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## Atlanta RPDC Issues Continue to Draw Congressional Attention

Of all the new facilities that have been opened as part of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy's 10-Year Plan, none has performed as poorly, or drawn as much political attention as a result, than the Atlanta Regional Processing and Distribution Center opened February 24 in Palmetto (GA), about 40 miles southwest of downtown.

At an April 16 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the PMG was pointedly grilled by Georgia Senator Jon Ossoff about the performance of the Atlanta RP&DC. DeJoy sought to assuage the senator's concerns by claiming that service would improve in about 60 days, i.e., by mid-June.

Not about to let DeJoy slide, on June 11 Ossoff wrote a letter reminding the PMG about his assurance and asking for an update. The letter stated:

"It has been nearly 60 days since we spoke at the April 16th US Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing concerning service failures across Georgia. At the hearing, you testified that 'I think we'll get to where we need to be in about 60 days.'

"On May 9<sup>th</sup>, I requested an update on current on-time delivery statistics for the metro Atlanta area and the State of Georgia as seniors continue facing delays getting life-saving prescriptions, small business owners cannot ship or receive supplies and products, and voters cannot get ballots on time. In your reply, you shared data showing that first-class mail was being delivered on-time 64 percent of the time, still well short of last year's levels of over 90 percent.

"As we quickly approach the 60-day deadline that you set for normal on-time mail delivery to be restored, I again request the latest on-time delivery statistics for Georgia and ask whether or not you will meet your self-imposed deadline to restore normal service. **Please provide me an update on the current on-time delivery statistics in Georgia by Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.**

"I want to reiterate that it is urgent that the performance of USPS delivery in Georgia improve immediately. Georgians are tired of waiting. They deserve better.

"And as I have repeatedly said, postal workers working diligently every day to deliver the mail on time deserve the infrastructure

and management competence to enable them to do so. As the chief executive officer of USPS, it is incumbent on you to provide that leadership."

### The reply

DeJoy may not have appreciated the reminder, but he nonetheless provided a response on June 17, answering not only Ossoff's request for an update about service but also supplementing an earlier letter and "the May 30 in-person briefing and tour conducted for you and your team" at the RP&DC.

In his letter, DeJoy provided a table showing that, for the week of June 1-7, Georgia District on-time scores for originating First-Class Mail and Marketing Mail were 83.26% and 85.60%, respectively, while the corresponding scores for destinating mail were 74.94% and 84.52%. Neither class of mail was broken down further by rate or processing category.

DeJoy also provided the Georgia District service scores for USPS Ground Advantage, a competitive product whose service is not reported publicly, stating they were 85.36% and 85.49% for originating and destinating items, respectively.

He also added the "Day +1" scores, claiming that the "+1 day measurement is a helpful demonstration that mail is missing its service standard by a matter of hours, not days." How "+1 Day" means "hours not days" wasn't explained.

As to Ossoff's concerns about election mail, the PMG stated that "the Georgia Primary Election was held June 9<sup>th</sup> and occurred without incident or reported delays of ballot mail," claiming that "all the intensified attention being exerted to restore service in the Atlanta region ... certainly played a role in a successful Primary election."

Though better than the figures last spring after the Palmetto facility opened, none of the First-Class Mail and Marketing Mail scores provided by DeJoy were anywhere close to the applicable, published service standards, and the PMG didn't clarify whether he considers those "where we need to be."

It remains to be seen whether Ossoff has been placated, and whether service in Georgia actually continues to improve.

## USPS Data Reveals Continued Service Impact of RPDC Activation

Not exactly easy to find is the Postal Service's service performance scoreboard (<https://about.usps.com/what/performance/service-performance/external-service-measurement.htm>) that was established only after a directive by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

Once located, though, the scoreboard is a useful tool to determine intra-district or inter-district service scores for market-dominant mail. Posted scores are for the week beginning two weeks earlier (the USPS week begins on Saturday.)

### Comparison

To evaluate the service impact associated with the activation of four regional processing and distribution centers (Atlanta, Charlotte, Portland, and Richmond), intra-district service scores for the corresponding districts (Georgia, North Carolina, Idaho/Montana/Oregon, and Virginia, respectively) for the eight weeks preceding the RPDC's activation were compared to service scores four, eight, twelve, and sixteen weeks after activation.

Two RPDCs, Richmond and Charlotte, have been open longer but the sixteen week comparison is a more apples-to-apples way to compare how the four RPDCs performed at a time about four months after each began to operate.

In the chart below, each score is an aggregate for all First-Class Mail letters and cards, all First-Class Mail flats, all Marketing Mail letters, all Marketing Mail flats, and all Periodicals, both for the applicable period and for the same week last year. Also noted were the "days to deliver" figures, similarly segmented.

### Before and after

As the figures indicate, for the eight weeks before activation as an RPDC, the service scores and "days-to-deliver" for the Richmond facility were better than the corresponding period a year before; that was less true for Charlotte. For Atlanta and Portland, however, scores and "days to deliver" for the eight week pre-activation period were already worse (in red) than a year earlier.

At sixteen weeks after activation, for the four RPDCs, all but one of the service scores, and all but one of the "days to deliver" figures, are worse than they were a year earlier. Atlanta's dismal service performance has drawn considerable attention from Georgia's US Senator Jon Ossoff, but nothing more (see the preceding article).

### What could have been

A practice that the USPS has adopted on its service performance dashboard, presumably to mitigate the significance of an unflattering reported score, is the parallel reporting of a "Day +1" score.

In his letter to Sen Ossoff (see page 1), the PMG stated that the "+1 day measurement is a helpful demonstration that mail is missing its service standard by a matter of hours, not days." How "+1 Day" means "hours not days" wasn't explained, nor is it clear why it's "helpful" for ratepayers to know what the score *would have been* under another set of circumstances.

It's noteworthy that the Postal Service can calculate the sometimes significant difference between the actual score and the hypothetical "Day +1" estimate, suggesting the USPS is aware of the contributing factors. Given the PMG's preference for less expensive (but slower) ground (rather than air) transportation, it's reasonable to theorize that contributing factors could include highway construction or traffic delays, or delays in cross-docking or transfer on route. Other factors contributing to delay could include yard or dock congestion, untimely processing, or missed dispatches or connections.

Also somewhat misleading is that the data available from the USPS scoreboard isn't really point-to-point but rather a homogenized district score. As a result, the intra-district score is always the same if the origin and destination are in the same district, and the inter-district score is the same from anywhere in the origin district to anywhere in the destination district. Obviously, developing the intra- or inter-district scores requires underlying point-to-point data, but revealing that would provide more visibility than the USPS would like.

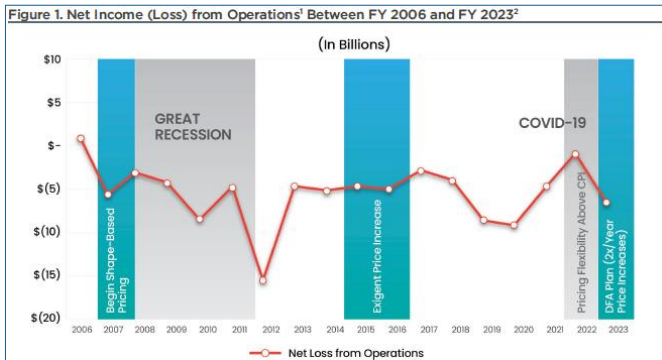
Facility (launch date)	Period	First-Class Mail ltrs/crds				First-Class Mail flats				Marketing Mail letters				Marketing Mail flats				Periodicals			
		Score		Days to del		Score		Days to del		Score		Days to del		Score		Days to del		Score		Days to del	
		Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY	Week	SPLY
Richmond (7/29/2023)	-8 wks	94.11	94.53	1.24	1.34	81.51	74.47	2.23	2.36	96.90	96.48	1.98	2.15	93.97	88.96	2.30	2.66	87.95	85.47	1.23	1.33
	+4 wks	92.16	94.41	1.35	1.40	75.41	74.76	2.50	2.45	93.40	97.03	2.05	1.85	83.04	91.75	2.93	2.58	80.09	87.84	1.68	1.35
	+8 wks	92.54	94.80	1.34	1.39	74.95	76.43	2.48	2.36	93.82	96.84	2.19	1.99	81.86	90.99	3.01	2.60	79.48	86.88	1.63	1.34
	+12 wks	92.44	94.74	1.38	1.39	74.98	76.98	2.43	2.29	94.68	96.83	2.17	2.01	82.94	90.69	2.97	2.61	79.54	86.52	1.66	1.33
	+16 wks	92.05	94.66	1.44	1.41	72.38	76.52	2.48	2.33	94.60	96.68	2.23	2.04	83.61	90.21	2.96	2.63	78.22	85.92	1.66	1.34
Charlotte (12/29/2023)	-8 wks	94.19	95.47	1.31	1.51	76.75	77.17	2.38	2.28	97.31	97.38	2.39	2.34	90.82	87.35	2.89	3.14	82.36	86.40	1.48	1.28
	+4 wks	94.87	95.95	1.25	1.53	77.38	81.11	2.33	2.20	97.75	98.08	2.53	2.33	91.51	91.35	2.90	2.75	88.43	88.80	1.13	1.13
	+8 wks	95.65	96.34	1.21	1.54	76.19	81.54	2.39	2.23	97.99	98.29	2.43	2.24	92.06	91.53	2.78	2.78	89.51	89.71	1.43	1.13
	+12 wks	94.52	96.54	1.33	1.53	74.81	81.90	2.41	2.21	97.99	98.38	2.41	2.19	91.66	91.61	2.78	2.78	87.81	89.22	1.47	1.13
	+16 wks	94.79	96.52	1.37	1.53	74.76	82.27	2.41	2.19	98.06	98.35	2.37	2.18	92.39	91.85	2.74	2.81	88.30	88.55	1.49	1.19
Atlanta (2/24/2024)	-8 wks	85.60	90.42	1.93	1.69	69.44	77.89	2.64	2.39	94.06	95.85	2.79	2.58	86.62	88.16	3.20	3.14	83.76	87.07	1.88	1.30
	+4 wks	48.65	91.71	3.35	1.48	27.10	73.75	6.00	2.48	62.08	96.71	3.95	2.40	50.90	87.53	5.45	3.23	48.68	87.53	4.08	1.20
	+8 wks	57.39	92.41	2.84	1.38	24.31	75.65	6.58	2.38	57.87	95.99	4.29	2.51	46.92	87.69	6.56	3.26	47.88	86.88	4.26	1.21
	+12 wks	64.02	93.00	2.56	1.29	23.54	71.99	6.90	2.37	66.39	95.67	3.95	2.55	50.79	88.70	6.31	3.22	52.54	87.08	4.12	1.28
	+16 wks	67.86	93.13	2.36	1.28	23.94	73.73	6.83	2.32	70.26	95.70	3.79	2.55	50.91	88.88	6.18	3.21	52.50	87.05	3.94	1.28
Portland (2/24/2024)	-8 wks	92.78	94.58	1.35	1.23	83.86	84.50	2.21	2.10	94.15	97.56	2.40	1.96	90.77	94.66	2.74	2.28	86.50	91.23	1.75	1.30
	+4 wks	94.82	94.47	1.25	1.20	78.45	85.08	2.40	2.10	97.38	97.42	2.10	1.95	95.76	93.72	2.38	2.45	89.61	90.35	1.73	1.28
	+8 wks	93.94	95.48	1.29	1.18	78.94	86.64	2.35	2.10	97.61	97.68	2.10	1.91	96.23	94.90	2.36	2.29	90.34	90.00	1.71	1.16
	+12 wks	94.07	95.83	1.28	1.18	78.56	86.45	2.35	2.13	97.42	97.72	2.13	1.88	95.48	95.70	2.42	2.23	90.66	91.34	1.69	1.08
	+16 wks	94.56	95.82	1.28	1.20	79.26	87.17	2.33	2.09	97.50	97.83	2.14	1.87	94.95	96.17	2.48	2.17	90.68	91.57	1.71	1.06

# OIG Audit Cites Disparity Between Projections and Actual Financial Results

If Postmaster General Louis DeJoy is displeased by observations about his 10-Year Plan that are not complimentary, he surely will be piqued by an audit report released June 21 by the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General.

In the report, *State of the US Postal Service Financial Condition*, the OIG sought "to evaluate the financial performance of the Postal Service in relation to its [10-Year Plan] financial projections." The OIG noted that

"... the Postal Service has a history of financial net losses dating back to 2007, when the Postal Accountability and Enforcement Act came into effect, which was then followed by the Great Recession, as seen in Figure 1. The losses from FY 2007 through FY 2023 totaled \$98 billion."



## Findings

The OIG's first finding focused on the difference between projections in the 10-Year Plan and actual results.

"We evaluated the financial performance of the Postal Service in relation to its DFA plan projections and determined that the projections are no longer relevant. The DFA plan assumed initiatives would begin in 2021, resulting in projected positive net income starting in FY 2023 or FY 2024. However, two years after the issuance of the DFA plan, in its second-year progress report, the Postal Service forecasted that it could achieve break-even operations by the end of DFA's 10-year period. But the Postal Service did not update its projected yearly financial results or cash balances through updated P&L or cash flow statements or demonstrate specifically how it would break-even by 2030. The opportunity exists to revise its financial projections to better understand how the Postal Service will achieve its break-even goal.

"In terms of actual performance over the last two years, the Postal Service reported a net loss of \$950 million from operations in FY 2022 and a \$6.5 billion net loss in FY 2023.

"Actual results varied from the DFA plan projections three years into the plan. In both FY 2022 and FY 2023, actual revenue was higher than the DFA plan projections by over \$7.4 billion and \$5.6 billion, respectively, but actual expenses also exceeded expense projections by \$6 billion and \$11.7 billion, respectively."

The OIG questioned the Postal Service's explanation.

"The Postal Service stated the differences between actuals and projections were primarily attributed to higher than projected volume in market dominant and competitive mail volume leading to higher expenses to process that volume, higher rates of inflation than projected, and slower than planned progress on DFA initiatives. Generally, we concur with the causes for the differences. The Postal Service experienced higher-than-projected mail volumes; however, when comparing the year over year rates of

change between FY 2022 and FY 2023, we identified that the reduction in work hours did not align with the volume decline as assumed in the DFA plan. Further, we could not determine initiatives' progress because the Postal Service did not track specific initiative progress back to the DFA plan projected savings they determined under each P&L category, instead, tracking to its annual Integrated Financial Plan (IFP). ...

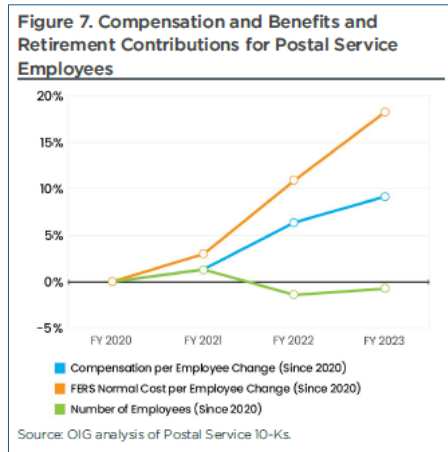
"In the DFA plan, the Postal Service built its projections on the assumption that a decrease in volume would result in a comparable decrease in work hours, but actual results show that work hours were not reduced at the same rate as volume, as shown in Figure 5. Specifically, when comparing the year over year rates of change between FY 2022 and FY 2023, volume was projected to decrease at 2.7% and work hours were projected to decrease at 2.2%. However, we observed a more drastic rate of change for actual volume: 8.9% decrease in volume associated with a decrease of only 2.3% in actual work hours, signaling a reduction in workhour productivity. ...



"It is imperative that the Postal Service reduce its work hours in sync with volume declines, to save labor costs and ensure it is operating efficiently."

The OIG also found other labor-related costs increased.

"However, inflation also impacted Postal Service expenses, it was most acute in the compensation and retirement expense categories. At the end of FY 2023, the total number of career employees at the Postal Service was approximately 525,000, including an increase of approximately 29,000 (6%) employees due to career conversions. As shown in Figure 7, compensation expense and FERS normal cost expense, per employee, were dramatically higher by 9.1% and 18.2%, respectively, due primarily to the contractual cost-of-living adjustments for approximately 525,000 employees, which includes the 29,000 converted employees now eligible for employer retirement contributions."



The OIG also found that, while the 10-Year Plan claimed savings to be derived from the implementation of a set of initiatives, the Postal Service did not measure or evaluate the results of those initiatives to validate the projected savings.

“Management stated that slower than planned progress on the initiatives led to the variances between actuals and projections. However, we could not conclude how the initiatives’ results or progress in FYs 2022 and 2023 compared to DFA projected savings because the Postal Service did not track specific initiatives’ progress back to the projected savings they determined under each P&L category in the DFA plan projections. Instead, the Postal Service tracks its DFA initiatives to its annual IFP, which provides projections and targets for the next fiscal year. In FY 2023, the IFP was aligned to the strategic objectives but not the projections of the DFA plan. As we previously reported in July 2022, as the Postal Service implements and revises its DFA plan, it is important to continue to assess its initiatives, monitor progress toward implementation, ensure organizational coordination, and evaluate results.

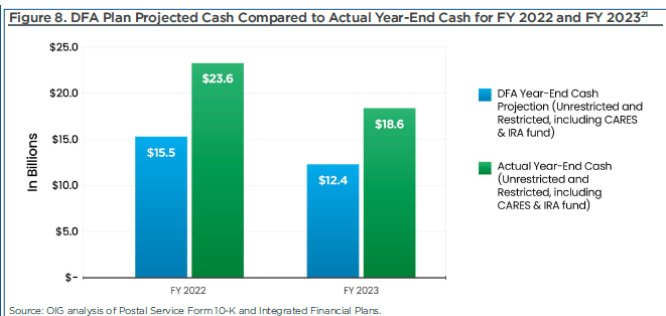
“Additionally, we reviewed Postal Service communications released in FYs 2022 and 2023 ... to determine if we could identify tracking or measurement of initiatives’ progress. We found that none of the communications provided updates on the financial outcomes of all the active initiatives, and when included in Postal Service communications, only select initiatives were discussed. ...

“In compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Postal Service stated it will release an update to the DFA plan in September 2024. This updated DFA plan provides an opportunity for the Postal Service to comprehensively update its financial projections, link initiatives’ financial outcomes to the DFA plan, and communicate progress of initiatives and the initiatives’ impact on DFA strategies and goals. ...”

The OIG also commented on the disparity between the end-of-year cash balance projected in the 10-Year Plan and actual results, as well as the need for revenue to support the Plan’s anticipated \$40 billion spending on capital projects.

“FYs 2022 and 2023 marked a \$950 million operating loss and a \$6.5 billion net loss, respectively, for the Postal Service. The Postal Service ended FYs 2022 and 2023 with more cash than projected due to higher cash generated from operating activities in those years, as seen in Figure 8.

“As of the end of FY 2023, the Postal Service has spent \$6.7 billion and committed \$12.4 billion out of the \$40 billion in capital spending planned for in the DFA. ... The Postal Service has not paid \$13.7 billion in outstanding liabilities to CSRS fund or \$8.8 billion to FERS and has stated that its liquidity remains insufficient to pay all obligations, to make capital investments necessary for continuity of operations, and to prepare for unexpected contingencies. ...



“These current and upcoming obligations put further pressure on the Postal Service to achieve financial stability and maintain the liquidity needed to finish its planned \$40 billion in DFA capital spending. The Postal Service needs to be transparent with future years’ projections and plan initiatives, so that stakeholders can understand goals and progress made.”

The OIG offered two recommendations:

- “... update and communicate Delivering for America Plan financial projections based on current conditions and environment [and]
- “... develop a plan to track, measure, and communicate progress on initiatives that result from the Delivering for America Plan.”

In response, “Management agreed with recommendation 1 and generally agreed with recommendation 2.”

### Observations

Though the OIG must base its findings and comments on the facts it encounters during the course of its audits, and maintain an official neutrality in its reports, readers can still perceive behaviors and attitudes that have been the hallmarks of the Postal Service under Louis DeJoy.

The centrality of the PMG’s 10-Year Plan to everything the agency does – and everything its executives say – has become more than a core principle for the Postal Service; the Postal Service has made The Plan into biblical dogma.

