one NDC/ADC/RPDC, etc.***

1.4 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail:

[Revise items (r) and (s) to read as follows:]

- r. An origin 3-digit (or origin 3-digit scheme) tray for letters and flats contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for a 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area processed by the SCF/LPC in whose service area the mail is verified. A separate tray may be prepared for each 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area. A tray may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area served by the SCF/LPC/plant where mail is entered (if that is different from the SCF/LPC/plant serving the Post Office where the mail is verified). In all cases, only one less-than-full tray may be prepared for each 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area.
- s. An origin AADC tray contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for an AADC ZIP Code area processed by the AADC or SCF/LPC in whose service area the mail is verified/entered. Only one less-than-full tray may be prepared for each AADC area.

[Revise item (v) to read as follows:]

- v. Entry [facility] (or origin [facility]) refers to the USPS mail processing facility (e.g., “entry NDC/RPDC”) that serves the Post Office at which the mail is entered by the mailer. If the Post Office where the mail is entered is not the one serving the mailer’s location (e.g., for plant-verified drop shipment), the Post Office of entry determines the entry facility. Entry SCF/LPC (letter and flats) and Entry SCF/RPDC (parcels) includes both single-3-digit and multi-3-digit SCFs. Entry NDC/RPDC includes subordinate ASFs unless otherwise specified.

[Revise the last sentence of item (y) to read as follows:]

- y. *** For pallets, 2,800 pounds of mail may be destined to an SCF/LPC (letters and flats) or SCF/RPDC (parcels) destination, and these would form the “logical” SCF pallet, but the mail is placed on two physical SCF pallets each weighing 1,400 pounds because of the 2,200 pound maximum pallet weight requirement.***

2.0 Bundles

2.2 Marketing Parcels

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2.2.1 Bundling

[Revise the text of 2.2.1 to read as follows:] Bundling is not permitted.

[Delete item 2.2.2 in its entirety]

3.0 Letter Trays, Flat Trays, and Sacks

[Revise the text of 3.0 to read as follows:] Letter mailings must be prepared in letter trays with sleeves. Flat mailings must be prepared in flat trays or sacks (carrier route, 5-digit scheme carrier route and 5-digit carrier route only) except when permitted to be prepared in letter trays under other applicable standards in this section. Parcel mailings must be prepared in sacks. Containers for Customized MarketMail are specified in 245.13.5. See 203.5.0 and 203.6.0 for tray and sack standards.

5.0 Preparing Nonautomation Letters

5.3 Machinable Preparation

5.3.2 Traying and Labeling

[Revise item (c1) to read as follows:]

c. Mixed AADC (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. Line 1: L011, Column B. Use L010, Column B, if entered at an ASF/NDC/RPDC or for mail placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC, or SCF/LPC pallet under the option in 705.8.10.3.***

5.4 Nonmachinable Preparation

5.4.2 Traying and Labeling

[Revise item (d1) to read as follows:]

d. Mixed ADC (required); no minimum; labeling:

1. Line 1: L011, Column B. Use L010, Column B, if entered at an ASF/NDC/RPDC or for mail placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC, or SCF/LPC pallet under the option in 705.8.10.3.***

6.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Letters

6.7 Traying and Labeling for Automation-Compatible ECR Letters

[Add a new 6th sentence (before Preparation Sequence . . .) to the text of 6.7 to read as follows:] *** (See 6.10 for Optional 5-digit Tray Preparation).***

[Add a new section 6.10 to read as follows]

6.10 Optional 5-Digit Tray Preparation for High Density and High Density Plus ECR Automation Compatible Letters

6.10.1 Basic Standards

An optional 5-digit tray preparation allows combining multiple mail owners' High Density, High Density Plus, and 5-digit automation compatible letters in a letter tray when meeting the following standards:

- a. Each individual mail owner must meet the minimum quantities in 243.6.4.2 for High Density and High Density Plus to claim HD/HD+ prices with a minimum combined 150 pieces of 5-Digit, HD or HD Plus in a 5-Digit tray.
- b. The separate requirement of 150 pieces for 5-digit is waived.
- c. The minimums must be achieved by a single mail owner defined by their individual MID and/or CRID in the By/For of the eDoc for each carrier route.
- d. Walk Sequencing is not required within the letter trays.
- e. Bundling and facing slips are not required.
- f. Must meet the High Density and High Density Plus marking requirements in 6.2.
- g. The Optional Tray Preparation must be used for entire mailing within eDoc.

6.10.2 Traying and Labeling

Mailers must make full 5-digit trays for automation-compatible, delivery-point barcoded letters that weigh up to 3.5 ounces and that meet the standards of 6.10.1. Bundling or facing slips are not required. Preparation sequence, tray size, and labeling:

- a. Same Carrier Route to same 5-Digit; full trays only.
 1. Line 1: city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail
 2. Line 2: "STD LTR BC"
- b. Multiple Carrier Routes to same 5-Digit; full trays only.
 1. Line 1: city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail
 2. STD LTR 5D MXD CR-RTS BC

7.0 Preparing Automation Letters

7.5 Tray Preparation

[Revise item (c) to read as follows:]

c. Mixed AADC: required (no minimum); group pieces by AADC when overflow pieces from AADC trays are placed in mixed AADC trays. For Line 1 labeling: use L011, Column B. Use L010, Column B if entered at an ASF/NDC/RPDC or for mail placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC, or SCF/LPC pallet under the option in 705.8.10.3.

8.0 Preparing Nonautomation Flats

8.6 Traying, Sacking, and Labeling

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 8.6 to read as follows:] Flat trays are allowed for all sortations. Sack preparation is allowed only for the following: Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats; Nonpalletized carrier route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and nonpalletized 3-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. All other sortations require flat tray preparation.

Preparation sequence and labeling: ***

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10.0 Preparing Automation Flats

10.4 USPS Marketing Mail Bundle and Flat Tray Preparation

10.4.3 Traying, Sacking, and Labeling

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 10.4.3 to read as follows:] Sack preparation is allowed only for the following: Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at a DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats; Nonpalletized carrier route flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); Nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin); and nonpalletized 3-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. All other sortations require flat tray preparation. Preparation sequence and labeling:

11.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

11.3 Preparing Marketing Parcels (6 Ounces or More) and Machinable Parcels

11.3.1 Sacking

[Revise the text of 11.3.1 to read as follows:] Prepare mailings of Marketing parcels weighing 6 ounces or more and mailings of machinable parcels under 11.3. Prepare 5-digit sacks only for parcels drop-shipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF/RPDC when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC. Prepare ASF/NDC/RPDC sacks only for parcels drop-shipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices). There is no minimum for parcels in 5-digit/scheme sacks entered at a DDU/S&DC. Mailers combining irregular parcels with machinable parcels placed in 5-digit/scheme sacks must prepare those sacks under 11.3.2a. Mailers combining Marketing parcels weighing 6 ounces or more with machinable parcels placed in ASF/NDC/RPDC, or mixed NDC sacks must prepare the sacks under 11.3.2.

11.3.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

[Revise the introductory text of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional, but required for 5-digit price), see definition in 1.4n.; allowed only for mail deposited at DNDC/RPDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC. Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU/S&DC entry which has no minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (b) to read as follows:]

b. ASF (optional), allowed only for mail deposited at an ASF/RPDC to claim DNDC price; 10-pound minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. NDC, allowed only for mail deposited at a DNDC/RPDC to claim the NDC price; 10-pound minimum; labeling:***

e. Mixed NDC (required); no minimum; labeling:

[Revise item (e1) to read as follows:]

1. Line 1: "MXD" followed by L601, Column B information for NDC/RPDC serving 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of entry Post Office.***

11.4 Preparing Marketing Parcels (Less Than 6 Ounces) and Irregular Parcels

11.4.1 Bundling

[Revise the text of 11.4.1 to read as follows:] Bundling is not permitted.

