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U.S. GOVERNMENT
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code of federal regulations

Postal Service

39

Revised as of July 1, 1997

CONTAINING
A CODIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS
OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY
AND FUTURE EFFECT

AS OF JULY 1, 1997

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Cite this Code: CFR

To cite the regulations in this volume use title, part and section number. Thus, 39 CFR 1.1 *refers to title 39, part 1, section 1.*

Explanation

The Code of Federal Regulations is a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Code is divided into 50 titles which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each title is divided into chapters which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts covering specific regulatory areas.

Each volume of the Code is revised at least once each calendar year and issued on a quarterly basis approximately as follows:

Title 1 through Title 16.....as of January 1
Title 17 through Title 27.....as of April 1
Title 28 through Title 41.....as of July 1
Title 42 through Title 50.....as of October 1

The appropriate revision date is printed on the cover of each volume.

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The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub. L. 96–511) requires Federal agencies to display an OMB control number with their information collection request.

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(a) The incorporation will substantially reduce the volume of material published in the Federal Register.

(b) The matter incorporated is in fact available to the extent necessary to afford fairness and uniformity in the administrative process.

(c) The incorporating document is drafted and submitted for publication in accordance with 1 CFR part 51.

Properly approved incorporations by reference in this volume are listed in the Finding Aids at the end of this volume.

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An index to the text of ''Title 3—The President'' is carried within that volume.

The Federal Register Index is issued monthly in cumulative form. This index is based on a consolidation of the ''Contents'' entries in the daily Federal Register.

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RAYMOND A. MOSLEY,
Director,
Office of the Federal Register.

July 1, 1997.

THIS TITLE

Title 39—POSTAL SERVICE is composed of one volume. The contents of this volume represent all current regulations codified under this title of the CFR as of July 1, 1997.

For Chapter I—United States Postal Service, the ''Domestic Mail Manual'', the ''Postal Service Publication 42, International Mail'' and the ''Postal Contracting Manual, U.S. Postal Service Publication 41'' are incorporated by reference. For Federal Register documentation, see the Material Approved for Incorporation by Reference in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

For this volume, Ruth Reedy Green was Chief Editor. The Code of Federal Regulations publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, assisted by Alomha S. Morris.

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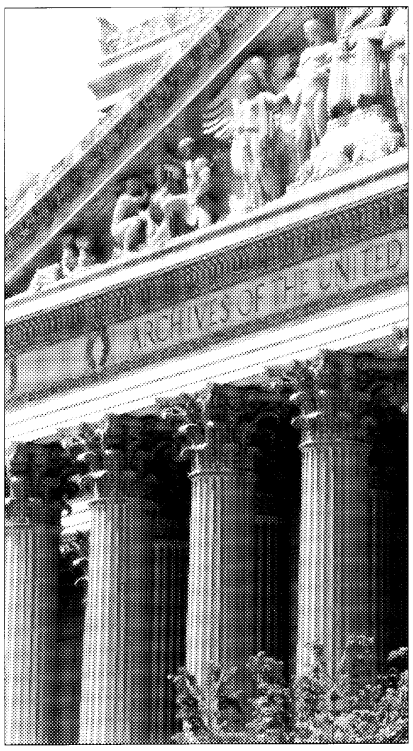

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SUBCHAPTER A—THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Bylaws of the Board of Governors

PART 1—POSTAL POLICY (ARTICLE I)

Sec.
1.1 Establishment of the U.S. Postal Service.
1.2 Delegation of authority.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 101, 202, 205, 401(2), 402, 403, 3621, as enacted by Public Law 91–375.

SOURCE: 59 FR 18447, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.1 Establishment of the U.S. Postal Service.

The U.S. Postal Service is established under the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act (the Reorganization Act) of August 12, 1970, Public Law 91–375, 84 Stat. 719, as an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States, under the direction of a Board of Governors, with the Postmaster General as its chief executive officer. The Board of Governors of the Postal Service (the Board) directs the exercise of its powers through management that is expected to be honest, efficient, economical, and mindful of the competitive business environment in which the Postal Service operates. The Board consists of nine Governors appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to represent the public interest generally, together with the Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General.

§ 1.2 Delegation of authority.

Except for powers, duties, or obligations specifically vested in the Governors by law, the Board may delegate its authority to the Postmaster General under such terms, conditions, and limitations, including the power of redelegation, as it finds desirable. The bylaws of the Board are the framework of the system through which the Board monitors the exercise of the authority it has delegated, measures progress toward the goals it has set, and shapes the policies to guide the future development of the Postal Service. Delegations of authority do not relieve the Board of full responsibility for carrying out its duties and functions, and are revocable by the Governors in their exclusive judgment.

PART 2—GENERAL AND TECHNICAL PROVISIONS (ARTICLE II)

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2.1 Office of the Board of Governors.
2.2 Agent for receipt of process.
2.3 Offices.
2.4 Seal.
2.5 Authority.
2.6 Severability, amendment, repeal, and waiver of bylaws.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 205(c), 207, 401(2), as enacted by Pub. L. 91–375, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(f), (g), as enacted by Pub. L. 94–409.

SOURCE: 59 FR 18447, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.1 Office of the Board of Governors.

There shall be located in Washington, DC an Office of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service. It shall be the function of this Office to provide staff support for the Board, as directed by the Chairman of the Board, to enable the Board to carry out effectively its duties under the Reorganization Act.

§ 2.2 Agent for receipt of process.

The General Counsel of the Postal Service shall act as agent for the receipt of legal process against the Postal Service, and as agent for the receipt of legal process against the Board of Governors or a member of the Board, in his or her official capacity, and all other officers and employees of the Postal Service to the extent that the process arises out of the official functions of those officers and employees. The General Counsel shall also issue public certifications concerning closed meetings of the Board as appropriate under 5 U.S.C. 552b(f).

§ 2.3 Offices.

The principal office of the Postal Service is located in Washington, DC, with such regional and other offices and places of business as the Postmaster General establishes from time to time, or the business of the Postal Service requires.

§ 2.4 Seal.

(a) The Seal of the Postal Service is filed by the Board in the Office of the Secretary of State, and is required by 39 U.S.C. 207 to be judicially noticed. The Seal shall be in the custody of the General Counsel, who shall affix it to all commissions of officers of the Postal Service, and use it to authenticate records of the Postal Service and for other official purposes. The following describes the Seal adopted for the Postal Service:

(1) A stylized bald eagle is poised for flight, facing to the viewer's right, above two horizontal bars between which are the words ''U.S. MAIL'', surrounded by a square border with rounded corners consisting of the words ''UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE'' on the left, top, and right, and consisting of nine five-pointed stars on the base.

(2) The color representation of the Seal shows, a white field on which the bald eagle appears in dark blue, the words ''U.S. MAIL'' in black, the bar above the words in red, the bar below in blue, and the entire border consisting of the words ''UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE'' and stars in ochre.

(b) The location and description of the Postal Service emblem is described at 39 CFR 221.9.

§ 2.5 Authority.

These bylaws are adopted by the Board under the authority conferred upon the Postal Service by 39 U.S.C. 401(2) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(g).

§ 2.6 Severability, amendment, repeal, and waiver of bylaws.

The invalidity of any provision of these bylaws does not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, and for this purpose these bylaws are severable. The Board may amend or repeal these bylaws at any special or regular meeting, provided that each member of the Board has received a written notice containing a statement of the proposed amendment or repeal at least 5 days before the meeting. The members of the Board may waive the 5 days' notice or the operation of any other provision of these bylaws by unanimous consent, if that action is not prohibited by law. The Secretary shall submit the text of any amendment to these bylaws for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER

as soon as practicable after the amendment is adopted by the Board.

PART 3—BOARD OF GOVERNORS (ARTICLE III)

Sec.

3.1 Responsibilities of Board.
3.2 Compensation of Board.
3.3 Matters reserved for decision by the Board.
3.4 Matters reserved for decision by the Governors.
3.5 Delegation of authority by Board.
3.6 Information furnished to Board—financial and operating reports.
3.7 Information furnished to Board—program review.
3.8 Information furnished to Board—special reports.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 205, 401(2), (10), 402, 1003, 3013; 5 U.S.C. 552b(g), (j).

SOURCE: 59 FR 18448, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§3.1 Responsibilities of Board.

The composition of the Board is described in 39 U.S.C. 202. The Board directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service, reviews the practices and policies of the Postal Service, and directs and controls the expenditures of the Postal Service. Consistent with the broad delegation of authority to the Postmaster General in §3.5 of these bylaws, and except for those powers, duties, or obligations which the Reorganization Act specifically vests in the Governors, as distinguished from the Board of Governors, the Board accomplishes its purposes by monitoring the operations and performance of the Postal Service, and by establishing basic objectives, broad policies, and long-range goals for the Postal Service.

§3.2 Compensation of Board.

Section 202(a) of title 39 provides for the compensation of the Governors and for reimbursement for travel and reasonable expenses incurred in attending Board meetings. Compensation is provided for not more than 42 days of meetings per year.

§3.3 Matters reserved for decision by the Board.

The following matters are reserved for decision by the Board of Governors:

(a) Election of the Vice Chairman of the Board.

(b) Adoption of, and amendments to, the bylaws of the Board.

(c) (1) Approval of the annual Postal Service budget program in both tentative and final form, including requests for appropriations;

(2) Approval of the annual Postal Service operating budget.

(d) Approval of the annual financial statements of the Postal Service following receipt of the annual report of the Postal Service's independent, certified public accounting firm.

(e) Approval of the Postal Service Five-Year Capital Investment Plans, including specific approval of each capital investment project, each new lease/rental agreement, and each research and development project exceeding such amount specified by resolution at the annual Board meeting in January. In the case of any project or agreement subject to the requirement of Board approval under this provision, the expenditure of any funds in excess of the amount previously authorized by the Board must be specifically approved by the Board. For the purpose of determining the cost of a capital investment project, lease/rental agreement, or research and development project,

(1) All such projects and agreements undertaken as part of a unitary plan (either for contemporaneous or sequential development in one of several locations) shall be considered one project or agreement, and

(2) The cost of a lease/rental agreement shall be the present value of all lease payments over the term of the lease, including all periods covered by renewal options or all periods for which failure to renew imposes a penalty or a hardship such that renewal appears to be reasonably assured, plus the cost of any leasehold improvements planned in connection with the lease/rental agreement. The present value will be determined using the cost of capital of the Postal Service.

(f) Authorization of the Postal Service to request the Postal Rate Commission to submit a recommended decision on changes in postal rates.

(g) Authorization of the Postal Service to request the Postal Rate Commission to submit a recommended decision on changes in the mail classification schedule.

(h) Determination of an effective date for changes in postal rates or mail classification.

(i) Authorization of the Postal Service to request the Postal Rate Commission to submit an advisory opinion on a proposed change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis.

(j) Approval of any use of the authority of the Postal Service to borrow money under 39 U.S.C. 2005, except for short-term borrowings, having maturities of one year or less, assumed in the normal course of business.

(k) Approval of the terms and conditions of each series of obligations issued by the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 2005, including the time and manner of sale and the underwriting arrangements, except for short-term borrowings, having maturities of one year or less, assumed in the normal course of business.

(l) Approval of any use of the authority of the Postal Service to require the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase Postal Service obligations under 39 U.S.C. 2006(b), or to request the Secretary of the Treasury to pledge the full faith and credit of the Government of the United States for the payment of principal and interest on Postal Service obligations under 39 U.S.C. 2006(c).

(m) Determination of the number of officers, described in 39 U.S.C. 204 as Assistant Postmasters General, whether so denominated or not, as the Board authorizes by resolution.

(n) Compensation of officers of the Postal Service whose positions are included in Level II of the Postal Career Executive Service.

(o) Selection of an independent, certified public accounting firm to certify the accuracy of Postal Service financial statements as required by 39 U.S.C. 2008(e).

(p) Approval of official statements adopting major policy positions or departing from established major policy positions, and of official positions on legislative proposals having a major impact on the Postal Service.

(q) Approval of all major policy positions taken with the Department of Justice on petitioning the Supreme Court of the United States for writs of certiorari.

(r) Approval and transmittal to the President and the Congress of the annual report of the Postmaster General under 39 U.S.C. 2402.

(s) Approval and transmittal to the Congress of the annual report of the Board under 5 U.S.C. 552b(j).

(t) Approval of the annual comprehensive statement of the Postal Service to Congress under 39 U.S.C. 2401(g).

(u) Approval and transmittal to the Congress of the semi-annual report of the Postmaster General under 39 U.S.C. 3013, summarizing the investigative activities of the Postal Service.

(v) All other matters that the Board may consider appropriate to reserve for its decision.

§ 3.4 Matters reserved for decision by the Governors.

The following matters are reserved for decision by the Governors:

(a) Appointment, pay, term of service, and removal of the Postmaster General, 39 U.S.C. 202(c).

(b) Appointment, term of service, and removal of the Deputy Postmaster General (by the Governors and the Postmaster General, 39 U.S.C. 202(d)); pay of the Deputy Postmaster General, 39 U.S.C. 202(d).

(c) Election of the Chairman of the Board of Governors, 39 U.S.C. 202(a).

(d) Approval of the budget of the Postal Rate Commission, or adjustment of the total amount of the budget (by unanimous written vote of the Governors in office, 39 U.S.C. 3604(d)).

(e) Action upon a recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission, including action to approve, allow under protest, reject, or modify that decision, 39 U.S.C. 3625.

(f) Concurrence of the Governors with the Postmaster General in the removal or transfer of the Chief Postal Inspector under 5 U.S.C. App. 8E(f).

(g) The Governors shall meet annually in closed session to discuss compensation, term of service, and appointment/removal of the Secretary and other necessary staff.

§3.5 Delegation of authority by Board.

As authorized by 39 U.S.C. 402, these bylaws delegate to the Postmaster General the authority to exercise the powers of the Postal Service to the extent that this delegation of authority does not conflict with powers reserved to the Governors or to the Board by law, these bylaws, or resolutions adopted by the Board. Any of the powers delegated to the Postmaster General by these bylaws may be redelegated by the Postmaster General to any officer, employee, or agency of the Postal Service.

§3.6 Information furnished to Board—financial and operating reports.

To enable the Board to monitor the performance of the Postal Service during the most recent accounting periods for which data are available, postal management shall furnish the Board (on a monthly basis) financial and operating statements for the fiscal year to date, addressing the following categories: (a) Mail volume by class; (b) income and expense by principal categories; (c) balance sheet information; (d) service quality measurements; (e) productivity measurements (reflecting workload and resource utilization); and (f) changes in postal costs. These statements shall include, where applicable, comparable figures for the previous year and the current year's plan.

§3.7 Information furnished to Board—program review.

(a) To enable the Board to review the Postal Service operating program, postal management shall furnish the Board information on all aspects of the Postal Service budget plan, including:

(1) The tentative and final annual budgets submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and the Congress, and amendments to the budget;

(2) Five-year plans, annual operating and investment plans, and significant departures from estimates upon which the plans were based;

(3) The need for rate increases or decreases and the progress of any pending rate cases and related litigation; and

(4) Debt financing needs, including a review of all borrowings of the Postal Service from the U.S. Treasury and private sources.

(b) To enable the Board to review the effectiveness of the Postal Service's equal employment opportunity program, performance data relating to this program shall be furnished to the Board at least quarterly. This data shall be categorized in such manner as the Board, from time to time, specifies.

(c) Postal management shall also regularly furnish the Board information regarding major programs for improving postal service or reducing the cost of postal operations.

(d) Management shall furnish to the Board:

(1) Information regarding any significant, new program, policy, major modification or initiative; any plan to offer a significant, new or unique product or system implementation; or any significant, new project not related directly to the core business function of the Postal Service. This information shall be provided to the Board in advance of entering into any agreement in furtherance of such project. For the purposes of this paragraph, ''significant'' means a project anticipated to have a notable or conspicuous impact on (i) corporate visibility or (ii) the operating budget (including increases in expense amounts) or the capital investment budget. The notification requirement of this paragraph governs applicable projects regardless of the level of expenditure involved.

(2) Information regarding any project, in advance of entering into any agreement in furtherance of such project, where the potential liability due to termination, breach, or other reason would equal or exceed the amount specified by resolution for approval of capital investment projects pursuant to section 3.3(e) hereof.

[59 FR 18448, Apr. 18, 1994, as amended 62 FR 18519, Apr. 16, 1997]

§3.8 Information furnished to Board—special reports.

To insure that the Board receives significant information of developments

meriting its attention, postal management shall bring to the Board's attention the following matters:

(a) Major developments in personnel areas, including but not limited to equal employment opportunity, career development and training, and grade and salary structures.

(b) Major litigation activities. Postal management shall also notify the Board in a timely manner whenever it proposes to seek review by any United States Court of Appeals of an adverse judicial decision.

(c) Any significant changes proposed in the Postal Service's system of accounts or methods of accounting.

(d) Matters of special importance, including but not limited to important research and development initiatives, major changes in Postal Service organization or structure, major law enforcement activities, and other matters having a significant impact upon the relationship of the Postal Service with its employees, with any major branch of Government, or with the general public.

(e) Information concerning any proposed grant of unique or exclusive licenses to use Postal Service intellectual properties (other than patents and technical data rights), or any proposed joint venture involving the use of such property.

(f) Other matters having important policy implications.

PART 4—OFFICERS (ARTICLE IV)

Sec.
4.1 Chairman.
4.2 Vice Chairman.
4.3 Postmaster General.
4.4 Deputy Postmaster General.
4.5 Assistant Postmasters General, General Counsel, Judicial Officer.
4.6 Chief Postal Inspector.
4.7 Secretary of the Board.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 205, 401(2), (10), 1003, 3013.

SOURCE: 59 FR 18450, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 4.1 Chairman.

(a) The Chairman of the Board of Governors is elected by the Governors from among the members of the Board. The Chairman:

(1) Shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Board, and shall set the agenda for such meetings;

(2) Shall select and appoint the Chairman and members of any committee properly established by the Board;

(3) Serves a term that commences upon election and expires at the end of the first annual meeting following the meeting at which he or she was elected.

(b) If the Postmaster General is elected Chairman of the Board, the Governors shall also elect one of their number to preside during proceedings dealing with matters upon which only the Governors may vote.

§ 4.2 Vice Chairman.

The Vice Chairman is elected by the Board from among the members of the Board and shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairman during the Chairman's absence or disability. The Vice Chairman serves a term that commences upon election and expires at the end of the first annual meeting following the meeting at which he or she was elected.

§ 4.3 Postmaster General.

The appointment and role of the Postmaster General are described at 39 U.S.C. 202(c), 203. The Governors set the salary of the Postmaster General by resolution, subject to the limitations of 39 U.S.C. 1003(a).

§ 4.4 Deputy Postmaster General.

The appointment and role of the Deputy Postmaster General are described at 39 U.S.C. 202(d), 203. The Deputy Postmaster General shall act as Postmaster General during the Postmaster General's absence or disability, and when a vacancy exists in the office of Postmaster General. The Governors set the salary of the Deputy Postmaster General by resolution, subject to the limitations of 39 U.S.C. 1003(a).

§ 4.5 Assistant Postmasters General, General Counsel, Judicial Officer.

There are within the Postal Service a General Counsel, a Judicial Officer, and such number of officers, described in 39 U.S.C. 204 as Assistant Postmasters General, whether so denominated or not, as the Board authorizes

by resolution. These officers are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Postmaster General.

§4.6 Chief Postal Inspector.

The Postmaster General, in consultation with the Governors, appoints the Chief Postal Inspector, certain of whose powers and duties are delegated to the holder of that office by the Postmaster General, consistent with these bylaws and the Reorganization Act. The Chief Postal Inspector reports to and is under the general supervision of the Postmaster General. The Postmaster General has the power, with the concurrence of the Governors, to remove or transfer the Chief Postal Inspector to another position or location within the Postal Service. In the event of any such removal or transfer, the Postmaster General must promptly notify the Governors and both Houses of the Congress in writing of the reasons for such removal or transfer.