In turn, the USPS sees no need to reconcile the Plan with various other projections; to explain how or on what the forecasts were based; to track results from The Plan’s initiatives; or to be straight with ratepayers about not just where The Plan is succeeding, but also where it’s failing or in need of revision. Being candid and transparent, in the mind of DeJoy *et al*, is enabling “interference” and unwelcome criticism.

On the one hand, the audit may not have been as probing or critical of The Plan as it could have been but, conversely, the OIG deserves credit for trying to pry straight answers from The Plan’s phalanx of evasive and obfuscating defenders.

## Union Seeking Pay Changes, Shorter Work Week

According to a June 26 article in *People’s World*, the American Postal Workers Union, representing 190,000 Postal Service retail and processing clerks, drivers, and maintenance employees, is making demands for changes to pay scales and the length of the work week in its ongoing contract talks with the USPS. According to the article:

“APWU President Mark Dimondstein emphasized raising wages, eliminating two tiers, and expanding the USPS into new lines of business to increase its revenues.

“ ‘The two-tier structure makes it harder to hire and retain workers. We have to overcome some of the gaps created,’ said Dimondstein.

“Other goals included ‘stronger safety rules’ and ‘return of all retail sales to the clerical staff.’ Dimondstein had one final goal ... . ‘With all the technological changes’ at the USPS, which Postmaster General Louis DeJoy brags about as ways to speed up the mail, ‘It’s time for a shorter workweek with no loss in pay,’”

The Postal Service has a record of granting concessions to labor and passing the resulting costs on to ratepayers. As a result, it can be expected that the APWU will get continued periodic raises, cost-of-living adjustments, and no-layoff guarantees, and it may secure changes to the two-tier pay structure. Ratepayers can only hope that USPS negotiators draw the line at the 25% raise inherent in a shortened work week.

## The Patchwork of State Privacy Laws: Will Congress Act? And the States?

Privacy laws will be the topic of our next Mailers Hub webinar, at 1pm ET on July 9. Our speakers will discuss the latest developments and answer your questions. To register, go to [mailershub.com/events](https://mailershub.com/events).

Any article on the landscape of privacy law in the United States would likely be outdated by the time it went to press, as hardly a week passes without another state legislature passing another consumer privacy bill.

However, proposed federal legislation has begun working its way through Congress, the proverbial 800-pound gorilla that could crush some or all of the crop of state legislation. Here is a preview of that federal legislation, in its most recent iteration, along with an update on some unique requirements from recently passed privacy laws at the state level.

### *Possible federal legislation*

Recently, the American Privacy Rights Act (APRA) has been appearing to gain steam as it moves through Congress. In April, Senate Commerce Committee Chair Maria Cantwell (WA) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA 5<sup>th</sup>) released the draft text of the APRA. The bill is a grab-bag of privacy law requirements that have been proposed or adopted at the state level.

One notable (and perhaps welcome) aspect of the APRA is that it would likely preempt comparable state consumer privacy laws – subject to the substantial caveats discussed below.

Many of the requirements under the APRA will be familiar to those who have delved into the obligations set forth under the existing state counterparts: publicly available privacy policies, consumer privacy rights, designation of a privacy officer, and advance notice/opt out ability for selling/sharing/processing data. Similar to many of the state laws, the specific privacy rights made available to consumers include the right to access, the right to correct, the right to delete, the right to portability, and the right to opt-out of targeted advertising. Further, the APRA prohibits the transfer of sensitive data to third parties without express consent from the consumer (and requires a clear and conspicuous way for the consumer to withdraw consent).

Other requirements under the APRA would be fairly new, including mandates for large data holders relating to retention of privacy policies for ten or more years.

Most unwelcome for those fearing an active plaintiffs' bar, however, is the provision in the APRA that would allow consumers a private right of action against entities that violate their privacy rights – permitting such consumers to pursue damages, injunctive or other declaratory relief, and attorneys' fees/costs in individual or class action lawsuits.

Along with this private right of action, consumers also retain their ability to bring suit under the Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act and Genetic Information Act as well as the California Privacy Rights Act.

Relevant to the private right of action are the cure periods: in instances where a lawsuit seeks injunctive relief or actual damages, the entity being sued is entitled to a 30-day cure period.

However, this cure period does not apply when the lawsuit involves “substantial” privacy harms – harms that include: financial harms of not less than \$10,000 or physical/mental harms to an individual that involve either treatment by a bona fide healthcare provider or physical injury, highly offensive intrusion into the privacy expectations of a reasonable individual, or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability.

Whether or not the APRA will successfully work its way through Congress and in what form it might ultimately be enacted is far from certain – and it seems to be facing some headwinds in the current Congress at the moment.

We do know, however, that given the bipartisan support that the APRA has earned, there is cross-party interest in comprehensive federal privacy legislation, which could eliminate or reduce the patchwork of differing requirements imposed by an increasing number of states. The right federal bill – and the APRA is not currently it – would provide welcome relief to businesses of all sizes.

### *New state law requirements*

More and more states have passed their own privacy laws – with two of the more recent being Nebraska and Minnesota. Many of these new laws follow the same patterns as the earlier laws – similar rights, similar privacy policy requirements, similar obligations on controllers and those processing data for them.

Nebraska, however, is noteworthy for patterning itself on the Texas model of including any entity that is not a “small business,” rather than the Connecticut model that has thus far carried the day, and which only applies to businesses once they've reached a certain size or level of traffic.

Vermont recently attempted to pass a very strong privacy law, providing for a private right of action (California is the only other state with a private right of action, albeit in limited circumstances) – however, the Governor of Vermont vetoed the bill, so California still stands alone on this front.

Minnesota stands out for different reasons. First, as in Oregon but nowhere else, Minnesota grants consumers the right to obtain a list of third parties to whom their data has been disclosed.

Second, the Minnesota law provides a consumer with the right to question the results of a controller's profiling – but only in the context of profiling done in furtherance of decisions that produce legal or similarly significant effects concerning the consumer (i.e., decisions that result in the provision/denial of financial or lending services, housing, insurance, education enrollment/opportunities, criminal justice,

employment opportunities, health care services, or access to essential goods/services).

Lastly, controllers are required to document and maintain a description of the policies and procedures adopted to become compliant (and maintain compliance) with the Minnesota law.

As such, the Minnesota law is a good example of how, though many privacy laws are similar, each has its own wrinkles that create new obligations for businesses – one of the more troublesome parts of the current patchwork quilt approach to consumer privacy regulations.

### Conclusion

In sum, the collage of state privacy laws, each with its own nuances, can create confusion for those to whom the laws apply. There is some hope of federal action in the near future – which we hope would preempt the state laws and create a single standard nationwide.

Unless and until that comes to pass, however, businesses should exercise caution to ensure they review each new law

as it comes and comply with the variety of requirements set forth.

We look forward to discussing these issues and answering your questions at our July 9 webinar.

This article was produced exclusively for Mailers Hub by Stacy O. Stitham, David Swetnam-Burland, and Adam Mooney of Brann & Isaacson.

Brann & Isaacson is a boutique law firm that represents large and small online and multichannel companies, printers, commercial mail producers, and IT service providers located across the country. The firm advises companies of all sizes, including many in the Internet Retailer’s Top 500 Guide. 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.

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## USPS Releases the FY 2023 Household Diary Study

On June 27, the Postal Service filed the *Household Diary Study* for fiscal year 2023 (October 2022 through September 2023) with the Postal Regulatory Commission. Produced annually since 1987, the study “aims to collect information about households’ use of the mail and how that use changes over time. The information collected includes household demographics, lifestyle, attitudes toward mail advertising, bill paying practices, and use of the Internet and other information technologies.”

### Households

According to the report,

Mail Classification	Received	Sent
First-Class Mail	32.2	4.6
Marketing Mail Regular	41.1	—
Marketing Mail Nonprofit	10.8	—
Periodicals	3.4	—
Packages & Shipping Services	6.4	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Household to Household	1.8	
Total Mail Received and Sent by Households	97.4	
FY 2023 RPW Total	116.2	
Non-household to Non-household (Residual)	18.8	
Unaddressed	0.9	—

Source: HDS Diary Sample, FY 2023.  
Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

“in 2023, domestic mail to and from households accounted for 84% of total USPS mail volume, equating to 97.4 billion pieces sent and received by US households. As seen in Table 1.5, households received 94.0 billion pieces of mail and sent 5.2 billion. Both totals include 1.8 billion pieces of mail that households sent to each other. After subtracting the 1.8-billion-piece double-count (counted as both sent and received), total mail sent and received by households was 97.4 billion pieces. ...”

The study noted that, overall, “households received almost 16 pieces of mail per week and sent slightly less than one piece,” suggesting the vital role of commercial mail customers in providing USPS volume and revenue.

### Correspondence

Not surprisingly, the study found a steady and continuing decline in the volume of hard-copy correspondence.

“... in just one-year, from 2022 to 2023, total correspondence mail fell almost 9%. Analyzing volumes ... we see that the main cause of the 9% decline was a significant reduction in household-to-household, or personal, correspondence. The latter fell almost 15%, three times faster than correspondence from non-households to households (representing mostly business and government mail sent to households), which declined close to 5%. Mail sent by households to non-households represented the smallest component of correspondence but fell the most in terms of percentages (-20%).”

Regarding transaction mail,

“... starting in 2004, shortly after the development of online bill payment services, mail volumes started to rapidly migrate to the Internet. By 2010, payments had already plummeted 40%, falling from 10 billion pieces in 2004 to 6 billion in 2010. After 2010, mail payments continued to decline steadily through 2023, at which time volumes fell another 70%, totaling less than 2 billion pieces and accounting for only 10% of total transaction mail.”

Advertising mail has faced similar struggles.

“[D]irect mail spending fell 7% in 2023, after increasing 2% in 2022. Spending on most other media types also fell in 2023, after rising in 2022. However, Internet ad spending rose both years, growing 11% in 2023 and 7% in 2022. Over the past several years, the rapid growth in Internet advertising absorbed funds otherwise available for spending on direct mail and other types of advertising media, thus reducing their share of the market.”

As for Periodicals,

“The number of newspapers received by mail increased 33%, from 6 pieces per household per year in 2022 (and in 2021) to 8 pieces in 2023, representing 31% of household periodicals (a significant increase from 21% in 2021). Compared to 1987, when they were still the predominant source of daily news, the number of newspapers received in 2023 fell 74%, from 10 pieces annually per household to 3 pieces per household, respectively.

Demographic details, including age, education, and internet access, are included in the discussion for each category of mail. The entire 94-page report is available from the PRC’s website at <https://prc.arkcase.com/portal/docket-search/daily-listings/filing-details/129457>.

## This is Getting Personal! The Sinking Brand of the Postal Service

I hate anecdotal evidence – I’m a data guy. I track billions of pieces of mail, so don’t tell me how long it took to get Aunt Hilda’s birthday card. That’s a tough break for you, but my data is what I count on. But, of course, service data doesn’t look so good right now and suddenly I’m building my own collection of anecdotes.

### Soup

It started with pea soup – Habitant Yellow Pea Soup, to be precise. My wife loves the stuff and grew up on it. It’s not easy to find at the grocery store, so I went to, where else, Amazon. I ordered a case of it! Unfortunately, this was not an Amazon Prime selection – not by a long shot. It was shipped via the Postal Service from somewhere in upstate New York.

We checked on the USPS tracking and it made it into the system ... and never showed its yellow face again. Amazon sent me an email telling me it had been lost, and they refunded our payment. No soup for you!

It has gotten to the point that many people I know will now specifically look for items that will not be delivered by USPS. In all honesty I have had many packages delivered by USPS lickety-split but had enough bad experiences that their brand has been damaged.

### Moving

A much worse story is what SnailWorks has experienced since we changed offices in April. We were moving out of the offices we had shared with a mailer for years. Like good citizens we filed a change of address, making it clear that all SnailWorks mail was to be delivered to our shiny new PO box. We alerted our clients, as best we could, about our new address, but the mail continued to arrive at the old address.

When I went into the local post office and spoke with the carrier supervisor, I was assured that our carrier was a “good guy” and that it would be resolved. Be careful what you ask for. Today our mail is being forwarded and it is taking weeks.

Like many businesses, we get a lot of checks in the mail, and with checks in limbo our cashflow has taken a real hit. We’re a healthy company with a good line of credit, so we have managed, but it has been inconvenient, stressful, and costly.

### Delivery

Imagine being a small business in Atlanta the past few months. Delivery has been disastrous, with mail held up for weeks. I can see the terrible performance of the Postal Service there causing real hardship for business – in addition to all the citizens in the area.

The sad result of all of this is that, just like the banks, we are now begging our clients to pay us electronically. We just don’t trust that USPS will deliver – literally.

The bad stories keep adding up. It took more than two weeks for a deed to arrive at our house in Maryland from Massachusetts, using Priority Mail. One of our team members waited nearly a month for a book of stamps to be delivered. It arrived via Ground Advantage from USPS ... a book of stamps!

From doctors telling patients in Houston and Atlanta not to get prescriptions by mail, to a Christmas card delivered in May, a flood on anecdotes is killing the Postal Service’s brand – and with each bad story, another postal customer is lost.

The Postal Service is a trusted and venerated institution. It is heartbreaking to see its brand fall so far.

This article was produced by Dave Lewis, President of SnailWorks, based in Frederick (MD). Dave is a recognized industry expert and frequent speaker at postal and industry functions. Dave has held leadership roles in several industry associations, has served as a Mailers Hub representative on MTAC, and is the 2024-2025 president of the Mailing and Fulfillment Services Association. Dave is a graduate of the University of Maryland. When he isn’t mailing and marketing stuff, Dave enjoys buying (and even occasionally playing) guitars and traveling.

## Newspaper Test Reveals Delivery Issues

As the election season approaches, it’s likely the media will be watching USPS service performance to see if there are delays in political mail or in getting voting materials to, and back from, voters. Perhaps the first test was conducted in April, conducted by Lancaster (PA)-based LNP Media Group and reported in a June 15 article on *LNP/LancasterOnline*.

### Variability

On Friday, April 12, a stamped First-Class Mail envelope, approximating the dimensions of a ballot, addressed to the sender’s PO Box at the Lancaster post office, was deposited in each of the 62 collection boxes in Lancaster County. As the article reported:

“One letter arrived the next day, Saturday, April 13. Then on Monday, 50 more of the 62 letters arrived, leaving only 11 letters still in transit. By Wednesday, April 17, 60 of the 62 letters LNP mailed had been taken to the Harrisburg mail distribution center – where first-class mail from Lancaster County is processed – sorted there, and driven back to the downtown Lancaster post office, their final destination. But two letters remained outstanding.

“The pair of stragglers, mailed from the Talmage and Browntown post offices, had Harrisburg postmarks of April 12 and 13, respectively. But despite arriving at the Harrisburg distribution center

within a day of mailing, the letters did not reach the Lancaster post office box until April 24 – the day after the primary.



“The letters did not have any tracking technology tied to them. First-Class Mail sent by noncommercial customers is typically processed with a postmark at a mail facility, but it doesn’t include any other tracking numbers or information. ... Three pieces of mail in the experiment did not show any postmarks, but each bore barcodes that were pasted on as they were processed by the Postal Service.”

If the Postal Service was aware of the test it didn’t offer a public response. Nonetheless, the situation should serve as notice to the agency that its service will be observed this fall, and that – regardless of its “extraordinary” measures – any portion of total political or ballot mail not delivered on time will be widely publicized. Actual service, not what USPS publicity claims – will be what matters.

## How To Stand Out With Direct Mail?

Help your customers get better direct mail results by standing out. Grabbing attention immediately is a great way to get their message read. So how can you help your customers stand out?

Here are five ways to get direct mail to stand out:

- 1. Use color envelopes:** Color is inviting and not used often enough. Your envelope will get opened because it is unique. There are many standard colors available that do not drastically increase your costs. They have been easier to get lately as well with the paper shortage since most envelopes are printed on white stock. Keep in mind some colors are not USPS approved, such as red. When was the last time you had a color envelope in your mail box?
- 2. Use stamps:** There is a stamp for each postage class – use them. Nonprofits are best at this. When they send out an appeal letter there is a stamp on the envelope. Your piece looks less like the other pieces in the mail box with permits or meters. Keep in mind that the presorted stamps do not come with fun image options. The look of the stamp is not as important as the fact that you are using a stamp.
- 3. Use larger pieces:** You can use up to a 6.125 x 11.5 postcard and still pay the letter size postage rate. A folded self-mailer can be 6 x 10.5. Take advantage of that. Larger pieces get noticed. It also gives you more room for design and larger text for your copy. Just because you have more room does not mean you should write a book. Keep your copy concise and on point.

**4. Use taglines:** Add fun taglines to your envelopes, get your recipients excited about what they are going to find in the envelope. Using diagonal text, bright colors or fun fonts. The more creative the better. Consider using a funny phrase that is in line with your branding. People love to laugh!

**5. Use targeting:** Target your message to the individual. If you are having a sale on fishing lures make sure you target people who use lures. I would not be a good target, as I like to bait fish. Send me a targeted piece on bait for sale. The better targeted the message the more likely they are to respond. Not everyone on your list is a fit for every offer, so make sure that you send relevant offers to the right people.

Remember to change only one thing at a time so that when you are analyzing your results you will be able to see if the change you made has increased your response. It would be best to have a control group of what you always have done and then split off a segment to try the new piece with. This will give you the most accurate results.

Remember to check the new design to make sure it is still USPS compliant. You don't want to print the great new design only to find out postage is more than double because it did not meet USPS regulations. Are you ready to get started?

This article was provided by long-time colleague Summer Gould, formerly of Eye/Comm, now an account executive with Neyesch Printers, San Diego (CA). She may be contacted at [summer@neyesch.com](mailto:summer@neyesch.com).

## May Financials: More Red Ink

The Postal Service's monthly financial report for May showed a return to the pattern pointing toward another significant annual loss. The culprit cited by the chairman of the USPS Board of Governors in March – the workers' comp liability – swung a full \$1 billion, from -\$623 million last month to +\$377 million in May, but other expenses didn't help, either.

Volume for the four market-dominant classes was slightly higher (+0.4%) than May 2023, while competitive product volume was 2.7% higher.

Total revenue was 2.9% higher than May 2023, but total expenses were 12.1% higher, resulting in a \$1.306 net loss for the month, more than twice the loss reported in May 2023. In turn, this pushed the net loss for the year to \$4.898 billion – on pace for a \$7.3 billion loss for the year.

### Volume and revenue

First-Class Mail volume was down 2.3% but Marketing Mail grew 2.6% compared to the same period last year. Total USPS volume was 9.191 billion pieces, up 0.5% from SPLY.

First-Class Mail: 3.535 bln pcs, -2.3%; 30.721 bln pcs, -3.5% YTD  
Marketing Mail: 4.761 bln pcs, +2.6%; 38.727 bln pcs, -6.1% YTD  
Periodicals: 251.9 mln pcs, -1.0%; 1.883 bln pcs, -7.6% YTD  
Total Mkt Dom: 8.604 bln pcs, +0.4%; 71.933 bln pcs, -5.0% YTD  
Total Competitive: 566.8 mln pcs, +2.7%; 4.630 bln pcs, +4.2% YTD  
Total USPS: 9.191 bln pcs, +0.5%; 76.770 bln pcs, -4.5% YTD

Despite price increases on market-dominant totaling over 7.3% since May 2023, market-dominant mail revenue

increased only 4.6% compared to last May. USPS operating revenue for the month was \$6.432 billion, with the classes higher as well:

First-Class Mail: \$1.990 bln, +2.4%; \$17.350 bln, +3.4% YTD  
Marketing Mail: \$1.258 bln, +6.8%; \$10.308 bln, -0.0% YTD  
Periodicals: \$81.442 mln, +5.2%; \$615.66 mln, -0.2% YTD  
Total Mkt Dominant: \$3.636 bln, +4.6%; \$30.794 bln, +1.9% YTD  
Total Competitive: \$2.692 bln, +1.6%; \$22.340 bln, +2.6% YTD  
Total USPS: \$6.433 bln, +3.0%; \$54.208 bln, +1.9% YTD

### Expenses and workhours

Total "controllable" compensation and benefit costs in May were \$5.162 billion, 2.3% over plan and 3.9% higher than May 2023; total expenses were \$7.802 billion, 4.6% over plan and 12.2% higher than a year earlier. Workhour usage was 1.7% over plan but 0.2% lower than a year earlier. Total workhours for the year-to-date were 1.1% over plan and only 0.8% below SPLY YTD. Moreover, despite less work, the USPS workforce is larger, and with more career employees.