11.4.2 Sacking

[Revise the text of 11.4.2 to read as follows:] Prepare mailings of Marketing parcels weighing less than 6 ounces and mailings of irregular parcels under 11.4. Prepare 5-digit sacks only for parcels drop-shipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF/RPDC when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC. See 11.4.3 for restrictions on SCF/ASF/NDC/RPDC sacks. Mailers must prepare a sack when the mail for a required presort destination reaches 10 pounds of pieces. There is no minimum for parcels prepared in 5-digit/scheme sacks entered at a DDU/S&DC. Mailers combining irregular parcels with machinable parcels and Marketing parcels weighing 6 ounces or more in 5-digit/scheme sacks must prepare those sacks under 11.3.2. Mailers may not prepare sacks containing irregular and machinable parcels to other presort levels. Mailers may combine irregular parcels with Marketing parcels weighing less than 6 ounces in sacks under 11.4.3.

11.4.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

[Revise the introductory text of item (a) to read as follows:]

a. 5-digit/scheme (optional, but required for 5-digit price), see definition in 1.4n.; allowed only for mail deposited at DNDC/RPDC (or ASF/RPDC when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RPDC, or DDU/S&DC. Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU/S&DC entry which has no minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (b) to read as follows:]

b. SCF, allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF/RPDC or a DNDC/RPDC to claim SCF price; 10-pound minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. ASF (optional), allowed only for mail deposited at an ASF/RPDC to claim DNDC price; 10-pound minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

d. NDC, allowed only for mail deposited at a DNDC/RPDC to claim the NDC price; 10-pound minimum; labeling:***

f. Mixed NDC (required); no minimum; labeling:

[Revise item (f1) to read as follows:]

1. Line 1: "MXD" followed by L601, Column B information for NDC/RPDC serving 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of entry Post Office.***

[Delete section 12.0 in its entirety and renumber section 13.0 as 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4,12.5 and 12.6 respectively:]

246 Enter and Deposit

2.0 Destination Entry

2.5 Verification

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2.5.3 At NDC

[Revise the text of 2.5.3 to read as follows:] For a mailing verified at a NDC/RPDC, the Post Office where the mailer's account or license is held must be within the service area of that NDC/RPDC. The Post Office must authorize the NDC/RPDC to act as its agent by sending Form 4410 to the NDC/RPDC.

2.5.5 Volume Standards

Except as permitted for a local mailer under 2.6.13, destination entry mailings are subject to these volume standards:

[Revise item (a) to read as follows:]

- a. The pieces for which a destination price is claimed must represent more than 50% of the mail (by weight or pieces, whichever is greater) presented by the same mailer within any 24-hour period. For this standard, mailer is the party presenting the mail to the USPS.***

2.6 Deposit

2.6.3 Appointments

Appointments must be made for destination entry price mail as follows:***

[Revise the first sentence of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. For deposit of DDU/S&DC mailings, an appointment must be made by contacting the DDU/S&DC or through FAST, available at fast.usps.com, at least 24 hours in advance.***

2.6.4 Advance Scheduling

[Revise the introductory text of 2.6.4 to read as follows:] Mailers must schedule appointments for deposit of destination entry price mail under 2.6.3 and the conditions below. When making an appointment, or as soon as available, the mailer must provide the DDU/S&DC or FAST with the following information:

[Revise the last sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. *** For DDU/S&DC entries, the mailer also must provide the 5-digit ZIP Code(s) of the mail being deposited.

2.6.5 Adherence to Schedule

[Revise the last sentence of 2.6.5 to read as follows:] *** Destination facilities may refuse acceptance or deposit of unscheduled mailings or shipments that arrive more than 2 hours after the scheduled appointment at ASFs, NDCs/RPDCs, or SCFs/LPCs or more than 20 minutes at delivery units.

2.6.6 Redirection by USPS

[Revise the text of 2.6.6 to read as follows:] A mailer may be directed to transport destination entry price mailings to a facility other than the designated DDU/S&DC, SCF/LPC (letters/flats), SCF/RPDC (parcels) or NDC/RPDC due to facility restrictions, building expansions, peak season mail volumes, or emergency constraints.

2.6.7 Redirection at Mailer's Request

[Revise the text of 2.6.6 to read as follows:] A mailer may ask to transport destination SCF/LPC (letters/flats) or SCF/RPDC (parcels) price mail to a facility other than the designated SCF/LPC/RPDC. In very limited circumstances, this exception may be approved only by the manager, Network Integration Support (see 608.8.0 for address). To qualify for the SCF price in this situation, mail deposited at a facility other than the SCF/LPC/RPDC must destinate for processing within that facility and must not require backhauling to the SCF/LPC/RPDC.

2.6.9 Vehicle Unloading

Unloading of destination entry mailings is subject to these conditions:

[Revise the first sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

- a. Properly prepared containerized loads (e.g., pallets) are unloaded by the USPS at NDCs/RPDCs, ASFs, and SCFs/LPCs.***

[Revise the first sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. At NDCs/RPDCs, ASFs, and SCFs/LPCs, the driver must unload bedloaded shipments within 8 hours of arrival.***

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. At destination delivery units (DDUs)/sorting & delivery centers (S&DCs), drivers must unload all mail within 1 hour of arrival. Unloading procedures are as follows:***

[Revise item (c4) to read as follows:]

4. At DDUs/S&DCs that cannot handle pallets, drivers must unload any mail from pallets and place it into containers as delivery unit employees specify.***

[Revise the heading of 3.0 to read as follows:]

3.0 Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC)/Regional Processing Distribution Center (RPDC) Entry

3.1 Definition

[Revise the text of 3.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, destination network distribution center (DNDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) includes network distribution centers (NDCs), regional processing distribution centers (RPDCs), and auxiliary service facilities (ASFs) with terms and exceptions as shown and described in labeling lists L601 and L602.

3.2 Eligibility

[Revise the text of 3.2 to read as follows:] Pieces in a mailing that meets the standards in 2.0 and 3.0 are eligible for DNDC prices when they are deposited at an NDC/RPDC or ASF and meet all of the following conditions:

- a. The pieces are addressed for delivery to one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes served by the NDC/ASF/RPDC where deposited (see labeling lists L601 and L602).
- b. The pieces are properly placed in a tray, sack, or pallet that is labeled to the NDC/ASF/RPDC where deposited, or labeled to a postal facility within the service area of that NDC/ASF/RPDC.
- c. Mail addressed to ZIP Codes served by an ASF/RPDC must be entered at the appropriate ASF per L602, and not entered at an NDC/RPDC.
- d. If bundles of flats are reallocated from an ASF pallet to an NDC/RPDC pallet under 705.8.14, mail for the ASF ZIP Codes that is on the NDC/RPDC pallet is not eligible for DNDC prices.
- e. Except for machinable parcels addressed to ZIP Codes served by the Buffalo NY ASF, mail addressed to ZIP Codes served by an ASF/RPDC must be entered at the appropriate ASF per L602, and not entered at an NDC/RPDC.

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3.3 Eligibility for ADC Mailpieces – Letters

[Revise the text of 3.3 to read as follows:]

All pieces in an ADC sack or tray are eligible for the DNDC discount if the ADC facility ZIP Code (as shown on Line 1 of the corresponding container label) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC or ASF at which the tray is deposited, as described in labeling lists L601 and L602. All pieces in a palletized ADC bundle are eligible for DNDC prices if the ADC facility destination (determined by the “Label To” ZIP Code in Column B of labeling list L004) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC or ASF at which deposited according to L601 and L602.