[62 FR 18519, Apr. 16, 1997]

§4.7 Secretary of the Board.

The Secretary of the Board of Governors is appointed by the Governors and serves at the pleasure of the Governors. The Secretary shall be responsible for carrying out the functions of the Office of the Board of Governors, under the direction of the Chairman of the Board. The Secretary shall also issue notices of meetings of the Board and its committees, keep minutes of these meetings, and take steps necessary for compliance with all statutes and regulations dealing with public observation of meetings. The Secretary shall perform all those duties incident to this office, including those duties assigned by the Board or by the Chairman of the Board. The Chairman may designate such assistant secretaries as may be necessary to perform any of the duties of the Secretary.

PART 5—COMMITTEES (ARTICLE V)

Sec.

5.1 Establishment and appointment.
5.2 Committee procedure.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 204, 205, 401(2), (10), 1003, 3013.

SOURCE: 59 FR 18450, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§5.1 Establishment and appointment.

From time to time the Board may establish by resolution special and standing committees of one or more members of the Board. The Board shall specify, in the resolution establishing any committee, whether the committee is authorized to submit recommendations or preliminary decisions to the Board, to conduct hearings for the Board, or otherwise to take action on behalf of the Board. Each committee may exercise only those duties, functions, and powers prescribed from time to time by the Board, and the Board may affirm, alter, or revoke any action of any committee. Each member of the Board may have access to all of the information and records of any committee at any time. The Chairman of the Board shall appoint the chairman and members of each committee, who serve terms which expire at the end of each annual meeting. Each committee chairman may assign responsibilities to members of the committee that are considered appropriate. The committee chairman, or the chairman's designee, shall preside at all meetings of the committee.

§5.2 Committee procedure.

Each committee establishes its own rules of procedure, consistent with these bylaws, and meets as provided in its rules. A majority of the members of a committee constitute a quorum.

[61 FR 36499, July 11, 1996]

PART 6—MEETINGS (ARTICLE VI)

Sec.

6.1 Regular meetings, annual meeting.
6.2 Special meetings.
6.3 Notice of meetings.
6.4 Attendance by conference telephone call.
6.5 Minutes of meetings.
6.6 Quorum and voting.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 205, 401(2), (10), 1003, 3013; 5 U.S.C 552b (e), (g).

SOURCE: 59 FR 18451, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 6.1 Regular meetings, annual meeting.

The Board shall meet regularly each month and shall meet normally on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month. The first regular meeting of each calendar year is designated as the annual meeting. Consistent with the provisions of §7.5 of these bylaws, the time or place of a regular or annual meeting may be varied by a recorded unanimous vote of the entire membership of the Board, with the earliest practicable notice to the Secretary. The Secretary shall distribute to the members an agenda setting forth the proposed subject matter for any regular or annual meeting in advance of the meeting.

§ 6.2 Special meetings.

Consistent with the provisions of §7.5 of these bylaws, the Chairman may call a special meeting of the Board at any place in the United States, with not less than 8 days' notice to the other members of the Board and to the Secretary, specifying the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting. By recorded vote a majority of the members of the Board may call a special meeting of the Board at any place in the United States, with the earliest practicable notice to the other members of the Board and to the Secretary, specifying the time, date, place and subject matter of the meeting.

§ 6.3 Notice of meetings.

The Chairman or the members of the Board may give the notice required under §6.1 or §6.2 of these bylaws in oral or written form. Oral notice to a member may be delivered by telephone and is sufficient if made to the member personally or to a responsible person in the member's home or office. Any oral notice to a member must be subsequently confirmed by written notice. Written notice to a member may be delivered by telegram or by mail sent by the fastest regular delivery method addressed to the member's address of record filed with the Secretary, and except for written notice confirming a previous oral notice, must be sent in sufficient time to reach that address at least 2 days before the meeting date under normal delivery conditions. A member waives notice of any meeting by attending the meeting, and may otherwise waive notice of any meeting at any time. Neither oral nor written notice to the Secretary is sufficient until actually received by the Secretary. The Secretary may not waive notice of any meeting.

§ 6.4 Attendance by conference telephone call.

Unless prohibited by law or by these bylaws, a member of the Board may participate in a meeting of the Board by conference telephone or similar communication equipment which enables all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other and which permits full compliance with the provisions of these bylaws concerning public observation of meetings. Attendance at a meeting by this method constitutes presence at the meeting, except that no Governor may receive compensation for any meeting attended in this manner.

§ 6.5 Minutes of meetings.

The Secretary shall preserve the minutes of Board meetings prepared under §4.7 of these bylaws. After the minutes of any meeting are approved by the Board, the Secretary shall promptly make available to the public, in the Communications Department at Postal Service Headquarters, or in another place easily accessible to the public, copies of the minutes, except for those portions which contain information inappropriate for public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b) or 39 U.S.C. 410(c).

§ 6.6 Quorum and voting.

As provided by 39 U.S.C. 205(c), the Board acts by resolution upon a majority vote of those members who are present. No proxies are allowed in any vote of the members of the Board. Any 6 members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business by the Board, except:

(a) In the appointment or removal of the Postmaster General, and in setting the compensation of the Postmaster General and Deputy Postmaster General, 39 U.S.C. 205(c)(1) requires a favorable vote of an absolute majority of the Governors in office;

(b) In the appointment or removal of the Deputy Postmaster General, 39 U.S.C. 205(c)(2) requires a favorable vote of an absolute majority of the Governors in office and the Postmaster General;

(c) In the appointment, removal, or in the setting of the compensation of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, or other necessary staff, a favorable vote of an absolute majority of the Governors in office is required;

(d) In the adjustment of the total budget of the Postal Rate Commission, 39 U.S.C. 3604(c) requires a unanimous written vote of the Governors in office;

(e) In the modification of a recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission, 39 U.S.C. 3625 requires a unanimous written vote of the Governors in office; and

(f) In the approval, allowance under protest, or rejection of a recommended decision of the Postal Rate Commission, the Governors act upon a majority vote of the Governors present, and the required quorum of 6 members must include at least 5 Governors;

(g) In the determination to close a portion of a meeting or to withhold information concerning a meeting, 5 U.S.C. 552b(d)(1) requires a vote of a majority of the entire membership of the Board; and

(h) In the decision to call a meeting with less than a week's notice, 5 U.S.C. 552b(e)(1) requires a vote of a majority of the members of the Board. In the decision to change the subject matter of a meeting, or the determination to open or close a meeting, 5 U.S.C. 552b(e)(2) requires a vote of a majority of the entire membership of the Board.

PART 7—PUBLIC OBSERVATION (ARTICLE VII)

Sec.

7.1 Definitions.
7.2 Open meetings.
7.3 Exceptions.
7.4 Procedure for closing a meeting.
7.5 Public notice of meetings, subsequent changes.
7.6 Certification and transcripts of closed meetings.
7.7 Enforcement.
7.8 Open meetings, Freedom of Information, and Privacy of Information.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401(a), as enacted by Pub. L. 91–375, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(a)–(m) as enacted by Pub. L. 94–409.

SOURCE: 59 FR 18451, Apr. 18, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§7.1 Definitions.

For purposes of §§7.2 through 7.8 of these bylaws:

(a) The term *Board* means the Board of Governors, and any subdivision or committee of the Board authorized to take action on behalf of the Board.

(b) The term *meeting* means the deliberations of at least the number of individual members required to take action on behalf of the Board under §5.2 or §6.5 of these bylaws, where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of the official business of the Board. The term ''meeting'' does not include any procedural deliberations required or permitted by §§6.1, 6.2, 7.4, or §7.5 of these bylaws.

[59 FR 18451, Apr. 18, 1994, as amended at 61 FR 36499, July 11, 1996]

§7.2 Open meetings.

(a) It is the policy of the United States, established in section 2 of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94–409, 90 Stat. 1241, that the public is entitled to the fullest practicable information regarding the decisionmaking processes of the Federal Government. The Postal Service is charged to provide the public with this information while protecting the rights of individuals and the ability of the Government to carry out its responsibilities. Accordingly, except as specifically permitted by statute, every portion of every meeting of the Board of Governors is open to public observation.

(b) Except as provided in §7.3 of these bylaws, every portion of every meeting of the Board is open to public observation. Members of the Board may not jointly conduct or dispose of business of the Board without complying with §§7.2 through 7.8 of these bylaws. Members of the public may obtain access to documents considered at meetings to the extent provided in the regulations of the Postal Service concerning the release of information.

(c) Without the permission of a majority of the Board, no person may participate in, film, televise, or broadcast any portion of any meeting of the Board. Any person may electronically record or photograph a meeting, as long as that action does not tend to impede or disturb the members of the Board in the performance of their duties, or members of the public while attempting to attend or observe a meeting of the Board. The rules and penalties of 39 CFR 232.6, concerning conduct on postal property, apply with regard to meetings of the Board.

§ 7.3 Exceptions.

Section 7.2 of these bylaws does not apply to a portion of a meeting, and §§ 7.4 and 7.5 do not apply to information concerning the meeting which otherwise would be required to be disclosed to the public, if the Board properly determines that the public interest does not require otherwise, and that such portion of the meeting or the disclosure of such information is likely to:

(a) Disclose matters that are (1) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy, and (2) in fact properly classified under that Executive order;

(b) Relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Postal Service, including the Postal Service position in negotiations or consultations with employee organizations.

(c) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552), provided that the statute (1) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (2) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(d) Disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential, such as market information pertinent to Postal Service borrowing or investments, technical or patent information related to postal mechanization, or commercial information related to purchases of real estate;

(e) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;

(f) Disclose information of a personal nature, such as personal or medical data regarding any individual if disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(g) Disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in those records, but only to the extent that the production of those records or information would (1) interfere with enforcement proceedings, (2) deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (3) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (4) disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source, (5) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or (6) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;

(h) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions;

(i) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely significantly to frustrate implementation of a proposed action of the Board, such as information relating to the negotiation of a labor contract or proposed Postal Service procurement activity, except that this provision does not apply in any instance where (1) the Postal Service has already disclosed to the public the content or nature of the proposed action, or (2) the Postal Service is required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative before taking final action on the proposal; or

(j) Specifically concern the issuance of a subpoena by the Postal Service, or the participation of the Postal Service in a civil action or proceeding, such as

a postal rate or classification proceeding, an action in a foreign court or international tribunal, or an arbitration, or the initiation, conduct, or disposition by the Postal Service of a particular case of formal adjudication under the procedures of 5 U.S.C. 554 or otherwise involving a determination on the record after opportunity for a hearing.

§7.4 Procedure for closing a meeting.

(a) A majority of the entire membership of the Board may vote to close a portion of a meeting or to withhold information concerning a meeting under the provisions of §7.3 of these bylaws. The members shall take a separate vote with respect to each meeting a portion of which is proposed to be closed to the public, or with respect to any information which is proposed to be withheld, and shall make every reasonable effort to take any such vote at least 8 days before the date of the meeting involved. The members may take a single vote with respect to a series of meetings, portions of which are proposed to be closed to the public, or with respect to information concerning the series, so long as each portion of a meeting in the series involves the same particular matters, and no portion of any meeting is scheduled to be held more than 30 days after the initial portion of the first meeting in the series.

(b) Whenever any person whose interest may be directly affected by a portion of a meeting requests that the Board close that portion to the public for any of the reasons referred to in §7.3 (e), (f), or (g) of these bylaws, upon request of any one of its members the Board shall vote by recorded vote whether to close that portion of the meeting.

(c) The Secretary shall record the vote of each member participating in a vote under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section. Within 1 day of any vote under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, the Secretary shall make publicly available a written copy of the vote showing the vote of each member on the question. If a portion of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the Secretary shall, within 1 day of the vote, make publicly available a full written explanation of the action closing the portion, together with a list of all persons expected to attend the meeting and their affiliation.

[59 FR 18451, Apr. 18, 1994, as amended at 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§7.5 Public notice of meetings, subsequent changes.

(a) At least one week before any meeting of the Board, the Secretary shall publicly announce the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting, whether it is to be open or closed to the public, and the name and phone number of the official designated by the Board to respond to requests for information about the meeting.

(b) By a recorded vote, a majority of the members of the Board may determine that the business of the Board requires a meeting to be called with less than a week's notice. At the earliest practicable time, the Secretary shall publicly announce the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting, and whether it is to be open or closed to the public.

(c) Following the public announcement required by paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section:

(1) As provided in §6.1 of these bylaws, the Board may change the time or place of a meeting. At the earliest practicable time, the Secretary shall publicly announce the change.

(2) A majority of the entire membership of the Board may change the subject matter of a meeting, or the determination to open or close a meeting to the public, if it determines by a recorded vote that the change is required by the business of the Board and that no earlier announcement of the change was possible. At the earliest practicable time, the Secretary shall publicly announce the change, and the vote of each member upon the change.

(d) Immediately following each public announcement required under paragraphs (a), (b), or (c) of this section, the Secretary shall submit for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the time, date, place, and subject matter of the meeting, whether the meeting is open or closed, any change in the preceding, and the name and phone number of the official designated by the Board to respond to requests for information about the meeting. The

Secretary shall also submit the announcement and information to the Postal Service Public and Employee Communications Department for dissemination to the public.

§ 7.6 Certification and transcripts of closed meetings.

(a) At the beginning of every meeting or portion of a meeting closed under § 7.3 (a) through (j) of these bylaws, the General Counsel shall publicly certify that, in his or her opinion, the meeting or portion of the meeting may be closed to the public, stating each relevant exemptive provision. The Secretary shall retain this certification, together with a statement from the officer presiding at the meeting which sets forth the time and place of the meeting, and the persons present.

(b) The Secretary shall arrange for a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to record fully the proceedings to be made of each meeting or portion of a meeting of the Board which is closed to the public. The Secretary shall maintain a complete verbatim copy of the transcript, or a complete electronic recording of each meeting or portion of a meeting closed to the public for at least 2 years after the meeting, or for 1 year after the conclusion of any Postal Service proceeding with respect to which the meeting was held, whichever occurs later.

(c) Except for those items of discussion or testimony which the Board, by a majority vote of those members who are present, determines to contain information which may be withheld under § 7.3 of these bylaws, the Secretary shall promptly make available to the public, in the Public and Employee Communications Department at Postal Service Headquarters, or in another place easily accessible to the public, the transcript or electronic recording of a closed meeting, including the testimony of any witnesses received at the meeting. The Secretary shall furnish a copy of this transcript, or a transcription of this electronic recording disclosing the identity of each speaker, to any person at the actual cost of duplication or transcription.

§ 7.7 Enforcement.

(a) Under 5 U.S.C. 552b(g), any person may bring a proceeding in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia to set aside any provisions of these bylaws which are not in accord with the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 552b (a)–(f) and to require the promulgation of provisions that are in accord with those requirements.

(b) Under 5 U.S.C. 552b(h) any person may bring a civil action against the Board in an appropriate U.S. District Court to obtain judicial review of the alleged failure of the Board to comply with 5 U.S.C. 552b (a)–(f). The burden is on the Board to sustain its action. The court may grant appropriate equitable relief, including enjoining future violations, or ordering the Board to make public information improperly withheld from the public.

(c) Under 5 U.S.C. 552b(i) the court may assess against any party reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred by any other party who substantially prevails, except that the court may assess costs against the plaintiff only if the court finds that he initiated the suit primarily for frivolous or dilatory purposes.

§ 7.8 Open meetings, Freedom of Information, and Privacy of Information.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (1)–(10), enacted by Public Law 94–409, the Government in the Sunshine Act, govern in the case of any request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, to copy or to inspect the transcripts or electronic recordings described in § 7.6 of these bylaws. Nothing in 5 U.S.C. 552b authorizes the Board to withhold from any individual any record, including the transcripts or electronic recordings described in § 7.6 of these bylaws, to which the individual may otherwise have access under 5 U.S.C. 552a, enacted by the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93–579.

PART 8—[RESERVED]

PART 9—POLICY ON COMMUNICATIONS WITH GOVERNORS OF THE POSTAL SERVICE DURING PENDENCY OF RATE AND CLASSIFICATION PROCEEDINGS [APPENDIX]

Sec.

9.1 General policy.
9.2 Communications with the Governors during the restricted period.
9.3 Public availability of communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 205, 401 (2), (10), 3621, 3625.

SOURCE: 49 FR 2888, Jan. 24, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§9.1 General policy.

(a) To represent the public interest generally and to insure that the Postal Service meets the needs of the mailing public, the Governors must be free to hold uninhibited discussions on broad postal issues with mailers and the general public. Nevertheless, the Governors believe that certain restrictions on communications with the public are appropriate when the Governors act in their capacity as final administrative decisionmakers on recommended decisions of the Postal Rate Commission concerning postal rates and classifications. These restrictions should reflect a balance between, on the one hand, the need to safeguard the integrity of the administrative process for setting rates and classifications and insure meaningful judicial review of decisions of the Governors on these subjects, and on the other hand, the need for open access to the Board to permit the members to meet their statutory responsibilities. To strike an appropriate balance, the Board has adopted the following general guidelines: From the time the Postal Rate Commission issues a recommended decision until the Governors have acted on the recommended decision, any communication from an interested person to the Governors that is relevant to the merits of the proceeding should be on the public record and available for public inspection.

(b) In reviewing recommended decisions of the Commission, the Governors act on the record before them. They are under no obligation to take communications from the public into account in reaching their decision.

§9.2 Communications with the Governors during the restricted period.

Once the Commission issues a recommended decision, and until the Governors have acted on that recommended decision by approving, rejecting, allowing under protest or modifying it, the following guidelines apply to communications with the Governors that are relevant to the merits of the proceeding.

(a) *Oral communications.* During the restricted period, it is the policy of the Governors not to receive oral communications relevant to the merits of the proceeding from any interested person. In the event such a conversation does inadvertently take place, the Governor involved shall prepare a memorandum of the conversation and submit it to the Secretary of the Board for inclusion in the public record, where it shall be available for public inspection.

(b) *Written communications.* (1) During the restricted period any communication relevant to the merits of the proceeding that an interested person may wish to submit to the Governors must be in writing and should not exceed fifteen pages in length. Such comments should be based on the record and addressed to the Governors through the Secretary of the Board. If the commenter has been a party to the Commission proceeding, copies should be sent to all other parties to that proceeding. The Secretary shall make all such communications available for public inspection.

(2) Because the Governors are often required to act promptly on a recommended decision from the Commission, interested persons seeking to communicate with the Governors should submit their comments no later than ten (10) days after the Commission has issued its recommended decision. This period may be extended at the discretion of the Governors.

(c) *Scope of the guidelines.* These guidelines apply to communications from interested persons to the Governors, their staff, personal assistants (if any), the Secretary of the Board and

any official of the Office of the Board. Since the Act assigns final decision-making authority on Commission recommended decisions to the Governors and not the Board, these guidelines do not apply to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General, nor do they apply to other officers or officials of the Postal Service. Moreover, in order to carry out their statutory responsibility to direct ''the exercise of the power of the Postal Service,'' 39 U.S.C. 202(a), the Governors must be free to discuss all matters of postal policy with officers and employees of the Postal Service. Accordingly, no restrictions apply to communications between the Governors and Postal Service employees.

§ 9.3 Public availability of communications.

All communications placed on the public record pursuant to these guidelines shall be available for public inspection at the Office of the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, Room 10–300, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260–1000, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

PART 10—RULES OF CONDUCT FOR POSTAL SERVICE GOVERNORS [APPENDIX]

Sec.