Month's end complement: 644,102 employees (533,048 career, 111,054 non-career) +0.62% compared to May 2023 (640,123 employees: 521,309 career, 118,814 non-career), but 2.25% more career workers.

Compared to May 2021, total USPS volume was down 7.03% (market dominant 7.43% lower; competitive up 1.95%); after price increases totaling nearly 25%, operating revenue was up only 6.93%; and total workhours were up 0.89% from three years ago. All the numbers are on the next page.



**USPS Preliminary Information (Unaudited) – May 2024 <sup>1</sup>**

OPERATING DATA OVERVIEW <sup>1,2</sup>		Current Period					Year-to-Date				
Revenue/Volume/Workhours (Millions)		Actual	Plan	SPLY	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var	Actual	Plan	SPLY <sup>5</sup>	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var
<b>Revenue</b>											
Operating Revenue	\$6,432	\$6,576	\$6,248	-2.2%	2.9%	\$54,208	\$54,819	\$53,174	-1.1%	1.9%	
Other Revenue	--	--	--	NMF	NMF	\$5	\$3	\$109	66.7%	-95.4%	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$6,432</b>	<b>\$6,576</b>	<b>\$6,248</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>\$54,213</b>	<b>\$54,822</b>	<b>\$53,283</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses</b>											
Personnel Compensation and Benefits	\$5,998	\$5,503	\$5,110	9.0%	17.4%	\$45,112	\$43,848	\$43,566	2.9%	3.5%	
Transportation	\$709	\$820	\$800	-13.5%	-11.4%	\$6,092	\$6,466	\$7,002	-5.8%	-13.0%	
Supplies and Services	\$289	\$267	\$281	8.2%	2.8%	\$2,277	\$2,178	\$2,229	4.5%	2.2%	
Other Expenses	\$757	\$819	\$723	-7.6%	4.7%	\$5,913	\$6,013	\$5,589	-1.7%	5.8%	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,753</b>	<b>\$7,409</b>	<b>\$6,914</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>12.1%</b>	<b>\$59,394</b>	<b>\$58,505</b>	<b>\$58,386</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$1,321</b>	<b>-\$833</b>	<b>-\$666</b>			<b>-\$5,181</b>	<b>-\$3,683</b>	<b>-\$5,103</b>			
Interest Income	\$65	\$81	\$88	-20.4%	-26.7%	\$645	\$657	\$596	-1.9%	8.1%	
Interest Expense	\$49	\$51	\$38	-3.9%	28.9%	\$361	\$388	\$258	-7.0%	39.9%	
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>-\$1,306</b>	<b>-\$803</b>	<b>-\$616</b>			<b>-\$4,898</b>	<b>-\$3,414</b>	<b>-\$4,765</b>			
<b>Mail Volume</b>											
Total Market Dominant Products <sup>3</sup>	8,604	8,193	8,570	5.0%	0.4%	71,934	68,935	75,716	4.4%	-5.0%	
Total Competitive Products <sup>3</sup>	567	566	552	0.2%	2.7%	4,630	4,646	4,444	-0.3%	4.2%	
Total International Products	20	22	22	-9.9%	-9.1%	207	215	234	-3.7%	-11.5%	
<b>Total Mail Volume</b>	<b>9,191</b>	<b>8,781</b>	<b>9,144</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>76,771</b>	<b>73,796</b>	<b>80,394</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	
<b>Total Workhours</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	
<b>Total Career Employees</b>	<b>533,048</b>		<b>521,309</b>		<b>2.3%</b>						
<b>Total Non-Career Employees</b>	<b>111,054</b>		<b>118,814</b>		<b>-6.5%</b>						

MAIL VOLUME and REVENUE <sup>1,2</sup>		Current period			Year-to-Date		
Pieces and Dollars (Thousands)		Actual	SPLY	% SPLY Var	Actual	SPLY	% SPLY Var
<b>First Class (excl. all parcels and Int'l.)</b>							
Volume	3,535,400		3,618,689	-2.3%	30,721,193	31,840,109	-3.5%
Revenue	\$1,989,700		\$1,943,459	2.4%	\$17,349,477	\$16,776,597	3.4%
<b>Periodicals</b>							
Volume	251,856		254,521	-1.0%	1,883,563	2,038,508	-7.6%
Revenue	\$81,442		\$77,452	5.2%	\$615,657	\$616,898	-0.2%
<b>Marketing Mail (excl. all parcels and Int'l.)</b>							
Volume	4,761,144		4,640,790	2.6%	38,727,393	41,234,621	-6.1%
Revenue	\$1,258,191		\$1,177,740	6.8%	\$10,308,294	\$10,312,049	-0.0%
<b>Package Svcs. (ex. Inb'd. Intl Surf. PP @ UPU rates)</b>							
Volume	32,925		30,204	9.0%	291,923	294,009	-0.7%
Revenue	\$67,921		\$66,978	1.4%	\$609,941	\$597,779	2.0%
<b>All other Market Dominant Mail</b>							
Volume	23,168		25,468	-9.0%	308,908	309,891	-0.3%
Revenue	\$239,058		\$210,813	13.4%	\$1,910,975	\$1,920,093	-0.5%
<b>Total Market Dominant Products (ex. all Int'l.)</b>							
Volume	8,604,494		8,569,672	0.4%	71,932,981	75,717,138	-5.0%
Revenue	\$3,636,312		\$3,476,443	4.6%	\$30,794,344	\$30,223,416	1.9%
<b>Shipping and Package Services</b>							
Volume	566,791		551,686	2.7%	4,629,574	4,443,589	4.2%
Revenue	\$2,577,173		\$2,527,735	2.0%	\$21,409,331	\$20,865,360	2.6%
<b>All other Competitive Products</b>							
Volume	-		-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%
Revenue	\$115,232		\$121,456	-5.1%	\$990,525	\$977,266	1.4%
<b>Total Competitive Products (ex. all Int'l.)</b>							
Volume	566,791		551,686	2.7%	4,629,574	4,443,589	4.2%
Revenue	\$2,692,405		\$2,649,191	1.6%	\$22,399,856	\$21,842,626	2.6%
<b>Total International <sup>4</sup></b>							
Volume	19,799		22,043	-10.2%	207,332	233,943	-11.4%
Revenue	\$104,029		\$122,112	-14.8%	\$1,013,802	\$1,108,136	-8.5%
<b>Total</b>							
Volume	<b>9,191,084</b>		<b>9,143,401</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>76,769,886</b>	<b>80,394,670</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>
Revenue	<b>\$6,432,745</b>		<b>\$6,247,745</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>\$54,208,002</b>	<b>\$53,174,177</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

EXPENSES OVERVIEW <sup>1,2</sup>		Current Period					Year-to-Date				
Dollars (Millions)		Actual	Plan	SPLY	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var	Actual	Plan	SPLY	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var
<b>Controllable Pers. Comp. &amp; Benefits</b>											
FERS Unfunded Liabilities Amortization <sup>6</sup>	\$5,162	\$5,044	\$4,967	2.3%	3.9%	\$40,749	\$40,182	\$39,775	1.4%	2.4%	
CSRS Unfunded Liabilities Amortization <sup>6</sup>	\$192	\$192	\$158	0.0%	21.5%	\$1,533	\$1,533	\$1,266	0.0%	21.1%	
Workers' Compensation <sup>7</sup>	\$267	\$267	\$258	0.0%	3.5%	\$2,133	\$2,133	\$2,066	0.0%	3.2%	
	\$377	\$--	-\$273	NMF	NMF	\$697	\$--	\$459	NMF	51.9%	
<b>Total Pers. Comp. &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$5,998</b>	<b>\$5,503</b>	<b>\$5,110</b>	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>\$45,112</b>	<b>\$43,848</b>	<b>\$43,566</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	
<b>Total Non-Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,755</b>	<b>\$1,906</b>	<b>\$1,804</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>	<b>\$14,282</b>	<b>\$14,657</b>	<b>\$14,820</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	
<b>Total Expenses (incl. interest)</b>	<b>\$7,802</b>	<b>\$7,460</b>	<b>\$6,952</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>12.2%</b>	<b>\$59,755</b>	<b>\$58,893</b>	<b>\$58,644</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	

WORKHOURS <sup>1,2,3</sup>		Current Period					Year-to-Date				
Workhours (Thousands)		Actual	Plan	SPLY	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var	Actual	Plan	SPLY	% Plan Var	% SPLY Var
<b>City Delivery</b>	35,707	34,543	35,495	3.4%	0.6%	284,537	278,503	284,240	2.2%	0.1%	
<b>Mail Processing</b>	15,216	15,120	15,674	0.6%	-2.9%	130,445	128,628	135,881	1.4%	-4.0%	
<b>Customer Services &amp; Retail</b>	11,867	11,656	12,311	1.8%	-3.6%	95,748	94,324	98,123	1.5%	-2.4%	
<b>Rural Delivery</b>	19,022	18,538	18,828	2.6%	1.0%	148,748	147,615	150,731	0.8%	-1.3%	
<b>Other</b>	14,736	15,113	14,407	-2.5%	2.3%	113,779	116,059	110,299	-2.0%	3.2%	
<b>Total Workhours</b>	<b>96,548</b>	<b>94,970</b>	<b>96,715</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>773,257</b>	<b>765,139</b>	<b>779,274</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	

<sup>1</sup>/May 2024 had the same delivery days and the same retail days compared to May 2023. YTD has one delivery day and 1.5 more retail days compared to the same period last year (SPLY).  
<sup>2</sup>/Numbers may not add due to rounding and/or adjustments. Percentages calculated using unrounded numbers. The sampling portion of the RPW system is designed to be statistically valid on a quarterly and annual basis. <sup>3</sup>/Excludes all International. <sup>4</sup>/Includes Current Period Market Dominant Volume of 9,338 and Revenue of \$13,677; SPLY Market Dominant Volume of 9,993 (-6.6%) and Revenue of \$13,962 (-2.0%). Also includes Current Period Competitive Volume of 10,461 and Revenue of \$90,352; SPLY Competitive Volume of 12,050 (-10.2%) and Revenue of \$108,150 (-16.5%). <sup>5</sup>/ This represents the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) estimated amortization expense related to the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) and Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). The actual invoices will be received between September 2024 and October 2024. <sup>6</sup>/This represents non-cash adjustments: the impact of discount and inflation rate changes and the actuarial revaluation of new and existing cases. NMF = Not Meaningful Figure, percentages +/- 200% or greater.

## All the Official Stuff

### Federal Register

#### Postal Service

##### NOTICES

**June 21:** Product Change [15]: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreement [10], 52106, 52107, 52107, 52107, 52107, 52107, 52108, 52108, 52108, 52109; Priority Mail Express and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreement, 52108; Priority Mail and USPS Ground Advantage Negotiated Service Agreement [4], 52106, 52106, 52107, 52108.

##### PROPOSED RULES

**June 28:** OEL and Carrier Route Information Lines, 53913-53914; Parcel Processing Categories Simplification 53914-53932.

##### FINAL RULES

**June 18:** Known Mailer and Exceptions, 51446-51448.

**June 21:** Customs Declaration Exceptions, 51976-51978.

**June 24:** International Mailing Services: Price Changes, 52385-52386.

#### Postal Regulatory Commission

##### NOTICES

**June 20:** New Postal Products, 51915-51916.

**June 21:** New Postal Products, 52106.

**June 24:** New Postal Products, 52517-52518.

**June 25:** New Postal Products, 53128.

**June 27:** New Postal Products, 53669-53670.

**July 1:** New Postal Products, 54544-54545.

##### PROPOSED RULES

[None].

##### FINAL RULES

[None].

#### DMM Advisory

**June 17:** Monthly Labeling List Changes.

**June 21:** Mercury Remains Prohibited in the Mail.

#### Postal Bulletin (PB 22653, June 27)

Effective **July 14**, various sections of the DMM are revised to reflect changes coincident with Postal Service price adjustments

effective July 14, 2024. On May 30, 2024, the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) found that price adjustments that the Postal Service proposed may take effect as planned. Like the price adjustments, the revised DMM standards will become effective on July 14, 2024. Final prices are available under Docket No. R2024-2 (Order No. 7155) on the PRC website at [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov). New prices and an article with detailed revisions to be made to the DMM regarding these standards will be available on the Postal Explorer website at [pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com). The Postal Service will incorporate these revisions into the July 14, 2024, update of the online DMM, which is available on Postal Explorer at [pe.usps.com](http://pe.usps.com).

The full text of the final rule was published in the June 17 issue of *Mailers Hub News*.

- Effective **June 27**, the IMM Individual Country Listing for Germany is revised to note that human and cremated remains are prohibited to Germany.
- Effective **June 27**, the IMM Individual Country Listing for Indonesia is revised to revise restrictions on commercial shipments mailed to Indonesia.
- Effective **June 27**, the IMM Individual Country Listing for Iraq is revised to note additional prohibitions regarding certain items destined for Iraq.
- Effective **July 14**, Notice 123, *Price List*, is revised to reflect changes to prices and fees for the International Mailing Services noted in this article. The following information is based on Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) Order No. 7155 issued on May 30, 2024, in PRC Docket No. R2024-2. In that order, the PRC concluded that the price adjustments in the Postal Service's notice may go into effect on July 14, 2024. The order is available on the PRC website at [prc.gov](http://prc.gov).

The full text of the final rule is included in this issue of *Mailers Hub News*.

*Postal Bulletin* announcements of revisions to the DMM, IMM, or other publications often contain **two** dates: when a *revised document* is effective, and when a *revised standard* is effective. The effective date of a revised standard is typically *earlier* than when it will appear in a revised publication.

#### USPS Industry Alerts

June 17, 2024

##### Plant-Verified Drop Shipment Updates

In conjunction with the price change occurring on July 14, 2024, plant-verified drop shipment (PVDS) mailings will be verified and accepted as follows:

**Current Prices** – PVDS mailings verified and paid for on or before July 14, 2024, using the current prices will be accepted at destination entry postal facilities through Monday, July 28, 2024, when presented using elnduction or eVS processes or with appropriate verification and payment documentation (PS Form 8125 or PS Form 8017).

**New Prices** – PVDS mailings may be verified and paid for beginning June 30, 2024, using the new prices, provided the shipments, when presented using elnduction or eVS processes, or with appropriate verification and payment documentation (PS Form 8125 or PS Form 8017), are not deposited at destination entry postal facilities before July 14, 2024.

- For mailings with electronic documentation, mailers must enter a Mail Arrival Date that is on or after July 14, 2024.
- For mailings with hard-copy postage statements, USPS acceptance employees must enter a Mail Arrival Date that is on or after July 14, 2024.

June 17, 2024

##### Click-N-Ship Gets an Upgrade

Effective July 14, 2024, all business and personal customers with a USPS.com account will automatically be redirected to a new, updated version of Click-N-Ship, the Postal Service's online label-creation application. The upgrade adds new features and allows for more efficient payment. Features available in the enhanced application include: Lower commercial rates for Click-N-Ship customers on eligible postage purchases; Additional savings on select services for business customers who opt in to the new Business Rate Card; USPS Label Delivery, allowing customers who do not have a printer to receive physical labels; Return label creation for outgoing shipments from businesses to customers; A new Label Manager feature allowing customers to bulk upload and edit up to 1,000 addresses; A new Shipping History function that allows customers to review a record of all labels purchased.; Free USPS-branded shipping supplies and packaging; The option to have mail pieces delivered to a nearby USPS Smart Locker; The ability to add extra services such as Electronic Signature

Online, Hold for Pickup and more. To start using the enhanced Click-N-Ship application, customers can create a new USPS.com account or sign into an existing one by visiting [cnb.usps.com](https://cnb.usps.com). For detailed information regarding the upgraded Click-N-Ship application, please visit the enhanced Click-N-Ship experience FAQs.

June 18, 2024

**Discontinuance of Four Standard USPS-Branded Packaging Supplies**

As part of the Delivering for America plan and simplifying our packaging offerings, we conducted an analysis of our packaging and based on usage we have decided to discontinue further production of the following items effective immediately; Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes Variety Pack (VARIETYBOX); Priority Mail Medium Box Option 2 (O1097); Priority Mail DVD Box (ODVDS); Priority Mail Express Medium Box Option 1 (EMBOX2). Each of these items will remain available while supplies last. Customers interested in ordering this pack are encouraged to place desired orders before supplies are depleted. The Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes Variety Pack contains one of each of the Flat Rate boxes. The individual Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes are available for customers to order on [usps.com](https://usps.com) through the Postal Store website or enhanced Click-N-Ship. The Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes can be ordered in single quantities through the Postal Store website or picked up at your local Post Office. The recommended alternatives for the other three boxes are listed below.

Discontinued Item		Recommended Alternatives	
Item Name	Outside Dimensions	Item Name	Outside Dimensions
Priority Mail Medium Box, Option 2 (O1097)	13-7/16" x 11-5/8" x 2-1/2"	Priority Mail Box Medium Box Option 1 (O1092)	13-11/16" x 12" x 2-7/8"
		Priority Mail Large Box (O1095)	15" x 12" x 3-1/8"
Priority Mail DVD Box (ODVDS)	8-3/4" x 5-9/16" x 7/8"	Priority Mail Small Flat Rate Box (SFRB)	8-11/16" x 5-7/16" x 1-3/4"
		Priority Mail Small Box (O196L)	9-7/16" x 6-7/16" x 2-3/16"
Priority Mail Express Medium Box Option 1 (EMBOX2)	14-1/8" x 12" x 3-1/2"	Priority Mail Express Medium Box Option 2 (O1093)	15" x 12" x 3-1/8"

For questions regarding this change, please email [expeditedpackaging@usps.gov](mailto:expeditedpackaging@usps.gov).

June 20, 2024

**Chief Logistics Officer and Executive Vice President Announces Retirement and New Organizational Structure Announced**

Kelly Abney, Chief Logistics Officer, and Executive Vice President has announced his intent to retire from the Postal Service, effective July 5, 2024. Since June 2022, Kelly has been a key contributor to our Delivering for America transformation and has achieved many accomplishments through his leadership of our Logistics organization. Previously, Kelly served in an advisory role to help rollout the national Covid Test Kit Program for the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services. With the announcement of Kelly's retirement, effective June 29, 2024, Ron Jarriel will serve as the Chief Logistics & Infrastructure Officer and Executive Vice President. He will be responsible for our logistics, facilities, and vehicle assets, as well as the service quality assurance and product acceptance teams. The following roles will report into the Chief Logistics & Infrastructure Officer: Senior Vice President, Logistics, A/Pete Routsolias; Vice President, Facilities, Ben Kuo; Executive Director, Service Quality Assurance, Greg White; Senior Director, Product Acceptance and Support, Randy Workman; Senior Director, Facilities Portfolio, Martin Petrey; Director, Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Program, Victoria Stephen; Director, Fleet Management, Justin Glass. Pete Routsolias will serve as Acting Senior Vice President of Logistics, responsible for the operation of our world-class logistics network and will continue to drive cost reductions and service-enhancing processes. This organization will also implement the redesign of the surface transportation network and improve carrier management leveraging our new, state-of-the-art logistics platform. Reporting to the Acting Senior Vice President of Logistics will be: Vice President, Logistics, Robert Cintron; Executive, Transportation Strategies, Vacant; Executive Director, Logistics Modeling & Planning, Stephen Hagenstein.

June 20, 2024

**Vice President of Plant and Process Modernization Announces Retirement**

John M. Dunlop, Vice President of Plant and Process Modernization, has announced his intent to retire from the Postal Service, effective June 28, 2024, after 35 years of exemplary service. John began his career with the Postal Service as Mechanical Engineer in the Mechanization Division of Facilities in 1989. He has held various positions in Engineering and Operations and has been involved in the design, financial justification, installation and activation of equipment and systems in almost every major processing plant in the Postal Service network. As the manager of Network Operations Engineering, he managed the team that created and deployed Lean Mail Processing. He also worked on numerous other major projects including, universal and tray sorters, robotics, postal industrial vehicles, and fixed mechanization. In April of 2022, John was selected as the Executive Director of Plant and Process Modernization. In this role, he has focused on designing the new Regional Processing and Distribution Centers (RPDCs) in pursuit of our network transformation initiative. In March of 2023, he was promoted to Vice President of this functional group. Under his leadership, we have made significant progress in the planning and design efforts associated with transforming our mail and processing network. He led the design, construction, and fit-out of the Atlanta and Charlotte RPDCs, and currently leads the ongoing work in Chicago, Jacksonville, Greensboro, and New Jersey regions. He was instrumental in the design, planning and implementation of the new matrix regional sorters (MaRS), which can process over one million packages a day.