3.4 Eligibility for Mixed ADC Bundles, Trays, or Mixed AADC Trays – Letters

[Revise the introductory text of 3.4 to read as follows:] Mailpieces in a mixed ADC or a mixed AADC tray can qualify for DNDC prices when entered at a NDC/RPDC/ASF or SCF/LPC facility responsible for the processing of those trays (see 705.8.10.3e.), if the following standards are met:

[Revise item 3.4(a) to read as follows:]

- a. All pieces in the bundle or tray must destinate within the ASF or NDC/RPDC service area as described in labeling lists L601 and L602.* * *

* * * * *

3.5 Eligibility for ADC Mailpieces – Flats

[Revise the text of 3.5 to read as follows:] All pieces in an ADC sack or tray are eligible for the DNDC discount if the ADC facility ZIP Code (as shown on Line 1 of the corresponding container label) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC or ASF at which the sack or tray is deposited, as described in labeling lists L601 and L602. All pieces in a palletized ADC bundle are eligible for DNDC prices if the ADC facility destination (determined by the “Label To” ZIP Code in Column B of labeling list L004) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC or ASF at which deposited according to L601 and L602.

3.6 Eligibility for Mixed ADC Bundles, Sacks or Trays – Flats

Mailpieces in a mixed ADC bundle, sack, or tray can qualify for DNDC prices if the following standards are met:

[Revise item 3.6(a) to read as follows:]

- a. All pieces in the bundle, sack, or tray must destinate within the ASF/NDC/RPDC service area as described in labeling lists L601 and L602.

* * * * *

3.7 Additional Standards for Machinable Parcels

[Revise the first sentence of 3.7 to read as follows:] For destination NDC/ASF/RPDC containers, except as provided in labeling lists L601 and L602, sortation of machinable parcels to ASFs is optional but is required for the ASF mail to be eligible for DNDC prices.* * *

3.8 Vehicles

[Revise the text of 3.8 to read as follows:] Mailings deposited at a DNDC/RPDC must be presented in vehicles compatible with NDC/RPDC dock and yard operations.

3.9 Form 4410

[Revise the text of 3.9 to read as follows:] Mailings may be deposited at the DNDC/RPDC only if that facility is authorized (by Form 4410) to act as acceptance agent for the entry Post Office (where the meter license, precanceled stamp permit, or permit imprint authorization is held). Form 4410 is not required for plant-verified drop shipments.

[Revise the heading of 4.0 to read as follows:]

4.0 Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF)/Local Processing Center (LPC) Entry

4.1 Definition

[Revise the text of 4.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC) refers to the facilities listed in L002, Column C.

4.2 Eligibility

4.2.1 Letters

Pieces in a mailing that meet the standards in 2.0 and 4.0 are eligible for DSCF prices under either 4.2.1a. or 4.2.1b. below:

[Revise item 4.2.1(a) to read as follows:]

- a. When deposited at a DSCF/LPC or USPS-designated facility, and either:
1. Placed in a tray labeled to a destination within the SCF's/LPC's service area, when all pieces in the tray are addressed for delivery within that SCF's/LPC's service area.
 2. Placed in an ADC or AADC tray labeled to a destination within the SCF's/LPC's service area, regardless of whether all pieces in the tray are addressed for delivery within that SCF's/LPC's service area.

[Revise the introductory text of 4.2.1(b) to read as follows:]

- b. When entered and deposited at a DDU/S&DC, addressed for delivery within that facility's service area, placed in a tray labeled to that DDU/S&DC, and either:

* * * * *

[Revise item 4.2.1(b2) to read as follows:]

2. The mailer holds a mailing permit at the DDU/S&DC entry office and deposits only one mailing of fewer than 2,500 pieces per day.

4.2.2 Flats

Pieces in a mailing that meets the standards in 2.0 and 4.0 are eligible for the DSCF price, as follows:

[Revise items (a) through (c) to read as follows:]

- a. When deposited at a DSCF/LPC or USPS-designated facility, addressed for delivery within the DSCF's/LPC's service area, and placed in a flat tray, sack (when applicable), or on a pallet labeled to the DSCF/LPC or to a destination within its service area. This includes flat trays labeled to an ADC facility with the same service area as the DSCF/LPC.
- b. When prepared in 5-digit bundles and placed in or on a merged 5-digit scheme or merged 5-digit flat tray, sack (when applicable), or pallet that is deposited at the destination delivery unit/sorting & delivery center as defined in 5.1.
- c. When prepared as nonpalletized carrier route, 5-digit scheme carrier route, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit, or 3-digit flats in sacks entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container.

4.2.3 Parcels

Pieces in a mailing that meets the standards in 2.0 and 4.0 are eligible for the DSCF price, as follows:

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

- a. When deposited at a DSCF/RPDC or USPS-designated facility, addressed for delivery within the DSCF's/RPDC's service area, and placed in a sack or on a pallet that is labeled to the DSCF/RPDC or to a destination within its service area.
- b. When prepared in 5-digit bundles and placed on a 5-digit pallet or in a 5-digit scheme or 5-digit sack that is deposited at the destination delivery unit/sorting & delivery center as defined in 5.1.* * *

* * * * *

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4.3 Vehicles

[Revise the text of 4.3 to read as follows:] Mailings deposited at a DSCF/LPC (letters/flats) or DSCF/RPDC (parcels) must be presented in vehicles that are compatible with SCF/LPC/RPDC dock and yard operations.

[Revise the heading of 5.0 to read as follows:]

5.0 Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)/Sorting & Delivery Center (S&DC) Entry

5.1 Definition

[Revise the text of 5.1 to read as follows:] For this standard, destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) refers to the facility designated by the USPS district drop shipment coordinator (for automation price USPS Marketing Mail) or the facility (Post Office, branch, station, etc.) where the carrier cases mail for delivery to the addresses on pieces in the mailing (for other USPS Marketing Mail).

5.2 Eligibility

5.2.1 Letters

[Revise the last sentence of the introductory text of 5.2.1 to read as follows:] * * * Mailers may deposit letter-size pieces that meet the standards in 2.0 and 5.0 at a DDU/S&DC when: * * *

5.2.2 Flats

[Revise the text of 5.2.2 to read as follows:] Properly prepared Enhanced Carrier Route (ECR) flat-size pieces entered according to standards in 2.0 and 5.0 are eligible for the DDU price when deposited at a DDU/S&DC and addressed for delivery within that facility's service area. Mailers must unload mail at DDUs/S&DCs according to standards in 2.6.9. Only pieces eligible for and claimed at ECR prices are eligible for the DDU discount. No other prices or discounts are available for pieces receiving the DDU discount. When mailings contain pieces claimed at more than one destination entry price, mailers must separate mail according to standards in 2.5.1. Nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats remaining after a carrier route sortation may be prepared in sacks and deposited at the DDU/S&DC along with a carrier route mailing.

5.2.3 Parcels

[Revise text of 5.2.3 to read as follows:] Pieces in a mailing that meets the standards in 2.0 and 5.0 are eligible for the DDU price when deposited at a DDU/S&DC, addressed for delivery within that facility's service area, and prepared as one or more parcels in 5-digit containers.

260 Commercial Mail Bound Printed Matter

263 Prices and Eligibility

1.1 Nonpresorted Bound Printed Matter

[Add new item 263.1.1.3 to read as follows:]

1.1.3 Catalog Incentive Discount

Items qualifying as a catalog under 601.10 are eligible for an incentive discount when appropriately identified on the postage statement and/or the eDoc.

1.2 Presorted and Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter

[Add new item 263.1.2.8 to read as follows:]

1.2.8 Catalog Incentive Discount

Items qualifying as a catalog under 601.10 are eligible for an incentive discount when appropriately identified on the postage statement and/or the eDoc.

2.0 Content Standards for Bound Printed Matter

2.1 Basic Content Standards

Bound Printed Matter (BPM) is a subclass of Package Services and must:

[Add new item (g) to read as follows:]

g. Meet the standards in 601.10 if prepared as a catalog.