10.1 Applicability.
10.2 Advisory service.
10.3 Post-employment activities.
10.4 Financial disclosure reports.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 52 FR 29697, Aug. 11, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 10.1 Applicability.

This part contains rules of conduct for the members of the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service. As special employees within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. 202(a), the members of the Board are also subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 CFR part 2635, and Postal Service regulations supplemental thereto, 5 CFR part 7001.

[61 FR 36499, July 11, 1996]

§ 10.2 Advisory service.

(a) The General Counsel is the Ethical Conduct Officer of the Postal Service and the Designated Agency Ethics Official for purposes of the Ethics in Government Act, as amended, and the implementing regulations of the Office of Government Ethics, including 5 CFR part 2638.

(b) A Governor may obtain advice and guidance on questions of conflicts of interest, and may request any ruling provided for by either the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, or the Postal Service regulations supplemental thereto, from the General Counsel or a designated assistant.

(c) If the General Counsel determines that a Governor is engaged in activity which involves a violation of federal statute or regulation, including the ethical conduct regulations contained in 5 CFR parts 2635 and 7001, or conduct which creates the appearance of such a violation, he or she shall bring this to the attention of the Governor or shall notify the Chairman of the Board of Governors, or the Vice Chairman, as appropriate.

[61 FR 36499, July 11, 1996]

§ 10.3 Post-employment activities.

Governors are subject to the restrictions on the post-employment activities of special Government employees imposed by 18 U.S.C. 207. Guidance concerning post-employment restrictions applicable to Governors may be obtained in accordance with § 10.2(b).

[61 FR 36500, July 11, 1996]

§ 10.4 Financial disclosure reports.

(a) *Requirement of submission of reports.* At the time of their nomination, Governors complete a financial disclosure report which, under the practice of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, is kept confidential. Because the Director of the Office of Government Ethics has ruled that Governors who do not perform the duties of their office for more than 60 days in any calendar year are not required to

file financial disclosure reports that are open to the public, Governors file non-public reports annually, in accordance with this section. A Governor who performs the duties of his or her office for more than 60 days in a particular calendar year is required to file a public report in accordance with 5 CFR 2634.204(c).

(b) *Person with whom reports should be filed and time for filing.* (1) A Governor shall file a financial disclosure report with the General Counsel on or before May 15 of each year when the Governor has been in office for more than 60 consecutive calendar days during the previous year.

(2) The General Counsel may, for good cause shown, grant to a Governor an extension of up to 45 days. An additional extension of up to 45 days may be granted by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics for good cause shown.

(c) *Information required to be reported.* Each report shall be a full and complete statement, on the form prescribed by the General Counsel and the Office of Government Ethics and in accordance with instructions issued by him or her. The form currently in use is Standard Form 278.

(d) *Reviewing reports.* (1) Financial disclosure reports filed in accordance with the provisions of this section shall, within 60 days after the date of filing, be reviewed by the General Counsel who shall either approve the report, or make an initial determination that a conflict or appearance thereof exists. If the General Counsel determines initially that a conflict or the appearance of a conflict exists, he or she shall inform the Governor of his determination.

(2) If the General Counsel considers that additional information is needed to complete the report or to allow an adequate review to be conducted, he or she shall request the reporting Governor to furnish that information by a specified date.

(3) The General Counsel shall refer to the Chairman of the Board of Governors or the Vice Chairman the name of any Governor he or she has reasonable cause to believe has wrongfully failed to file a report or has falsified or wrongfully failed to report required information.

(e) *Custody of and public access to reports*—(1) *Retention of reports.* Each report filed with the General Counsel shall be retained by him or her for a period of six years. After the six-year period, the report shall be destroyed unless needed in connection with an investigation then pending.

(2) *Confidentiality of reports.* Unless a public report is required by this section, the financial disclosure reports filed by Governors shall not be made public.

[52 FR 29697, Aug. 11, 1987. Redesignated and amended at 61 FR 36500, July 11, 1996]

PART 11—ADVISORY BOARDS [ARTICLE XI]

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 202, 203, 204, 205, 401(2), (10), 402, 403, 1003, 3013, 5 U.S.C. 552b(a), (b) (g).

§ 11.1 Establishment.

The Board of Governors may create such advisory boards as it may deem appropriate and may appoint persons to serve thereon or may delegate such latter authority to the Postmaster General.

[59 FR 18454, Apr. 18, 1994]

SUBCHAPTER B—INTERNATIONAL MAIL

PART 20—INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.

20.1 The International Mail Manual; incorporation by reference of international mail regulations.
20.2 Availability of the International Mail Manual.
20.3 Amendments to the International Mail Manual.
20.4 Approval of the Director of the Federal Register.
20.5 Contents of the International Mail Manual.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a), 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 407, 408.

SOURCE: 47 FR 7831, Feb. 23, 1982, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 52 FR 29697, Aug. 11, 1987.

§ 20.1 The International Mail Manual; incorporation by reference of international mail regulations.

Section 552(a) of title 5, United States Code, relating to the public information requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, provides in pertinent part that "* * * matter reasonably available to the class of persons affected thereby is deemed published in the FEDERAL REGISTER when incorporated by reference therein with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register." In conformity with that provision, and with 39 U.S.C. 410(b)(1), and as provided in this part, the United States Postal Service hereby incorporates by reference in this part, the International Mail Manual, a looseleaf publication published and maintained by the U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–5365.

[47 FR 7831, Feb. 23, 1982. Redesignated at 52 FR 29697, Aug. 11, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 52697, Dec. 29, 1988]

§ 20.2 Availability of the International Mail Manual.

(a) Copies of the International Mail Manual are available for reference and inspection upon request at the National Headquarters and regional offices of the U.S. Postal Service and at all United States Post Offices and classified stations and branches during normal business hours. Regional offices are located in Philadelphia, Memphis, Chicago, San Bruno, and Windsor, CT.

(b) A copy of the International Mail Manual, together with each amendment of it, is on file with the Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, at 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

(c) Copies of the International Mail Manual may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402–9371 for $14.00. This price covers two complete issues of the International Mail Manual. Information about international mail also appears in condensed form in Publication 51, which the Postal Service publishes and distributes to all post offices and area supply centers. This publication is available to the public free of charge at all post offices and classified stations and branches.

[47 FR 7831, Feb. 23, 1982. Redesignated at 52 FR 29697, Aug. 11, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 52697, Dec. 29, 1988; 54 FR 1050, Jan. 11, 1989]

§ 20.3 Amendments to the International Mail Manual.

(a) Except for interim or final regulations published as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, notices of changes made in the International Mail Manual will periodically be published in the Federal Register. A complete issue of the International Mail Manual, including the text of all changes published to date, will be filed with the Director, Office of the Federal Register. Subscribers to the International Mail Manual will automatically receive the latest issue of the International Mail Manual from the Government Printing Office.

(b) When the Postal Service invites comment from the general public on a proposed change to the International Mail Manual, the proposed change and, if adopted, the interim or final regulation will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) Interim or final regulations published as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, and other changes to the International Mail Manual, adopted

subsequent to the notices published under paragraph (a) of this section (except for corrections of minor errors or other nonsubstantive changes), are published in the Postal Bulletin, a weekly postal publication that may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402–9371.

(d) Interim regulations will be published in full text or referenced, as appropriate, in the International Mail Manual at the place where they would appear if they become final regulations.

(e) For references to amendments to the International Mail Manual adopted under paragraph (b) of this section subsequent to issuance of the most recent transmittal letter listed below, see § 10.3 in the List of CFR Sections Affected at the end of this volume.

Transmittal letter for issue	Dated	FR publication
1	Nov. 13, 1981	47 FR 7831.
2	Mar. 1, 1983	48 FR 28268.
3	July 4, 1985	50 FR 49387.
4	Sept. 18, 1986	52 FR 3226.
5	April 21, 1988	53 FR 24068.

[47 FR 7831, Feb. 23, 1982, as amended at 48 FR 28268, June 21, 1983; 50 FR 49387, Dec. 2, 1985; 52 FR 3226, Feb. 3, 1987; 53 FR 24068, June 27, 1988; 53 FR 24830, June 30, 1988; 53 FR 52697, Dec. 29, 1988; 54 FR 1050, Jan. 11, 1989]

§ 20.4 Approval of the Director of the Federal Register.

Incorporation by reference of the publication now titled the International Mail Manual was approved by the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51 on June 24, 1981.

[49 FR 47389, Dec. 4, 1984]

§ 20.5 Contents of the International Mail Manual.

The International Mail Manual contains the following parts:

(A) CHAPTER 1—INTERNATIONAL MAIL SERVICES

(1) Subchapter 110—General Information

(i) Part 111—Scope
(ii) Part 112—Mailer Responsibility
(iii) Part 113—Individual Country Listings (ICLs)
(iv) Part 114—Availability
(v) Part 115—Official Correspondence

(2) Subchapter 120—Preparation for Mailing

(i) Part 121—Packaging—Sender's Responsibility
(ii) Part 122—Addressing
(iii) Part 123—Customs Forms Required

(3) Subchapter 130—Mailability

(i) Part 131—General
(ii) Part 132—Written, Printed, and Graphic Matter
(iii) Part 133—Improperly Addressed Mail
(iv) Part 134—Valuable Articles
(v) Part 135—Animals and Plants
(vi) Part 136—Special Packaging Requirements
(vii) Part 137—Perishable Biological Substances
(viii) Part 138—Radioactive Materials
(ix) Part 139—Dangerous Materials

(4) Subchapter 140—International Mail Classes

(i) Part 141—Definitions
(ii) Part 142—Size Limits
(iii) Part 143—Envelope and Card Specifications
(iv) Part 144—Official Mail
(v) Part 145—Air Service

(5) Subchapter 150—Postage

(i) Part 151—Postage Rates
(ii) Part 152—Payment Methods
(iii) Part 153—Placement of Postage
(iv) Part 154—Postage for Combination Pieces
(v) Part 155—Remailed Items

(B) CHAPTER 2—CONDITIONS FOR MAILING

(1) Subchapter 210—Express Mail International Service

(i) Part 211—Description
(ii) Part 212—Postage
(iii) Part 213—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 214—Preparation Requirements

(2) Subchapter 220—Letters and Letter Packages

(i) Part 221—Description
(ii) Part 222—Postage
(iii) Part 223—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 224—Preparation Requirements

(3) Subchapter 230—Postcards and Aerogrammes

(i) Part 231—Description
(ii) Part 232—Postage Rates
(iii) Part 233—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 234—Preparation Requirements

(4) Subchapter 240—Printed Matter

(i) Part 241—Description
(ii) Part 242—Postage
(iii) Part 243—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 244—Preparation Requirements
(v) Part 245—Direct Sacks of Printed Matter to One Addressee (''M'' Bags)

(5) Subchapter 250—Matter for the Blind

(i) Part 251—Description
(ii) Part 252—Postage Rates
(iii) Part 253—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 254—Preparation Requirements

(6) Subchapter 260—Small Packets

(i) Part 261—Description
(ii) Part 262—Postage Rates
(iii) Part 263—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 264—Preparation Requirements

(7) Subchapter 270—Parcel Post

(i) Part 271—Description
(ii) Part 272—Postage
(iii) Part 273—Weight and Size Limits
(iv) Part 274—Preparation Requirements

(C) CHAPTER 3—SPECIAL SERVICES

(1) Subchapter 310—Certificate of Mailing

(i) Part 311—Description
(ii) Part 312—Availability
(iii) Part 313—Fees
(iv) Part 314—Processing Requests

(2) Subchapter 320—Insurance

(i) Part 321—Description
(ii) Part 322—Availability
(iii) Part 323—Fees and Insured Value
(iv) Part 324—Processing Requests
(v) Part 325—Indemnity Claims and Payments

(3) Subchapter 330—Registered Mail

(i) Part 331—Description
(ii) Part 332—Availability
(iii) Part 333—Fees and Indemnity Limit
(iv) Part 334—Processing Requests
(v) Part 335—Indemnity Claims and Payments

(4) Subchapter 340—Return Receipt

(i) Part 341—Description
(ii) Part 342—Availability
(iii) Part 343—Fee
(iv) Part 344—Processing Requests

(5) Subchapter 350—Restricted Delivery

(i) Part 351—Description
(ii) Part 352—Availability
(iii) Part 353—Fee
(iv) Part 354—Processing Requests

(6) Subchapter 360—Recall/Change of Address

(i) Part 361—Description
(ii) Part 362—Conditions and Limitations
(iii) Part 363—Fees and Charges
(iv) Part 364—Processing Requests

(7) Subchapter 370—Special Delivery

(i) Part 371—Description
(ii) Part 372—Availability
(iii) Part 373—Fees
(iv) Part 374—Processing Requests

(8) Subchapter 380—Special Handling

(i) Part 381—Description
(ii) Part 382—Availability
(iii) Part 383—Fees
(iv) Part 384—Processing Requests

(9) Subchapter 390—Supplementary Services

(i) Part 391—International Postal Money Orders
(ii) Part 392—International Reply Coupons

(D) CHAPTER 4—TREATMENT OF OUTBOUND MAIL

(1) Subchapter 410—Postmarking

(2) Subchapter 420—Shortpaid and Unpaid Mail

(i) Part 421—Check for Sufficient Postage
(ii) Part 422—Unpaid Mail
(iii) Part 423—Shortpaid Mail

(3) Subchapter 430—Improperly Prepared Mail

(i) Part 431—Insufficient Address
(ii) Part 432—Oversized or Undersized Items
(iii) Part 433—Oversized Cards
(iv) Part 434—Reply-Paid Cards

(4) Subchapter 440—Special Services Mail

(i) Part 441—Registered Mail
(ii) Part 442—Special Delivery
(iii) Part 443—Special Handling

(5) Subchapter 450—Forwarding

(E) CHAPTER 5—NONPOSTAL EXPORT REGULATIONS

(1) Subchapter 510 [Reserved]

(2) Subchapter 520—Shipper's Export Declaration

(i) Part 521—Description
(ii) Part 522—When Required
(iii) Part 523—How to obtain Commercial Forms
(iv) Part 524—How to Prepare Shipper's Export Declaration (Commerce Form 7525–V)
(v) Part 525—Handling and Disposal of Shipper's Export Declaration

(3) Subchapter 530—Commodities and Technical Data

(i) Part 531—Scope and Applicability of Licensing Requirements
(ii) Part 532—General Export Licenses
(iii) Part 533—Validated Export Licenses

(4) Subchapter 540—Munitions and Related Technical Data

(i) Part 541—Licensing Requirements
(ii) Part 542—Mailing Under Individual Licenses

(5) Subchapter 550—Dried Whole Eggs

(i) Part 551—Description
(ii) Part 552—Charges
(iii) Part 553—How to Mail

(6) Subchapter 560—Tobacco Seeds and Tobacco Plants

(i) Part 561—Description
(ii) Part 562—Charges
(iii) Part 563—How to Mail

(7) Subchapter 570—Consular and Commercial Invoices

(8) Subchapter 580—Drawback Arrangement

(i) Part 581—Description
(ii) Part 582—Processing Drawback Claims

(F) CHAPTER 6—[RESERVED]

(G) CHAPTER 7—TREATMENT OF INBOUND MAIL

(1) Subchapter 710—U.S. Customs Information

(i) Part 711—Customs Examination of Mail Believed to Contain Dutiable or Prohibited Articles
(ii) Part 712—Customs Clearance and Delivery Fee
(iii) Part 713—Treatment of Dutiable Mail at Delivery Office

(2) Subchapter 720—Plant and Animal Quarantine

(i) Part 721—What is Subject to Inspection
(ii) Part 722—Segregation and Handling
(iii) Part 723—Agriculture Inspection Stations and Offices

(3) Subchapter 730—Shortpaid Mail to U.S.A.

(i) Part 731—Computation of Postage Due
(ii) Part 732—Shortpaid Letters and Cards From Canada
(iii) Part 733—Shortpaid Items Bearing U.S. Postage

(4) Subchapter 740—Irregular Mail

(i) Part 741—Invalid Foreign Postage
(ii) Part 742—Unauthorized Letters Enclosed
(iii) Part 743—Stamps Not Affixed
(iv) Part 744—Parcels Addressed Through Banks or Other Organizations
(v) Part 745—Foreign Dispatch Notes

(5) Subchapter 750—Special Services

(i) Part 751—Insured Parcels
(ii) Part 752—Registered Mail
(iii) Part 753—Return Receipt
(iv) Part 754—Restricted Delivery
(v) Part 755—Special Delivery
(vi) Part 756—Recall and Change of Address

(6) Subchapter 760—Storage

(i) Part 761—Retention Period
(ii) Part 762—Storage Charges

(7) Subchapter 770—Forwarding

(i) Part 771—General Procedures
(ii) Part 772—Mail of Domestic Origin
(iii) Part 773—Items Mailed Aboard Ships (Paquebot)
(iv) Part 774—Mail of Foreign Origin
(v) Part 775—Directory Service

(8) Subchapter 780—Undeliverable Mail

(i) Part 781—Mail of Domestic Origin
(ii) Part 782—Mail of Foreign Origin

(9) Subchapter 790—Items Mailed Abroad by or on Behalf of Senders in the U.S.

(i) Part 791—Mailings Affected
(ii) Part 792—Postage Payment Required
(iii) Part 793—Advance Payment Required
(iv) Part 794—Treatment if Advance Payment Not Made
(v) Part 795—Report of Mailings

(H) CHAPTER 8—[RESERVED]

(I) CHAPTER 9—INQUIRIES, INDEMNITIES AND REFUNDS

(1) Subchapter 910—Reports Encouraged

(2) Subchapter 920—Inquiries and Claims

(i) Part 921—Inquiry Described
(ii) Part 922—Filing of Inquiries
(iii) Part 923—Claim Described
(iv) Part 924—Initiation of Claims
(v) Part 925—Documents to Accompany Claims
(vi) Part 926—Disposition of Damaged Mail
(vii) Part 927—Charges for Inquiries
(viii) Part 928—Processing Inquiries

(3) Subchapter 930—Indemnity Payments

(i) Part 931—Adjudication and Approval
(ii) Part 932—General Exceptions to Payment—Insured Parcel Post and Registered Letter Post Mail
(iii) Part 933—Payments for Insured Parcel Post
(iv) Part 934—Payments for Registered Mail
(v) Part 935—Payments for Express Mail International Service

(4) Subchapter 940—Postage Refunds

(i) Part 941—Refunds for Postal Union Mail and Parcel Post
(ii) Part 942—Refunds for Express Mail International Service
(iii) Part 943—Applications by Senders
(iv) Part 944—Processing Refund Applications

(J) APPENDIX A—WORLD MAP INDEX

(K) APPENDIX B—INDEX OF LOCALITIES

(L) APPENDIX C—CONVERSION TABLE: U.S. DOLLARS TO GOLD FRANCS (GFRS) AND TO SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS (SDRS)

(M) APPENDIX D—EXPRESS MAIL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE (EMIS) COUNTRY LISTINGS

(N) APPENDIX E—INTERNATIONAL SURFACE AIR LIFT NETWORK COUNTRIES AND RATES

(O) INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY LISTINGS (ICLS)

(P) INDEX

[50 FR 49387, Dec. 2, 1985]

SUBCHAPTER C—POST OFFICE SERVICES [DOMESTIC MAIL]

General Information on Postal Service

PART 111—GENERAL INFORMATION ON POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.

111.1 Domestic Mail Manual; incorporation by reference of regulations governing domestic mail services.
111.2 Availability of the Domestic Mail Manual.
111.3 Amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual.
111.4 Approval of the Director of the Federal Register.
111.5 Contents of the Domestic Mail Manual.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

SOURCE: 44 FR 39852, July 6, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§111.1 Domestic Mail Manual; incorporated by reference of regulations governing domestic mail services.