June 21, 2024

**Mercury Remains Prohibited in The Mail**

The Postal Service is reminding customers that metallic mercury and devices containing metallic mercury are always prohibited in the mail stream. This includes antique items such as thermometers, barometers, blood pressure monitors, switches and relays. However, compact fluorescent lamps, which contain small amounts of mercury in vapor form, are mailable domestically but not internationally (including APO/FPO/DPO destinations). Due to the nature of mercury and its capability of producing toxic effects when inhaled or exposed to the skin, mercury represents a tremendous safety risk to our employees and customers.

When mercury spills it breaks into droplets and the droplets spread and build up in tiny cracks and spaces. It can absorb or be drawn into carpet, furniture, floors, walls and other items and be tracked throughout buildings and vehicles if not cleaned up right away. When spilled, it can vaporize (evaporate) into the air and get into the ventilation system ultimately spreading throughout buildings and vehicles. The vapor is very dangerous because it cannot be seen or smelled. If the spill occurs in a hot location (vehicle cargo area), it will vaporize more quickly and can be more dangerous.

Short-term exposure to high levels of mercury vapors include: Headache; Cough, sore throat; Eye irritation; Vision problems; Chest pain; Increase in blood pressure or heart rate; Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Health effects caused by long-term exposure to mercury vapors include: Anxiety; Tremors; Forgetfulness; Changes in hearing; Excessive shyness; Anorexia; Irritability; Sleeping problems; Loss of appetite; Changes in vision.

It is for these reasons that elemental mercury is prohibited from the mail (Reference Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail* (Pub 52) Section 348.21 and Appendix A.) If a person knowingly mails items or materials that are dangerous or injurious to life, health, or property, they may face a CIVIL PENALTY of at least \$250, but not more than \$100,000 per violation, the costs of any cleanup associated with each violation, and damages. They may also face criminal penalties. The Postal Service is committed to the safety and security of its employees, its customers, and its transportation networks. We must remain vigilant in safeguarding the mail stream against any article that might pose a hazard to health, safety, property, or the environment. The Postal Service offers FAQs on prohibited items containing mercury and the Postal Inspection Service has released a public service announcement on mercury in the mail. Additionally, please see the chart below regarding information on commonly encountered mercury.

Commonly Encountered Mercury	
Description of Item	Mailability of Item
<b>Liquid mercury</b> — Often encountered in a wide range of volumes. Reasons for sending include uses for gold reclamation/refinement, preparation of dental amalgams, and element collections.	Domestic Ground – <b>Prohibited</b> Domestic Air – <b>Prohibited</b> International – <b>Prohibited</b> <b>Prohibited as per Section 348.21e</b>
<b>Mercury barometer</b> — These devices often contain significant amounts of mercury that are not well contained. They have been responsible for several leaks. ( <b>Note:</b> Fully digital versions are available without restrictions.)	
<b>Mercury thermometer</b> — These items may contain significant amounts of mercury in breakable containment (glass). [Modern versions (i.e., digital and those using red liquid, which is alcohol to which red coloring has been added) are available without restrictions.]	
<b>Mercury sphygmomanometer (blood pressure gauge)</b> — These devices may contain significant amounts of mercury in breakable containment (glass). ( <b>Note:</b> Fully digital versions are available without restrictions.)	Domestic Ground – <b>Prohibited</b> Domestic Air – <b>Prohibited</b> International – <b>Prohibited</b> <b>Prohibited as per Section 348.21e, may encounter some that adhere to Section 348.22g</b>
<b>Mercury switch</b> - May exist in a small enough size to get below the 100 mg. limit; however, this would be the exception rather than the rule. If you can see the mercury, it is not mailable.	
<b>Mercury relay</b> — May exist in a small enough size to get below the 100 mg. limit; however, this would be the exception rather than the rule. If you can see the mercury, it is not mailable.	
<b>Compact fluorescent lamps</b> — These items contain small amounts of mercury vapor. If broken, there will be no visible mercury and the vapors will readily disperse.	Domestic Ground – <b>Mailable</b> Domestic Air – <b>Mailable</b> International – <b>Prohibited</b> <b>Mailable as per Section 348.22g.</b> <b>See also Packaging Instruction 8C.</b>

June 24, 2024

### Webtools Label Migration Dates

Web Tools Label APIs	USPS Label APIs
eVS (Domestic)	Domestic Label API (Domestic Labels 3.0)
eVSCancel	Domestic Label API (Domestic Labels 3.0)
eVSExpressMailIntl	International Label API (International Labels 3.0)
eVSPriorityMailIntl	International Label API (International Labels 3.0)
eVSFirstClassMailIntl	International Label API (International Labels 3.0)
eVSCancel	International Label API (International Labels 3.0)
SCAN	SCAN Form API (SCAN Form 3.0)
USPSReturnsLabel	Domestic Label API (Domestic Labels 3.0)

On July 14, 2024, the Webtools Label API is retiring. All users must migrate to the USPS Labels APIs. Contact your USPS account representative for assistance in migrating to the USPS Labels API v3. They can provide you with a Migration Feedback Form to facilitate the migration to the modernized API label solution. Migration Deadline Details for Label APIs: Integrators using the Web Tools Domestic, International, Returns Label APIs, and SCAN Form API should migrate to the new USPS Domestic and International Label APIs by July 14, 2024. The new USPS Label APIs (<https://developer.usps.com>) offer more API customization, product offerings, and payment options. Additional features include increased security via OAuth 2.0 authentication and webhooks push notifications. Additional Support for Migration:

Additional support for Label API migration and Mapping can be found under Announcements at Web Tools APIs | USPS. Contact APISupport@usps.gov and webtools@usps.gov for additional support.

June 26, 2024

### Click-N-Ship Application Upgrade

On July 14, 2024, all customers creating a shipping label online will experience the upgraded Click-N-Ship application. The Click-N-Ship application has added access to new features, pricing options, and an enhanced customer shipping experience. The Click-N-Ship application will offer USPS Ground Advantage, Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, and Parcel Select products for domestic shipping. For international shipping, Priority Mail Express International, Priority Mail International, and First-Class Package International Service will be available. Effective July 14, 2024, the upgraded Click-N-Ship application will not be available for Global Express Guaranteed (GXG) service. However, other postage payment methods will still be available for GXG. These include postage stamps, postage validation imprinter (PVI) labels, postage meter stamps, information-based indicia (IBI), PC Postage service, or permit imprint. GXG service will continue to be available at local post offices. Features and benefits available in the upgraded Click-N-Ship application include: Access to commercial rates on all label purchases for eligible products; Even lower than commercial rates for select products (limited to business customers opted into the Business Rate Card or customers with a negotiated service agreement); Label Manager allowing customers to upload and edit up to 1,000 labels; Create a return label to enable consumer returns included in the original shipment; Integration with marketplaces to import orders automatically; USPS Label Delivery, allowing customers without a printer to receive labels delivered by their carrier; Expanded Shipping History to view all labels purchased in the last 12 months; Free USPS-branded shipping supplies and packaging; Optional delivery of packages to a nearby USPS Smart Locker; The ability to add extra services such as Electronic Signature Online, Hold for Pickup and more. Customers already using the Click-N-Ship application, just sign into your USPS.com account to start using the enhanced version. New users can create a new USPS.com account by visiting [cnsb.usps.com](https://cnsb.usps.com) and then immediately begin to create shipping labels. For detailed information regarding the upgraded Click-N-Ship application, please visit the enhanced Click-N-Ship experience FAQs page on USPS.com.

June 27, 2024

**USPS Enforces Customs Forms Requirements for Military & Diplomatic Mail on July 14, 2024**

Effective July 14, 2024, 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 *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) (sections 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. Please contact Kurt Frye at [kurt.s.frye@usps.gov](mailto:kurt.s.frye@usps.gov) for questions or more details.

June 28, 2024

**Business Customer Gateway eDoc Training Series – Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb)**

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](https://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](https://usps.com)). Upcoming webinars: July 2, Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb); July 16, Business Customer Gateway (BCG)/ Postal Wizard (PW); July 30, Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb). Join us for the next session – Intelligent Mail for Small Business Tool (IMsb) on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 1:00 PM EST. Meeting URL: <https://usps.zoomgov.com/j/1603767418?pwd=TFONWNVMXQ2UW1wcUVCCeT5WFilZz09>; 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](https://usps.com)).

June 28, 2024

**Webtools Migration Dates**

Web Tools APIs	USPS APIs Equivalent
Track & Confirm V2	Tracking
Address Validation	Addresses
City & State Lookup	Addresses
Express Mail Commitments	Service Standards
Domestic Rates V4	Domestic Prices
Service Delivery Calculator	Service Standards
Post Office Locator V2 - Internal	Locations
ZIP Code Lookup	Addresses
International Rates V2	International Prices
Priority Mail Service Standards	Service Standards
First Class Mail Service Standards	Service Standards
Post Office Locator V2 - External	Locations
Track and Confirm Email	Tracking
Return Receipt Electronic	Tracking
Hold For Pickup Facility Information	Locations
Drop Off Locator	Locations
Pkg Services Service Standards	Service Standards

On January 25, 2026, the Webtools API platform is retiring. All users must migrate to the new USPS APIs. Contact your USPS account representative for assistance in migrating to the USPS APIs. They can provide you with a guidance to facilitate the migration to the modernized API solution.

Migration Deadline Details for Label APIs: Integrators using the Web Tools APIs must migrate to the new USPS APIs before January 25, 2026. All integrators using the Web Tools Labels APIs were instructed to migrate by July 14, 2024. The new USPS APIs (<https://developer.usps.com>) offer more API customization, product offerings, payment options, and improved performance. Additional features include increased security via OAuth 2.0 authentication and webhooks push notifications.

This shows the Web Tools API with the new USPS APIs equivalent. This list is not exhaustive.

Additional Support for Migration: Additional support for API migration and Mapping can be found under Announcements at Web Tools APIs | USPS. Contact [APISupport@usps.gov](mailto:APISupport@usps.gov), and [webtools@usps.gov](mailto:webtools@usps.gov) for additional support.

**Calendar**

*To register for any Mailers Hub webinar, go to [MailersHub.com/events](https://MailersHub.com/events)*

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**



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.

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## USPS FINAL RULE – Customs Declaration Exceptions

### POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

### Customs Declaration Exceptions

**AGENCY:** Postal Service

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is revising *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)*, in various sections, to delete the “known mailer” and “official mail” exceptions for customs declarations for mail to, from, or between overseas US military and diplomatic Post Office addresses.

**DATES:** Effective: September 29, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vlad Spanu at (202) 268-4180 or Kathy Frigo at (202) 268-4178.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 10, 2023, the Postal Service published a notice of proposed rulemaking (88 FR 30068) to delete section 703.2.3.9, “Customs Declarations--Exceptions,” to align Postal Service regulations with current customs policy. The Postal Service also proposed to make minor revisions to the text in sections 608.2.4.4 and 703.2.3.8 to align with deleting section 703.2.3.9. Additionally, due to deleting section 703.2.3.9, the Postal Service is renumbering current sections 703.2.3.10 through 703.2.3.13, respectively, and revising the introductory text in renumbered section 703.2.3.10.

#### Responses to Comments

The Postal Service received nine formal comments on the May 10, 2023, proposed rule. Two commenters concurred without comment, and seven commenters cited concerns to the proposed rule. The comments received and the Postal Service’s responses are as follows:

**Comment:** Two commenters said that they felt the current “known mailer” and “official mail” exceptions wording should not be amended for mail sent to or from overseas military and diplomatic Post Office addresses since the change could prevent mailing classified materials. The commenters also indicated that providing detailed descriptions on the customs form could identify secret and sensitive contents. In addition, the commenters noted that they send and receive documents and equipment currently considered as “official mail” from military locations and utilize a general description to deter rifling or theft. In support, one of the two commenters cited a reference from the *Department of Defense Manual 5200.01-V3 Enclosure 4: “Preparation of Material for Shipment: (3) Do not place a classification marking or any other unusual marks on the outer envelope or container that might invite special attention to the fact that the contents are classified.”* For these reasons, both commenters said that they felt that instituting the proposed rule would hinder investigations and clearance adjudications missions, ultimately stagnating the nation’s trusted workforce, and adversely impacting governmental departments. The commenters further indicated that continued use of the Postal Service for classified mail is contingent upon official mail to move freely without unnecessary roadblocks to meet critical mission requirements.

**USPS Response:** The Postal Service requires the information senders provide on customs declaration forms to be electronically transmitted to USPS before the package enters the Postal Service network. By using the electronic customs declaration data, risk assessment tools, and data analytics, the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) identifies packages with a potential risk to national security or the safety of the Postal Service mail stream. The detailed descriptions’ section of the Customs Declaration Form and Advance Electronic Data (AED) are used to provide a list of the contents within the package. The Postal Service does not have rules that require the disclosure of whether the contents are sensitive or confidential, nor a requirement to provide such marking on the exterior package that would reveal the national-security-classification level of the contents.

**Comment:** Like the previous comment, three commenters said that they felt the current “known mailer” and “official mail” exceptions wording should not be amended for mail sent to or from overseas military and diplomatic Post Office addresses since the change could prevent mailing sensitive or classified materials if the contents are required to be disclosed as such on the customs declaration form. One of the two commenters also indicated that requiring a detailed description for unclassified materials poses a potential of identifying other mail as sensitive or classified based on the sole “documents” description. The commenters further indicated that it would not be an issue if the Postal Service continued to accept a general description, such as “documents” for the description of sensitive or classified documents and equipment. One commenter further indicated that mailing classified documents would be contingent upon the allowance of using “documents” as the descriptor for all official mail.

**USPS Response:** Similar to the previous responses, there is no requirement to identify “secret,” “sensitive,” “classified,” or any other such distinction. For non-dutiable documents, the level of detail that would most often be expected to be adequate is “documents.”

**Comment:** One commenter did not oppose removing the “known mailer” and “official mail” exemptions for customs declaration forms for mail addressed to international addresses, but did oppose removing the exemption for mail addressed to and from overseas military and diplomatic Post Office addresses. The commenter felt that the exemption allows mail sent in an official capacity to move freely and for the most part without unnecessary roadblocks to meet critical mission requirements, and also provides the ability to conceal contents that could potentially be of a sensitive nature.

**USPS Response:** Similar to previous responses, the Postal Service requires the information senders provide on customs declaration forms to be electronically transmitted to USPS before the package enters the Postal Service network. By using the electronic customs declaration data, risk assessment tools, and data analytics, the USPIS identifies packages with a potential risk to national security or the safety of the Postal Service mail stream. There is no Postal Service requirement to identify a non-dutiable document as classified or sensitive on the customs declaration form or on the exterior of the package and, therefore, would not reveal the national security classification level of the contents.

**Comment:** One commenter opposed amending the “known mailer” and “official mail” exceptions for mail to or from overseas military and diplomatic Post Office addresses since it would cause a change to current procedures, requiring time to educate their personnel and the communities they support on the new procedures. The commenter further indicated that US Government entities should not be subjected to providing information on the customs declaration form or markings on the outer envelope or box since it could allude to

## USPS FINAL RULE – Customs Declaration Exceptions

the contents as confidential or classified material and cited a reference from the *Department of Defense Manual* 5200.01-V3 Enclosure 4: “Preparation of Material for Shipment: (3) Do not place a classification marking or any other unusual marks on the outer envelope or container that might invite special attention to the fact that the contents are classified.”

**USPS Response:** As indicated in previous responses, there is no requirement to identify “secret” or “sensitive” or “classified” or any other such distinction. The “detail” description that would most often be expected to be adequate is “documents.”

In addition, the Postal Service is simultaneously implementing associated changes to the *International Mail Manual* (IMM) under separate cover, eliminating the “known mailer” and “official mail” exceptions for mail in the international Postal Service network to conform to international law requirements for customs forms and data, which do not allow such exceptions. Given these necessary changes for international mail, the changes to the DMM will also promote uniformity in how mail originating in the United States and destined for overseas is inducted, screened, and processed, thus simplifying operational processes and avoiding customer confusion.

**Comment:** Two commenters responded as “Concurred without comment.”

**USPS Response:** The Postal Service thanks those commenters for the feedback and appreciates the support of this change.

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*. The Postal Service will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect the changes. In a separate rule, the Postal Service will also revise associated revisions to the *International Mail Manual* (IMM).

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 111 is amended as follows:

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, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, and 5001.
2. Revise *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail* (DMM), as follows:

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

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### **600 Basic Standards for All Mailing Services**

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#### **608 Postal Information and Resources**

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##### **2.0 Domestic Mail**

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##### **2.4 Customs Forms Required**

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###### **2.4.4 Overseas Military Mail**

*[Revise the text of 2.4.4 to read as follows:]* For determining customs declarations’ required usage when mailing to or from APO, FPO, or DPO addresses, see 703.2.3.6 through 703.2.3.8.

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#### **700 Special Standards**

##### **703 Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail and Other Unique Eligibility**

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###### **2.0 Overseas Military and Diplomatic Post Office Mail**

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###### **2.3 General Restrictions**

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###### **2.3.8 Customs Declarations--Required Usage**

*[Revise the introductory text of 2.3.8 to read as follows:]* In accord with the procedures provided in 2.3.6, customs declarations forms are required for use on shipments to or from APO/FPO/DPO locations as follows:

*[Revise the text of item a. to read as follows:]*

- a. Priority Mail Express mailpieces addressed to or from an APO, FPO, or DPO location must bear a properly completed computer-generated PS Form 2976-B, Priority Mail Express International Shipping Label and Customs Form, regardless of weight, value, or contents.

*[Revise the introductory text of item b. to read as follows:]*

- b. All other mailpieces addressed to or from an APO, FPO, or DPO location must bear a properly completed computer-generated PS Form 2976, *Customs Declaration CN22 – Sender’s Declaration*, or, if the customer prefers, a properly completed computer-generated PS Form 2976-A, *Customs Declaration and Dispatch Note – CP 72*, if either of the following conditions applies:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete 2.3.9, “Customs Declarations--Exceptions,” in its entirety and renumber current 2.3.10 through 2.3.13 as 2.3.9 through 2.3.12.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

###### **2.3.10 Items Not Eligible for Deposit or Pickup**

*[Revise the introductory text of renumbered 2.3.10 to read as follows:]* Customers must present the following items requiring a customs form to an employee at a Post Office retail service counter. The Postal Service will return these improperly presented items to the sender for proper entry and acceptance:

\*\*\*\*\*

Sarah Sullivan, Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.



## USPS FINAL RULE – Known Mailer and Exceptions

### POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

### Known Mailer and Exceptions

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is revising the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM)* to remove the “known mailer” definition and exceptions for customs declarations.

**DATES:** Effective September 29, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Vlad Spanu at (202) 268-4180 or Kathy Frigo at (202) 268-4178.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 12, 2023, the Postal Service published a notice of proposal (88 FR 30689) to remove IMM section 123.62 regarding known mailers and other related information in the IMM associated with known mailers to align postal regulations with current customs policy. In response to the proposed rule, the Postal Service received formal comments from two commenters as follows:

**Comment:** One commenter responded on behalf of the industry for multiple mailing services, noting that this industry represents the vast majority of the Postal Service’s outbound commercial volume and revenue. The commenter indicated it would be challenging for this industry, especially for nonprofit and publication mailers, to remove the “known mailer” definition and exceptions for customs declarations, in that the change would end the current allowances whereby a good of nominal value (less than \$1.00) can accompany a document mailed as a letter or flat without a customs form.

**Response:** Under the Acts of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), small packets containing goods must bear customs declarations, regardless of the minimal value of the goods. All goods require disclosure of details using the Customs Forms and Advance Electronic Data (AED) also known as Electronic Advance Data (EAD) outside of the United States, and as these items are traveling via international means, they must follow international rules for content and disclosure of contents.

**Comment:** The commenter further indicated that it would eliminate the current exception that also allows a document that exceeds the dimensions of a flat to be mailed as a packet without a customs declaration if it is poly-wrapped, noting that the exceptions were created a decade ago.