4.0 Price Eligibility for Bound Printed Matter

4.2 Destination Entry Price Eligibility

[Revise the text of 4.2 to read as follows:] BPM destination entry prices apply to BPM mailings prepared as specified in 705.8.0, 705.14.0 and 265, and addressed for delivery within the service area of a destination network distribution center/regional processing distribution center, sectional center facility/local processing center, or delivery unit where they are deposited by the mailer. For this standard, the following destination facility definitions apply:

- A destination network distribution center (DNDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) includes all network distribution centers (NDCs)/regional processing distribution centers (RPDCs) and auxiliary service facilities (ASFs) under L601 and L602. DNDC prices are not available for ZIP Code ranges 006-009, 967-969, and 995-999, as indicated in labeling list L601.
- A destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC) includes all facilities in L005.
- A destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) is a facility that delivers to the addresses appearing on the deposited pieces in a destination entry Parcel Select mailing. Refer to the Drop Shipment Product maintained by the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) (see 608.8.1 for address) to determine the location of a 5-digit delivery facility.

265 Mail Preparation

1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

1.4 Terms for Presort Levels

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (h) through (k) to read as follows:]

- SCF: the separation includes pieces for two or more 3-digit areas served by the same sectional center facility (SCF)/local processing center (LPC) [flats]/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) [parcels] (see L005), except that, where required or permitted by standard, mail for a single 3-digit area may be prepared in an SCF separation when no mail for other 3-digit ZIP Code areas is available. For pallets, the SCF sort may include mail for a single 3-digit ZIP Code area.

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- i. ADC: all pieces in the bundle, sack, or tray must destinate within the ASF/NDC/RPDC service area as described in labeling lists L601 and L602.
- j. ASF/NDC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same auxiliary service facility (ASF)/network distribution center (NDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L601, L602, or L605).
- k. Mixed [NDC, ADC, etc.]: the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one NDC/RPDC/ADC, etc.

1.5 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail:

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

- h. An origin 3-digit (or origin 3-digit scheme) tray/sack for parcels contains all mail (regardless of quantity) for a 3-digit ZIP Code (or 3-digit scheme) area processed by the SCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels) in whose service area the mail is verified. If more than one 3-digit (or 3-digit scheme) area is served, as indicated in L005, a separate tray/sack must be prepared for each.

[Revise item (k) to read as follows:]

- k. Entry [facility] (or origin [facility]) refers to the USPS mail processing facility (e.g., “entry NDC/RPDC”) that serves the Post Office at which the mail is entered by the mailer. If the Post Office where the mail is entered is not the one serving the mailer’s location (e.g., for plant-verified drop shipment), the Post Office of entry determines the entry facility. Entry SCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels) includes both single-3-digit and multi-3-digit SCFs. Entry NDC/RPDC includes subordinate ASFs unless otherwise specified.

[Revise the last sentence of item (n) to read as follows:]

- n. * * * For pallets, 2,800 pounds of mail may be destined to an SCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels) destination, and these would form the “logical” SCF pallet, but the mail is placed on two physical SCF pallets each weighing 1,400 pounds because of the 2,200 pound maximum pallet weight requirement.

2.0 Bundles

2.4 Bundle Sizes for Irregular Parcels

[Revise the introductory text of 2.4 to read as follows:] Mailers must prepare unsacked, nonpalletized bundles of irregular parcels for DDU/S&DC entry according to 203.4.10, and as follows:

5.0 Preparing Presorted Flats

5.2 Bundling

5.2.1 Required Bundling

[Revise the fourth sentence of 5.2.1 to read as follows:] * * * Five-digit bundles placed in 5-digit sacks and unsacked 5-digit bundles prepared for DDU/S&DC entry may weigh a maximum of 40 pounds.* * *

8.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

8.2 Preparing Irregular Parcels Weighing Less than 10 Pounds

8.2.4 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- e. Mixed ADC (required); labeling:

[Revise item (e1) to read as follows:]

- 1. Line 1: L009, Column B. If placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet under option in 705.8.10.3, use L010.* * *

8.3 Preparing Irregular Parcels Weighing 10 Pounds or More

8.3.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:* * *

- e. Mixed ADC (required); labeling:

[Revise item (e1) to read as follows:]

- 1. Line 1: L009, Column B. If placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet under option in 705.8.10.3, use L010.* * *

8.4 Preparing Machinable Parcels Not Claiming DNDC Prices

8.4.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- c. Mixed NDC (required); labeling:

[Revise item (c1) to read as follows:]

- 1. Line 1: “MXD” followed by the L601, Column B, information for the NDC/RPDC serving the 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of entry Post Office.* * *

8.5 Preparing Machinable Parcels Claiming DNDC Prices

8.5.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- d. Mixed NDC (required); labeling:

[Revise item (d1) to read as follows:]

- 1. Line 1: “MXD” followed by the L601, Column B information for the NDC/RPDC serving the 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of entry Post Office.***

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9.0 Preparing Carrier Route Parcels

9.1 Basic Standards

9.1.1 General Standards for Carrier Route Preparation

All mailings of Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter (BPM) are subject to the standards in 9.2 through 9.4 and to these general standards:

[Revise the last sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. ***Irregular parcels also are pieces that meet the size and weight standards for a machinable parcel but are not individually boxed or packaged to withstand processing on NDC/RPDC parcel sorters under 601.7.0.

266 Enter and Deposit

2.0 Presenting a Mailing

[Revise the heading of 2.3 to read as follows:]

2.3 NDC/RPDC Acceptance

[Revise the text of 2.3 to read as follows:] A mailer may present Bound Printed Matter at a NDC/RPDC for acceptance if:

- a. Permit imprint postage is paid through an advance deposit account at the NDC/RPDC parent Post Office or another Post Office in the NDC/RPDC service area, unless otherwise permitted by standard.
- b. The NDC/RPDC is authorized by Form 4410 to act as acceptance agent for the entry Post Office.

3.0 Destination Entry

3.1 General

[Revise the first sentence of 3.1 to read as follows:] Destination entry prices apply to Presorted and carrier route Bound Printed Matter (BPM) that is deposited at a destination network distribution center (DNDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC), destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC), or destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) as specified below.***

3.3 Postage Payment and Mailing Fees

Postage payment for Bound Printed Matter destination price mailings is subject to the same standards that apply generally to Bound Printed Matter and to the following:

[Revise the second sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

- a. ***Except for plant-verified drop shipments (see 705.17.0) and eVS shipments (see 705.2.9); mailers must have a permit imprint authorization at the parent Post Office for mailings deposited for entry at a DNDC/RPDC, ASF/RPDC, DSCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels), or DDU/S&DC.***

3.7 Verification

3.7.1 Mail Separation and Presentation

[Revise the second sentence of the introductory paragraph of 3.7.1 to read as follows:] ***Mailers may deposit only PVDS and eVS mailings at a destination delivery unit/sorting & delivery center not co-located with a Post Office or other Postal Service facility with a business mail entry unit.***

[Revise the heading of 3.7.3 to read as follows:]

3.7.3 At NDC/RPDC

[Revise the text of 3.7.3 to read as follows:] For a mailing to be verified at a NDC/RPDC, the Post Office where the mailer's account or license is held must be within the service area of that NDC/RPDC. The Post Office must authorize the NDC/RPDC to act as its agent by sending Form 4410 to the NDC/RPDC.

3.8 Deposit

3.8.1 Time and Location of Deposit

[Revise the last sentence of 3.8.1 to read as follows:] ***Mailings must be presented in vehicles that are compatible with dock, yard, and DDU/S&DC operations, as applicable.

3.8.3 Appointments

Appointments must be made for destination entry price mail as follows:

[Revise the first sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

- a. Except as provided under 3.8.3b, or for a local mailer and mailings of perishable commodities under 3.8.12, appointments for deposit of destination entry price mail at NDCs/RPDCs, ASFs, and SCFs/LPCs must be scheduled through the appropriate drop-shipment appointment control center at least one business day in advance.***

[Revise the first sentence of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. For deposit of DDU/S&DC mailings, an appointment must be made by contacting the DDU/S&DC or through FAST, available at fast.usps.com, at least 24 hours in advance.***

3.8.4 Advance Scheduling

Mailers must schedule appointments for deposit of destination entry price mail under 3.8.3 and the conditions below. When making an appointment, or as soon as available, the mailer must provide the following information:

[Revise the last sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b.***For DDU/S&DC entries, the mailer also must provide the 5-digit ZIP Code(s) of the mail being deposited.