Section 552(a) of title 5, U.S.C., relating to the public information requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, provides in pertinent part that "* * * matter reasonably available to the class of persons affected thereby is deemed published in the FEDERAL REGISTER when incorporated by reference therein with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register." In conformity with that provision, and with 39 U.S.C. section 410(b)(1), and as provided in this part, the U.S. Postal Service hereby incorporates by reference in this part, the Domestic Mail Manual, a looseleaf document published twice each year in January and July, unless otherwise determined by the Postal Service.

[62 FR 14827, Mar. 28, 1997]

§111.2 Availability of the Domestic Mail Manual.

(a) Copies of the Domestic Mail Manual, both current and previous issues, are available during regular business hours for reference and public inspection at the U.S. Postal Service Library, National Headquarters in Washington, DC. Copies of only the current issue are available during regular business hours for public inspection at area and district offices of the Postal Service and at all post offices, classified stations, and classified branches.

(b) A copy of the current Domestic Mail Manual is on file with the Director, Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC.

(c) A 1-year subscription to the Domestic Mail Manual for two consecutive issues can be purchased by the public from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402–9375.

[62 FR 14827, Mar. 28, 1997]

§111.3 Amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual.

(a) Except for interim or final regulations published as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, only notices rather than complete text of changes made to the Domestic Mail Manual are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. These notices are published in the form of one summary transmittal letter for each issue of the Domestic Mail Manual. A complete issue of the Domestic Mail Manual, including the text of all changes published to date, will be filed with the Director, Office of the Federal Register. Subscribers to the Domestic Mail Manual receive the latest issue of the Domestic Mail Manual from the Government Printing Office.

(b) When the Postal Service invites comments from the public on a proposed change to the Domestic Mail Manual, the proposed change and, if adopted, the full text of the interim or the final regulation is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(c) The Postal Bulletin contains the full text of all interim and final regulations published as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, and the full text of all other changes to the Domestic Mail Manual that are summarized in the notices published under paragraph (a) of this section, except for nonsubstantive changes and corrections of typographical errors. The

Postal Bulletin is a biweekly document issued by the Postal Service to amend and revise policies and procedures. A 1-year subscription to the Postal Bulletin and certain back copies can be purchased by the public from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402–9371.

(d) Interim regulations published in full text or referenced as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, are published, as appropriate, in the Domestic Mail Manual in full text or referenced at the place where they would appear if they become final regulations.

(e) Announcements of changes to the Domestic Mail Manual not published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as provided in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section and not published in the Postal Bulletin as provided in paragraph (c) are not deemed final under the provisions of this part 111.

(f) For references to amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual adopted under paragraph (b) of this section after issuance of the most recent transmittal letter (termed Summary of Changes in the Domestic Mail Manual) listed below, see § 111.3 in the List of CFR Sections affected at the end of this volume.

Transmittal letter for issue	Dated	Federal Register publication
1	July 30, 1979	44 FR 39742.
2	May 15, 1980	45 FR 42616.
3	July 30, 1980	45 FR 73925.
4	Oct. 1, 1980	46 FR 10154.
5	Mar. 1, 1981	46 FR 25446.
6	July 7, 1981	46 FR 58079.
7	Nov. 1, 1981	47 FR 8179.
8	Jan. 21, 1982	47 FR 8358.
9	May 1, 1982	47 FR 27266.
10	Aug. 1, 1982	47 FR 43952.
11	Jan. 20, 1983	48 FR 10649.
13	Dec. 29, 1983	49 FR 18304.
14	Apr. 12, 1984	49 FR 26228.
15	July 12, 1984	49 FR 33248.
16	Sept. 27, 1984	49 FR 47232.
17	Dec. 20, 1984	50 FR 5580.
18	Feb. 21, 1985	50 FR 12019.
19	June 7, 1985	50 FR 30834.
20	Nov. 14, 1985	51 FR 8495.
21	Sept. 4, 1986	51 FR 43910.
22	Jan.22, 1987	52 FR 10750.
23	May 1, 1987	52 FR 23981.
24	Sept. 20, 1987	52 FR 34778.
25	Dec. 20, 1987	52 FR 48437.
26	April 3, 1988	53 FR 18557.
27	June 19, 1988	53 FR 21821.
28	Sept. 18, 1988	53 FR 35315.
29	Dec.18, 1988	53 FR 49658.
30	Mar. 19, 1989	54 FR 9212.
31	June 18, 1989	54 FR 27880.
32	Sept. 17, 1989	54 FR 37795.
33	Dec. 17, 1989	54 FR 50619.
34	Mar. 18, 1990	55 FR 10061.
35	June 17, 1990	55 FR 24561.
36	Sept. 16, 1990	55 FR 40658.
37	Dec. 16, 1990	56 FR 1112.
38	Feb. 24, 1991	56 FR 11513.
39	June 16, 1991	56 FR 56015
40	September 15, 1991.	56 FR 56013
41	December 15, 1991.	57 FR 21611
42	March 15, 1992	57 FR 21613
43	June 21, 1992	57 FR 37884
44	September 20, 1992.	61 FR 67218
45	December 20, 1992.	61 FR 67218
46	July 1, 1993	61 FR 67218
47	April 10, 1994	61 FR 67218
48	January 1, 1995	61 FR 67218
49	September 1, 1995.	61 FR 67218
50	July 1, 1996	61 FR 60190
51	January 1, 1997	61 FR 64618
52	July 1, 1997	62 FR 30457

[45 FR 40115, June 13, 1980]

EDITORIAL NOTE For Federal Register citations affecting § 111.3, see the List of CFR Sections Affected in the Finding Aids section of this volume.

§ 111.4 Approval of the Director of the Federal Register.

Incorporation by reference of the publication now titled the Domestic Mail Manual was approved by the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51 on March 29, 1979.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 407, 408, 3001–3011, 3201–3218, 3403–3405, 3601, 3621; 42 U.S.C. 1973cc–13, 1973cc–14)

[49 FR 47389, Dec. 4, 1984]

§ 111.5 Contents of the Domestic Mail Manual.

A—ADDRESSING

A000 Basic Addressing

A010 General Addressing Standards
A040 Alternative Addressing Formats
A060 Detached Address Labels (DALs)

A800 Addressing for Automation

A900 Customer Support

A910 Mailing List Services
A920 Address Sequencing Services
A930 Other Services
A950 Coding Accuracy Support System (CASS)

C—CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTENT

C000 General Information

C010 General Mailability Standards
C020 Restricted or Nonmailable Articles and Substances
C021 Articles and Substances Generally
C022 Perishables
C023 Hazardous Matter
C024 Other Restricted or Nonmailable Matter
C030 Nonmailable Written, Printed, and Graphic Matter
C031 Written, Printed, and Graphic Matter Generally
C032 Sexually Oriented Advertisements
C033 Pandering Advertisements
C050 Mail Processing Categories

C100 First-Class Mail

C200 Periodicals

C500 Express Mail

C600 Standard Mail

C800 Automation-Compatible Mail

C810 Letters and Cards
C820 Flats
C830 OCR Standards
C840 Barcoding Standards

D—DEPOSIT, COLLECTION, AND DELIVERY

D000 Basic Information

D010 Pickup Service
D020 Plant Load
D030 Recall of Mail
D040 Delivery of Mail
D041 Customer Mail Receptacles
D042 Conditions of Delivery
D070 Drop Shipment
D071 Express Mail and Priority Mail
D072 Metered Mail

D100 First-Class Mail

D200 Periodicals

D210 Basic Information
D230 Additional Entry

D500 Express Mail

D600 Standard Mail

D900 Other Delivery Services

D910 Post Office Box Service
D920 Caller Service
D930 General Delivery and Firm Holdout

E—ELIGIBILITY

E000 Special Eligibility Standards

E010 Overseas Military Mail
E020 Department of State Mail
E030 Mail Sent by U.S. Armed Forces
E040 Free Matter for the Blind and Other Handicapped Persons
E050 Official Mail (Franked)
E060 Official Mail (Penalty)
E070 Mixed Classes
E080 Absentee Balloting Materials

E100 First-Class Mail

E110 Basic Standards
E120 Priority Mail
E130 Nonautomation Rates
E140 Automation Rates

E200 Periodicals

E210 Basic Standards
E211 All Periodicals
E212 Qualification Categories
E213 Periodicals Mailing Privileges
E214 Reentry
E215 Copies Not Paid or Requested by Addressee
E216 Publisher Records
E230 Nonautomation Rates
E240 Automation Rates
E250 Destination Entry
E270 Preferred Periodicals

E500 Express Mail

E600 Standard Mail

E610 Basic Standards
E611 All Standard Mail
E612 Additional Standards for Standard Mail (A)
E613 Additional Standards for Standard Mail (B)
E620 Nonautomation Nonpresort Rates
E630 Nonautomation Presort Rates
E640 Automation Rates
E650 Destination Entry
E651 Regular, Nonprofit, and Enhanced Carrier Route Standard Mail
E652 Parcel Post
E670 Nonprofit Standard Mail

F—FORWARDING AND RELATED SERVICES

F000 Basic Services

F010 Basic Information
F020 Forwarding
F030 Address Correction, Address Change, *FASTforward*℠, and Return Services

G—GENERAL INFORMATION

G000 The USPS and Mailing Standards

G010 Basic Business Information
G011 Post Offices and Postal Services
G013 Trademarks and Copyrights
G020 Mailing Standards
G030 Postal Zones
G040 Information Resources
G041 Postal Business Centers
G042 Rates and Classification Service Centers
G043 Address List for Correspondence

G090 Experimental Classifications and Rates
G091 Barcoded Small Parcels
G092 Nonletter-Size Business Reply Mail

G900 Philatelic Services

L—LABELING LISTS

L000 General Use

L002 3-Digit ZIP Code Prefix Matrix
L003 3-Digit ZIP Code Prefix Groups—3-Digit Scheme Sortation
L004 3-Digit ZIP Code Prefix Groups—ADC Sortation
L005 3-Digit ZIP Code Prefix Groups—SCF Sortation

L100 First-Class Mail

L102 ADCs—Presorted Priority Mail

L600 Standard Mail

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[62 FR 30460, June 4, 1997]

SUBCHAPTER D—ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

PART 211—APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

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211.1 Disposition of former title 39, U.S.C.
211.2 Regulations of the Postal Service.
211.3 Executive orders and other executive pronouncements; circulars, bulletins, and other issuances of the Office of Management and Budget.
211.4 Interim personnel regulations.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 201, 202, 401(2), 402, 403, 404, 410, 1001, 1005, 1209; Pub. L. 91–375, Secs. 3–5, 84 Stat. 773–75.

SOURCE: 38 FR 20402, July 31, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 211.1 Disposition of former title 39, U.S.C.

Except as otherwise continued in effect as postal regulations, all provisions of former title 39, U.S.C., which were continued in effect as regulations of the Postal Service by section 5(f) of the Postal Reorganization Act, are revoked. This revocation does not apply to postal regulations which embody or are derived from provisions of former title 39.

§ 211.2 Regulations of the Postal Service.

(a) The regulations of the Postal Service consist of:

(1) The resolutions of the Governors and the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service and the bylaws of the Board of Governors;

(2) The Domestic Mail Manual, the Postal Operations Manual, the Administrative Support Manual, the Employee and Labor Relations Manual, the Financial Management Manual, the Postal Contracting Manual, Publication 42 (International Mail), and those portions of Chapter 2 of the former Postal Service Manual and chapter 7 of the former Postal Manual retained in force;

(3) Headquarters Circulars, Management Instructions, Regional Instructions, handbooks, delegations of authority, and other regulatory issuances and directives of the Postal Service or the former Post Office Department. Any of the foregoing may be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law, the resolutions of the Governors and the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service and the bylaws of the Board of Governors take precedence over all regulations issued by other authority.

(c) The adoption, by reference or otherwise, of any rule of law or regulation in this or any other regulation of the Postal Service shall not be interpreted as any expression on the issue of whether such rule of law or regulation would apply to the Postal Service if it were not adopted as a regulation, nor shall it restrict the authority of the Postal Service to amend or revoke the rule so adopted at a subsequent time.

(d) All regulations of the Post Office Department in effect at the time the U.S. Postal Service commenced operations, continue in effect, except as subsequently modified or repealed by the Postal Service. Except as otherwise continued in effect as postal regulations, all regulations of other agencies of the United States continued in effect as postal regulations by section 5(a) of the Postal Reorganization Act are repealed.

[38 FR 20402, July 31, 1973, as amended at 46 FR 34329, July 1, 1981]

§ 211.3 Executive orders and other executive pronouncements; circulars, bulletins, and other issuances of the Office of Management and Budget.

(a) By virtue of the Postal Reorganization Act, certain executive orders, and other executive pronouncements and certain circulars, bulletins, and other issuances of the Office of Management and Budget or particular provisions thereof, or requirements therein, apply to the Postal Service and certain others do not apply.

(b) It is the policy of the Postal Service to continue to comply with issuances of the kind mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section with which it has previously complied, unless a management decision by an appropriate department head is made to terminate compliance, in whole or in

part, following advice from the General Counsel that the issuance is not binding, in whole or in part, on the Postal Service. This policy is not enforceable by any party outside the Postal Service. No party outside the Postal Service is authorized to use the mere noncompliance with this policy against the Postal Service in any way.

§ 211.4 Interim personnel regulations.

(a) *Continuation of Personnel Regulations of the Post Office Department.* All regulations of the former Post Office Department dealing with officers and employees, in effect at the time the U.S. Postal Service commenced operations, continue in effect according to their terms until modified or repealed by the Postal Service or pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement under the Postal Reorganization Act.

(b) *Continuation of Personnel Provisions of Former title 39, U.S.C.*. Except as they may be inconsistent with other regulations adopted by the Postal Service or with a collective bargaining agreement under the Postal Reorganization Act, all provisions of former title 39, U.S.C., dealing with and applicable to postal officers and employees immediately prior to the commencement of operations of the Postal Service continue in effect as regulations of the Postal Service.

(c) *Continuation of Other Laws and Regulations as Postal Regulations.* Except as they may be inconsistent with the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act, with other regulations adopted by the Postal Service, or with a collective bargaining agreement under the Postal Reorganization Act, all regulations of Federal agencies other than the Postal Service or Post Office Department and all laws other than provisions of revised title 39, U.S.C., or provisions of other laws made applicable to the Postal Service by revised title 39, U.S.C., dealing with officers and employees applicable to postal officers and employees immediately prior to the commencement of operations of the Postal Service, continue in effect as regulations of the Postal Service. Any regulation or law the applicability of which is continued by paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section which requires any action by any agency other than the Postal Service or Post Office Department shall be deemed to require such action by the Postal Service, unless by agreement with the Postal Service the other agency involved consents to the continuation of its action.

(d) *Effect of Collective Bargaining on Certain Regulations.* All rules and regulations continued or established by paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section which establish fringe benefits as defined in title 39, U.S.C. 1005(f) of employees for whom there is a collective bargaining representative continue to apply until modified by a collective bargaining agreement concluded pursuant to the Postal Reorganization Act. Those rules and regulations affecting other terms and conditions of employment encompassed by section 8(d) of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, shall continue to apply to such employees until such collective bargaining agreement has been concluded, and, unless specifically continued by such agreement, shall apply thereafter until modified or repealed by the Postal Service pursuant to its authority under title 39, U.S.C. 1001(e) and other pertinent provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act. In the event a condition occurs which shall excuse the Postal Service from continuing negotiations prior to the parties thereto concluding an agreement in accordance with the Postal Reorganization Act, the Postal Service reserves the right in accordance with the reorganization measures mandated by the Congress and consistent with the provisions of the Act, and any collective bargaining agreements in existence at that time, insofar as they do not unduly impede such reorganization measures, to continue, discontinue, or revise all compensation, benefits, and terms and conditions of employment of such employees of the Postal Service.

PART 221—GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION

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221.1 The U.S. Postal Service.
221.2 Board of Governors of the Postal Service.
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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 201, 202, 203, 204, 207, 401(2), 402, 403, 404; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95–452, as amended), 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

§ 221.1 The U.S. Postal Service.

(a) The U.S. Postal Service has been established as an independent establishment within the executive branch of the Government of the United States under the provisions of the Postal Reorganization Act of August 12, 1970, Pub. L. 91–375, 84 Stat. 719.

(b) As a complement to the information in the regulations in this part, a concise statement of the organization of the Postal Service can be found in the United State Government Organization Manual.

[38 FR 20403, July 31, 1973]

§ 221.2 Board of Governors of the Postal Service.

(a) The Board of Governors directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service; reviews the practices and policies of the Postal Service; and directs and controls its expenditures.

(b) For composition of the Board of Governors, see § 3.1 of this chapter.

[38 FR 20403, July 31, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 40796, Nov. 10, 1986]

§ 221.3 Postmaster General.

(a) The Postmaster General (PMG) is the chief executive officer of the Postal Service and is responsible for its overall operation. The PMG is named and can be removed by a majority of the nine Governors.

(b) The Postmaster General determines appeals from the actions of staff and department heads, except that in cases where the PMG has delegated authority to make a decision to a subordinate, such subordinate may also determine appeals within the authority delegated.

(c) The Board of Governors has directed that the Postmaster General exercise the powers of the Postal Service to the extent that such exercise does not conflict with power reserved to the Board by law. The Postmaster General is authorized to direct any officer, employee, or agent of the Postal Service to exercise such of the PMG's powers as the PMG deems appropriate. For the direction of the Board of Governors that the Postmaster General exercise the powers of the Postal Service, see §§ 3.5 and 4.3 of this chapter.

[38 FR 20403, July 31, 1973, as amended at 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 45 FR 43718, June 30, 1980; 51 FR 40796, Nov. 10, 1986]

§ 221.4 Deputy Postmaster General.

(a) The Deputy Postmaster General is the alternate chief executive officer of the Postal Service. The Deputy is appointed and can be removed by the Postmaster General and the Governors. The Deputy is a voting member of the Board of Governors.

(b) The Deputy Postmaster General is required to perform all tasks as assigned by the Postmaster General. The Deputy acts as Postmaster General in the Postmaster General's absence or whenever a vacancy exists in the Office of Postmaster General.

(c) For delineation of authority of the Deputy Postmaster General by the Board of Governors see § 4.4 of this chapter.

[38 FR 20403, July 31, 1973, as amended at 41 FR 16941, Apr. 23, 1976; 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 45 FR 43718, June 30, 1980]

§ 221.5 Associate Postmasters General.

(a) The Associate Postmasters General are appointed and can be removed by the Postmaster General.

(b) The Associate Postmasters General are required to perform all tasks as assigned by the Postmaster General.

[54 FR 29706, July 14, 1989]

§ 221.6 Groups and departments.

(a) Postal Service Headquarters is divided into five major groups: Operations Support, Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, and Administrative Services. Each group is headed by a Senior Assistant Postmaster General (SAPMG). The SAPMG for Finance reports directly to the Postmaster General. The SAPMG for Operations Support reports directly to the Deputy Postmaster

General. The SAPMGs for Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, and Administrative Services report directly to the Associate Postmaster General (Systems). The SAPMGs are responsible for the following activities within their assigned areas:

(1) Program planning, direction, and review;

(2) Establishment of policies, procedures, and standards; and

(3) Operational determinations not within the full jurisdiction of field officers.

(b) Groups are divided into departments or offices headed by either Assistant Postmasters General (APMGs) or Directors. The heads of these departments and offices report to and are responsible for assisting the SAPMGs in carrying out their assigned activities.

(c) Certain other Headquarters units report directly to the Postmaster General. These include the Inspection Service Department, headed by the Chief Postal Inspector; the Law Department, headed by the General Counsel, and the Planning Department, headed by an Assistant Postmaster General. The Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General also reports to the Postmaster General.