**Response:** Similar to the response above, under the Acts of the UPU, small packets containing goods must bear customs declarations, regardless of the minimal value of the goods. With respect to documents that are sent as bulky letters, the Postal Service does not have operational systems in place to separate such pieces from small packets containing goods. Consequently, a customs declaration is required for letter-post pieces that are entered as bulky letters i.e., that are items containing documents and are not eligible as letter-post letters or flats.

**Comment:** The commenter also indicated that, in 2017, similar comments of support to retain the known mailer exceptions were provided in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on International Mailing Service*, citing that those comments are essentially unchanged, and are even more resonant today given the sizeable decline in the Postal Service’s outbound volumes and revenue over the past five years. The commenter further noted that the Postal Service should not be adding any obstacles that make it harder for mailers to do business with it, especially given the highly competitive outbound market in which the Postal Service operates.

**Response:** The reduction of mail volumes and revenue, or other business concerns, while significant to the Postal Service, do not excuse the Postal Service and mailers from following international requirements for customs declarations and AED.

**Comment:** The commenter indicated that requiring a customs declaration form and accompanying electronic data for goods of a nominal value will be a costly adjustment to make for many current users, including among nonprofit organizations with which such items are most popular, in that it would require significant adjustments to their processes and increase their costs to accommodate the customs declaration form and data, most likely causing clients to consider the cost-effectiveness of sending future mailings, curtailing international fundraising mail. The commenter further indicated that adding the burden of the customs declaration form would make advertising mail with a giveaway cost-prohibitive for nonprofits.

**Response:** The cost effectiveness of this change does not dictate whether customs declarations are required by international law. This is not a change made with intent to shift burden or cost to the mailing or nonprofit industry; it is solely for consistency with mandatory international regulations.

**Comment:** Another notable challenge provided by the commenter is the proposed requirement that documents mailed as a packet due to size restrictions, such as publications, include a customs declaration form and associated electronic data. Any additional obstacles for publishers are likely to have an impact on outbound volumes.

**Response:** Similar to the response above, the impacts should be limited to an additional form placed on the package and associated AED transmission, and should not impact mail preparation or packaging unless the size of the item does not allow for a label that is 4 inches in length by 6 inches in height – in which case the package size may need to change or a smaller form may need to be designed and passed by the approving officials at the Postal Service for custom designed customs forms.

**Comment:** The commenter added that another problem with this proposed change is that confusion remains about whether publications and magazines sent as documents are “goods” that require a customs form. Some publications are free circulation, so customers do not pay for them and thus they have no monetary value to the customer, therefore presumably fitting the category of documents for which no customs declaration form is required. The commenter also contended that the importing country sets its own regulations determining whether publications are considered goods or documents and that it is not consistent across the board, with some countries treating publications as documents and others as goods. The commenter questioned whether the Postal Service would require a customs declaration form for all publications, even if the destination country considers them to be documents.

**Response:** In accordance with the UPU Convention and its Regulations, items containing goods require customs declarations. Documents generally consist of any written, drawn, printed, or digital information, excluding objects of merchandise, whose physical specifications lie within certain limits; goods generally consist of any tangible and movable objects other than money, including objects of

## USPS FINAL RULE – Known Mailer and Exceptions

merchandise, which do not fall under the definition of documents. Current IMM section 123.63 (here being renumbered as section 123.62) provides guidance on what items are generally considered documents and what items are generally considered merchandise. Customs declaration forms are required for magazines (periodicals) as merchandise.

Comment: The commenter also indicated that eliminating the known mailer exceptions adds another layer of complexity to the export compliance process, especially for shared partners that have worked closely with the Postal Service to meet the necessary export compliance requirements to ensure safety, security, and accountability in the international mailstream. The commenter further stated that these hurdles seem to tip the scale in favor of the Postal Service’s competitors and that elimination of the known mailer exceptions adds one more weight to the scale.

Response: The Postal Service cannot choose whether or not items with goods require customs declarations as a matter of international law, regardless of whether competitors insist on customs forms for private shipments. Customs forms are typically required for goods shipped as private cargo.

Comment: The other commenter requested that the subsections containing “official mail” exceptions for customs declarations remain and not be amended. The commenter indicated that general descriptions are utilized to deter rifling and theft and that removing the known mailer definition would compromise classified and secret or sensitive materials and equipment, hinder investigations, and create stagnancy for the nation’s trusted workforce, resulting in adverse impacts to government agencies and ultimately prevent the mailing of classified materials.

Response: Under binding international law, there is no general exception for customs declarations for “official mail.” At the same time, the Postal Service considers the security of all mail for which it is responsible to be of paramount importance.

The Postal Service is removing IMM section 123.62 in its entirety and revising associated IMM section 123.61a, Exhibit 123.61, and section 272.4 to remove known mailer references. We believe these revisions are necessary to align postal policy with current customs and international mail regulations applicable to the United States and other countries. The Postal Service adopts the described changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual* (IMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 20 to reflect these changes.

In a separate rule, the Postal Service will also revise associated revisions to the DMM.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 20 is amended as follows:

PART 20 – [AMENDED]

1.The authority citation for 39 CFR part 20 continues to read as follows: Authority: 5 USC 552(a); 13 USC 301-307; 18 USC 1692-1737; 39 USC 101, 401, 403, 404, 407, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, and 5001.

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

***Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual*** (IMM)

\* \* \* \* \*

### **1 International Mail Services**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **120 Preparation for Mailing**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **123 Customs Forms and Online Shipping Labels**

\* \* \* \* \*

##### **123.6 Required Usage**

##### **123.61 Conditions**

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item a. to read as follows:]*

a. Mailers may use the hard copy PS Form 2976-R and present it at a USPS retail service counter, or use an electronic PS Form 2976, PS Form 2976-A, or PS Form 2976-B as described in Exhibit 123.61.

\* \* \* \* \*

##### **Exhibit 123.61 Customs Declaration Form Usage by Mail Category**

\* \* \* \* \*

*[In the section “First-Class Package International Service Packages (Small Packets), as well as IPA Packages (Small Packets) and ISAL Packages (Small Packets),” remove the second row (beginning with “All package-size items. . .”) in its entirety; also in Exhibit 123.61, revise all references of 123.63 to 123.62.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Remove section 123.62, “Known Mailers,” in its entirety, renumbering current sections 123.63 and 123.64 to be 123.62 and 123.63, respectively.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

### **2 Conditions for Mailing**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **270 Free Matter for the Blind**

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **272 Eligibility**

\* \* \* \* \*

##### **272.4 Customs Form Required**

*[Revise the text to read as follows (removing the second sentence):]* When required (see Exhibit 123.61), the mailer must affix a fully completed electronically generated PS Form 2976 or 2976-A to each item.

Colleen Hibbert-Kapler, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

**USPS FINAL RULE – International Mailing Services: Price Changes**

**POSTAL SERVICE**

39 CFR Part 20

**International Mailing Services: Price Changes**

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Final action.

**SUMMARY:** On April 9, 2024, the Postal Service published notice of mailing services price adjustments with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC). The PRC concluded that the price adjustments contained in the Postal Service’s notification may go into effect on July 14, 2024. The Postal Service will revise Notice 123, *Price List*, to reflect the new mailing services prices.

**DATES:** Effective July 14, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dale Kennedy at 202-268-6592 or Kathy Frigo at 202-268-4178.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

I. Proposed Rule and Response

On April 9, 2024, the Postal Service filed a notice with the PRC in Docket No. R2024-2 of mailing services price adjustments to be effective on July 14, 2024. On April 17, 2024, the Postal Service published notification of proposed price changes in the *Federal Register* entitled “International Mailing Services: Proposed Price Changes” (89 FR 27403). The notification included the price changes that the Postal Service would adopt for certain services covered by *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual* (IMM) and publish in Notice 123, *Price List*, on Postal Explorer at pe.usps.com. The Postal Service received no comments.

II. Order of the Postal Regulatory Commission

In PRC Order No. 7155 issued on May 30, 2024, in PRC Docket No. R2024-2, the PRC concluded that the international prices in the Postal Service’s notice in Docket No. R2024-2 may go into effect on July 14, 2024. The new prices will be posted accordingly in Notice 123, *Price List*, on Postal Explorer at pe.usps.com.

III. Summary of Changes

First-Class Mail International

The price for a single-piece postcard will be \$1.65 worldwide. The First-Class Mail International (FCMI) letter nonmachinable will be \$0.46. The FCMI single-piece letter and flat prices will be as [at right]:

Weight not over (oz.)	Price groups			
	1	2	3-5	6-9
<b>Letters</b>				
1	\$1.65	\$1.65	\$1.65	\$1.65
2	1.65	2.50	2.98	2.98
3	2.36	3.30	4.36	4.36
3.5	3.02	4.14	5.75	5.75
<b>Flats</b>				
1	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15
2	3.55	4.22	4.48	4.48
3	3.86	5.16	5.78	5.78
4	4.12	6.13	7.11	7.11
5	4.43	7.09	8.41	8.41
6	4.73	8.03	9.71	9.71
7	5.02	9.01	11.01	11.01
8	5.32	9.96	12.31	12.31
12	6.79	12.03	14.92	14.92
15.994	8.27	14.10	17.53	17.53

International Extra Services and Fees

	Fee
<b>Certificate of Mailing</b>	
Individual pieces:	
Individual article (PS Form 3817)	\$ 2.10
Duplicate copy of PS Form 3817 or PS Form 3665 (per page)	2.10
Firm mailing sheet (PS Form 3665), per piece (minimum 3)	
First-Class Mail International only	0.61
Bulk quantities:	
For first 1,000 pieces (or fraction thereof)	11.65
Each additional 1,000 pieces (or fraction thereof)	1.52
Duplicate copy of PS Form 3606	2.10
<b>Registered Mail</b>	21.75
<b>Return Receipt</b>	6.10
<b>Customs Clearance and Delivery, per piece</b>	8.85
<b>International Business Reply Service</b>	
Cards	2.30
Envelopes up to 2 ounces	2.85

New prices will be listed in the updated Notice 123, *Price List*.

Sarah Sullivan, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

**POSTAL SERVICE**

39 CFR Part 111

**OEL and Carrier Route Information Lines**

**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 revise the requirements for using optional endorsement lines (OEL) or carrier route information lines on USPS Marketing Mail carrier route letters.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 29, 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](mailto:PCFederalRegister@usps.gov), with a subject line of “OEL and Carrier Route Information Lines.” 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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 203.4.8.1 do not require the use of optional endorsement lines or carrier route information lines on USPS Marketing Mail letters in full carrier route trays. The Postal Service is proposing to amend the standards in DMM section 203.8.1 to require optional endorsement lines or carrier route information lines on all USPS Marketing Mail carrier route letters. The Postal Service is proposing to implement this change effective August 25, 2024.

We believe that the proposed revision will provide consistency and clarity for carrier route mail preparation.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 USC 553(b), (c)) regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 USC 410(a), the Postal Service invites public comment on the following 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.

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, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, 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**

\*\*\*\*\*

**8.0 Carrier Route Information Lines**

**8.1 Basic Information**

*[Revise the last sentence of 8.1 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* Mailers must use optional endorsement lines or carrier route information lines on all pieces in mailings of USPS Marketing Mail letters prepared under 245.6.7.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ruth Stevenson, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

### Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

**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) in various sections to simplify the parcel processing categories.

**DATES:** Submit comments on or before July 29, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or deliver written comments to the manager, 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 "Parcel Processing Categories." 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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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:** Steven Jarboe at (202) 268-7690, or Garry Rodriguez at (202) 268-7281.

**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 Postal Service has three parcel processing categories: machinable, irregular, and nonmachinable. The Postal Service is proposing to simplify the parcel processing categories by making revisions to the physical standards of the machinable processing category and consolidating the irregular and nonmachinable processing categories and renaming it "Nonstandard Parcels."

The Postal Service is proposing to revise the "machinable" processing category by removing the minimum size dimensions requirement and, except for USPS Marketing Mail parcels, the minimum weight requirement. Except for cylindrical tubes and rolls or similar shaped pieces, and for labeling requirements in Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*, the minimum size of a machinable parcel will be determined by if it is large enough to hold the required delivery address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings on a single optical plane without bending, folding, or overlapping. All labels and markings must meet the applicable specifications (e.g., DMM, Publication 199, *Parcel Labeling Guide*). A parcel that does not meet this requirement will be considered nonmailable. Except for USPS Marketing Mail parcels, which will continue to have the 3.5 ounce minimum to be a machinable parcel, the minimum weight requirement for other parcels will no longer be a factor in determining machinability.

The proposed "Nonstandard Parcels" processing category will continue to have a size and weight component that will consist of parcels that exceed the maximum dimensions of a machinable parcel, parcels that weigh less than the 3.5-ounce minimum weight for USPS Marketing Mail parcels only, and parcels that exceed the 25 pound maximum weight for a machinable parcel. The "Nonstandard Parcels" processing category will also have a "Characteristics" component that will define the criteria that will be used to determine if a parcel is nonstandard (e.g., cylindrical tubes and rolls, packaging). The "Characteristics" component of "Nonstandard Parcels" will be supported by DMM sections 601.3.0, *Packaging*, and 601.4.0, *Acceptable Mailing Containers*. The packaging criteria in DMM section 601.7.0, *Packaging Standards for Mail Processed at Network Distribution Centers*, will be consolidated into DMM section 601.3.0. The Postal Service is also proposing to revise the packaging standards under DMM section 601.3.0 to include that except for hazardous, restricted, and perishable items as provided in Publication 52, all other parcel priced pieces must be packaged in a box or other acceptable container that meets the applicable standards under DMM sections 601.3.0 and 601.4.0.

The proposed revisions to parcel processing categories will not affect the Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, or USPS Connect Local, products. The proposed revisions will result in no minimum size dimensions requirement, except for USPS Marketing Mail no minimum weight requirements, and a nomenclature change, for parcel preparation under the Parcel Select Destination Entry, Library Mail, Media Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Periodicals, and USPS Marketing Mail parcels (regular and nonprofit) products.

In addition, the Postal Service is also proposing to make minor revisions to the "Additional Physical Standards" subsections under DMM 101 and 201 to remove redundancy.

The Postal Service intends to notify the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of these revisions for updates to the *Mail Classification Schedule* in a future filing. The Postal Service also intends to revise all collateral material (e.g., Notice 123, *Price List*) in a future update.

#### Proposed Effective Date

The Postal Service is proposing to have November 1, 2024, as the effective date. However, sack, tray, and pallet, label compliance would not be in effect until January 19, 2025.

We believe these proposed revisions will simplify the parcel processing categories providing mailers with a more efficient process for shipping.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 USC 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.

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, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, 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**

#### **101 Physical Standards**

\*\*\*\*\*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 3.0 Physical Standards for Parcels

#### 3.1 Processing Categories

*[Revise the text of 3.1 to read as follows:]* USPS categorizes parcels into one of two mail processing categories: machinable or nonstandard parcel. These categories are based on the physical dimensions of the parcel, and the placement of the delivery address and all required labels on the parcel (see 601.1.1.5 for mailability). For additional information on the machinable and nonstandard processing categories see 201.7.0.

*[Revise the heading and text of 3.2 to read as follows:]*

#### 3.2 Size and Weight

##### 3.2.1 Size

Parcel sizes are as follows:

- a. Minimum size: Except for cylindrical tubes and rolls or similar shaped pieces and labeling exceptions in Publication 52, all parcels must be large enough to hold the required delivery address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings on a single optical plane without bending, folding, or overlapping (see 601.1.1.5). All labels and markings must meet the applicable specifications (e.g., DMM, Publication 199, *Parcel Labeling Guide*).
- b. Maximum size: Except for USPS Ground Advantage – Retail, which may not measure more than 130 inches in length and girth combined, no mailpiece may measure more than 108 inches in length and girth combined. For parcels, length is the distance of the longest dimension and girth is the distance around the thickest part.

##### 3.2.2 Weight

Except as provided under 4.0 through 7.0, no mailpiece may weigh more than 70 pounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.0 Additional Physical Standards for Priority Mail Express

*[Revise the text of 4.0 to read as follows:]* Lower size and weight standards than provided under 3.2 may apply to Priority Mail Express addressed to certain APO/FPO and DPO mail subject to 703.2.0, and 703.4.0, and for Department of State mail subject to 703.3.0.

### 5.0 Additional Physical Standards for Priority Mail

*[Revise the text of 5.0 to read as follows:]* Lower size and weight standards than provided under 3.2 may apply to Priority Mail addressed to certain APO/FPO and DPO mail subject to 703.2.0, and 703.4.0, and for Department of State mail subject to 703.3.0.

### 6.0 Additional Physical Standards for First-Class Mail and USPS Ground Advantage – Retail

#### 6.1 Maximum Weight

*[Delete the heading 6.1.1 and move revised text under 6.1 to read as follows:]* First-Class Mail (letters and flats must not exceed 13 ounces.

*[Delete 6.1.2, USPS Ground Advantage – Retail, in its entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 6.4 Parcels

*[Revise the introductory text of 6.4 to read as follows:]*

A USPS Ground Advantage – Retail parcel is the following:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete item d in its entirety.]*

### 7.0 Additional Physical Standards for Media Mail and Library Mail

*[Delete the introductory text and items a and b. Move the text of item c under 7.0 and revise as follows:]* Lower size and weight standards than provided under 3.2 may apply to Library Mail and Media Mail addressed to certain APOs and FPOs, subject to 703.2.0 and 703.4.0 and for Department of State mail, subject to 703.3.0.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 120 Retail Mail Priority Mail

#### 123 Prices and Eligibility

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for Priority Mail

#### 2.1 Description of Service

*[Revise the last sentence of 2.1 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* Certain Priority Mail mailpieces, such as pieces containing hazardous material or considered nonstandard (e.g., oversized priced pieces and nonstandard fee-priced pieces), may receive deferred handling.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 130 Retail Mail First-Class Mail and USPS Ground Advantage – Retail

#### 133 Prices and Eligibility

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for First-Class Mail and USPS Ground Advantage – Retail

#### 2.1 Description of Service

*[Revise the last sentence of 2.1 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* Certain USPS Ground Advantage – Retail mailpieces, such as pieces containing hazardous material or considered nonstandard (e.g., oversized priced pieces and nonstandard fee-priced pieces), may receive deferred handling.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 200 Commercial Letters, Cards, Flats, and Parcels

#### 201 Physical Standards

\*\*\*\*\*

### 7.0 Physical Standards for Parcels

#### 7.1 Processing Categories

*[Revise the text of 7.1 to read as follows:]* USPS categorizes parcels into one of two mail processing categories: machinable or nonstandard. These categories are based on the physical dimensions of the piece, and the placement of the delivery address and other required labels on the piece (see 601.1.1.5 for mailability).

#### 7.2 Minimum Size

*[Revise the text of 7.2 to read as follows:]* Pieces are subject to the minimum standards in 7.5, and may be subject to other minimum dimensions, based on the standards for specific prices. Except for cylindrical tubes and rolls or similar shaped pieces and labeling exceptions in Publication 52, generally the minimum size of a parcel is any piece that is not a letter or a flat and must be large enough to hold the required delivery address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings on a single optical plane without bending, folding, or overlapping (see 601.1.1.5). All labels and markings must meet the applicable specifications (e.g., DMM, Publication 199, *Parcel Labeling Guide*).

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 7.3 Maximum Weight and Size

#### 7.3.1 Maximum Weight

*[Revise the text of 7.3.1 to read as follows:]* Except as provided under 8.0, no mailpiece may weigh more than 70 pounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 7.5 Machinable Parcels

#### 7.5.1 Criteria

*[Delete the heading 7.5.1, Criteria, and move the text under 7.5. Revise the text of renumbered 7.5 to read as follows:]*

A machinable parcel is any piece that is not a letter or a flat and that meets the size and weight standards as follows:

- Minimum size: Except for cylindrical tubes and rolls or similar shaped pieces and labeling exceptions in Publication 52, a piece must be large enough to hold the required delivery address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings on a single optical plane without bending, folding, or overlapping (see 601.1.1.5). All labels and markings must meet the applicable specifications.
- Maximum size: Not more than, 22 inches long, or 18 inches wide, or 15 inches high (see Exhibit 7.5.1b).
- Minimum weight: USPS Marketing Mail parcels must weigh 3.5 ounces, all other parcel products no minimum weight.
- Maximum weight: Not more than 25 pounds.