3.8.5 Adherence to Schedule

[Revise the last sentence of 3.8.5 to read as follows:] ***Destination facilities may refuse acceptance or deposit of unscheduled mailings or shipments that arrive more than 2 hours after the scheduled appointment at ASFs, NDCs/RPDCs, or SCFs/LPCs or more than 20 minutes at delivery units.

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3.8.6 Redirection by USPS

[Revise the text of 3.8.6 to read as follows:] A mailer may be directed to transport destination entry price mailings to a facility other than the designated DDU/S&DC, SCF/LPC, or NDC/RPDC due to facility restrictions, building expansions, peak season mail volumes, or emergency constraints.

3.8.7 Redirection at Mailer's Request

[Revise the text of 3.8.7 to read as follows:] A mailer may ask to transport destination SCF price mail to a facility other than the designated SCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels). In very limited circumstances, this exception may be approved only by the manager, Network Integration Support (see 608.8.0 for address). To qualify for the SCF price in this situation, mail deposited at a facility other than the SCF/LPC/RPDC must destinate for processing within that facility and must not require backhauling to the SCF/LPC/RPDC.

4.0 Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) Entry

4.1 Eligibility

[Revise the introductory text of 4.1 to read as follows:] Pieces in a mailing meeting the standards in 3.0 and 4.0 that are deposited at a NDC/ASF/RPDC are eligible for the DNDC price when they meet all of the following conditions:

[Revise items (b) through (e) to read as follows:]

- b. The pieces are addressed for delivery to one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes served by the NDC/ASF/RPDC where deposited that are listed, and according to the terms described, in labeling lists L601 and L602.
- c. The pieces are placed in a sack or on a pallet labeled to the NDC/ASF/RPDC where deposited, or labeled to a postal facility within that NDCs/ASFs/RPDCs service area, as described in L601 and L602.
- d. Except for machinable parcels addressed to ZIP Codes served by the Buffalo NY ASF, mail addressed to ZIP Codes served by an ASF/RPDC must be entered at the appropriate ASF per L602, and not entered at an NDC/RPDC.
- e. Are entered at designated SCFs/RPDCs under 4.3.

[Revise the heading of 4.3 to read as follows:]

4.3 Acceptance at Designated SCF/RPDC – Mailer Benefit

[Revise the introductory text of 4.3 to read as follows:] Mailers may deposit machinable parcels otherwise eligible for the DNDC prices at an SCF/RPDC designated by the USPS for destination ZIP Codes listed in labeling list L607. The following standards apply:

[Revise item (e) to read as follows:]

- e. All DNDC price parcels must be for delivery within the service area of the SCF/RPDC where they are deposited by the mailer.

4.4 Presorted Machinable Parcels

[Revise the introductory text of 4.4 to read as follows:] Presorted machinable parcels in sacks or on pallets at all sort levels may claim DNDC prices. Machinable parcels sacked under 265.8.0, or palletized under 705.8.0 may be sorted to destination NDCs/RPDCs under L601 or to destination NDCs/ASFs/RPDCs under L601 and L602. Except as provided in L602, sortation of machinable parcels to ASFs/RPDCs is optional but is required for the ASF mail to be eligible for DNDC prices. Mailers may opt to sort some or all machinable parcels for ASF/RPDC service area ZIP Codes to ASFs/RPDCs only when the mail will be deposited at the respective ASFs/RPDCs where the DNDC prices are claimed, under applicable volume standards, using L602. Mailers also may opt to sort machinable parcels only to destination NDCs/RPDCs under L601. When machinable parcels are sorted under L601, mail for 3-digit ZIP Codes served by an ASF/RPDC is not eligible for DNDC prices, nor are 3-digit ZIP Codes that appear in footnote 2 in L601. Machinable parcels prepared in mixed NDC sacks or on mixed NDC pallets that are sorted to the origin NDC/RPDC under 265.8.0 or 705.8.0, are eligible for the DNDC prices if both of the following conditions are met:

[Revise item 4.4 (a) to read as follows:]

- a. The mixed NDC sack or pallet is entered at the origin NDC/RPDC facility to which it is labeled.

4.5 Presorted Irregular Parcels

[Revise the second sentence of 4.5 to read as follows:] * * *All pieces in an ADC/RPDC sack or in a palletized ADC/RPDC bundle are eligible for the DNDC price if the ADC/RPDC facility ZIP Code (as shown in Line 1 of the corresponding sack label or the ADC/RPDC facility that is the destination of the palletized ADC/RPDC bundle as would be shown on an ADC/RPDC sack label for that facility using L004, Column B) is within the service area of the NDC/RPDC at which the sack is deposited. * * *

[Revise the heading of 5.0 to read as follows:]

5.0 Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF)/Local Processing Center (LPC) Entry

5.1 Eligibility

Bound Printed Matter pieces in a mailing meeting the standards in 3.0 are eligible for the DSCF price when they meet all of the following additional conditions:

[Revise items (b) and (c) to read as follows:]

- b. Are deposited at a DSCF/LPC (flats)/RPDC (parcels) listed in L005 or a USPS-designated facility and are addressed for delivery within the DSCF's/LPC's/RPDC's service area.
- c. Are placed in a sack or on a pallet that is labeled to the DSCF/LPC/RPDC or labeled to a destination within its service area. This includes sacks labeled to an ADC/RPDC facility with the exact same service area as the DSCF/LPC/RPDC.

[Revise the heading of 6.0 to read as follows:]

6.0 Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)/Sorting & Delivery Center (S&DC) Entry

6.1 Eligibility

Pieces in a mailing meeting the standards in 3.0, and 6.0 are eligible for the DDU price when they meet all of the following conditions:

- c. Are deposited:

[Revise items (c1) and (c2) to read as follows:]

1. For Carrier Route flats, at the DDU/S&DC where the carrier cases the mail, as shown in the Drop Shipment Product.
2. For Presorted flats, the Drop Shipment Product must be used to determine the correct destination entry facility for the 5-digit sorted flats entered at Presorted prices. If the Drop Shipment Product lists multiple facilities for a single 5-digit ZIP Code, then the mailer must inquire about the correct drop site when contacting the DDU/S&DC to schedule an appointment.

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[Revise the sixth sentence of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. *** If a mailer transports mail to a DDU/S&DC facility that cannot handle pallets, the driver must unload the pallets into containers as specified by the delivery unit.

270 Commercial Mail Media Mail and Library Mail

273 Prices and Eligibility

7.0 Price Eligibility for Media Mail and Library Mail

7.3.2 Parcels

The price categories for parcels are as follows:

[Revise the last sentence of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. *** Nonmachinable parcels may qualify for the basic price if prepared to preserve sortation by NDC/RPDC as prescribed by the postmaster of the mailing office.

275 Mail Preparation

1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

1.3 Terms for Presort Levels

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

[Revise items (f) through (h) to read as follows:]

- f. ADC: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same area distribution center (ADC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L004).
g. ASF/NDC for parcels: all pieces are addressed for delivery in the service area of the same auxiliary service facility (ASF)/network distribution center (NDC)/regional processing distribution center (RPDC) (see L601, L602, or L605).
h. Mixed [NDC, ADC, etc.]: the pieces are for delivery in the service area of more than one NDC/ADC/RPDC, etc.

6.0 Preparing Media Mail and Library Mail Parcels

6.2 Preparing Machinable Parcels

6.2.2 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- c. Mixed NDC: required (no minimum).