(d)(1) The Senior Management Committee establishes Postal Service direction and policy, initiates and monitors key programs, prioritizes resource utilization, and serves as the review and approval body for all major plans, programs, and projects. It fosters cross-functional cooperation and develops the strategic plans for the Postal Service.

(2) The Senior Management Committee is made up of the following: The Postmaster General, the Deputy Postmaster General, Associate Postmasters General, the Senior Assistant Postmasters General, General Counsel, Chief Postal Inspector, Assistant Postmaster General, Planning (Secretariat), Assistant Postmaster General, Communications (Observer), Assistant Postmaster General, Government Relations (Observer), Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General (Observer), Secretary to the Board of Governors (Observer), Field Executive (Rotational Basis).

(e) Statements of the functions of the various groups, departments, and offices can be found in Part 224 of this chapter.

[51 FR 40796, Nov. 10, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 29706, July 14, 1989]

§ 221.7 Postal Regions.

(a) There are five Postal Regions. Each region is headed by a Regional Postmaster General (RPMG) who reports to the Deputy Postmaster General, and has overall responsibility for operational activities (except those reserved to Headquarters) of the Postal Service within the region.

(b) Each RPMG's office includes five functions—Operations Support, Marketing and Communications, Finance, Planning, and Human Resources. Each regional function is headed by a Regional Director who reports to the RPMG.

(c)(1) Postal regions are composed of field divisions headed by field division general managers/postmasters whose organizational units are in turn composed of management sectional centers (MSCs) headed by MSC managers or MSC managers/postmasters, and bulk mail centers (BMCs) headed by BMC managers.

(2) Each field division general manager/postmaster reports to the RPMG, and has line responsibility for postal activities (except those reserved to Headquarters associate offices) in the division area, the MSCs, associate offices, and BMCs within the division area.

(3) Each MSC manager/postmaster reports to a field division general manager/postmaster, and has line responsibility for postal activities (except those reserved to Headquarters and field divisions) within the MSC area.

(4) Each BMC manager reports to a field division general manager/postmaster, and has line responsibility for postal activities (except those reserved to Headquarters and field divisions) within the BMC.

[51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 221.8 Officers.

(a) Except for the Chief Postal Inspector, officers serve at the pleasure

of the Postmaster General. The following officers are appointed by the Postmaster General:

(1) Associate Postmaster General;

(2) Senior Assistant Postmasters General;

(3) Assistant Postmasters General;

(4) The General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel;

(5) The Consumer Advocate;

(6) The Chief Postal Inspector;

(7) The Judicial Officer;

(8) The Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General;

(9) The Treasurer; and

(10) The Regional Postmasters General.

(b) The number of SAPMGs and APMGs is set by resolution of the Board of Governors.

(c) The Postmaster General, in consultation with the Governors of the Postal Service, shall appoint the Chief Postal Inspector. With the concurrence of the Governors of the Postal Service, the Postmaster General may remove the Chief Postal Inspector or transfer the Chief Postal Inspector to another position or location in the Postal Service. If the Chief Postal Inspector is removed or transferred, the Postmaster General shall promptly notify both House of Congress in writing of the reasons for such removal or transfer.

[51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 55823, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 221.9 Postal Service emblem.

The Postal Service emblem, which is identical with the seal, is registered as a trademark and service mark by the U.S. Patent Office. Except for the emblem on official stationery, the emblem must bear one of the following notations: ''Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.'', ''Registered in U.S. Patent Office'', or the letter R enclosed within a circle.

[59 FR 18454, Apr. 18, 1994]

PART 222—DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

Sec.

222.1 Authority for delegation.
222.2 Media of delegation.
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222.4 Redelegation.
222.5 Authority to approve personnel actions and administer oaths of office for employment.
222.6 Authority to administer oaths other than for employment.
222.7 Authority to designate certifying officers—headquarters.
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222.9 Delegation of authority to the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance.
222.10 Delegation of authority to the APMG, International Postal Affairs Department.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 203, 204, 401(2), 402, 403, 404, 409; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95–452, as amended), 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

SOURCE: 38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 222.1 Authority for delegation.

(a) The Postmaster General is empowered to authorize any employee or agent of the Service to exercise any function vested in the Postal Service, in the PMG, or in any other Postal Service employee.

(b) The Deputy Postmaster General is the full alternate to the Postmaster General.

(c) When, by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office, neither the Postmaster General nor the Deputy Postmaster General can act as Postmaster General, the first available official on the following list will do so:

(1) Associate Postmaster General;

(2) Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Operations Support.

(d) The Postmaster General has been authorized by the Board of Governors to exercise the powers of the Postal Service to the full extent that such exercise is lawful. See §§ 3.5 and 4.3 of this chapter.

(e) The Associate Postmasters General; the SAPMGs; the Chief Postal Inspector; the General Counsel; the Assistant Postmaster General, Planning; and the Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General, act for the Postmaster General on assigned matters. These officers are authorized to exercise the powers and functions of the Postal Service under the Postal Reorganization Act, in respect to matters within their area of responsibility, except as limited by law or by the specific terms of their assignment.

(f) Heads of departments or offices who report to a Senior Assistant Postmaster General are authorized to exercise the powers and functions of that SAPMG within the area of responsibility of their department or office, except as such authority may be reserved or rescinded by the SAPMG or is limited by law or the terms of their specific assignment.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981; 48 FR 1965, Dec. 17, 1983; 48 FR 30111, June 30, 1983; 51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.2 Media of delegation.

(a) All delegations of authority must be issued through official directives.

(b) Headquarters or regional officials shall not orally authorize postmasters to deviate from published instructions, except in emergencies. An oral authorization must be confirmed by a memorandum or order dated subsequent to the issuance date of the most recently published instructions on the subject. Postal inspectors shall charge as irregularities any improperly authorized deviations observed in the course of office inspections.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986]

§ 222.3 Contents of delegations.

(a) Delegations of authority shall ordinarily be made by position title rather than by name of the individual involved. An officer or executive acting in the absence of a principal has the principal's full authority.

(b) When authority is delegated to an officer, the officers above that officer shall have the same authority. Delegated authority shall not extend to aides except when an aide serves on an acting basis (see paragraph (a) of this section) or unless the aide is specifically authorized by the superior to exercise such authority.

(c) A delegation must agree with the law and regulations under which it is made and contain such specific limiting conditions as may be appropriate.

[51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986]

§ 222.4 Redelegation.

(a) Except as otherwise prohibited by law, or by a regulation that expressly prohibits redelegation, or by the terms of the delegation:

(1) Heads of groups, functions, or offices at Headquarters are authorized to redelegate any authority vested in them.

(2) Regional Postmasters General or heads of regional departments are authorized to redelegate any authority vested in them subject to the condition that redelegation to members of a regional staff must be consistent with the then current regional organizational structure.

(3) Field division general managers/postmasters are authorized to redelegate, subject to or within guidelines issued by the RPMG, any authority vested in them, provided that the redelegation is consistent with the current organizational structure.

(4) Postal data center (PDC) directors are authorized to redelegate any authority vested in them.

(5) Heads of MSCs and other field installations are authorized to redelegate to members of their respective staffs any authority vested in them.

[51 FR 40797, Nov. 10, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.5 Authority to approve personnel actions and administer oaths of office for employment.

(a) *Delegation*. The following are authorized to effect appointments, administer oaths of office for employment, and take other personnel actions:

(1) Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Human Resources, Assistant Postmasters General, Employee Relations Department and Labor Relations Department;

(2) Chief Postal Inspector;

(3) Regional Chief Postal Inspectors;

(4) Postal Inspectors-in-Charge;

(5) Regional Postmasters General;

(6) Heads of postal field installations including those reporting directly to specified departments in Headquarters or to Regional Postmasters General;

(7) Officials occupying personnel services positions EAS–16 and above, when their positions include responsibility for functions such as recruitment, appointments, replacements, position changes and separations, and related personnel processing.

(b) *Personnel actions for employees of ''other installations.''* As specifically authorized by either the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Human Resources or a Regional Postmaster General, officers and employees listed in paragraph (a) of this section may approve personnel actions for employees in offices or installations other than their own as a cross-service, as a central personnel office, or on a special need basis.

(c) *Transfers of accountability.* In addition to other personnel authorized under this section, associate office coordinators at field divisions and management sectional centers may administer oaths of office for employment at any post office in conjunction with transfers of accountability of postmasters.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 40 FR 13498, Mar. 27, 1975; 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.6 Authority to administer oaths other than for employment.

The following are authorized to administer oaths concerning matters other than employment:

(a) Postal inspectors with regard to any matter coming before them in the performance of their official duties;

(b) Any member of a board who is assigned to conduct hearings or investigations in which sworn testimony, affidavits, or depositions are required and each officer or employee assigned to conduct such hearings or investigations;

(c) *Postmasters' authority.* Postmasters are required, empowered, and authorized, when requested, to administer oaths with a like force and effect as officials having a seal, as follows:

(1) *Expense accounts.* Accounts for travel or other expenses against the United States.

(2) *Customs documents.* At post offices where customs officers are not stationed, any oath required to be made to statements in customs documents by importers of merchandise by mail, not exceeding $100 in value.

(3) *Recruitments for Job Training Programs.* Oaths of office to prospective Job Training Programs enrollees.

(4) *Fees.* Do not collect fees for these services. The United States will not reimburse postal employees for fees paid for administering oaths.

(d) *Postmasters in Alaska as notaries public.* (1) Administer oaths and affirmations; take acknowledgments and make and execute certificates thereof; and perform all other functions of a notary public within Alaska whenever a certification is necessary to comply with any Act of Congress or of the Legislature of Alaska.

(2) When executing certificates of oath, affirmation, or acknowledgment, and the title ''Postmaster'' after your signature and give the name of the post office and date document is executed. Place legible postmark impression of the post office on the document.

(3) Keep a record of all deeds and other instruments of writing acknowledged, relating to the title to or transfer of property. This record shall be available to your successors, and shall be subject to public inspection.

(e) *Fees for notarial service.* An officer or employee who is a notary public shall not charge or receive compensation for notarial services for another officer or employee regarding Government business; nor for notarial services for any person during the hours of the notary's services to the Government, including the lunch period.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4767, Mar. 12, 1971. Redesignated at 38 FR 20327, July 31, 1973. 38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 40 FR 26511, June 24, 1975; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.7 Authority to designate certifying officers—headquarters.

(a) *Delegation.* The following are authorized to designate certifying officers at Headquarters for the items specified:

(1) *The Chief Postal Inspector, for:* (i) Payment from his special deposit account; (ii) disbursements for rewards based on Postmaster General Notices of Reward; (iii) payments from confidential funds; (iv) salary payments for Special Investigations Division; (v) advances of funds for confidential purposes; (vi) inspection service, travel advances, transportation of things; and (vii) payments for special analyses and services.

(2) The General Counsel certifies payments relating to tort claims and claims under 39 U.S.C. 2603.

(3) The Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance, certifies all payments not covered by paragraphs (a) (1) and (2) of this section.

(b) *Redelegation.* The officials named in paragraph (a) of this section are authorized to redelegate their authority to designate certifying officers. The redelegation shall be made by letter to the appropriate Postal Data Center disbursing officer and must bear the specimen signature of the person to whom the authority is redelegated.

(c) *Designating certifying officers*—(1) *Inspection Service and Law Department.* Officials authorized to designate certifying officers (see paragraph (a) of this section) will complete SF 210, Signature/Designation Card for Certifying Officer, in duplicate for each Postal Data Center officer affected to show:

(i) Name of department for which vouchers will be certified.

(ii) Signature of certifying officer written exactly as vouchers will be signed.

(iii) Class of vouchers to be certified.

(iv) The official's signature and effective date.

(2) *Other departments and offices.* Other departments and offices requiring certifying officers will complete SF 210 in duplicate as prescribed in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, except for signature and date. Both copies will be sent to the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance.

(3) *Submitting SF 210 to Postal Data Center disbursing officers.* The Chief Postal Inspector, the General Counsel, and the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance, or their designees shall send signed originals of SF 210 to each of the disbursing officers affected and retain duplicates. These documents will be the official designations of the employees named on the SF 210 as certifying officers.

(d) *Maintaining designations.* Each group, department and office must keep current its designation of authorized certifying officers. When new or additional designations are made, the procedures for designating certifying officers contained in this section shall be followed.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.8 Authority to designate certifying officers—field.

(a) *Delegation.* The following are authorized to designate certifying officers in Postal Data Centers and Inspection Service regions and divisions:

(1) The Chief Postal Inspector, for obligations of the Inspection Service.

(2) Postal Data Center Directors for obligations of all other regional functions.

(3) The New York Postal Data Center Director for obligations for Headquarters functions except those under § 222.7(a) (1) and (2) and those certified by the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance, or designee.

(b) *Redelegation.* The officials named in paragraph (a) of this section are authorized to redelegate their authority to designate certifying officers. Redelegations shall be by letter to each disbursing officer affected, with the specimen signature of the person to whom authority is redelegated.

(c) *Designating certifying officers*—(1) *Regional Chief Postal Inspectors and Postal Inspectors-in-Charge.* Regional Chief Postal Inspectors and Postal Inspectors-in-Charge are designated certifying officers, as limited by the Chief Postal Inspector. They are authorized to designate certifying officers for obligations incurred by the Postal Inspection Service. They will complete SF 210 in duplicate to show:

(i) Postal Inspection Service region or division for which vouchers will be certified.

(ii) Signature of certifying officer written in the same manner that he will sign vouchers.

(iii) Class of vouchers to be certified.

(iv) Signature of the designating official and effective date. Regional Chief Postal Inspectors and Postal Inspectors—in—Charge are not authorized to redelegate their authority to designate authorized certifying officers.

(2) *Postal Data Center Directors.* Officers under direction of Postal Data Center Directors will complete SF 210 in duplicate as in paragraph (c)(1) of

this section except for signature and date. Both copies will be sent to the appropriate Postal Data Center Director for completion.

(3) *Submitting SF 210 to disbursing officer.* The Regional Chief Postal Inspector, Postal Inspectors-in-Charge, and Postal Data Center Director (or designees) will send the originals of SF 210 to each disbursing officer affected and keep the duplicates. These will be the official designations of the employees named on the SF 210 as certifying officers.

(d) *Maintaining designations.* Each office under jurisdiction of the officials named in § 222.8 must keep current its designation of authorized certifying officers. When new additional designations are made, this § 222.8 shall be followed.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 40796, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.9 Delegation of authority to the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance.

(a) *Delegation.* The Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance, may take final action on:

(1) Claims for overpayment of pay.

(2) Relief of accountable officers of liability for loss.

(3) Relief of accountable officers of liability for illegal, improper, or incorrect payments.

(4) Certifying officers' accountability.

(5) Deposit to and withdrawal from Postal Service fund.

(6) Collection of debts due the Postal Service with the exception of those falling under the jurisdiction of the Chief Postal Inspector.

(7) Adjustment of claims of postmasters and Armed Forces postal clerks, including the loss of funds or valuable papers from their official custody resulting from burglary, fire, or unavoidable casualty, with concurrence by the General Counsel is cases involving doubtful questions of law or fact.

(b) *Redelegation.* The Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Finance, is authorized to redelegate all or part of the authority vested by paragraph (a) of this section to such other officers or executives as deemed appropriate.

[38 FR 20404, July 31, 1973, as amended at 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29707, July 14, 1989]

§ 222.10 Delegation of authority to the APMG, International Postal Affairs Department.

The APMG, International Postal Affairs Department, is authorized to sign Express Mail agreements with foreign postal administrations, and to sign technical agreements for the exchange of postal personnel and property with foreign postal administrations.

[41 FR 52299, Nov. 29, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986]

PART 223—RELATIONSHIPS AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

Sec.
223.1 Relationships.
223.2 Channels of communication.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 203, 204, 401(2), 402, 403, 404.

§ 223.1 Relationships.

(a) *Between Headquarters and Regions.* Each Headquarters group, department, and office shall provide guidance and policy interpretation to regional officials in its area of responsibility.

(b) *Between Postal Region Offices and Field Divisions.* The Regional Postmaster General shall provide guidance and direction to the respective field division general managers/postmasters within the region with the assistance of Regional Directors and their staffs in their areas of specialization.

(c) *Between Field Divisions and MSCs.* Field division general managers/postmasters and staffs shall provide guidance and direction to their respective MSC managers/postmasters.

(d) *Between Field Divisions and Bulk Mail Centers.* Field division general managers/postmasters and staffs shall provide guidance and direction to their Bulk Mail Center Managers.

[38 FR 20406, July 31, 1973, as amended at 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 48 FR 1966, Jan. 17, 1983; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29708, July 14, 1989]

§ 223.2 Channels of communication.

(a) *Headquarters and Postal Region Offices.* (1) The heads of groups, departments, and offices formulate the necessary directives to provide guidance to regional officials. Direction of regional officials is provided on employee and labor relations matters by the Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Human Resources, and on other matters by the Deputy Postmaster General.

(2) Policy directives shall be issued over the signatures of the heads of the groups, departments, and offices covering matters within their responsibility, except when the Postmaster General or Deputy Postmaster General may wish to issue such directives personally. Policy directives shall be coordinated with other appropriate groups, departments and offices before issuance and reviewed and disseminated by the APMG Information Resource Management Department, and, if within the authority of the issuer, shall have the same effect as though sent by the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General.

(3) Guidelines and program implementation instructions and procedures not involving policy shall ordinarily be issued over the signature of the group, department, or office head having jurisdiction.

(4) Regional staff officials may communicate directly with the corresponding functional group, department, or office in Headquarters on matters within their area of jurisdiction. In addition, where authorized, they may also directly contact supporting Headquarters departments such as Law Department and Inspection Service Department on technical matters not requiring administrative judgment of the Regional Postmaster General.

(b) *Regional Offices and Field Installations.* The regular channels of communication are:

(1) Associate office postmasters, to and from their MSC Manager/Postmaster.

(2) MSC Managers/Postmasters, to and from their Field Division General Manager/Postmaster.

(3) BMC managers, to and from field division general managers/postmasters.

(4) Field division general managers/postmasters, to and from their Regional Postmasters General.

(5) Heads of other postal installations, to and from their designated superiors as appropriate.

(c) *Headquarters, Postal Region Offices, and other Postal Installations with Postal Data Centers.* (1) The Information Resource Management Department provides the necessary directives to the PDCs. The Law Department shall maintain direct contact on matters relating to professional and policy guidance on claims.

(2) Postal Region Offices and Postal Data Centers may communicate directly with each other.

(3) Other postal installations and PDCs may communicate directly on routine accounting matters.

[38 FR 20406, July 31, 1973, as amended at 43 FR 29117, July 6, 1978; 48 FR 1966, Jan. 17, 1983; 48 FR 30111, June 30, 1983; 51 FR 40798, Nov. 10, 1986; 54 FR 29708, July 14, 1989]

PART 224—ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

Sec.
224.1 Finance Group.
224.2 [Reserved]
224.3 Postal Inspection Service.
224.4 General Counsel.
224.5 Planning Department.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 203, 204, 401(2), 403, 404, 409, 1001; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95–452, as amended), 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

SOURCE: 52 FR 46998, Dec. 11, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 224.1 Finance Group.

(a) *General.* The Finance Group is headed by a Senior Assistant Postmaster General (SAPMG). The group consists of three departments, each headed by an Assistant Postmaster General, and the Office of the Treasurer and the USPS Records Office. The SAPMG, Finance, participates in the planning and budget process, and reviews and evaluates the budget requests of each region for the areas under control of the Finance Group.

(b) *Rates and Classification Department.* The Rates and Classification Department is responsible for:

(1) Designing and maintaining the rate and mail classification structure.

(2) Developing and administering standards and procedures related to cost analysis and attribution.

(3) Forecasting mail volume.

(4) Developing and supporting rate recommendations to the Postal Rate Commission.