*[Revise Exhibit 7.5.1b reference number to read as follows:]*

#### Exhibit 7.5 Machinable Parcel Dimensions

*[Revise the graphic in renumbered Exhibit 7.5 by removing the image of the minimum size parcel. Delete 7.5.2, Criteria for Lightweight Machinable Parcels, 7.5.3, Soft Goods and Enveloped Printed Matter, and 7.5.4, Exception, in their entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading and text of 7.6 to read as follows:]*

### 7.6 Nonstandard Parcels

#### 7.6.1 Dimensions and Weight

A parcel is considered nonstandard by dimensions or weight as follows:

- Dimensions: A parcel that measures more than 22 inches in length or 18 inches in width or 15 inches in height.
- Weight: A USPS Marketing Mail parcel that weighs less than 3.5 ounces or any parcel that weighs more than 25 pounds.

#### 7.6.2 Characteristics

A parcel is considered nonstandard by the following characteristics:

- Cylindrical tubes or rolls.
- A can, or wooden or metal box.
- A parcel containing more than 24 ounces of liquid in glass containers, or 1 gallon or more of liquid in metal or plastic containers (see 601.3.4).
- An insecurely wrapped or inadequately prepared parcel as provided under 601.3.0 and 601.4.0.

*[Delete 7.7, Nonmachinable Parcel, in its entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.0 Additional Physical Standards by Class of Mail

*[Revise the text of 8.1 and 8.2 to read as follows:]*

#### 8.1 Priority Mail Express

Lower size and weight standards than provided under 7.3 may apply to Priority Mail Express addressed to certain APO/FPO and DPO mail subject to 703.2.0 and 703.4.0, and for Department of State mail subject to 703.3.0.

#### 8.2 Priority Mail

*[Revise the text of 8.2 to read as follows:]*

##### 8.2.1 Weight and Size

Lower weight and size standards than provided under 7.3 may apply to Priority Mail addressed to certain APO/FPO and DPO mail subject to 703.2.0 and 703.4.0, and for Department of State mail subject to 703.3.0.

##### 8.2.2 Priority Mail Cubic

Priority Mail Cubic must not weigh more than 20 pounds. See 223.1.3 for additional information on size and characteristics.

### 8.3 USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial Parcels

*[Delete 8.3.1, Weight, in its entirety and renumber 8.3.2 as 8.3.1.]*

#### 8.3.1 Size

*[Revise the text of renumbered 8.3.1 to read as follows:]*

A USPS Ground Advantage – Commercial parcel is:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete item d in its entirety. Add new 8.3.2 to read as follows:]*

#### 8.3.2 USPS Ground Advantage Commercial Cubic

USPS Ground Advantage Commercial Cubic must not weigh more than 20 pounds. See 285.1.3 for additional information on size and characteristics.

### 8.4 USPS Marketing Mail Parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.4.2 Size

*[Revise the text of 8.4.2 to read as follows:]*

USPS Marketing Mail parcel dimensions are as follows:

- Regular Marketing parcels and Nonprofit Marketing parcels do not meet flat-size physical standards and must have the following characteristics:
  - Length: Not more than 12 inches. Minimum length must be 5 inches if the parcel is 1/4 inch thick or less.
  - Height: Not more than 9 inches. Minimum height must be 3½ inches if the parcel is 1/4 inch thick or less.
  - Thickness: At least 0.009 inches and not more than 2 inches.
  - An alternative addressing format, according to 602.3.0.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

b. Nonprofit Machinable Parcels and Nonprofit Nonstandard Parcels dimensions are as follows:

1. Large enough to hold the required delivery address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings on the address side of the parcel.
2. Not exceed 108 inches in length and girth.
3. A Nonprofit Nonstandard Parcel is a parcel not meeting the criteria for machinable parcels as provided under 7.6.

### 8.5 Parcel Select

*[Delete 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 and renumber 8.5.3 as 8.5.1.]*

#### 8.5.1 USPS Connect Local

*[Revise the text of renumbered 8.5.1 to read as follows:]* Pieces mailed at USPS Connect Local prices may not weigh more than 25 pounds.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.3 Price Level Column Headings

The actual name of the price level (or abbreviation) is used for column headings required by 3.2 and shown below:

\*\*\*\*\*

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

b. Presorted First-Class Mail, barcoded and nonbarcoded Periodicals flats, nonbarcoded Periodicals letters, and machinable, nonmachinable, and nonstandard, USPS Marketing Mail:

PRICE ABBREVIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “ADC” line item in the “Price” column under item b to read as follows:]* ADC/RP&DC [USPS Marketing Mail nonmachinable letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels, and all Periodicals]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Mixed ADC” line item in the “Price” column under item b to read as follows:]* Mixed ADC [USPS Marketing Mail nonmachinable letters, flats, nonstandard parcels; and all Periodicals]

\*\*\*\*\*

c. Carrier Route Periodicals and Enhanced Carrier Route USPS Marketing Mail:

PRICE ABBREVIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Saturation” and “High Density” line items to read as follows:]*

Saturation [letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels]

High Density [letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Basic” line item to read as follows:]* Basic [letters, flats, and nonstandard parcels]

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.4 Sortation Level

The actual sortation level (or corresponding abbreviation) is used for the bundle, tray, sack, or pallet levels required by 3.2 and shown below:

PRICE ABBREVIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “5-Digit Scheme Carrier Routes” line item to read as follows:]* 5-Digit Scheme Carrier Routes [sacks/flat trays and pallets (Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail flats); sacks and pallets (nonstandard parcels)]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “5-Digit Scheme Carrier Routes” line item to read as follows:]* 5-Digit Scheme [pallets, Periodicals flats and nonstandard parcels, USPS Marketing Mail flats, Bound Printed Matter flats]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Merged 5-Digit Scheme” line item to read as follows:]* Merged 5-Digit Scheme [flat trays and pallets (Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail flats); sacks and pallets (nonstandard parcels)]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Merged 3-Digit” line item to read as follows:]* Merged 3-Digit [flat trays (Periodicals flats); sacks (nonstandard parcels)]

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “SCF” line item to read as follows:]* SCF [flat trays and pallets (Periodicals flats and USPS Marketing Mail); sacks and pallets (Bound Printed Matter and nonstandard parcels)]

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.0 Bundles

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.10 Additional Standards for Unsacked/Untrayed Bundles Entered at DDU or 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 nonstandard parcels (BPM only) at destination delivery units (DDUs) or sorting and delivery centers (DS&DC) if all the following conditions are met:

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 5.0 Letter and Flat Trays

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 5.12 Line 2 (Content Line)

Line 2 (content line) must meet these standards:

\*\*\*\*\*

b. Codes: The codes shown below must be used as appropriate on Line 2 of tray, sack, and pallet labels.

CONTENT TYPE CODE

\*\*\*\*\*



**USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification**

*[Delete the “Irregular Parcels” line item.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Mixed Machinable and Irregular Parcels” line item to read as follows:]* Mixed Machinable and Nonstandard Parcels MACH & NONSTD

*[Revise the “Nonmachinable” line item to read as follows:]* Nonstandard NONSTD

\*\*\*\*\*

**7.0 Optional Endorsement Lines (OELs)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**7.2.5 ZIP Code Information**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exhibit 7.2.5 OEL Labeling Lists**

PROCESSING CATEGORY AND PRESORT TYPE

\*\*\*\*\*

Periodicals<sup>1</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Irregular parcels” line item under “Periodicals” in the “Processing Category and Presort Type” column to read as follows:]* Nonstandard parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

Bound Printed Matter<sup>1</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Irregular parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter” in the “Processing Category and Presort Type” column to read as follows:]* Nonstandard parcels

Media Mail

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Irregular parcels” line item in the “Processing Category and Presort Type” column under “Media Mail” to read as follows:]* Nonstandard parcels

Library Mail

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “Irregular parcels” line item in the “Processing Category and Presort Type” column under “Media Mail” to read as follows:]* Nonstandard parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

**204 Barcode Standards**

\*\*\*\*\*

**3.2.4 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Exhibit 3.2.4 [1-21-24] 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers**

CLASS AND MAILING	CIN	HUMAN-READABLE CONTENT LINE
-------------------	-----	-----------------------------

\*\*\*\*\*

Priority Mail Open and Distribute

\*\*\*\*\*

All Other Classes, Parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the “ASF/NDC/RPDC irregular parcels” line item under “All other Classes, Parcels, to read as follows:]*

ASF/NDC nonstandard parcels.... 034 PMOD NONSTD NDC

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “PER Irregular Parcels . . .” to read as follows:]*

PER Nonstandard Parcels – Merged Carrier Route and Presorted

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

merged 5-digit sacks	340	PER NONSTD CR/5D
merged 3-digit sacks	354	PER NONSTD CR/5D/3D
merged 5-digit scheme sacks	365	PER NONSTD CR/5D SCH

*[Revise the heading of “PER Irregular Parcels – Carrier Route” to read as follows:]*

PER Nonstandard Parcels – Carrier Route

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

saturation price sacks	397	PER NONSTD WSS <sup>1</sup>
high density price sacks	398	PER NONSTD WSH <sup>1</sup>
basic price sacks	395	PER NONSTD CR <sup>1</sup>
5-digit carrier routes sacks	396	PER NONSTD 5D CR-RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks	399	PER NONSTD CR-RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes sacks	355	PER NONSTD 3D CR-RTS

*[Revise the heading of “PER Irregular Parcels – Presorted” to read as follows:]*

PER Nonstandard Parcels – Presorted

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

5-digit sacks	389	PER NONSTD 5D
3-digit sacks	390	PER NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	394	PER NONSTD SCF
ADC sacks or trays	391	PER NONSTD ADC
mixed ADC sacks or trays	392	PER NONSTD WKG
origin mixed ADC sacks or trays	363	PER NONSTD WKG W FCM

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “NEWS Irregular Parcels . . .” to read as follows:]*

NEWS Nonstandard Parcels – Merged Carrier Route and Presorted

**USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification**

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

merged 5-digit	440	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D
merged 5-digit scheme	465	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D SCH
merged 3-digit sacks	454	NEWS NONSTD CR/5D/3D

*[Revise the heading of “NEWS Irregular Parcels – Carrier Route” to read as follows:]*

NEWS Nonstandard Parcels – Carrier Route

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

saturation price sacks	497	NEWS NONSTD WSS <sup>1</sup>
high density price sacks	498	NEWS NONSTD WSH <sup>1</sup>
basic price sacks	495	NEWS NONSTD CR <sup>1</sup>
5-digit carrier routes sacks	496	NEWS NONSTD 5D CR-RTS
5-digit scheme car. rts. sacks	499	NEWS NONSTD CR-RTS SCH
3-digit carrier routes sacks	455	NEWS NONSTD 3D CR-RTS

*[Revise the heading of “NEWS Irregular Parcels – Carrier Route” to read as follows:]*

NEWS Nonstandard Parcels – Presorted

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

5-digit sacks	489	NEWS NONSTD 5D
3-digit sacks	490	NEWS NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	494	NEWS NONSTD SCF
ADC sacks or trays	491	NEWS NONSTD ADC
mixed ADC sacks or trays	492	NEWS NONSTD WKG
origin mixed ADC sacks or trays	463	NEWS NONSTD WKG W FCM

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “MKT Marketing Parcels less than 6 oz. and Irregular Parcels” to read as follows:]*

MKT Marketing Parcels (Nonstandard) and Nonprofit Nonstandard Priced Parcels

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

5-digit scheme sacks	590	MKT NONSTD 5D SCH
5-digit sacks	590	MKT NONSTD 5D
SCF sacks	596	MKT NONSTD SCF
ASF sacks	571	MKT NONSTD ASF
NDC sacks	570	MKT NONSTD NDC
mixed NDC sacks		

*[Revise the heading of “MKT Marketing Parcels 6 oz. or more and “Machinable Parcels” to read as follows:]* MKT Marketing Parcels (Machinable) and Nonprofit Machinable Priced Parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “MKT Machinable and Irregular Parcels – Presorted” to read as follows:]* MKT Machinable and Nonstandard Parcels – Presorted

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “Carrier Route BPM – Irregular Parcels” to read as follows:]* Carrier Route BPM – Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

carrier route sacks	697	PSVC NONSTD CR <sup>1</sup>
5-digit carrier routes sacks	698	PSVC NONSTD CR-RTS
5-digit scheme car. rt. sacks	698	PSVC NONSTD CR-RTS SCH

*[Revise the heading of “Presorted BPM – Irregular Parcels” to read as follows:]*

Presorted BPM – Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

5-digit sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D
5-digit scheme sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH
3-digit sacks	691	PSVC NONSTD 3D
SCF sacks	696	PSVC NONSTD SCF
ADC sacks	692	PSVC NONSTD ADC
mixed ADC sacks	694	PSVC NONSTD WKG

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “Media Mail and Library Mail Irregular Parcels – Presorted” to read as follows:]*

Media Mail and Library Mail Nonstandard Parcels – Presorted

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

5-digit scheme sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH
5-digit sacks	690	PSVC NONSTD 5D
3-digit sacks	691	PSVC NONSTD 3D
ADC sacks	692	PSVC NONSTD ADC
mixed ADC sacks	694	PSVC NONSTD WKG

\*\*\*\*\*

Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of “Parcel Select Irregular (Nonmachinable) Parcels – Presorted” to read as follows:]* Parcel Select – Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

3-digit sacks	691	PSVC NONSTD 3D
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\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete the Combined Package Services, Parcel Select, and USPS Marketing – Irregular Parcels 2 up to 6 oz (APPS – machinable) line item in its entirety.]*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

*[Revise the of Combined PSVC & MKT – Irregular Parcels less than 2 oz, and tubes and rolls (not APPS – machinable) to read as follows:]* Combined PSVC & MKT – Nonstandard Parcels Cylindrical Tubes and Rolls

*[Revise the text in the “Human-Readable Content Line” column to read as follows:]*

3-digit sacks	591	MKT/PSVC NONSTD 3D
ADC sacks	592	MKT/PSVC NONSTD ADC
Mixed ADC sacks	594	MKT/PSVC NONSTD WKG

\*\*\*\*\*

### 207 Periodicals

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 22.0 Preparing Nonbarcoded (Presorted) Periodicals

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 22.6 Sack Preparation

\*\*\* For other mailing jobs, preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

- a. 5-digit, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: use “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “5D”.

- b. 3-digit, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: use “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “3D”; followed by “NON BC” for flats.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “SCF”; followed by “NON BC” for flats.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: use “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “SCF”; followed by “NON BC” for flats.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item e2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “ADC”.

- f. Origin mixed ADC, required; no minimum; for any remaining bundles for destinations in L201, Column B, corresponding to the origin ZIP Code in Column A.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item f2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable, followed by “NONSTD” as applicable, followed by “WKG W FCM.”

- g. Mixed ADC, required (no minimum).

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item g2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “WKG” for nonstandard parcels.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 23.0 Preparing Carrier Route Periodicals

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 23.4 to read as follows:]*

#### 23.4 Preparation – Flat-Size Pieces and Nonstandard Parcels

##### 23.4.1 Flat Tray and Sacking Preparation and Labeling

\*\*\* Preparation sequence, sack/tray size, and labeling:

- a. Carrier route, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “WSS” for saturation price mail, or “WSH” for high density price mail, or “CR” for basic price mail; followed by the route type and number.

- b. 5-digit scheme carrier routes, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “CR-RTS SCH.”

- c. 5-digit carrier routes, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD” as applicable; followed by “CR-RTS.”

- d. 3-digit carrier routes, required with one 6-piece bundle. Flat-sized pieces must be prepared in flat trays (see 203.5.6).

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable, followed by “FLTS 3D” or “NONSTD 3D” as applicable, followed by “CR-RTS.”

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 240 Commercial Mail USPS Marketing Mail

#### 243 Prices and Eligibility

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 1.0 Prices and Fees

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 1.2 USPS Marketing Mail Prices

USPS Marketing Mail prices are applied as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of 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 flats that weigh more than 4.0 ounces, presorted Marketing Parcels, Nonprofit Machinable and Nonprofit Nonstandard parcels that weigh more than 3.3 ounces and machinable parcels 3.5 ounces or more.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

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#### 3.2 Defining Characteristics

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading and text of 3.2.3 to read as follows:]*

##### 3.2.3 Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail Machinable and Nonstandard Parcels

Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail parcels that do not qualify as Marketing parcels may be prepared and mailed as machinable or nonstandard parcels.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.3 Additional Basic Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

Each USPS Marketing Mail mailing is subject to these general standards:

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

- a. All pieces in a mailing must be of the same processing category, except that nonstandard and machinable parcels may be combined in 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks or on 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the last sentence of item f to read as follows:]*

- f. \* \* \* Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail machinable or nonstandard parcels must bear the addressee's name and complete delivery address, or may use an alternative addressing format. DALs or DMLs may be used subject to 602.4.0.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.0 Price Eligibility for USPS Marketing Mail

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.2 Minimum Per Piece Prices

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the fifth sentence of item c to read as follows:]*

- c. Individual prices. \* \* \* There are also separate prices for Marketing Parcels, Nonprofit Machinable priced parcels, and Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 5.3 Price Application

*[Revise the second sentence of 5.3 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* Prices for Nonprofit parcels not qualifying as Marketing Parcels apply separately to Nonprofit Machinable parcels and Nonprofit Nonstandard parcels. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 5.8 to read as follows:]*

#### 5.8 Prices for Nonstandard Parcels and Marketing Parcels

##### 5.8.1 5-Digit Price

*[Revise the introductory text of 5.8.1 to read as follows:]* 5-digit prices apply to nonstandard parcels and to Marketing parcels that are dropshipped to a DNDC/RPDC (or ASF/RPDC when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/DRPDC, or DDU or DS&DC and presented:

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 5.8.2 SCF Price

*[Revise the introductory text of 5.8.2 to read as follows:]* SCF prices apply to nonstandard parcels and to Marketing parcels that are dropshipped and presented to a DSCF/DRPDC or DNDC/DRPDC:

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 5.8.3 NDC Price

*[Revise the introductory text of 5.8.3 to read as follows:]* NDC prices apply to nonstandard parcels and to Marketing parcels as follows under either of the following conditions:

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 5.8.4 Mixed NDC Price

*[Revise the first sentence of 5.8.4 to read as follows:]* Mixed NDC prices apply to nonstandard parcels and to Marketing parcels in origin NDC/RPDC or mixed NDC/RPDC containers that are not eligible for 5-digit, SCF, or NDC prices. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 245 Mail Preparation

#### 1.0 General Information for Mail Preparation

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 1.2 Definition of Mailings

Mailings are defined as:

\*\*\*\*\*

- b. USPS Marketing Mail. Except as provided in 243.3.6, the types of USPS Marketing Mail listed below may not be part of the same mailing.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b6 to read as follows:]*

6. Machinable and nonmachinable or nonstandard pieces.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

\*\*\*\*\*

### 1.4 Preparation Definitions and Instructions

For purposes of preparing mail:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the fifth sentence of item j to read as follows:]*

- j. \*\*\* The 5-digit scheme sort may not be used for other mail prepared on pallets, except for 5-digit bundles of USPS Marketing Mail nonstandard parcels that are part of a mailing job that is prepared in part as palletized flats at automation prices. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 11.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

#### 11.1 Basic Standards

All mailings and all pieces in each mailing at USPS Marketing Mail and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail parcel prices are subject to preparation standards in 11.3 or 11.4, and to these general standards:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b to read as follows:]*

- b. Marketing Parcels, Nonprofit Machinable priced parcels, and Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels must each be prepared as separate mailings, except under 11.3.1.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 11.3 to read as follows:]*

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

#### 11.3.1 Sacking

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 11.4 to read as follows:]*

### 11.4 Preparing Marketing Parcels (Less Than 6 Ounces) and Nonprofit Nonstandard Parcels

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 11.4.2 Sacking

*[Revise the text of 11.4.2 to read as follows:]* Prepare mailings of nonstandard Marketing Parcels weighing less than 6 ounces and mailings of Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels under 11.4. Prepare 5-digit sacks only for parcels dropshipped to a DNDC/RP&DC (or ASF/RP&DC when claiming DNDC prices), DSCF/RP&DC, or DDU or S&DC. See 11.4.3 for restrictions on SCF/RP&DC, ASF/RP&DC, and NDC/RP&DC 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 or S&DC. Mailers combining Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels with Nonprofit Machinable priced parcels and machinable 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 nonstandard and machinable parcels to other presort levels. Mailers may combine Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels with nonstandard Marketing Parcels in sacks under 11.4.3.