[Revise item (c1) to read as follows:]

1. Line 1: "MXD" followed by the L601, Column B information for the NDC/RPDC serving the 3-digit ZIP Code of entry Post Office.***

6.3 Preparing Irregular Parcels

6.3.4 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- d. Mixed ADC: required (no minimum).

[Revise item (d1) to read as follows:]

1. Line 1: "MXD" followed by city, state, and ZIP Code of ADC/RPDC serving 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of entry Post Office, as shown in L004. If placed on an ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet under option in 705.8.10.5, use L010.***

505 Return Services

1.0 Business Reply Mail (BRM)

1.1 BRM Postage and Fees

1.1.3 Basic Qualified BRM (QBRM)

[Add a sentence at the end of 1.1.3 to read as follows:] ***Basic QBRM permits that meet the requirements under 1.6.3 are eligible for waived account maintenance fees and a reduced per-piece fee.

1.1.4 High-Volume Qualified BRM

[Add a sentence at the end of 1.1.4 to read as follows:] ***High-Volume QBRM permits meeting the requirements under 1.6.3 are eligible for waived annual account maintenance and quarterly fees, and a reduced per-piece fee.*****

1.6 Additional Standards for Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM)

[Add new section 1.6.3 to read as follows:]

1.6.3 Intelligent Mail Barcode Accounting (IMbA)

Intelligent Mail Barcode Accounting (IMbA) is an automated solution for the counting, rating, invoicing and billing processes of QBRM mailpieces. Participation in IMbA requires that QBRM permits be linked to an Enterprise Payment Account (EPA) for automated invoicing. QBRM permits that have completed the onboarding process and consistently meet the requirements of IMbA are eligible for subsequent annual account maintenance and quarterly fee waivers, if applicable. Once enrolled in IMbA, QBRM permits receive a reduced QBRM IMbA per-piece fee. For more information, see PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/>.

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600 Basic Standards for All Mailing Services

601 Mailability

Overview

[Add a heading titled “10.0 Catalogs”]

[Add new section 601.10 to read as follows:]

10.0 Catalogs

A catalog is a bound (stapled, stitched, glued or fastened together along one edge) mailpiece with at least 12 pages, providing an organized listing of products or services offered for sale. A catalog mailpiece may be letter-shaped, flat-shaped or parcel-shaped, and is mailed at USPS Marketing Mail or Bound Printed Matter rates. The product listing must include images, photographs or illustrations of the products or services, descriptive details, fulfillment information and prices or contain an alternate method for the reader to determine prices. Catalogs must contain enough information to allow an order to be placed, e.g., an order form, a phone number, a web address, or the means to access a web address. Catalogs will also enable fulfillment options for the products or services offered for sale.

602 Addressing

3.0 Use of Alternative Addressing

3.2 Simplified Address

3.2.1 Conditions for General Use

The following conditions must be met when using a simplified address on commercial mailpieces:

[Revise the introductory text of item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. USPS Marketing Mail, Periodicals, and Bound Printed Matter flat-size mailpieces (including USPS Marketing Mail pieces allowed as flats under 3.2.1c), and Periodicals irregular parcels for distribution to a city route or to Post Office boxes in offices with city carrier service may bear a simplified address, but only when complete distribution is made under the following conditions:***

4.0 Detached Address Labels (DALs) and Detached Marketing Labels (DMLs)

4.2 Eligible Mail

[Delete item 4.2.2 in its' entirety and renumber 4.2.3 as 4.2.2; newly renumbered 4.2.2]

4.2.2 Bound Printed Matter

Unaddressed pieces of Bound Printed Matter may be mailed with DALs or DMLs when:

[Revise the second sentence of item (a) to read as follows:]

- a. ***The destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC) is determined using the Drop Shipment Product under the provisions for the DDU price in 266.3.0 through 266.6.0.***

4.4 Mail Preparation

4.4.2 Basic Standards for DALs and DMLs

[Revise the text of 4.4.2 to read as follows:] The DALs or DMLs must be presorted, counted, and prepared by 5-digit ZIP Code delivery area. Only DALs or DMLs for the same 5-digit area may be placed in the same carton, sack, or tray. DAL or DML mailings claimed at carrier route basic or walk-sequence prices must be further prepared under the corresponding standards. Mailers must prepare DALs or DMLs as bundles in sacks or in cartons, unless prepared in trays under 4.4.6 when mailed with saturation flats. Different size cartons may be used in the same mailing, but each must be filled with dunnage as necessary to ensure that the DALs or DMLs retain their orientation and presort integrity while in transit. Each carton of DALs or DMLs must bear a label showing the information in 4.4.5 unless a mailing identification number is used (see 4.4.1). Multiple containers of DALs or DMLs must be numbered sequentially (“1 of __,” “2 of __” etc.).

4.4.3 Basic Standards for Items Distributed with DALs and DMLs

[Revise the text of 4.4.3 to read as follows:] Except for bundles of saturation flats placed directly on pallets under 4.4.7, the items to be distributed with DALs or DMLs must be placed in cartons or prepared in bundles placed in flat trays/sacks, subject to the standards for the price claimed. A label bearing the content description information in 4.4.5 must be affixed to each carton, trayed/sacked bundle, or pallet unless a mailing identification number is used (see 4.4.1). Cartons of items (including those on pallets) may be of different sizes but must be filled with dunnage as necessary to ensure the integrity of the items while in transit. The gross weight of each carton or flat tray/sack must not be more than 40 pounds.

4.4.6 Optional Tray and Bundle Preparation

[Revise the text of 4.4.6 to read as follows:] Mailers may prepare DALs or DMLs in letter trays according to 245.9.0 when DALs or DMLs are used in mailings of saturation flats. Bundles of saturation flats to be distributed with DALs or DMLs may be prepared on 5-digit pallets under 4.4.7. Do not use pallets when the Drop Shipment Product indicates the delivery unit that serves the 5-digit pallet destination cannot handle pallets. For such delivery units, mail with DALs or DMLs must be prepared in cartons, flat trays, or sacks. The tray(s) of corresponding DALs or DMLs must be placed on top of the accompanying pallet of flats, and the pallet contents must be secured with stretch-wrap to avoid separation in transportation and processing. All containers must be labeled according to 4.4.5.

4.4.7 Optional Container Preparation

[Revise the text of 4.4.7 to read as follows:] Bundles of flats and cartons, flat trays, or sacks of items may be placed on pallets meeting the standards in 705.8.0. Cartons or trays of DALs or DMLs must be placed on pallets with the corresponding items under 4.4 and 705.8.0. The USPS plant manager at whose facility a DAL or DMLs mailing is deposited may authorize other containers for the portion of the mailing to be delivered in that plant's service area.

4.6 Postage

4.6.2 Postage Computation and Payment

Postage is computed based on the combined weight of the item and the accompanying DAL or DML. If the number of DALs/DMLs and items mailed is not identical, the number of pieces used to determine postage is the greater of the two. No postage refund is allowed in these situations. In addition, these methods of postage payment apply:

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[Revise the text of item (c) to read as follows:]

c. A surcharge applies to each DAL or DML used in a USPS Marketing Mail flats mailing.

7.0 Carrier Route Accuracy Standard

7.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 7.1 to read as follows:] The carrier route accuracy standard is a means of ensuring that the carrier route code correctly matches the delivery address information. For the purposes of this standard, address means a specific address associated with a specific carrier route code. Addresses used on pieces claiming any Periodicals carrier route prices, any USPS Marketing Mail Enhanced Carrier Route prices, or any Bound Printed Matter carrier route prices are subject to the carrier route accuracy standard and must meet the following requirements:

700 Special Standards

703 Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail and Other Unique Eligibility

9.0 Mixed Classes

9.9 Postage Payment for Enclosure in Periodicals Publication

9.9.8 Computing Permit Imprint Postage

[Revise the third sentence of 9.9.8 to read as follows:] * * * For example, a USPS Marketing Mail enclosure is eligible for the SCF entry discount if the publication is deposited at the destinating SCF/LPC.* * *

11.0 Commercial Plus One Mailpieces

11.1 Definition

The commercial mail Plus One product is a bundled offering, including a host mailpiece and a Plus One card. Both the host mailpiece and the Plus One card must meet the applicable basic standards of a USPS Marketing Mail saturation letter as specified in 245.6.0, be entered at a destination sectional center facility, and meet automation standards with a correct mailing address and Intelligent Mail barcode. The Plus One mailpiece (card) must meet the following additional standards:

[Revise item 11.1(d) to read as follows:]

d. Must not exceed 6 inches long by 11 inches high.