(5) Developing policies, regulations, systems, and procedures for the management and control of the admissibility, classification, and application of rates and fees for domestic or international mail of all classes and the collection of revenue from bulk mailers and special service users.

(c) *Controller Department.* The Controller Department is responsible for:

(1) Developing financing policy and forecasting long-term financing, capital requirements, and borrowing needs.

(2) Establishing a comprehensive controllership program for financial management.

(3) Maintaining control of the financial activities.

(4) Developing accounting policy and procedures and operating the financial reporting programs and controls.

(5) Establishing budgeting, economic and cost benefit functions, payroll systems, policies, and procedures.

(6) Directing the formulation and presentation of a national budget to the Senior Management Committee, Board of Governors, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

(d) *Special Projects Department.* The Special Projects Department is responsible for:

(1) Assisting senior management in formulating policy and direction on complex issues.

(2) Directing special studies identified by senior management for use in senior management deliberations.

(3) Monitoring specifically designed issues on behalf of senior management and providing staff analysis of these issues as they change over time.

(4) Providing leadership responsibility on behalf of senior management for special projects and organizational initiatives.

(5) Participating in senior management meetings as appropriate.

(e) *Office of the Treasurer.* The Treasurer is responsible for:

(1) Operating a nationwide network of primary and concentration banks to gather revenue.

(2) Developing cash management initiatives to speed cash flow.

(3) Implementing debt management strategies to meet long-term capital and short-term borrowing needs.

(4) Planning investment strategies to ensure liquidity and to earn a competitive rate of return.

(5) Managing the investment of excess cash.

(f) *Records Office.* The Records Office has responsibility for the retention, security, and privacy of Postal Service records; authorizes their preservation and disclosure; and orders their disposal by destruction or transfer.

[52 FR 46998, Dec. 11, 1987; 52 FR 49015, Dec. 29, 1987. Redesignated and amended at 54 FR 29708, July 14, 1989; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 224.2 [Reserved]

§ 224.3 Postal Inspection Service.

(a) The Postal Inspection Service is headed by the Chief Postal Inspector who also acts as:

(1) The Inspector General for the Postal Service,

(2) The investigating official under the Program Fraud and Civil Remedies Act, and

(3) The Security Officer and Defense Coordinator for the Postal Service.

(b) The Postal Inspection Service is responsible for:

(1) Protecting mail matter, postal facilities and other postal assets, employees, and people on postal premises.

(2) Enforcing laws related to the Postal Service, the mails, other postal offenses and other laws of the United States.

(3) Conducting investigations into violations of federal laws that the Attorney General determines have a detrimental effect upon the operations of the Postal Service.

(4) Carrying out investigations and presenting evidence to the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorneys, and state and local authorities, in investigations of a criminal or civil nature.

(5) Carrying out administrative and civil investigations and presenting

findings and evidence to postal management and attorneys in connection with administrative and civil actions.

(6) Performing internal audits of postal financial and nonfinancial operations.

(7) Providing security and defense coordination for the Postal Service.

(8) Maintaining liaison with investigative and law enforcement agencies, and all levels of government on matters of mutual interest.

(c) The Postal Inspection Service is responsible for exercising the authority, and carrying out the duties, functions, and responsibilities assigned to the Office of the Inspector General by the Inspector General Act.

(d) When the Chief Inspector determines it is necessary for carrying out the duties of Inspector General of the Postal Service, the Chief Inspector my employ independent legal counsel.

[56 FR 55823, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 224.4 General Counsel.

(a) *General.* The General Counsel heads the Law Department; the Government Relations Department reports to the General Counsel.

(b) *Law Department.* The Law Department is responsible for:

(1) Serving as legal advisor to the entire Postal Service and interpreting laws as they relate to the Postal Service, except as provided in § 224.3(d).

(2) Making rulings, giving advisory opinions, drafting or approving legal instruments, instituting and maintaining administrative proceedings, representing the Postal Service in administrative proceedings, and in judicial proceedings, as authorized, except as provided in § 224.3(d).

(3) Preparing the legislative program of the Postal Service and publishing regulations in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(4) Administering activities under the Tort Claims Act, and other personal injury and physical loss claims.

(5)(i) Receiving service of petitions for review of a final agency order in an appropriate Federal circuit court of appeals. Any aggrieved person filing a petition for review of a decision of the Governors within 10 days of issuance of the Governors' decision must ensure that a court-stamped copy of the petition for review is received by the General Counsel within that 10-day period in order to qualify for participation in the random selection process established in 28 U.S.C. 2112(a) for determining the appropriate court of appeals to review an agency final order when petitions for review of that order are filed in more than one court of appeals.

(ii) If the General Counsel receives two or more petitions filed in two or more United States Courts of Appeals for review of a decision by the Governors within ten days of the effective date of that action for the purpose of judicial review, the General Counsel will notify the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation of any petitions that were received within the 10-day period, in accordance with the applicable rule of the panel.

(iii) For the purpose of determining whether a petition for review has been received within the 10-day period under paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section, the petition shall be considered to be received on the date of delivery, if personally delivered. If the delivery is accomplished by mail, the date of receipt shall be the date noted on the return receipt card.

(6) Acting as agent for the receipt of legal process on behalf of the Postal Service and the Postmaster General and other officials resulting from the performance of their official functions.

(7) Administering the Ethical Conduct Program.

(c) *Government Relations Department.* The Government Relations Department is responsible for:

(1) Maintaining cooperative relationships among Congress, Federal agencies within the Executive Branch, the White House, and state and local government officials.

(2) Advising postal officials on legislative or other policy matters in public areas involving congressional committees or individual members of Congress.

(3) Maintaining liaison with members of Congress and their staffs to exchange information on specific legislation and Postal Service policies and operations.

[52 FR 46998, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 785, Jan. 9, 1991; 56 FR 55823, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 224.5 Planning Department.

The Planning Department is responsible for:

(a) Forecasting trends and developments, both external and internal, which may have an impact on the Postal Service environment.

(b) Assisting departments in developing plans in accordance with goals and objectives set by the Postmaster General and the Board of Governors.

(c) Establishing and maintaining the planning calendar.

(d) Coordinating the strategic planning process.

(e) Assisting in the development of comprehensive and effective plans.

(f) Identifying and evaluating economic, political, social, technical, and market trends and events.

(g) Developing a projection of long-range business targets as a basis for setting goals and objectives.

(h) Formulating alternative business strategies.

(i) Conducting special economic studies.

[54 FR 29708, July 14, 1989]

PART 225—ORGANIZATIONS REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 203, 204, 401(2) 402, 403, 404, and 409.

§ 225.1 Operations Support Group.

The Operations Support Group is headed by an SAPMG. The group consists of three departments, each reporting to the SAPMG.

(a) *Delivery, Distribution, and Transportation Department.* The Delivery, Distribution, and Transportation Department is responsible for:

(1) Developing and implementing national policies, procedures, and short- and long-range operational plans for the collection, distribution, transportation, and delivery of all classes of domestic, international, and military mail.

(2) Developing and implementing national policies, procedures, and short- and long-range operational plans for field retail operations.

(3) Establishing and controlling national (inter-regional) distribution and transportation networks.

(4) Establishing requirements and managing the acquisition and deployment of mail transport equipment.

(5) Developing procurement policies for the transportation of mail.

(6) Managing the development of policies and procedures to ensure the optimum use and benefits of automated equipment.

(b) *Operations Systems and Performance Department.* The Operations Systems and Performance Department is responsible for:

(1) Defining, operating, and maintaining the major operating performance management systems.

(2) Setting goals, analyzing trends, and assessing performance in key operations areas.

(3) Identifying and resolving operating problems.

(4) Developing operating management systems, computer models, and new methods for distribution and delivery.

(5) Directing the acquisition, deployment, maintenance, and disposal of postal vehicles.

(6) Directing the maintenance and improvement of address information and related systems.

(c) *Engineering and Technical Support Department.* The Engineering and Technical Support Department is responsible for:

(1) Planning and approving all operating requirements and standards for mechanized and automated facilities.

(2) Establishing national policy and programs for the maintenance of facilities and mail processing, customer services, and delivery services related mechanization.

(3) Maintaining a technical and field support capacity for new and modified equipment and providing for the overhaul of major mail processing equipment.

(d) The Regional Postmasters General report to the Deputy Postmaster General.

[54 FR 29708, July 14, 1989]

PART 226—GROUPS AND DEPARTMENTS REPORTING TO THE ASSOCIATE POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Sec.
226.1 The Associate Postmaster General (Systems).
226.2 Facilities and Supply Group.
226.3 Human Resources Group.
226.4 Marketing and Communications Group.
226.5 Associate Postmaster General (International).

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 203, 204, 401(2), 402, 403, 404, and 409.

SOURCE: 52 FR 46999, Dec. 11, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 226.1 The Associate Postmaster General (Systems).

The Associate Postmaster General (Systems) is responsible for managing groups, headed by an SAPMG, and departments which make up the support functions of the Postal Service.

[54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§ 226.2 Facilities and Supply Group.

(a) *General.* The Administrative Services Group consists of three departments headed by an Assistant Postmaster General and one department headed by the Judicial Officer.

(b) *Facilities Department.* The Facilities Department is responsible for:

(1) Designing, constructing, modifying, and repairing facilities.

(2) Leasing, purchasing, managing, and disposing of real estate.

(3) Developing policies, procedures, and new technology in support of facilities programs.

(4) Maximizing the use of real estate assets.

(c) *Procurement and Supply Department.* The Procurement and Supply Department is responsible for:

(1) Developing, implementing, and reviewing procurement and contracting policies and procedures.

(2) Developing, implementing, and reviewing warehousing and inventory of equipment and supplies.

(3) Directing the day-to-day maintenance and repair of the headquarters building.

(d) *Information Resource Management Department.* The Information Resource Management Department is responsible for:

(1) Providing data processing support services including systems analysis and programming.

(2) Establishing policy and procedures on the use of computers and telecommunications.

(3) Guiding the development of information systems.

(4) Managing a national data and voice communications systems.

(5) Providing payroll processing and distribution services and general accounting services.

(6) Providing technical solutions to information requirements.

(e) *Judicial Officer.*

(1) The Judicial Officer is responsible for:

(i) The performance of quasi-judicial duties and the issuance of final decisions and orders.

(ii) Serving as the agency for the purposes of the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

(iii) Presiding at the reception of evidence as provided in rules of practice.

(iv) Revising or amending the rules governing eligibility to practice before the Postal Service, revising or amending Postal Service rules of practice governing proceedings conducted under the Administrative Procedure Act, and issuing and revising rules of practice for other proceedings.

(v) Serving as Chairman of the Board of Contract Appeals and performing the functions of the agency head under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, as amended.

(vi) Administratively supervising Administrative Law Judges and hearing appeals from their decisions.

(2) Board of Contract Appeals is responsible for processing, hearing and issuing final agency decisions in connection with contract disputes.

(3) Office of Administrative Law Judges. Administrative Law Judges are responsible for presiding at administrative hearings as delegated by the Judicial Officer.

[52 FR 46999, Dec. 11, 1987; 54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§ 226.3 Human Resources Group.

(a) *General.* The Human Resources Group consists of three departments, each reporting to the SAPMG.

(b) *Employee Relations Department.* The Employee Relations Department is responsible for:

(1) Managing programs and policies for new and revised organization structures, staffing patterns, and job descriptions.

(2) Establishing outside recruitment and selection and internal promotion procedures.

(3) Managing all employee compensation and benefits programs and policies.

(4) Administering all equal employment opportunity and affirmative action programs.

(5) Managing medical, safety, and injury compensation programs and policies.

(c) *Labor Relations Department.* The Labor Relations Department is responsible for:

(1) Negotiating and interpreting collective bargaining agreements.

(2) Coordinating programs that affect bargaining unit employees.

(3) Developing policies and procedures for administering the national grievance and arbitration programs.

(4) Administering programs to improve the quality of working life in the Postal Service.

(d) *Training and Development Department.* The Training and Development Department is responsible for:

(1) Developing all course materials for craft, supervisory, and management employees training.

(2) Providing training for employees at the Technical Training Center and the William F. Bolger Management Academy, and at other training centers.

(3) Designing in-service employee development programs.

[52 FR 46999, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§ 226.4 Marketing and Communications Group.

(a) *General.* The Marketing and Communications Group is headed by an SAPMG. The group consists of three departments, each reporting to the SAPMG.

(b) *Marketing Department.* The Marketing Department is responsible for:

(1) Market research, market analysis, customer feedback, and marketing management information system support.

(2) Product analysis, planning, development, and program management activities, including the development of advertising and sales promotion support.

(3) Development and management of sales and sales promotion programs that support implementation by the field marketing organization of programs designed for principal customer segments of national, key, major, and local accounts.

(c) *Communications Department.* The Communications Department is responsible for:

(1) Planning, approving, and managing public affairs programs.

(2) Providing information to employees through in-house publication of newsletters, posters, films, videotapes, and other periodicals.

(3) Providing senior management with assistance in the development and production of presentations and speeches.

(d) *Philatelic and Retail Services Department.* The Philatelic and Retail Services Department is responsible for:

(1) Designing, manufacturing, and distributing postage stamps and stationery items.

(2) Establishing and implementing philatelic marketing programs.

(3) Managing mail order services for philatelic products.

(4) Managing special programs to promote philately and philatelic products and services.

(5) Establishing policy, business strategy, and procedures for the retail sale of postal services, products, and postage and the acceptance of mail at retail outlets.

(e) *Technology Resource Department.* The Technology Resource Department is headed by the Consumer Advocate who reports to the Associate Postmaster General, and is responsible for:

(1) Developing long-term technology development plans to meet changing technological trends and developments.

(2) Managing research and development directed to the application of new concepts to Postal Service functions.

(3) Monitoring the technological interaction between the Postal Service and the outside environment. Responding to customer inquiries and complaints regarding postal products and services.

(f) *Consumer Affairs Department.* The Consumer Affairs Department is headed by the Consumer Advocate who reports to the Associate Postmaster General (Systems), and is responsible for:

(1) Responding to customer inquiries and complaints regarding postal products and services.

(2) Developing, with the Communications Department, programs to inform the public on mailing programs, procedures, and policies.

(3) Tracking service problems and identifying trends to resolve operating programs.

[52 FR 46999, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§226.5 Associate Postmaster General (International).

(a) *General.* The Associate Postmaster General (International) is responsible for directing activities designed to increase international postal business, and for the relationship with foreign postal administrations.

(b) *International Postal Affairs Department.* The International Postal Affairs Department reports to the Associate Postmaster General (International) and is responsible for:

(1) Representing the United States in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS).

(2) Providing liaison with all foreign postal administrations.

(3) Negotiating bilateral and multilateral postal treaties and agreements with foreign governments.

(4) Providing policy guidance on all aspects of international postal affairs.

[54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

PART 227—HEADQUARTERS RELATED FIELD UNITS

Sec.

227.1 General.
227.2 Inspection Service.
227.3 Procurement and Supply Department.
227.4 Engineering and Technical Support Department.
227.5 Employee Relations Department.
227.6 Training and Development Department.
227.7 Information Resource Management Department.
227.8 Operations Systems and Performance Department.
227.9 General Counsel.
227.10 Controller Department.
227.11 Philatelic and Retail Services Department.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 402, 403, and 404.

SOURCE: 52 FR 47000, Dec. 11,1987, unless otherwise noted

§227.1 General.

Headquarters Related Field Units are typically single function organizations that report directly to Headquarters and serve the entire Postal Service.

[52 FR 47000, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§227.2 Inspection Service.

(a) *General.* The Inspection Service is divided into regional and divisional entities.

(b) *Inspection Service—Region.* The Inspection Service at the regional level is responsible for:

(1) Protecting the mails, enforcement of Postal laws, facility and employee security, and internal auditing.

(2) Managing the accomplishment of national programs and policies.

(3) Coordinating with other law enforcement organizations on security, audit, and other law enforcement matters.

(c) *Inspection Service—Division.* The Inspection Service at the division level is responsible for all inspection and investigation activities within the division area served.

[52 FR 47000, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§227.3 Procurement and Supply Department.

(a) *Materiel Distribution Centers.* There are two materiel distribution centers, one at Somerville, New Jersey, and one at Topeka, Kansas. Materiel Distribution Centers are responsible for:

(1) Procuring, storing, and issuing basic supplies for use in all postal facilities.

(2) Arranging for the transportation of supplies to facilities.

(b) *Mail Equipment Shop.* The Mail Equipment Shop, located in Washington, DC, is responsible for:

(1) Manufacturing mail bags, sacks, and pouches.

(2) Manufacturing locks and keys.

(3) Manufacturing hardware items used for mail security and for customer service lobby equipment.

[54 FR 29709, July 14, 1989]

§ 227.4 Engineering and Technical Support Department.

(a) *Maintenance Technical Support Center (MTSC).* The Maintenance Technical Support Center, located in Norman, OK, is responsible for:

(1) Developing policies, programs, methods, and standards for the maintenance of mail processing equipment.

(2) Issuing guidelines to field managers on building systems and mail processing equipment maintenance procedures.

(b) *Engineering and Development Center.* The Engineering and Development Center, located in Merrifield, Virginia, is responsible for:

(1) Providing engineering and near-term development support for letter mail equipment, packaged mail equipment, delivery and retail equipment, and associated systems and software.

(2) Directing near-term development and modifications to equipment and components to increase efficiency, reliability, and to improve safety.

(3) Conducting tests to evaluate new equipment for Postal service use; performing failure analyses on equipment and components.

(4) Providing applied engineering to customize commercial technology and equipment for postal use.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§ 227.5 Employee Relations Department.

National Test Administration Center (NTAC). The National Test Administration Center, located in Alexandria, VA, is responsible for:

(a) Receipt and processing of requests to give examinations.

(b) Preparing and distributing registers of eligible applicants and notices of ratings.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§ 227.6 Training and Development Department.

(a) *Technical Training Center.* The Technical Training Center, located in Norman, OK, is responsible for:

(1) Developing training materials for craft employees in maintenance and related crafts.

(2) Performing training for technical employees.

(b) *William F. Bolger Management Academy.* The William F. Bolger Management Academy, located in Potomac, MD, is responsible for:

(1) Developing training materials for supervisors, postmasters, and other managerial employees.

(2) Performing training for managerial employees.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§ 227.7 Information Resource Management Department.

(a) *National Information Systems Support Center.* The National Information Systems Support Center, located in Raleigh, NC, is responsible for:

(1) Designing new large-scale automated systems and writing the supporting program code.

(2) Managing the nationwide voice and data communications system.

(b) *Postal Data Centers.* The Postal Data Centers, located in Minneapolis, MN, New York, NY, St. Louis, MO, San Mateo, CA, and Wilkes-Barre, PA, are responsible for:

(1) Systems analysis, computer programming, and other systems development activities.

(2) Accounting, accounts payable, payroll, money order disbursing, claims and loss settlement, and other financial services.

(3) Data processing and related computer services.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§227.8 Operations Systems and Performance Department.

Address Information Center. The Address Information Center, located in Memphis, TN, is responsible for:

(a) Developing policies for and providing technical guidance and computer support to field address Information Systems units and field Computerized Forwarding System units.

(b) Providing nationwide service and technical guidance for postal customers requiring support related to address information systems.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§227.9 General Counsel.

Regional Counsels. The Regional Counsels are responsible for providing legal representation services within a regional geographic area, including representation before the Board of Contract Appeals, liaison with U.S. Attorneys on contract, real estate, and tort litigation, as well as personnel related matters, such as labor/management relations, Equal Employment Opportunity, Merit Systems Protection Board, National Labor Relations Board, and district court actions.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§227.10 Controller Department.

International Accounts Center. The International Accounts Center, located in New York, NY, is responsible for reviewing, approving, settling, and auditing international mail handling and transportation accounts for contracts and agreements entered into by the Postal service.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§227.11 Philatelic and Retail Services Department.