#### 11.4.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

- a. \*\*\* Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU or S&DC entry which has no minimum; labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme sacks, "STD NONSTD 5D SCH." For 5-digit sacks, "STD NONSTD 5D."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. For Line 2, "STD NONSTD SCF."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD ASF."

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

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD NDC."

- e. Origin NDC/RPDC (required); no minimum; labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item e2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD NDC."

- f. Mixed NDC/RP&DC (required); no minimum; labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item f2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD WKG."

\*\*\*\*\*

### 250 Commercial Mail Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

### 255 Mail Preparation

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.0 Preparing Destination Entry Parcel Select

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 4.1 Preparing Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) or Sorting and Delivery Center (S&DC) Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.1.3 Sacking and Labeling

*[Revise the last sentence of 4.1.3 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* Machinable and nonstandard pieces may be combined in the same sack or on the same pallet (including pallet boxes on pallets).

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.2 Preparing Destination Hub (DHub) Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.2.3 Sacking and Labeling

Sacking requirements for DHub entry include the following:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the second sentence of item b to read as follows:]*

b. \*\*\* Machinable and nonstandard pieces may be combined in the same sack to meet this requirement. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.3 Preparing Destination SCF (DSCF)/RP&DC (DRP&DC) Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.3.2 Basic Standards

Pieces must meet the applicable standards in 4.0 and the following criteria:

\*\*\*\*\*

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

d. Any remaining nonstandard parcels (as defined in 201.7.6) sorted to 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes in L002, Column C. \*\*\*

#### 4.3.3 Sacking and Labeling

Sacking requirements for DSCF/DRP&DC entry:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the second sentence of item b to read as follows:]*

b. \*\*\* Machinable and nonstandard pieces may be combined in the same sack to meet this requirement. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of items g and h to read as follows:]*

g. 3-digit nonstandard sack labeling: Line 1, use L051; for Line 2, "PSVC NONSTD 3D."

h. See 705.8.0 for option to place 5-digit scheme and 5-digit DSCF/DRP&DC sacks, SCF/RP&DC sacks, and 3-digit nonstandard sacks on an SCF/RP&DC pallet.

### 4.4 Preparing Destination NDC (DNDC)/RP&DC (DRP&DC) Parcel Select

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.4.3 Sacking and Labeling

DNDC/DRP&DC mailing (if not bedloaded), must be prepared as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b to read as follows:]*

b. DNDC/DRP&DC nonstandard parcels that each weigh 25 pounds or less must be sacked under 5.0 if the parcels do not contain perishables and the size of the parcels allows a sack to hold at least two pieces. DNDC/DRP&DC nonstandard parcels that cannot be sacked in this manner or that weigh more than 25 pounds must be transported as outside (unsacked) pieces. If authorized in advance by the USPS, DNDC/DRP&DC nonstandard parcels may be palletized.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 256 Enter and Deposit

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.0 Deposit

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.2 Containers

DNDC/DRP&DC mailings (if not bedloaded), DDU or S&DC mailings (if not bedloaded), and all DHub, and DSCF/DRP&DC mailings must be prepared as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b to read as follows:]*

b. For DNDC price, nonstandard parcels that each weigh 25 pounds or less must be sacked under 255.4.0 if the parcels do not contain perishables and the size of the parcels allows a sack to hold at least two pieces. DNDC/DRP&DC nonstandard parcels that cannot be sacked in this manner or that weigh more than 25 pounds must be transported as outside (unsacked) pieces. If authorized in advance by the USPS, DNDC/DRP&DC nonstandard parcels may be palletized.

*[Revise the last sentence of item c to read as follows:]*

c. \*\*\* Machinable and nonstandard pieces may be included in the same sack.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item e to read as follows:]*

e. For DSCF/DRP&DC and DDU or DS&DC, nonstandard parcels may be palletized (including pallet boxes on pallets). Nonstandard parcels may be combined with machinable parcels on 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, and 3-digit pallets (including pallet boxes on pallets) claimed at DSCF or DDU prices under 705.8.0.

*[Revise the last sentence of item f to read as follows:]*

f. \*\*\* Machinable and nonstandard pieces may be combined in 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks or on 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets (including pallet boxes).

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2.17 DNDC/DRP&DC Parcel Select – Acceptance at Designated SCF/RP&DC-USPS Benefit

A mailing that is otherwise eligible for DNDC prices may be deposited, and accepted, at an SCF/RP&DC designated by the USPS when it benefits the USPS and:

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

a. The mailing contains only machinable parcels prepared in 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks, pallets, or containers and nonstandard parcels prepared under 2.2.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

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### 260 Commercial Mail Bound Printed Matter

\*\*\*\*\*

### 265 Mail Preparation

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 2.0 Bundles

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading and text of 2.4 to read as follows:]*

#### 2.4 Bundle Sizes for Nonstandard Parcels

Mailers must prepare unsacked, nonpalletized bundles of nonstandard parcels for DDU or DS&DC entry according to 203.4.10, and as follows:

- a. For Presorted nonstandard parcels, under 8.2 for parcels weighing less than 10 pounds and 8.3 for parcels weighing 10 pounds or more.
- b. For carrier route nonstandard parcels, under 9.2 for parcels weighing less than 10 pounds and 9.3 for parcels weighing 10 pounds or more.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.0 Preparing Presorted Parcels

##### 8.1 Basic Standards

All mailings of Presorted Bound Printed Matter (BPM) are subject to the standards in 5.2, and 5.3, and to these general standards:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the second sentence of item b to read as follows:]*

- b. \* \* \* See 201.7.0 for definitions of machinable and nonstandard parcels.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 8.2 to read as follows:]*

##### 8.2 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing Less than 10 Pounds

\*\*\*\*\*

###### 8.2.4 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- a. 5-digit/scheme (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH." For 5-digit sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D."

- b. 3-digit (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 3D."

- c. SCF/RPDC (optional); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD SCF."

- d. ADC/RPDC (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD ADC."

- e. Mixed ADC/RPDC (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD WKG."

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 8.3 to read as follows:]*

##### 8.3 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing 10 Pounds or More

\*\*\*\*\*

###### 8.3.3 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- a. 5-digit/scheme (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH." For 5-digit sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D."

- b. 3-digit (required); labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 3D."

- c. SCF/RPDC (optional); labeling:

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD SCF."

- d. ADC (required); labeling:

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD ADC."

- e. Mixed ADC/RPDC (required); labeling:

*[Revise the text of item e2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD WKG."

\*\*\*\*\*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 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 second and last sentence of item b to read as follows:]*

- b. \*\*\* A BPM nonstandard parcel is a piece that is not a machinable parcel as defined in 201.7.5.1. Nonstandard 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 parcel sorters under 601.3.0 and 601.4.0.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 9.2 to read as follows:]*

#### 9.2 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing Less Than 10 Pounds

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 9.2.2 Required Sacking

*[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of 9.2.2 to read as follows:]* Mailers may prepare nonstandard parcels as unsacked bundles under 203.4.10 or in bundles on pallets. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 9.2.4 Sack Label Line 2

Line 2 information:

*[Revise the text of items a through c to read as follows:]*

- a. Carrier route: "PSVC NONSTD CR," followed by the route type and number.  
b. 5-digit scheme carrier routes: "PSVC NONSTD CR-RTS SCH."  
c. 5-digit carrier routes: "PSVC NONSTD CR-RTS."

*[Revise the heading of 9.3 to read as follows:]*

#### 9.3 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels Weighing 10 Pounds or More

*[Revise the first and second sentence in the introductory text of 9.2.2 to read as follows:]* Mailers may prepare nonstandard parcels as unsacked bundles under 2.2 or in bundles on pallets. When preparing nonstandard parcels in sacks, place parcels only in direct carrier route sacks. \*\*\*\*\*

Required preparation:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b to read as follows:]*

- b. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD CR," followed by the route type and number.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 266 Enter and Deposit

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.0 Destination Entry

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 3.6 Mailings of Unsacked Bundles

*[Revise the first sentence of 3.6 to read as follows:]* Mailers may present unsacked, nonpalletized bundles of BPM flats or nonstandard parcels that are properly prepared for and entered at DDU prices and unloaded according to standards in 3.8.9. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 4.0 Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC)/Regional Processing and Distribution Center (DRP&DC) Entry

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 4.5 to read as follows:]*

##### 4.5 Presorted Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the first sentence of 4.5 to read as follows:]* Presorted nonstandard parcels in sacks or on pallets at all sort levels may claim DNDC prices. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 4.7 to read as follows:]*

##### 4.7 Carrier Route Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the first sentence of 4.7 to read as follows:]* Carrier Route nonstandard parcels in sacks at all sort levels or on pallets at all sort levels may claim DNDC prices. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 6.0 Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) or Sorting and Delivery Center (DS&DC) Entry

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 6,5 to read as follows:]*

##### 6.5 Presorted Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the first sentence of 6.5 to read as follows:]* Presorted nonstandard parcels in 5-digit scheme sacks and 5-digit sacks, on 5-digit scheme or 5-digit pallets, or prepared as unsacked 5-digit bundles may claim DDU prices. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 6.7 to read as follows:]*

##### 6.7 Carrier Route Nonstandard Parcels

*[Revise the first sentence of 6.7 to read as follows:]* Carrier Route nonstandard parcels in sacks, on 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets, or prepared as unsacked carrier route bundles may claim DDU prices. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 270 Commercial Mail Media Mail and Library Mail

#### 273 Prices and Eligibility

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 7.0 Price Eligibility for Media Mail and Library Mail

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 7.3 Price Categories for Media Mail and Library Mail

\*\*\*\*\*



## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

### 7.3.2 Parcels

The price categories for parcels are as follows:

*[Revise the last sentence of item a to read as follows:]*

- a. \* \* \* Nonstandard parcels may qualify for the 5-digit price if prepared to preserve sortation by 5-digit ZIP Code as prescribed by the postmaster of the mailing office.

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

- b. \* \* \* Nonstandard parcels may qualify for the basic price if prepared to preserve sortation by NDC/RP&DC as prescribed by the postmaster of the mailing office.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 275 Mail Preparation

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 4.0 Basic Standards for Preparing Media Mail and Library Mail

All mailings of Presorted Media Mail and Presorted Library Mail are subject to these general requirements:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the last sentence of item d to read as follows:]*

- d. \* \* \* See 201.7.0 for definitions of machinable and nonstandard parcels.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 6.0 Preparing Media Mail and Library Mail Parcels

#### 6.1 Basic Standards

All mailings of Presorted Media Mail and Presorted Library Mail parcels are subject to these general requirements:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the text of item b to read as follows:]*

- b. All parcels in a mailing must be within the same processing category. See 201.7.0 for definitions of machinable and nonstandard parcels.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the heading of 6.3 to read as follows:]*

#### 6.3 Preparing Nonstandard Parcels

\* \* \* \* \*

##### 6.3.4 Sacking and Labeling

Preparation sequence and labeling:

- a. 5-digit/scheme (optional, but required for 5-digit price); labeling:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D SCH." For 5-digit sacks, "PSVC NONSTD 5D."

- b. 3-digit: required.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 3D."

- c. ADC/RPDC: required.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD ADC."

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

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD WKG."

\* \* \* \* \*

### 500 Additional Mailing Services

#### 503 Extra Services

##### 1.0 Basic Standards for All Extra Services

\* \* \* \* \*

##### 1.4.1 Eligibility – Domestic Mail

\* \* \* \* \*

##### Exhibit 1.4.1 Eligibility – Domestic Mail

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise footnote 7 to read as follows:]*

7. USPS Marketing Mail, Nonprofit Machinable and Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels only.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 600 Basic Standards for All Mailing Services

#### 601 Mailability

##### 1.0 General Standards

##### 1.1 Determining Mail Processing Categories

##### 1.1.1 Processing Categories

*[Revise the first sentence of 1.1.1 to read as follows:]* There are four mail processing categories for mailpieces: letter, flat, machinable parcel, and nonstandard parcel. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Add new 1.1.5 to read as follows:]*

##### 1.1.5 Nonmailable Placement of Address on Parcel-Size Pieces

The placement of the address on a parcel-size mailpiece may render a piece nonmailable. Except for cylindrical tubes or similar shaped pieces and labeling exceptions in Publication 52, if the address, return address, mailing labels, postage, barcode, endorsements, and other mail markings are not all placed on a single optical plane without bending, folding, or overlapping, it is nonmailable.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

\*\*\*\*\*

### 3.0 Packaging

*[Renumber 3.1 as 3.1.1 and revise the title of new 3.1.1 to read as follows:]*

#### 3.1.1 Basic Standards

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Add new 3.1.2 to read as follows:]*

#### 3.1.2 Parcels

In addition to 3.1.1, except for hazardous, restricted, and perishable items as provided in Publication 52, all other parcel priced pieces must be packaged in a box or other acceptable container that meet the applicable standards under 3.0 and 4.0.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 3.7 High-Density Items

*[Revise the text of 3.7 to read as follows:]* High-density items (such as tools, hardware, and machine and auto parts) weighing from 20 to 45 pounds must be packaged in fiberboard boxes constructed of a minimum 200-pound test board or equivalent wood, metal, or plastic containers. Plastic, metal, and similar hard containers must be packaged, treated, or otherwise prepared so that their coefficient of friction or ability to slide on a smooth, hard surface is similar to that of a domestic-class fiberboard box of the same approximate size and weight. Closure must be done by staples, heat-shrinking, adhesives, or tape. Boxes without inner packing or containing loose material must be reinforced or banded with reinforced paper or plastic tape, pressure-sensitive filament tape, or firmly applied nonmetallic banding. Internal blocking and bracing, including the use of interior containers, cut forms, partitions, dunnage, and liners, must be used as required so that packages can maintain their integrity without damage to the contents if dropped once on one of their smallest sides on a solid surface from a height of 3 feet. These items from 45 to 70 pounds must be similarly packaged, closed, and reinforced, except that exterior containers must be a minimum of 275-pound test fiberboard or equivalent.

*[Revise the heading and text of 3.8 to read as follows:]*

#### 3.8 Books

Books and similarly produced printed matter (such as catalogs) fastened together along one edge between hardback, paperback, or self-covers, that are more than one inch thick or one pound must not be accepted in letter-style non-reinforced flat envelopes or without packaging. Envelopes or other appropriate packaging must meet the standards in 3.0. Void spaces within containers must be filled with dunnage, or otherwise stabilized to prevent shifting or damage to the contents or container. Shipments are packaged according to the following weight categories:

- a. Up to five pounds, sealing must be by multiple friction closures, completely clinched staples, heat-sealing, adhesives, tape, or nonmetallic banding. Although shrinkwrap is not acceptable as the only packaging for hardback books and similarly produced printed matter exceeding one pound or one inch thick, it may be used on the exterior of otherwise acceptable containers. Shrinkwrap (under 3.6) may be used as the only method of packaging for paperback books and similarly produced printed matter up to three pounds.
- b. From 5 to 10 pounds, closure must be by tape, nonmetallic banding, or adhesives. Reinforced tape or nonmetallic banding is adequate for both closure and reinforcement. Nonmetallic banding must be firmly applied to the point that the straps must be tightened until they depress the carton at the edges.
- c. From 10 to 25 pounds, reinforced tape or nonmetallic banding is adequate for closure and reinforcement. Nonmetallic banding must be firmly applied to the point that the straps tighten until they depress the carton at the edges.
- d. From 25 to 50 pounds, hardbound books and similarly produced printed matter must be packaged in 275-pound test fiberboard boxes and paperback books and similarly produced printed matter must be packaged in 200-pound test fiberboard boxes.
- e. From 50 to 70 pounds, hardbound books and similarly produced printed matter must be packaged in 350-pound test fiberboard boxes and paperback books and similarly produced printed matter must be packaged in 275-pound test fiberboard boxes.

*[Renumber 3.9 through 3.13 as 3.13 through 3.17 and add new 3.9 through 3.12 to read as follows:]*

#### 3.9 Soft Goods

Boxes containing soft goods (e.g., textiles, clothing, linens, or draperies) weighing up to 5 pounds must be filled to capacity. Soft goods between the weight range of 5 to 20 pounds must be packaged in material with a minimum 70-pound outer ply basis weight. Closure of bags must be by completely clinched staples, heat-sealing, adhesives, sewing, or tape. Improperly clinched staples must be removed. Shrinkwrapping is not acceptable as the only packaging. Fiberboard containers must be made of at least 200-pound test board for soft goods weighing from 20 to 45 pounds and at least 275-pound test board for soft goods weighing from 45 to 70 pounds.

#### 3.10 Sound Recordings

Shipments of recordings (e.g., records and CDs in paper sleeves, paperboard, or chipboard shells) weighing up to 10 pounds must be packed in 70-pound basis weight envelopes for weights up to 3 pounds, or outer corrugated, fiberboard containers for weights up to 10 pounds. When shipments weigh from 20 to 40 pounds, multiple shell containers must be packaged in 175-pound test fiberboard containers or equivalent and closed and reinforced by adhesives, kraft paper tape, equivalent plastic tape, or staples. When shipments weigh from 40 to 65 pounds, multiple shell containers up to 65 pounds must be packaged in 200-pound test fiberboard containers or equivalent and closed and reinforced as described for 20- to 40-pound containers, except that containers must be reinforced about every 8 inches around the package. Shipments weighing more than 65 pounds must be packaged in 275-pound test fiberboard containers or equivalent.

#### 3.11 Film Cases

A film case weighing more than 5 pounds or with strap-type closures, except any film case the USPS authorizes to be entered as a machinable parcel under 201.7.0 and to be identified by the words "Machinable in United States Postal Service Equipment" permanently attached as a nontransferable decal in the lower right corner of the case.

#### 3.12 Coefficient of Friction

All parcels must have the coefficient of friction or ability to slide on a smooth, hard surface, similar to that of a domestic-class fiberboard box of the same approximate size and weight.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 4.0 Acceptable Mailing Containers

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 4.2 Boxes

Boxes are acceptable, subject to these standards:

*[Revise the text of items a through c to read as follows:]*

- a. Paperboard boxes may be used for loads to 10 pounds.
- b. Metal-stayed paperboard boxes may be used for loads to 20 pounds.
- c. Solid and corrugated fiberboard boxes may be used for loads to 70 pounds or according to the limits in 3.0.

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

*[Delete the table under item c in its entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete item g in its entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of 4.4 and 4.5 to read as follows:]*

### **4.4 Paper Bags and Wraps**

For loads of up to 5 pounds, paper bags and wraps are acceptable when at least of a 50-pound basis weight (the strength of an average large grocery bag) and the items are immune from impact or pressure damage. A combination of plies adding up to or exceeding 50-pound basis weight is not acceptable. For loads of up to 20 pounds, reinforced bags or bags with a minimum of 70-pound basis weight are acceptable. Nonreinforced loose-fill padded bags are not acceptable as exterior containers, unless the exterior ply is at least 60-pound basis weight.

### **4.5 Plastic Bags**

Plastic bags must be at least 2 mil thick polyethylene or equivalent for loads up to 5 pounds; 4 mil thick for loads up to 10 pounds.