705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems

5.0 First-Class Mail or USPS Marketing Mail Mailings with Different Payment Methods

5.2 Postage

5.2.6 Single-Piece Price Mail

[Revise the text of 5.2.6 to read as follows:] With USPS approval, trays of single-piece price mail may be placed on the origin SCF/LPC pallet (First-Class Mail), or the mixed NDC pallet (USPS Marketing Mail), after USPS verification is completed.

8.0 Preparing Pallets

8.10.3 USPS Marketing Mail--Bundles, Sacks, or Trays

[Revise the introductory text of 8.10.3 to read as follows:] Mailers must prepare pallets under 8.0 in the sequence listed below and complete each required level before preparing the next optional or required level. For USPS Marketing Mail High Density and High Density Plus flats pricing eligibility, only 5-digit pallets under 8.10.3a through 8.10.3c are allowed, and the pallets must be entered under None, DNDC, DSCF, or DDU standards. (Use "HD/HD+ DIRECT" for one route and "HD/HD+ CR-RTS" for multiple routes on the line 2 contents description). Unless indicated as optional, all sort levels are required. For parcels, use this preparation only for irregular parcels in sacks. Palletize unbundled or unsacked irregular parcels under 8.10.8. Pallets must be labeled according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 8.6. Mailers also may palletize bundles of USPS Marketing Mail flats under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0. Preparation sequence and labeling:

[Revise item c(2) to read as follows:]

2. Line 2: For flats only, "STD FLTS" or "STD MKTG," as applicable; followed by "HD/HD+" for High Density and High Density Plus flats pricing eligibility; followed by "CARRIER ROUTES" (or "CR-RTS"). For letters, "STD LTRS"; followed by "CARRIER ROUTES" (or "CR-RTS"); followed by "BC" if the pallet contains barcoded letters; followed by "MACH" if the pallet contains machinable letters; followed by "MAN" if the pallet contains nonmachinable letters.

[Revise introductory text of item (e) to read as follows:]

e. 3-digit, optional, option not available for parcels or for bundles for 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes marked "N" in L002. Pallet may contain mail for the same 3-digit ZIP Code or the same 3-digit scheme under L008 (for automation-compatible flats only under 201.3.0. Three-digit scheme bundles are assigned to pallets according to the "label to" 3-digit ZIP Code in L008. Labeling:* * *

[Delete the last sentence of item e(2) beginning with "For Marketing parcels. . ."]

9.0 Combining Bundles of Automation and Nonautomation Flats in Flat Trays and Sacks

9.1 First-Class Mail

9.1.4 Tray Preparation and Labeling

Presorted price and automation price bundles prepared under 9.1.2 or 9.1.3 must be presorted together into trays (cotrayed) in the sequence listed below. Trays must be labeled using the following information for Lines 1 and 2 and 235.4.0 for other sack label criteria.

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[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. Origin/entry 3-digit, required for each 3-digit ZIP Code served by the SCF/LPC of the origin (verification) office, optional for each 3-digit ZIP Code served by the SCF/LPC of an entry office other than the origin office, no minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. ADC, required, full trays only (no overflow trays); use L004 to determine ZIP Codes served by each ADC/RPDC; labeling:***

9.2 Periodicals

9.2.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise the text of 9.2.3 to read as follows:] 5-digit and 3-digit bundles prepared under 207.22.0 and 207.25.0 may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. These low-volume bundles may be placed in 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or on 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF/LPC pallets. Mailers of pieces in low-volume bundles must claim the applicable mixed ADC price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). Bundles prepared under 207.22.0 and 207.25.0 may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. These low-volume bundles may be placed in 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF sacks/flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces or on 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF/LPC pallets. Pieces in low-volume bundles must claim the applicable mixed ADC price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

9.2.4 Optional Sack Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 9.2.4 to read as follows:] Optional sack preparation and labeling are allowed for nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at the DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats, nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin) and nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container. Machinable barcoded price and machinable nonbarcoded price bundles must be presorted together into sacks (cosacked) in the sequence listed below. Sacks must be labeled using the following information for Lines 1 and 2 and 207.21.0 for other sack-label criteria. If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the machinable barcoded price pieces are considered flat-size under 201.6.0 and the machinable nonbarcoded price pieces are considered irregular parcels under 201.7.6, the processing category shown on the sack label must show "FLTS." Preparation sequence and labeling:***

9.2.5 Flat Tray Preparation – Flat-Size Machinable Pieces

[Revise the introductory text of 9.2.5 to read as follows:] See 207.20.0 for use of flat trays. For machinable pieces meeting the criteria in 201.6.0, mailers must bundle or group all pieces as specified in 207.25.0 and 207.22.0 for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, SCF/LPC, and ADC destination. Bundling in flat trays is optional, and any bundles must be trayed and labeled separately from loose flats prepared in flat trays. The trays are subject to a container charge, and any bundles are subject to a bundle charge. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling:

9.3 USPS Marketing Mail

9.3.5 Flat Tray/Sack Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of 9.3.5 to read as follows:] Presorted price and automation price bundles prepared under 9.3.2 and 9.3.3 must be presorted together into flat trays (cotrayed) or sacks (when applicable) in the sequence listed below. Flat trays/sacks must be labeled using the following information for Lines 1 and 2, and 245.4.0 for other flat-tray label criteria. Sacks are only allowed for nonpalletized residual 5-digit flats entered at the DDU/S&DC along with carrier route flats, nonpalletized 5-digit flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin), and nonpalletized 3-digit/SCF flats entered at the DSCF/LPC (origin). DSCF/LPC (origin) 5-digit and 3-digit/SCF sacks must be entered at the BMEU and emptied into a designated container.

[Revise the introductory text of item (c) to read as follows:]

- c. Origin/entry 3-digit, required for each 3-digit ZIP Code served by the SCF/LPC of the origin (verification) office, optional for each 3-digit ZIP Code served by the SCF/LPC of an entry office other than the origin office, no minimum; labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (d) to read as follows:]

- d. ADC, required, full tray/125-piece/15-pound minimum; use L004 to determine ZIP Codes served by each ADC/RPDC; labeling:***

10.0 Merging Bundles of Flats Using the City State Product

10.1 Periodicals

10.1.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

Carrier route, 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, and 3-digit bundles may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed ADC price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). Low-volume bundles are permitted only when they are sacked (as applicable), trayed, or prepared on pallets as follows:

- a. Place low-volume carrier route, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, and 3-digit bundles in only the following containers:***

[Revise items (a3) and (a4) to read as follows:]

3. Origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays.

4. On merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme carrier routes, 5-digit scheme, merged 5-digit, 5-digit carrier routes, 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF/LPC pallets, as appropriate.

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. Place low-volume 5-digit scheme bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays, or on 3-digit or SCF/LPC pallets, as appropriate.

10.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

Mailers must prepare pallets of bundles in the manner and sequence listed below and under 8.0. When sortation under this option is performed, after completing required or optional carrier route pallets (if any), mailers must prepare all merged 5-digit scheme, and merged 5-digit pallets that are possible in the mailing based on the volume of mail to the destination using L001 and/or the City State Product. Mailers must label pallets according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 8.6.***

[Revise item (g) to read as follows:]

- g. SCF/LPC through mixed ADC, use 8.10.2h through 8.10.2k, as applicable, to prepare and label SCF/LPC, ADC/RPDC, Origin Mixed ADC (OMX) and mixed ADC pallet levels.