(a) *Philatelic Units.* The Philatelic Sales Division, located in Merrifield, VA, is a large mail and telephone order sales operation for stamps and other philatelic products; it is supported by an order fulfillment unit in Kansas City, MO, which is responsible for the filling and shipping of domestic and international mail orders for philatelic products.

(b) *Stamped Envelope Unit.* The Stamped Envelope Unit, located in Williamsburg, PA, processes, distributes, and certifies billing or postmaster accountability for direct orders of all stamped envelope products marketed by the Postal service.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

PART 228—SERVICE CENTERS

Sec.
228.1 General.
228.2 Engineering and Technical Support Department—Maintenance Overhaul and Technical Service Centers (MOTSC).
228.3 Delivery, Distribution, and Transportation Department—Transportation Management Service Centers (TMSC).
228.4 Facilities Department—Facilities Service Centers.
228.5 Procurement and Supply Department—Procurement and Materiel Management Service Centers.
228.6 Rates and Classification Department.
228.7 Human Resources Group.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 402, 403, and 404.

SOURCE: 52 FR 47001, Dec. 11, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§228.1 General.

Service Centers typically serve a regional area only and report to headquarters, providing technical guidance and support to field division employees and carrying out the day-to-day responsibilities of a function.

§228.2 Engineering and Technical Support Department—Maintenance Overhaul and Technical Service Centers (MOTSC).

Maintenance Overhaul and Technical Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Refurbishing mail processing equipment such as letter sorting machines, facer cancellers, and related equipment.

(b) Providing technical advice and guidance to field maintenance employees on procedures and practices to follow.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§228.3 Delivery, Distribution, and Transportation Department—Transportation Management Service Centers (TMSC).

Transportation Management Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Procuring mail transportation services between mail processing centers.

(b) Controlling the inventory of empty mail equipment.

(c) Coordinating the movement of mail between mail processing centers, bulk mail centers (BMCs), management sectional centers (MSCs), and field divisions.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§ 228.4 Facilities Department—Facilities Service Centers.

Facilities Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Developing functional design specifications for new or altered facilities.

(b) Investigating and evaluating sites for proposed postal facilities.

(c) Purchasing, leasing, disposing of, and managing real estate and facilities.

(d) Contracting for the design and construction of facilities.

[54 FR 29710, July 14, 1989]

§ 228.5 Procurement and Supply Department—Procurement and Materiel Management Service Centers.

Procurement and Materiel Management Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Contracting for supplies, services, and equipment.

(b) Maintaining systems for inventorying equipment and supplies.

[54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

§ 228.6 Rates and Classification Department.

Rates and Classification Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Managing, for a geographic area, the rates and classification activities related to rates schedules, mail classification, and statistical systems, including guiding and monitoring bulk mail acceptance, mailing requirements, data collection programs in divisions, and providing classification rulings.

(b) Providing decisions on authorizations and rulings that enable customers to exercise mailing privileges for various classes of mail and service.

[54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

§ 228.7 Human Resources Group.

Human Resources Service Centers are responsible for:

(a) Processing personnel actions and maintaining personnel records for the regional office and the service centers.

(b) Implementing the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) in the field and training all users.

(c) Providing administrative support, technical guidance, and case processing for Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), and nonbargaining appeals.

(d) Overseeing all safety and health programs and issues, and responding to incidents or inquiries involving industrial hygiene.

(e) Coordinating the scheduling of all arbitration cases with arbitrators, union representatives, and field employees.

[54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

PART 229—FIELD ORGANIZATIONS

Sec.
229.1 Regions.
229.2 Field Divisions.
229.3 Management Sectional Centers (MSCs).
229.4 Other Field Organizations.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 402, 403, and 404.

SOURCE: 52 FR 47002, Dec. 11, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 229.1 Regions.

(a) *General.* The Regions are responsible for monitoring the performance of postal operations; assessing long-term solutions to operating problems; and performing long-range operational planning.

(b) *Functional Units.* Each region is headed by a Regional Postmaster General who reports to the Deputy Postmaster General. Each region is organized into five functions: Finance, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, Operations Support, and Planning, as follows:

(1) Finance is responsible for all accounting, budgeting, financial analysis, and management information programs.

(2) Human Resources is responsible for all employee and labor relations programs.

(3) Marketing and Communications is responsible for commercial accounts and merchandising programs, market and product analysis, and for providing information to the public and employees.

(4) Operations Support is responsible for operations planning and monitoring the performance of the mail processing network.

(5) Planning is responsible for long-range planning for the region and for support services to the regional building.

(c) *Regional areas*—(1) *Central region*. The headquarters for the Central Region is in Chicago, IL. The regional area is made up of the states of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

(2) *Eastern region*. The headquarters for the Eastern Region is in Philadelphia, PA. The regional area is made of the states of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey (ZIP Code areas 080–084, 189, 193 and 194), North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina (except ZIP Code areas 298 and 299), Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, DC.

(3) *Northeast region*. The headquarters for the Northeast Region is in Windsor, CT. The regional area is made up of the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey (ZIP Code areas 074–079 and 085–089) New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Puerto Rico.

(4) *Southern region*. The headquarters for the Southern Region is in Memphis, TN. The regional area is made up of the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina (ZIP Code areas 298 and 299), Tennessee and Texas (except ZIP Code areas 797–799).

(5) *Western region*. The headquarters for the Western Region is in San Bruno, CA. The regional area is made up of the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas (ZIP areas 797–799), Utah and Washington.

[52 FR 47002, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

§ 229.2 Field Divisions.

(a) *General*. The field divisions are responsible for the day-to-day management of all operations and facilities within a geographic area. Each field division is headed by a Field Division General Manager/Postmaster who reports to the Regional Postmaster General.

(b) *Functional Units*. Each division is organized into seven functions: Controller, City Operations, Operations Support, Marketing and Communications, Human Resources, Support Services, and Field Operations. Responsibilities are as follows:

(1) The Controller is responsible for the operation of all management information systems, accounting services, timekeeping, financial analysis, auditing, compliance, and statistical programs.

(2) City Operations is responsible for all mail processing within the host Field Division facility, including stations and branches and air mail operations; fleet operations; and plant and equipment engineering.

(3) Operations Support is responsible for providing staff support to the operations function. The functions in operation support include logistics and distribution systems management, industrial engineering, address information programs, delivery services programs and maintenance support.

(4) Marketing and Communications plans and implements Postal Service marketing strategies, account management, technical sales support, retail marketing, communications programs, merchandising and sales information systems, and employee communications and community relations. It directs the consumer affairs program, provides marketing data to operations and other functional areas on customer demand, and recommends locations of retail facilities, hours of operation, collection boxes, and similar retail and delivery programs.

(5) Human Resources is responsible for labor relations, EEO complaint processing, employment and development, training, compensation and staffing, affirmative action, and safety and health.

(6) Support Services is responsible for procurement; materiel management;

purchase, lease, and management of real estate and facilities; and design and construction of new and altered facilities.

(7) Field Operations is responsible for the management and evaluation of grade 24 and below associate offices that report to the host division. This includes the development of operating budgets and disbursement of funds; investigation and correction of operational, service, budget, productivity and efficiency problems; and providing technical assistance.

[52 FR 47002, Dec. 11, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

§ 229.3 Management Sectional Centers (MSCs).

(a) *General.* Each Management Sectional Center is headed by an MSC Manager/Postmaster who reports to a Field Division General Manager/Postmaster.

(b) *Functional Units.* Each Management Sectional Center is organized into six functions: Finance, City Operations, Operations Services, Marketing, Human Resources, and Field Operations, as follows:

(1) Finance is responsible for the operation of all management information systems, accounting and budget, timekeeping, financial analysis, statistical programs, procurement and office services, auditing, and compliance.

(2) City Operations is responsible for all mail processing within the MSC facility including stations and branches and air mail operations; plant and equipment engineering; fleet operations; vehicle operations and maintenance.

(3) Operations Services is responsible for providing staff support to the operations function. The primary functions in operations services include quality control, logistics, address information systems, delivery services, and industrial engineering.

(4) Marketing plans and implements Postal Service marketing strategies, account management, technical sales support, retail marketing, merchandising and sales information systems. It provides marketing data to operations and other functional areas on customer demand, and recommends locations of retail facilities, hours of operation, collection boxes, and similar retail and delivery programs.

(5) Human Resources is responsible for labor relations, EEO complaint processing, employment and development, training, compensation and staffing, affirmative action, and safety and health.

(6) Field Operations is responsible for the management and evaluation of associate offices that report to the Management Sectional Center. This includes the development of operating budgets and disbursement of funds; investigation and correction of operational, service, budget, productivity and efficiency problems; and providing technical assistance. Larger associate offices report to the MSC Manager/Postmaster as follows:

(i) MSC V—Associate Office, level 22 and above.

(ii) MSC IV—Associate Office, level 21 and above.

(iii) MSC III—Associate Office, level 20 and above.

[54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

§ 229.4 Other Field Organizations.

(a) *Bulk Mail Centers (BMCs).* Bulk Mail Centers serve a specific geographic area and are headed by a manager who reports to the Field Division General Manager/Postmaster. BMCs are responsible for processing certain types of second- and third-class mail in bulk form and parcel post mail, normally in bulk or piece form.

(b) *Associate Offices.* Associate offices are headed by a postmaster who reports to a Director, Field Operations, in an MSC or a field division. Associate offices are responsible for the receipt, delivery, and dispatch of all classes of mail for geographic areas normally encompassing the boundaries of a city or town.

[54 FR 29711, July 14, 1989]

Inspection Service Requirements

PART 231—PROTECTION OF POST OFFICES

Sec.

231.1 Responsibility.
231.2 Security Control Officer.

§ 231.1 Responsibility.

(a) The protection of mail, postal funds, and property is a responsibility of every postal employee.

(b) The Chief Postal Inspector is designated as the Security Officer for the U.S. Postal Service. That official is responsible for the issuance of instructions and regulations pertaining to security requirements within the Postal Service.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4762, Mar. 12, 1971]

§ 231.2 Security Control Officer.

The postmaster or a supervisor designated by the postmaster shall act as Security Control Officer for each post office. The Security Control Officer shall be responsible for the general security of the post office, its stations and branches, in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Chief Postal Inspector.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4762, Mar. 12, 1971]

PART 232—CONDUCT ON POSTAL PROPERTY

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 403(b)(3), 404(a)(7); 40 U.S.C. 318, 318a, 318b, 318c, sec. 613, Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1992, Pub. L. 102–141, 18 U.S.C. 13, 3061; 21 U.S.C. 802, 844.

§ 232.1 Conduct on postal property.

(a) *Applicability*. This section applies to all real property under the charge and control of the Postal Service, to all tenant agencies, and to all persons entering in or on such property. This section shall be posted and kept posted at a conspicuous place on all such property.

(b) *Inspection, recording presence.* (1) Purses, briefcases, and other containers brought into, while on, or being removed from the property are subject to inspection. However, items brought directly to a postal facility's customer mailing acceptance area and deposited in the mail are not subject to inspection, except as provided by section 115 of the Domestic Mail Manual. A person arrested for violation of this section may be searched incident to that arrest.

(2) Vehicles and their contents brought into, while on, or being removed from restricted nonpublic areas are subject to inspection. A prominently displayed sign shall advise in advance that vehicles and their contents are subject to inspection when entering the restricted nonpublic area, while in the confines of the area, or when leaving the area. Persons entering these areas who object and refuse to consent to the inspection of the vehicle, its contents, or both, may be denied entry; after entering the area without objection, consent shall be implied. A full search of a person and any vehicle driven or occupied by the person may accompany an arrest.

(3) Except as otherwise ordered, properties must be closed to the public after normal business hours. Properties also may be closed to the public in emergency situations and at such other times as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of business. Admission to properties during periods when such properties are closed to the public may be limited to authorized individuals who may be required to sign the register and display identification documents when requested by security force personnel or other authorized individuals.

(c) *Preservation of property*. Improperly disposing of rubbish, spitting, creating any hazard to persons or things, throwing articles of any kind from a building, climbing upon the roof or any part of a building, or willfully destroying, damaging, or removing any property or any part thereof, is prohibited.

(d) *Conformity with signs and directions.* All persons in and on property shall comply with official signs of a prohibitory or directory nature, and with the directions of security force personnel or other authorized individuals.

(e) *Disturbances.* Disorderly conduct, or conduct which creates loud and unusual noise, or which obstructs the usual use of entrances, foyers, corridors, offices, elevators, stairways, and parking lots, or which otherwise tends to impede or disturb the public employees in the performance of their duties, or which otherwise impedes or

disturbs the general public in transacting business or obtaining the services provided on property, is prohibited.

(f) *Gambling.* Participating in games for money or other personal property, the operation of gambling devices, the conduct of a lottery or pool, or the selling or purchasing of lottery tickets, is prohibited on postal premises. This prohibition does not apply to the vending or exchange of State Lottery tickets at vending facilities operated by licensed blind persons where such lotteries are authorized by state law. (See Domestic Mail Manual 123.351 and 123.42; Administrative Support Manual 221.42; Regional Instructions, Part 782, section IV G 2c.)

(g) *Alcoholic beverages and drugs.* A person under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug which has been defined as a ''controlled substance'' may not enter postal property or operate a motor vehicle on postal property. The possession, sale, or use of any ''controlled substance'' (except when permitted by law) or the sale or use of any alcoholic beverage (except as authorized by the Postmaster General or designee) on postal premises is prohibited. The term ''controlled substance'' is defined in section 802 of title 21 U.S.C.

(h) *Soliciting, electioneering, collecting debts, vending, and advertising.* (1) Soliciting alms and contributions, campaigning for election to any public office, collecting private debts, commercial soliciting and vending, and displaying or distributing commercial advertising on postal premises are prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to:

(i) Commercial activities performed under contract with the Postal Service or pursuant to the provisions of the Randolph-Sheppard Act;

(ii) Posting notices on bulletin boards as authorized in § 243.2(a) of this chapter;

(iii) The solicitation of Postal Service and other Federal military and civilian personnel for contributions by recognized agencies as authorized by the Manual on Fund Raising Within the the Federal Service, issued by the Chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission under Executive Order 10927 of March 13, 1961.

(2) Solicitations and other actions which are prohibited by paragraph (h)(1) of this section when conducted on Postal Service property should not be directed by mail or telephone to postal employees on Postal Service property. The Postal Service will not accept or distribute mail or accept telephone calls directed to its employees which are believed to be contrary to paragraph (h)(1) of this section.

(i) *Photographs for news, advertising, or commercial purposes.* Except as prohibited by official signs or the directions of security force personnel or other authorized personnel, or a Federal court order or rule, photographs for news purposes may be taken in entrances, lobbies, foyers, corridors, or auditoriums when used for public meetings. Other photographs may be taken only with the permission of the local postmaster or installation head.

(j) *Dogs and other animals.* Dogs, except seeing-eye dogs, and other animals, shall not be brought upon property for other than official purposes.

(k) *Vehicular and pedestrian traffic.*

(1) Drivers of all vehicles in or on property shall be in possession of a current and valid state or territory issued driver's license and vehicle registration, and the vehicle shall display all current and valid tags and licenses required by the jurisdiction in which it is registered.

(2) Drivers who have had their privilege or license to drive suspended or revoked by any state or territory shall not drive any vehicle in or on property during such period of suspension or revocation.

(3) Drivers of all vehicles in or on property shall drive in a careful and safe manner at all times and shall comply with the signals and directions of security force personnel, other authorized individuals, and all posted traffic signs.

(4) The blocking of entrances, driveways, walks, loading platforms, or fire hydrants in or on property is prohibited.

(5) Parking without authority, parking in unauthorized locations or in locations reserved for other persons, or continuously in excess of 18 hours

without permission, or contrary to the direction of posted signs is prohibited. This section may be supplemented by the postmaster or installation head from time to time by the issuance and posting of specific traffic directives as may be required. When so issued and posted such directives shall have the same force and effect as if made a part hereof.

(l) *Weapons and explosives.* No person while on property shall carry firearms, other dangerous or deadly weapons, or explosives, either openly or concealed, except for official purposes.

(m) *Nondiscrimination.* There must be no discrimination by segregation or otherwise against any person or persons because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age (persons 40 years of age or older are protected), reprisal (discrimination against a person for having filed or for having participated in the processing of an EEO complaint—29 CFR 1613.261–262), or physical or mental handicap, in furnishing, or by refusing to furnish to such person or persons the use of any facility of a public nature, including all services, privileges, accommodations, and activities provided on postal property.

(n) *Conduct with regard to meetings of the Board of Governors.* (1) Without the permission of the chairman no person may participate in, film, televise, or broadcast any portion of any meeting of the Board or any subdivision or committee of the Board. Any person may electronically record or photograph a meeting, as long as that action does not tend to impede or disturb the members of the Board in the performance of their duties, or members of the public while attempting to attend or observe a meeting.

(2) Disorderly conduct, or conduct which creates loud or unusual noise, obstructs the ordinary use of entrances, foyers, corridors, offices, meeting rooms, elevators, stairways, or parking lots, or otherwise tends to impede or disturb the members of the Board in the performance of their duties, or members of the public while attempting to attend or observe a meeting of the Board or of any subdivision, or committee of the Board, is prohibited.

(3) Any person who violates paragraph (n) (1) or (2) of this section may, in addition to being subject to the penalties prescribed in paragraph (p) of this section, be removed from and barred from reentering postal property during the meeting with respect to which the violation occurred.

(4) A copy of the rules of this section governing conduct on postal property, including the rules of this paragraph appropriately highlighted, shall be posted in prominent locations at the public entrances to postal property and outside the meeting room at any meeting of the Board of Governors or of any subdivision or committee of the Board.

(o) *Depositing literature.* Depositing or posting handbills, flyers, pamphlets, signs, poster, placards, or other literature, except official postal and other Governmental notices and announcements, on the grounds, walks, driveways, parking and maneuvering areas, exteriors of buildings and other structures, or on the floors, walls, stairs, racks, counters, desks, writing tables, window-ledges, or furnishings in interior public areas on postal premises, is prohibited. This prohibition does not apply to:

(1) Posting notices on bulletin boards as authorized in § 243.2(a) of this chapter;

(2) Interior space assigned to tenants for their exclusive use;

(3) Posting of notices by U.S. Government-related organizations such as the Inaugural Committee as defined in 36 U.S.C. 721.

(p) *Penalties and other law.* (1) Alleged violations of these rules and regulations are heard, and the penalties prescribed herein are imposed, either in a Federal district court or by a Federal magistrate in accordance with applicable court rules. Questions regarding such rules should be directed to the regional counsel for the region involved.

(2) Whoever shall be found guilty of violating the rules and regulations in this section while on property under the charge and control of the Postal Service is subject to fine of not more than $50 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days, or both. Nothing contained in these rules and regulations shall be construed to abrogate any other Federal laws or regulations of

any State and local laws and regulations applicable to any area in which the property is situated.

(q) *Enforcement.* (1) Members of the U.S. Postal Service security force shall exercise the powers of special policemen provided by 40 U.S.C. 318 and shall be responsible for enforcing the regulations in this section in a manner that will protect Postal Service property.

(2) Local postmasters and installation heads may, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 318b and with the approval of the chief postal inspector or his designee, enter into agreements with State and local enforcement agencies to insure that these rules and regulations are enforced in a manner that will protect Postal Service property.

(3) Postal Inspectors may likewise enforce regulations in this section.

[37 FR 24346, Nov. 16, 1972, as amended at 38 FR 27824, Oct. 9, 1973; 41 FR 23955, June 14, 1976; 42 FR 17443, Apr. 1, 1977; 43 FR 38825, Aug. 31, 1978; 46 FR 898, Jan. 5, 1981. Redesignated and amended at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981; 47 FR 32113, July 26, 1982; 53 FR 29460, Aug. 5, 1988; 54 FR 20527, May 12, 1989; 57 FR 36903, Aug. 17, 1993; 57 FR 38443, Aug. 25, 1992]

PART 233—INSPECTION SERVICE/INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY

Sec.