### **4.6 Plastic Film**

Heat-shrinkable plastic film – either irradiated polyethylene, linear low-density polyolefin, or copolymer – may be used as packaging for mailpieces under the following conditions only:

*[Delete item a and renumber items b and c as items a and b. Revise the text of renumbered items a and b to read as follows:]*

a. Film must be at least 1-1/4 (1.25) mil thick for a load up to 5 pounds.

b. Film must be at least 1½ (1.5) mil thick for a load up to 10 pounds, only when mailers prepare the parcels on 5-digit/scheme, merged 5-digit/scheme, or finer level pallets.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 7.0 and delete the text in its entirety to read as follows:]*

### **7.0 Reserved**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **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), USPS Marketing Mail Product Samples mailed at saturation (Every Door) prices, and Periodicals nonstandard 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:

\*\*\*\*\*

##### **3.2.3 Mail Preparation**

*[Revise the third sentence in the introductory text of 3.2.3 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* Mailers must prepare nonstandard parcels in carrier route bundles in sacks or directly on pallets. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **604 Postage Payment Methods and Refunds**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **5.0 Permit Imprint (Indicia)**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **5.3 Indicia Design, Placement, and Content**

\*\*\*\*\*

##### **5.3.9 Use of a Company Permit Imprint**

\* \* \* The following standards apply:

*[Revise the last sentence of item a to read as follows:]* a. \* \* \* Sample pieces are not required for nonidentical-piece USPS Marketing Mail and Package Services machinable or nonstandard parcel mailings (e.g., merchandise and other fulfillment mailings).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **700 Special Standards**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **6.0 Combining Mailings of USPS Marketing Mail, Package Services, and Parcel Select Parcels**

\*\*\*\*\*

##### **6.4 Combining Package Services, Parcel Select, and USPS Marketing Mail – Optional 3-Digit SCF Entry**

\*\*\*\*\*

###### **6.4.2 Qualification and Preparation**

Parcel Select and Bound Printed Matter machinable parcels, and USPS Marketing Mail parcels may be prepared for entry at designated SCFs under these standards:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d to read as follows:]*

d. USPS Marketing Mail, machinable Marketing Parcels (regular and nonprofit) and Nonprofit Machinable priced parcels are eligible for the NDC/RPDC presort-level DNDC price. USPS Marketing Mail, nonstandard Marketing Parcels (regular and nonprofit) and Nonprofit Nonstandard priced parcels are eligible for the 3-digit presort-level DSCF price.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **7.0 Combining Package Services and Parcel Select Parcels for Destination Entry**

#### **7.1 Combining Parcels – DSCF/RP&DC and DDU or S&DC Entry**

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

\*\*\*\*\*

### 7.1.2 Basic Standards

*[Revise the introductory text of 7.1.2 to read as follows:]* Package Services and Parcel Select parcels that qualify as machinable and nonstandard under 201 and meet the following conditions may be combined in 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks or 5-digit scheme and 5-digit pallets under these conditions:

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.0 Preparing Pallets

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.5 General Preparation

#### 8.5.1 Presort

*[Revise the seventh sentence of 8.5.1 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* These standards may result in some bundles of Periodicals flats and nonstandard parcels and USPS Marketing Mail flats that are part of a mailing job prepared in part as palletized flats at automation prices not being placed on the finest level of pallet possible. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.5.2 Required Preparation

The following standards apply to Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services, except Parcel Select mailed at DSCF and DDU prices:

\*\*\*\*\*

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

b. For bundles of flat-size mailpieces or bundles of nonstandard parcels on pallets, after preparing all possible pallets under 8.5.2a, when 250 or more pounds of bundles remain for an ADC/RPDC (Periodicals) or for a NDC/ASF/RPDC (USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services), mailers must prepare the ADC/RPDC or NDC/ASF/RPDC pallet, as applicable for the class of mail. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.5.4 Minimum Height of Mail

The definitions of the minimum height of mail used to qualify for DSCF/DRPDC Parcel Select prices are as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

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

b. Nonstandard parcels. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.5.6 Mail on Pallets

These standards apply to mail on pallets:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of items a and b to read as follows:]*

a. For Bound Printed Matter nonstandard parcels, Presorted and Carrier Route price mail may be combined on all levels of pallet. For Bound Printed Matter flats, Presorted and Carrier Route price mail may be combined on all levels of pallet except as provided in 8.5.6g.

b. For sacks or flat trays of Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Bound Printed Matter flats or nonstandard parcels, carrier route price mail must be prepared on separate 5-digit pallets from automation price and/or presorted price mail.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.6.5 Line 2 (Content Line)

Line 2 (content line) must meet these standards:

\*\*\*\*\*

b. Codes. The codes shown below must be used as appropriate on Line 2 of sack, tray, and pallet labels.

CONTENT TYPE CODE

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Delete the "Irregular Parcels" line item in its entirety.]*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the "Content Type" text of the "Mixed Machinable and Irregular" line item to read as follows:]* Mixed Machinable and Nonstandard Parcels MACH & NONSTD (USPS Marketing Mail only)

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the "Content Type" text of the "Nonmachinable Parcels" line item to read as follows:]* Nonstandard Parcels NONSTD

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.8 Basic Uses

These types of mail may be palletized:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d to read as follows:]*

d. Machinable or nonstandard parcels.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.9 Bundles on Pallets

#### 8.9.1 Applicability

*[Revise the first sentence of 8.9.1 to read as follows:]* Presort destination bundles of Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Package Services flats and nonstandard parcels may be placed directly on pallets under 8.9.2 through 8.9.5 and 8.10. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.9.5 Bound Printed Matter

Bound Printed Matter on pallets must be bundled as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

b. Presorted and Carrier Route Bound Printed Matter:

*[Revise the first sentence of item b1 to read as follows:]*

1. Only individual pieces of flats or nonstandard parcels that weigh less than 10 pounds each may be prepared as bundles on pallets. \* \* \*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 8.10.2 Periodicals – Bundles, Sacks, Letter or Flat Trays

*[Revise the seventh sentence in the introductory text of 8.10.2 to read as follows:]* \* \* \* Bundles of Periodicals flats and nonstandard parcels may also be palletized under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0. \* \* \*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the third sentence in the introductory text of item b to read as follows:]*

b. \*\*\* Required for bundles containing all other flats or nonstandard parcels. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the third sentence in the introductory text of item c to read as follows:]*

c. \*\*\* Pallet must contain only 5-digit bundles of automation price and/or Presorted price mail for the same 5-digit scheme under L001. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the third sentence in the introductory text of item e to read as follows:]*

e. \*\*\* Required for bundles containing all other flats or nonstandard parcels. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item f to read as follows:]*

f. 5-digit, required, except for letter trays; permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

h. SCF, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). The pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005. Mailers may place origin mixed ADC (OMX) sacks (nonstandard parcels only) or flat trays on origin SCF pallets. Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item i to read as follows:]*

i. ADC, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 8.10.3 USPS Marketing Mail – Bundles, Sacks, or Trays

*[Revise the fifth and sixth sentence of the introductory text of 8.10.3 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* For parcels, use this preparation only for nonstandard parcels in sacks. Palletize unbundled or unsacked nonstandard parcels under 8.10.8. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

d. 5-digit, required except for trays, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (when applicable). \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For flats and nonstandard parcels, use “STD” followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD,” as applicable; followed by “5D” followed by “BARCODED” (or “BC”) if the pallet contains automation-price mail; followed by “NONBARCODED” (or “NBC”) if the pallet contains Presorted-price mail. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item f to read as follows:]*

f. SCF, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the text of item f2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For flats and nonstandard parcels, “STD” followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD,” as applicable; followed by “SCF”; followed by “BARCODED” (or “BC”) if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by “NONBARCODED” (or “NBC”) if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

g. ASF, required unless bundle reallocation is used under 8.13, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the text of item g2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For flats and nonstandard parcels, “STD” followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD,” as applicable; followed by “ASF”; followed by “BARCODED” (or “BC”) if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by “NONBARCODED” (or “NBC”) if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item h to read as follows:]*

h. NDC, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only). \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the text of item h2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For flats and nonstandard parcels, “STD” followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD,” as applicable; followed by “NDC”; followed by “BARCODED” (or “BC”) if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by “NONBARCODED” (or “NBC”) if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

i. Mixed NDC, optional, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (nonstandard parcels only); allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Bundles of flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. The pallet may contain carrier route, automation, and/or Presorted mail. Mailers must place trays and sacks (nonstandard parcels only) containing pieces paid at the single-piece price on the mixed NDC pallet (unless required to be presented separately by special postage payment authorization). Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the first sentence in the text of item i2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: For flats and nonstandard parcels, “STD” followed by “FLTS” or “NONSTD,” as applicable; followed by “BARCODED” (or “BC”) if pallet contains automation price mail; followed by “NONBARCODED” (or “NBC”) if pallet contains carrier route and/or Presorted price mail; followed by “WKG.” \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 8.10.5 to read as follows:]*

### 8.10.5 Package Services Nonstandard Parcels – Bundles and Sacks

*[Revise the fifth sentence of 8.10.5 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* At the mailer’s option, all Package Services nonstandard parcels also may be prepared for destination entry (see 7.0). \*\*\*

a. Merged 5-digit scheme, required, permitted for bundles only. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PSVC NONSTD CR/5D”; followed by “SCHEME” (or “SCH”).

b. 5-digit scheme carrier routes, required, permitted for bundles only. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “PSVC NONSTD”; followed by “CARRIER ROUTES” (or “CR-RTS”); followed by “SCHEME” (or “SCH”).

c. 5-digit scheme, required, permitted for bundles only. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 5D"; followed by "SCHEME" (or "SCH").  
d. Merged 5-digit, required, permitted for bundles only. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD CR/5D."  
e. 5-digit carrier routes, required, permitted for bundles and sacks. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item e2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD"; followed by "CARRIER ROUTES" (or "CR-RTS").  
f. 5-digit, required, permitted for bundles and sacks. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item f2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 5D."  
g. 3-digit, optional, option not available for bundles for 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes marked "N" in L002. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item g2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD 3D."  
h. SCF, required, permitted for bundles and sacks. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item h2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD SCF."  
i. ASF, required, permitted for bundles and sacks. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item i2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD ASF."  
j. NDC, required, permitted for bundles and sacks. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item j2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD NDC."  
k. Mixed NDC, optional, permitted for sacks only. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item k2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "PSVC NONSTD WKG."  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading and introductory text of 8.10.8 to read as follows:]*

### **8.10.8 Nonstandard Parcels Weighing 2 Ounces or More – USPS Marketing Mail, Including Marketing Parcels**

Mailers who palletize unbundled or unsacked nonstandard parcels must make pallets or pallet boxes when there are 250 pounds or more for the destination levels below for DNDC, DSCF, or DDU prices. When prepared at origin, a 200-pound minimum is required for the NDC price. Prepare pallets or pallet boxes of nonstandard parcels (except tubes, rolls, and similar pieces) weighing 2 ounces or more under 8.0 and in the sequence listed below. Label pallets or pallet boxes according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 8.6. Mailers may not prepare tubes, rolls, and similar pieces or pieces that weigh less than 2 ounces on pallets or in pallet boxes, except for pieces in carrier route bundles or in sacks under 8.10.3. Preparation sequence and labeling:

- a. 5-digit scheme, required. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item a2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD 5D"; followed by "SCHEME" (or "SCH").  
b. 5-digit, required. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item b2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD 5D."  
c. SCF, required. Allowed only for mail deposited at a DSCF to claim SCF price; labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item c2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: Use "STD NONSTD SCF."  
d. ASF, optional, but required for DNDC prices. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item d2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD ASF."  
e. NDC, required. \*\*\*\*\* Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item e2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD NDC."  
f. Origin NDC (required); no minimum; labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item f2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: "STD NONSTD NDC."  
g. Mixed NDC, optional. Labeling:  
\*\*\*\*\*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

*[Revise the text of item g2 to read as follows:]*

2. Line 2: “STD NONSTD WKG.”

*[Revise the heading of 8.11 to read as follows:]*

### **8.11 Bundle Reallocation To Protect SCF Pallet for Periodicals Flats and Nonstandard Parcels and USPS Marketing Mail Flats on Pallets**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **8.11.3 Reallocation of Bundles if Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Prepared**

Reallocation rules are as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the last sentence of item d to read as follows:]*

d. \*\*\* Mail that falls beyond the SCF/RPDC pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet (ADC/RPDC, ASF/RPDC, NDC/RPDC or MNDC/MRPDC) or in the next appropriate sack (nonstandard parcels) or flat tray.

#### **8.11.4 Reallocation of Bundles if Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Not Prepared**

Reallocation rules are as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

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

b. \*\*\* Mail that falls beyond the SCF/RPDC pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet (ADC/RPDC, ASF/RPDC, NDC/RPDC, or MNDC/MRPDC) or in the next appropriate sack (nonstandard parcels) or flat tray.

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the heading of 8.12 to read as follows:]*

### **8.12 Bundle Reallocation To Protect ADC Pallet for Periodicals Flats and Nonstandard Parcels on Pallets**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **8.14 Pallets of Bundles, Sacks, and Trays**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **8.14.2 USPS Marketing Mail**

Additional pallet preparation:

*[Revise the last sentence of item a to read as follows:]*

a. Combined mailings. \*\*\*\*\* Mailers may include machinable parcels and nonstandard parcels on 5-digit pallets.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **8.18 Parcel Select DSCF Prices – Parcels on Pallets**

##### **8.18.1 Basic Preparation, Parcels on Pallets**

Unless prepared under 8.18.2, or in sacks, mail must be prepared for the DSCF price as follows:

*[Revise the third sentence of item a to read as follows:]*

a. General. \*\*\* Nonstandard pieces under 201.7.6 may be combined on the same pallet or in the same overflow sack when sorted to 5-digit scheme or 5-digit destinations. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

##### **8.18.2 Alternate Preparation, Parcels on Pallets**

DSCF price mailings not prepared under 8.18.1 may be prepared as follows:

*[Revise the third sentence of item a to read as follows:]*

a. General. \*\*\* Nonstandard pieces under 201.7.6 may be combined on the same pallet. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **8.20 Parcel Select and Bound Printed Matter DDU Prices**

*[Revise the fourth sentence in the introductory text of 8.20 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* Nonstandard pieces under 201.7.6 may be combined. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **9.2 Periodicals**

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **9.2.4 Optional Sack Preparation and Labeling**

*[Revise the fifth sentence in the introductory text of 9.2.4 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* 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 nonstandard parcels under 201.7.6, the processing category shown on the sack label must show “FLTS.” \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **10.0 Merging Bundles of Flats Using the City State Product**

\*\*\*\*\*

##### **10.1.4 Sack and Flat-Tray Preparation and Labeling**

*[Revise the introductory text of 10.1.4 to read as follows:]* All carrier route bundles must be placed in sacks/flat trays under 10.1.4a through 10.1.4e and 10.1.4h as described below. When sorting is performed under this section, mailers must prepare merged 5-digit scheme sacks (nonstandard parcels) or flat trays, 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks/flat trays, and merged 5-digit sacks (nonstandard parcels) or flat trays for all possible 5-digit schemes or 5-digit ZIP Codes as applicable, using L001 (merged 5-digit scheme and 5-digit scheme carrier routes sort only) and the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product when there is enough volume for the 5-digit scheme or 5-digit ZIP Code to prepare such sacks (nonstandard parcels) or flat trays under 10.1.4. Mailers must label sacks/flat trays according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 207.20.1. If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the barcoded pieces are considered flat-size under 207.26.0, and the carrier route pieces and nonbarcoded pieces are considered nonstandard parcels under 201.7.6, “FLTS” must be shown as the processing category on the sack/tray label. If a mailing job does not contain barcoded price pieces and the carrier route pieces and the nonbarcoded pieces are nonstandard parcel shaped, use “NONSTD” for the processing category on the contents line of the label. Mailers must prepare sacks containing carrier route and 5-digit bundles from the carrier route, barcoded, and nonbarcoded mailings in the mailing job in the following manner and sequence:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of item h to read as follows:]*

h. Merged 3-digit. Required for carrier route, 5-digit, and 5-digit scheme bundles remaining after preparing sacks (nonstandard parcels only) or flat trays under 10.1.4a through 10.1.4g, and any 3-digit and 3-digit scheme bundles with a minimum of 24 pieces for a 3-digit area. Labeling:

\*\*\*\*\*

## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 12.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

*[Revise the text in the fourth and last sentence of 12.1.5 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the barcoded price pieces are considered flat size under 201.6.0 and the carrier route sorted pieces and nonbarcoded price pieces are considered nonstandard parcels under 201.7.6, “FLTS” must be shown as the processing category on the pallet label. If a mailing contains no barcoded price pieces and the carrier route pieces and the nonbarcoded pieces are nonstandard parcels, use “NONSTD” for the processing category on the contents line of the pallet label. Prepare and label pallets as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the second sentence of item c to read as follows:]*

c. \*\*\* Required for all other flats and nonstandard parcels. \*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 13.1.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

*[Revise the fourth and last sentence of 13.1.5 to read as follows:]* \*\*\* If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the barcoded price pieces are considered flat-size under 201.6.0 and the carrier route sorted pieces and nonbarcoded price pieces are considered nonstandard parcels under 201.7.6, “FLTS” must be shown as the processing category on the pallet label. If a mailing contains no barcoded price pieces and the carrier route pieces and the nonbarcoded of pieces are nonstandard parcels, use “NONSTD” for the processing category on the contents line of the pallet label. Prepare and label pallets as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

### 21.0 Optional Combined Parcel Mailings

\*\*\*\*\*

#### 21.3 Mail Preparation

##### 21.3.1 Basic Standards

Prepare combined mailings as follows:

a. Different parcel types must be prepared separately for combined parcel mailings as indicated below:

\*\*\*\*\*

*[Revise the text of items a2 and a3 to read as follows:]*

2. USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services nonstandard parcels, except for tubes, rolls, triangles, and other similarly nonstandard-shaped pieces: Use “STD/PSVC” for line 2 content labeling.

3. USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services tubes, rolls, triangles, and similarly nonstandard-shaped parcels: Use “STD/PSVC NONSTD” for line 2 content labeling.

\*\*\*\*\*

##### 21.3.3 Combining USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services APPS-Machinable Parcels

*[Revise the text of 21.3.3 to read as follows:]* Prepare and enter USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Select, and Package Services nonstandard parcels, that are not tubes, rolls, triangles, or similarly nonstandard-shaped parcels) as combined APPS-machinable parcels as shown in the table below.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Index

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#### B

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Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels

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*[Revise the “carrier route irregular parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* carrier route nonstandard parcels, 265.9.2, 265.9.3

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*[Revise the “presorted irregular parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* presorted nonstandard parcels, 265.8.2, 265.8.3

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*[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* nonstandard parcels, 201.7.6

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*[Revise the “bundles of irregular parcels on pallets” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* bundles of nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.10.5

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*[Revise the “carrier route irregular parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* carrier route nonstandard parcels, 265.9.2, 265.9.3

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*[Revise the “presorted irregular parcels” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* presorted nonstandard parcels, 265.8.2, 265.8.3

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*[Revise the “sacks of irregular parcels on pallets” line item under “Bound Printed Matter, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]* sacks of nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.10.5

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#### I

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*[Delete the “Irregular parcels” line item under “I”.]*

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#### L

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Library Mail, Commercial Parcels

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## USPS PROPOSED RULE – Parcel Processing Categories Simplification

[Revise the “irregular parcels” and “irregular parcels on pallets” line items under “Library Mail, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]

nonstandard parcels, 275.6.3  
nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.10.5  
\*\*\*\*\*

[Delete the second duplicated line item “irregular parcels” after the “bundles” line item.]

\*\*\*\*\*

[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels” line item under “Library Mail, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels, 201.7.6

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### M

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Media Mail, Commercial Parcels

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[Revise the “irregular parcels” and “irregular parcels on pallets” line items under “Media Mail, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:]

nonstandard parcels, 275.6.3  
nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.10.5  
\*\*\*\*\*

[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels” line item under “Media Mail, Commercial Parcels” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels, 201.7.6

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### N

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[Revise the “nonmachinable” line item under “N” to read as follows:] Nonstandard

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[Revise the “Parcel Select” line item under the renamed “nonstandard” to read as follows:] Parcel Select, 201.7.6

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### P

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Parcel Select

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[Revise the “irregular parcels on pallets” line item under “Parcel Select” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.10.5

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[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels on pallets” line item under “Parcel Select” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels on pallets, 705.8.18.2

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[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels” line item under “Parcel Select” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels, 201.7.6

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Parcels

[Revise the “nonmachinable criteria” heading under “parcels” to read as follows:] nonstandard criteria

[Revise the “commercial mail” line item under renamed “nonstandard criteria” to read as follows:] commercial mail, 201.7.6

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Periodicals

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[Revise the “carrier route irregular parcels in sacks” line item under “Periodicals” to read as follows:] carrier route nonstandard parcels in sacks, 207.23.4

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[Revise the “irregular parcels in sacks” line item under “Periodicals” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels in sacks, 207.22.6

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### S

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Size

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[Revise the “nonmachinable parcels” line item under “Size” to read as follows:] nonstandard parcels, 101.3.0, 201.7.0

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### U

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USPS Marketing Mail, Parcels

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[Revise the “bundling for irregular parcels” line item under “USPS Marketing Mail, parcels” to read as follows:] bundling for nonstandard parcels, 245.11.4, 245.12.5

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[Revise the “presorted irregular parcels” line item under “USPS Marketing Mail, parcels” to read as follows:] presorted nonstandard parcels, 245.11.4

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Ruth Stevenson, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.