10.2 USPS Marketing Mail

10.2.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of item (g) to read as follows:]

- g. SCF/LPC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and Presorted price bundles. Labeling:***

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[Revise the introductory text of item (h) to read as follows:]

- h. ASF, required, except that an ASF sort may not be required if using bundle reallocation under 8.13.3. May contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC/RPDC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC/RPDC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on ASF/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the ASF/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 246.3.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:* * *

[Revise the introductory text of item (i) to read as follows:]

- i. NDC/RPDC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on NDC/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the NDC/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 246.3.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:* * *

11.0 Combining Automation Price and Nonautomation Price Flats in Bundles

11.2 Periodicals

11.2.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

- a. Place low-volume 5-digit and 3-digit bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces; or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays; or on the following pallets, as appropriate:

[Revise item (a6) to read as follows:]

6. SCF/LPC

[Revise item (b) to read as follows:]

- b. Place low-volume 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or in origin/entry SCF/LPC flat trays, or on 3-digit or SCF/LPC pallets, as appropriate.

12.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using a 5 Percent Threshold

12.1 Periodicals

12.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Revise item 12.1.5(h) to read as follows:]

- h. SCF/LPC through mixed ADC, use 8.10.2h through 8.10.2k, as applicable, to prepare and label SCF/LPC, ADC/RPDC, Origin Mixed ADC (OMX) and mixed ADC pallet levels.

12.2 USPS Marketing Mail

12.2.3 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of item (g) to read as follows:]

- g. SCF/LPC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and Presorted price bundles. Labeling:* * *

[Revise the introductory text of item (h) to read as follows:]

- h. ASF, required, except that an ASF sort may not be required if using bundle reallocation under 8.13.3. May contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC/RPDC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC/RPDC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on ASF/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the ASF/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 246.3.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:* * *

[Revise the introductory text of item (i) to read as follows:]

- i. NDC/RPDC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC/RPDC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on NDC/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the NDC/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 246.3.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:* * *

13.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using the City State Product and a 5 Percent Threshold

13.1 Periodicals

13.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Revise item (h) to read as follows:]

- h. SCF/LPC through mixed ADC, use 8.10.2h through 8.10.2k, as applicable, to prepare and label SCF/LPC, ADC/RPDC, Origin Mixed ADC (OMX) and mixed ADC pallet levels.

13.2 USPS Marketing Mail

13.2.4 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of item (g) to read as follows:]

- g. SCF/LPC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and Presorted price bundles. Labeling:* * *

[Revise the introductory text of item (h) to read as follows:]

- h. ASF, required, except that an ASF sort may not be required if using bundle reallocation under 8.13.3. May contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to ASF/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on ASF/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the ASF/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 246.3.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:* * *

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[Revise the introductory text of item (i) to read as follows:]

- i. NDC/RPDC, required, may contain carrier route price, automation price, and/or Presorted price bundles. Sort ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L004. At the mailer’s option, sort appropriate mixed ADC bundles to NDC/RPDC pallets based on the “label to” ZIP Code for the ADC destination of the bundle in L010. All optional mixed ADC bundles on NDC/RPDC pallets must contain only pieces destined within the NDC/RPDC as shown in 6.3. See 263.2.0 for additional requirements for DNDC price eligibility. Labeling:***

15.0 Combining USPS Marketing Mail Flats, Bound Printed Matter Flats, and Periodicals Flats

15.1 Basic Standards

15.1.1 General

Authorized mailers may combine USPS Marketing Mail flats, Bound Printed Matter flats, and Periodicals flats in a single mailing as follows:

- h. Each comailing containing Bound Printed Matter flats must meet the following requirements:

[Revise items (h1) and (h2) to read as follows:]

1. Except under 15.1.1h2, BPM flat-sized pieces must not weigh more than 20 ounces when combined in applicable bundles, and must be entered at a destination sectional center facility (DSCF)/local processing center (LPC) on 5-digit or 3-digit/sectional center facility (SCF) level pallets, or at a destination delivery unit (DDU)/sorting & delivery center (S&DC).
2. BPM flat-sized pieces may weigh up to 24 ounces when combined in carrier-route (CR) level bundles on a pallet included in no less than SCF/3D sortation entered at an SCF/LPC. BPM flat-sized pieces must not exceed 20 ounces if prepared in the CR level bundle with certain Periodicals pieces that may weigh more than 20 ounces. The maximum number of BPM pieces weighing more than 20 ounces up to the maximum of 24 ounces must not exceed 50 percent of each mailing.

15.1.10 Other Periodicals Pricing

Other prices for Periodicals flats in a combined mailing of USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals flats on pallets will be assessed as follows:***

[Revise items (a) and (b) to read as follows:]

- a. The bundle prices applicable to the ADC/RPDC container level will be applied to the ASF/NDC/RPDC container levels.
- b. The container prices applicable to the ADC/RPDC pallet level will apply to the ASF/NDC/RPDC pallet levels.***
- c. The bundle price applicable to the ADC bundle placed on the ADC/RPDC container level will apply to mixed ADC bundles placed on mixed NDC pallets.***

[Revise the heading of 15.1.11 to read as follows:]

15.1.11 Bundle Reallocation to Protect the SCF/LPC or NDC/RPDC Pallet

[Revise 15.1.11 to read as follows:] Mailers may reallocate bundles under 8.11 or 8.13 to protect the SCF/LPC or NDC/RPDC pallet.

15.2 Combining USPS Marketing Mail Flats, Bound Printed Matter Flats, and Periodicals Flats in the Same Bundle

15.2.3 Pallet Presort and Labeling

[Revise the first sentence of 15.2.3 to read as follows:] Mailers must prepare pallets according to the standards in 8.0 and in the sequence listed below. Merged 5-digit scheme through NDC/RPDC pallets must contain at least 250 pounds of combined USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals mailpieces, except as allowed under 8.5.3.***

15.3 Combining Bundles of USPS Marketing Mail Flats, Bound Printed Matter Flats, and Periodicals Flats on the Same Pallet

15.3.3 Pallet Presort and Labeling

[Revise the first sentence of 15.3.3 to read as follows:] Mailers must prepare pallets according to the standards in 8.0 and in the sequence listed below. Merged 5-digit scheme through NDC/RPDC pallets must contain at least 250 pounds of combined USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals, except as allowed under 8.5.3.***

15.4 Pallet Preparation

15.4.1 Pallet Preparation, Sequence and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of item (g) to read as follows:]

- g. SCF/LPC, required Pallet may contain carrier route, automation or Presorted mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005. Labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (i) to read as follows:]

- i. NDC/RPDC, required. Pallet may contain carrier route, automation or presorted mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L601. ADC bundles are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L004 as appropriate. Labeling:***

[Revise the introductory text of item (j) to read as follows:]

- j. Mixed NDC, required, 100-pound minimum Pallet may contain carrier route, automation or presorted mail. Pallet includes MXD ADC bundles, prepared according to the “label to” ZIP in L009, as appropriate. Unless authorized by the processing and distribution manager, pallet must be entered at the NDC/RPDC serving the 3-digit ZIP Code of the entry Post Office. Labeling:

[Revise item (j1) to read as follows:]

1. Line 1: “MXD” followed by the information in L601, for the NDC/RPDC serving the 3-digit ZIP Code prefix of the entry Post Office.***

23.0 Full-Service Automation Option

23.2 General Eligibility Standards

[Revise the first sentence of item 23.2 (e) to read as follows:]

- a. Be scheduled for an appointment using the Facility Access and Shipment Tracking (FAST) system for dropship mailings (except for mailings entered at a DDU/S&DC) or as required in a customer/supplier agreement.***

Notice 123(Price List)

[Revise prices as applicable.]

Christopher Doyle, Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.