233.1 Arrest and investigative powers of Postal Inspectors.
233.2 Circulars and rewards.
233.3 Mail covers.
233.4 Withdrawal of mail privileges.
233.5 Requesting financial records from a financial institution.
233.6 Test purchases under 39 U.S.C. 3005(e).
233.7 Forfeiture authority and procedures.
233.8 Expedited forfeiture proceedings for property seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities.
233.9 Expedited release of conveyances being forfeited in a judicial forfeiture proceeding for a drug-related offense.
233.10 Notice provisions.
233.11 Mail reasonably suspected of being dangerous to persons or property.
233.12 Civil penalties.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 402, 403, 404, 406, 410, 411, 3005(e)(1); 12 U.S.C. 3401–3422; 18 U.S.C. 981, 1956, 1957, 2254, 3061; 21 U.S.C. 881; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95–452, as amended), 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

§ 233.1 Arrest and investigative powers of Postal Inspectors.

(a) *Authorization.* Postal Inspectors are authorized to perform the following functions in connection with their official duties:

(1) Serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the authority of the United States;

(2) Make arrests without warrant for offenses against the United States committed in their presence;

(3) Make arrests without warrant for felonies cognizable under the laws of the United States if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person to be arrested has committed or is committing such a felony;

(4) Carry firearms; and

(5) Make seizures of property as provided by law.

(b) *Limitations.* The powers granted by paragraph (a) of this section shall be exercised only—

(1) In the enforcement of laws regarding property in the custody of the Postal Service, property of the Postal Service, the use of the mails, and other postal offenses; and

(2) To the extent authorized by the Attorney General pursuant to agreement between the Attorney General and the Postal Service, in the enforcement of other laws of the United States, if the Attorney General determines that the violation of such laws will have a detrimental effect upon the operations of the Postal Service.

(c) *Issuance of subpoenas.* (1) In accordance with part 273 of this chapter, the Chief Postal Inspector may issue subpoenas under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act.

(2) In accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, the Chief Postal Inspector may issue subpoenas to persons or entities other than Federal agencies for the production of information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data and documentary evidence necessary in the performance of functions assigned by the Inspector General Act.

(3) The Chief Postal Inspector hereby delegates authority to sign and issue

administrative subpoenas to the following officials: Deputy Chief Inspectors; Managers, Inspection Service Operations Support Group; and Inspector in Charge—Internal Affairs.

(4) Administrative subpoenas may be served by delivering a copy to a person or by mailing a copy to his or her last known address. For the purposes of this provision, delivery of a copy includes handing it to the party or leaving it at the party's office or residence with a person of suitable age and discretion employed or residing therein. Service by mail is complete upon mailing.

(d) In conducting any investigation or audit, Postal Inspectors are authorized to accept, maintain custody of, and deliver mail.

[36 FR 4762, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 19124, July 18, 1973. Redesignated at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981; 52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987; 56 FR 55823, Oct. 30, 1991; 60 FR 5581, Jan. 30, 1995]

§ 233.2 Circulars and rewards.

(a) *Wanted circulars.* The Inspection Service issues wanted circulars to assist in locating and arresting fugitive postal offenders. Post these circulars in the most conspicuous place in the post office lobby and in other prominent places. Post near the Notice of Reward sign. Telephone or telegraph immediately to the postal inspector in charge any information on the possible location of the person wanted. Remove and destroy circulars immediately when notified of their cancellation or when the circular is not listed in the periodic Postal Bulletin notices of current wanted circulars.

(b) *Rewards.* (1) Rewards will be paid in the amounts and under the conditions stated in Poster 296, *Notice of Reward,* for the arrest and conviction of persons for the following postal offenses:

(i) Robbery or attempted robbery.

(ii) Mailing bombs, explosives, poison, or controlled substances.

(iii) Post office burglary.

(iv) Stealing or unlawful possession of mail or money or property of the United States under the custody or control of the Postal Service, including property of the Postal Service.

(v) Destroying, obstructing or retarding the passage of mail.

(vi) Altering, counterfeiting, forging, unlawful uttering or passing of postal money orders; or the unlawful use, counterfeiting or forgery of postage stamps or other postage; or the use, sale or possession with intent to use or sell, any forged or counterfeited postage stamp or other postage.

(vii) Assault on postal employee.

(viii) Murder or manslaughter of a postal employee.

(ix) Mailing or receiving through the mail any visual depiction involving the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

(x) Mailing or causing to be mailed any money which has been obtained illegally.

(2) The postmaster or a designated employee should personally present reward notices to representatives of firms transporting mail, security or detective units of firms, police officers, sheriffs and their deputies, if practicable, and encourage their cooperation in protecting mail and Postal Service property. (See 273.14 of the Administrative Support Manual).

NOTE: The text of Poster 296, referred to in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, reads as follows:

The United States Postal Service offers a reward up to the amounts shown for information and services leading to the arrest and conviction of any person for the following offenses:

Murder or Manslaughter, $100,000. The unlawful killing of any officer or employee of the Postal Service while engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties.

Assault on Postal Employees, $15,000. Forcibly assaulting any officer or employee of the Postal Service while engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties.

Bombs or Explosives, $50,000. Mailing or causing to be mailed any bombs or explosives which may kill or harm another, or injure the mails or other property, or the placing of any bomb or explosive in a postal facility, vehicle, depository or receptacle established, approved or designated by the Postmaster General for the receipt of mail.

Postage or Meter Tampering, $50,000. The unlawful use, reuse, or forgery of postage stamps, postage meter stamps, permit imprints or other postage; or the use, sale or possession with intent to use or sell, any

used, forged or counterfeited postage stamps or other postage.

Robbery, $25,000. Robbery or attempted robbery of any custodian of any mail, or money or other property of the United States under the control and jurisdiction of the United States Postal Service.

Burglary of Post Office, $10,000. Breaking into, or attempting to break into, a post office, station, branch, building used wholly or partly as a post office, or any building or area in a building where the business of the Postal Service is conducted, with intent to commit a larceny or other depredation therein.

Money Laundering, $10,000. Mailing or causing to be mailed any money which has been illegally obtained.

Offenses Involving Postal Money Orders, $10,000. Theft or possession of stolen money orders or any Postal Service equipment used to imprint money orders; or altering, counterfeiting, forging, unlawful uttering, or passing of postal money orders.

Theft, Possession, Destruction, or Obstruction of Mail, $10,000. Theft or attempted theft of any mail, or the contents thereof, or the theft of money or any other property of the United States under the custody and control of the United States Postal Service from any custodian, postal vehicle, railroad depot, airport, or other transfer point, post office or station or receptacle or depository established, approved, or designated by the Postmaster General for the receipt of mail; or destroying, obstructing, or retarding the passage of mail, or any carrier or conveyance carrying the mail.

Child Pornography, $10,000. The mailing or receiving through the mail of any visual depiction involving the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Poison, Controlled Dangerous Substances, Hazardous Materials, Illegal Drugs, or Cash Proceeds from Illegal Drugs, $10,000. Mailing or causing to be mailed any poison, controlled substances, hazardous materials, illegal drugs, or the proceeds from the sale of illegal drugs.

RELATED OFFENSES

The United States Postal Service also offers rewards as stated above for information and services leading to the arrest and conviction of any person: (1) For being an accessory to any of the above crimes; (2) for receiving or having unlawful possession of any mail, money or property secured through the above crimes; and (3) for conspiracy to commit any of the above crimes.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Postal Inspection Service investigates the above described crimes. Information concerning the violations, requests for applications for rewards, and written claims for rewards should be furnished to the nearest Postal Inspector. The written claim for reward payment must be submitted within six months from the date of conviction of the offender, or the date of formally deferred prosecution or the date of the offender's death, if killed in committing a crime or resisting lawful arrest for one of the above offenses.

2. The amount of any reward will be based on the significance of services rendered, character of the offender, risks and hazards involved, time spent, and expenses incurred. Amounts of rewards shown above are the maximum amounts which will be paid.

3. The term ''custodian'' as used herein includes any person having lawful charge, control, or custody of any mail matter, or any money or other property of the United States under the control and jurisdiction of the United States Postal Service.

4. The Postal Service reserves the right to reject a claim for reward where there has been collusion, criminal involvement, or improper methods have been used to effect an arrest or to secure a conviction. It has the right to allow only one reward when several persons were convicted of the same offense, or one person was convicted of several of the above offenses.

5. Other rewards not specifically referred to in this notice may be offered upon the approval of the Chief Postal Inspection (39 U.S.C. 404 (a)(8).

(c) The Chief Postal Inspector or his delegate is authorized to pay a reward to any person who provides information leading to the detection of persons or firms who obtain, or seek to obtain, funds, property, or services from the Postal Service based upon false or fraudulent activities, statements or claims. The decision as to whether a reward shall be paid and the amount thereof shall be solely within the discretion of the Chief Postal Inspector or his delegate and the submission of information or a claim for a reward shall not establish a contractual right to receive any reward. The reward shall not exceed one-half of the amount collected by the Postal Service as a result of civil or criminal proceedings to recover losses or penalties as a result of false or fraudulent claims or statements submitted to the Postal Service. Postal employees assigned to the Postal Inspection Service or the Law Department are not eligible to receive a reward under this section for information obtained while so employed. The Chief Inspector may establish such procedures and forms as may be desirable

to give effect to this section including procedures to protect the identity of persons claiming rewards under this section.

[36 FR 4673, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 43836, Aug. 31, 1977. Redesignated at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981, and amended at 47 FR 26832, June 22, 1982; 47 FR 46498, Oct. 19, 1982; 49 FR 15191, Apr. 18, 1984; 54 FR 37795, Sept. 13, 1989; 55 FR 32251, Aug. 8, 1990; 59 FR 5326, Feb. 4, 1994; 60 FR 54305, Oct. 23, 1995]

§ 233.3 Mail covers.

(a) *Policy.* The U.S. Postal Service maintains rigid control and supervision with respect to the use of mail covers as an investigative technique for law enforcement or the protection of national security.

(b) *Scope.* These regulations constitute the sole authority and procedure for initiating a mail cover, and for processing, using and disclosing information obtained from mail covers.

(c) *Definitions.* For purpose of these regulations, the following terms are hereby defined.

(1) *Mail cover* is the process by which a nonconsensual record is made of any data appearing on the outside cover of any sealed or unsealed class of mail matter, or by which a record is made of the contents of any unsealed class of mail matter as allowed by law, to obtain information in order to:

(i) Protect national security,

(ii) Locate a fugitive,

(iii) Obtain evidence of commission or attempted commission of a crime,

(iv) Obtain evidence of a violation or attempted violation of a postal statute, or

(v) Assist in the identification of property, proceeds or assets forfeitable under law.

(2) For the purposes of § 233.3 *record* is a transcription, photograph, photocopy or any other facsimile of the image of the outside cover, envelope, wrapper, or contents of any class of mail.

(3) *Sealed mail* is mail on which appropriate postage is paid, and which under postal laws and regulations is included within a class of mail maintained by the Postal Service for the transmission of mail sealed against inspection, including First-Class Mail, Express Mail, international letter mail, and mailgram messages.

(4) *Unsealed mail* is mail on which appropriate postage for sealed mail has not been paid and which under postal laws or regulations is not included within a class of mail maintained by the Postal Service for the transmission of mail sealed against inspection. Unsealed mail includes second-, third-, and fourth-class mail, and international parcel post mail.

(5) *Fugitive* is any person who has fled from the United States or any State, the District of Columbia, territory or possession of the United States, to avoid prosecution for a crime, to avoid punishment for a crime, or to avoid giving testimony in a criminal proceeding.

(6) *Crime,* for the purposes of this section, is any commission of an act or the attempted commission of an act that is punishable by law by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

(7) *Postal statute* refers to a statute describing criminal activity, regardless of the term of imprisonment, for which the Postal Service has investigative authority, or which is directed against the Postal Service, its operations, programs, or revenues.

(8) *Law enforcement agency* is any authority of the Federal Government or any authority of a State or local government, one of whose functions is to:

(i) Investigate the commission or attempted commission of acts constituting a crime, or

(ii) Protect the national security.

(9) *Protection of the national security* means to protect the United States from any of the following actual or potential threats to its security by a foreign power or its agents:

(i) An attack or other grave, hostile act;

(ii) Sabotage, or international terrorism; or

(iii) Clandestine intelligence activities, including commercial espionage.

(10) *Emergency situation* refers to circumstances which require the immediate release of information to prevent the loss of evidence or in which there is a potential for immediate physical harm to persons or property.

(d) *Authorizations—Chief Postal Inspector.* (1) The Chief Postal Inspector is the principal officer of the Postal Service in the administration of all

matters governing mail covers. The Chief Postal Inspector may delegate any or all authority in this regard to not more than two designees at Inspection Service Headquarters.

(2) Except for national security mail covers, the Chief Postal Inspector may also delegate any or all authority to the Manager, Inspector Service Operations Support Group, and, for emergency situations, to Inspectors in Charge. The Manager, Inspection Service Operations Support Group, may delegate this authority to no more than two designees at each Operations Support Group.

(3) All such delegations of authority shall be issued through official, written directives. Except for delegations at Inspection Service Headquarters, such delegations shall only apply to the geographic areas served by the Manager, Inspection Service Operation Support Group, or designee.

(e) The Chief Postal Inspector, or his designee, may order mail covers under the following circumstances:

(1) When a written request is received from a postal inspector that states reason to believe a mail cover will produce evidence relating to the violation of a postal statute.

(2) When a written request is received from any law enforcement agency in which the requesting authority specifies the reasonable grounds to demonstrate the mail cover is necessary to:

(i) Protect the national security,

(ii) Locate a fugitive,

(iii) Obtain information regarding the commission or attempted commission of a crime, or

(iv) Assist in the identification of property, proceeds or assets forfeitable because of a violation of criminal law.

(3) When time is of the essence, the Chief Postal Inspector, or designee, may act upon an oral request to be confirmed by the requesting authority in writing within three calendar days. Information may be released by the Chief Postal Inspector or designee, prior to receipt of the written request, only when the releasing official is satisfied that an emergency situation exists.

(f)(1) *Exceptions.* A postal inspector, or a postal employee acting at the direction of a postal inspector, may record the information appearing on the envelope or outer wrapping, of mail without obtaining a mail cover order, only under the circumstances in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

(2) The mail must be:

(i) Undelivered mail found abandoned or in the possession of a person reasonably believed to have stolen or embezzled such mail,

(ii) Damaged or rifled, undelivered mail, or

(iii) An immediate threat to persons or property.

(g) *Limitations.* (1) No person in the Postal Service except those employed for that purpose in dead-mail offices, may open, or inspect the contents of, or permit the opening or inspection of sealed mail without a federal search warrant, even though it may contain criminal or otherwise nonmailable matter, or furnish evidence of the commission of a crime, or the violation of a postal statute.

(2) No employee of the Postal Service shall open or inspect the contents of any unsealed mail, except for the purpose of determining:

(i) Payment of proper postage, or

(ii) Mailability.

(3) No mail cover shall include matter mailed between the mail cover subject and the subject's known attorney.

(4) No officer or employee of the Postal Service other than the Chief Postal Inspector, Manager, Inspection Service Operations Support Group, and their designees, are authorized to order mail covers. Under no circumstances may a postmaster or postal employee furnish information as defined in § 233.3(c)(1) to any person, except as authorized by a mail cover order issued by the Chief Postal Inspector or designee, or as directed by a postal inspector under the circumstances described in § 233.3(f).

(5) Except for mail covers ordered upon fugitives or subjects engaged, or suspected to be engaged, in any activity against the national security, no mail cover order shall remain in effect for more than 30 days, unless adequate justification is provided by the requesting authority. At the expiration of the mail cover order period, or prior thereto, the requesting authority may be granted additional 30-day periods under

the same conditions and procedures applicable to the original request. The requesting authority must provide a statement of the investigative benefit of the mail cover and anticipated benefits to be derived from its extension.

(6) No mail cover shall remain in force longer than 120 continuous days unless personally approved for further extension by the Chief Postal Inspector or designees at National Headquarters.

(7) Except for fugitive cases, no mail cover shall remain in force when an information has been filed or the subject has been indicted for the matter for which the mail cover is requested. If the subject is under investigation for further criminal violations, or a mail cover is required to assist in the identification of property, proceeds or assets forfeitable because of a violation of criminal law, a new mail cover order must be requested consistent with these regulations.

(8) Any national security mail cover request must be approved personally by the head of the law enforcement agency requesting the cover or one designee at the agency's headquarters level. The head of the agency shall notify the Chief Postal Inspector in writing of such designation.

(h) *Records.* (1) All requests for mail covers, with records of action ordered thereon, and all reports issued pursuant thereto, shall be deemed within the custody of the Chief Postal Inspector. However, the physical storage of this data shall be at the discretion of the Chief Postal Inspector.

(2) If the Chief Postal Inspector, or his designee, determines a mail cover was improperly ordered, all data acquired while the cover was in force shall be destroyed, and the requesting authority notified of the discontinuance of the mail cover and the reasons therefor.

(3) Any data concerning mail covers shall be made available to any mail cover subject in any legal proceeding through appropriate discovery procedures.

(4) The retention period for files and records pertaining to mail covers shall be 8 years.

(i) *Reporting to requesting authority.* Once a mail cover has been duly ordered, authorization may be delegated to any employee in the Postal Inspection Service to transmit mail cover reports directly to the requesting authority.

(j) *Review.* (1) The Chief Postal Inspector, or his designee at Inspection Service Headquarters shall periodically review mail cover orders issued by the Manager, Inspection Service Operations Support Group or their designees to ensure compliance with these regulations and procedures.

(2) The Chief Postal Inspector shall select and appoint a designee to conduct a periodic review of national security mail cover orders.

(3) The Chief Postal Inspector's determination in all matters concerning mail covers shall be final and conclusive and not subject to further administrative review.

(k) *Military postal system.* Section 233.3 does not apply to the military postal system overseas or to persons performing military postal duties overseas. Information about regulations prescribed by the Department of Defense for the military postal system overseas may be obtained from the Department of Defense.

[58 FR 36599, July 8, 1993, as amended at 61 FR 42557, Aug. 16, 1996]

§ 233.4 Withdrawal of mail privileges.

(a) *False representation and lottery orders*—(1) *Issuance.* Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005, the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service, acting upon a satisfactory evidentiary basis, may issue a mail-stop order against anyone seeking mailed remittance of money or property by means of a false-representation or lottery scheme. Such orders provide for return of mail and refund of postal money orders to remitters.

(2) *Enforcement.* Notice of these orders, including any necessary instructions on enforcement responsibilities and procedures, is published in the Postal Bulletin. Generally, an order against a domestic enterprise is enforced only by the post office designated in the order. All personnel processing mail for dispatch abroad assist in enforcing orders against foreign enterprises by forwarding mail addressed to such enterprises to designated post offices.

(b) *Fictitious name or address and not residents of the place of address orders.* (1) *Issuance.* Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004, when there is satisfactory evidence that mail is addressed to a fictitious name, title, or address used for any unlawful business, and no one has established a right to have the mail delivered to him, or that mail is addressed to places not the residence or regular business address of the person for whom they are intended to enable the person to escape identification, the Judicial Officer may, pursuant to Part 964, order that the mail be returned to the sender.

(2) *Notice.* (i) The Chief Postal Inspector or his delegate must give notice to the addressee of mail withheld from delivery pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004 that such action has been taken and advise him that he may:

(A) Obtain such mail upon presenting proof of his identity and right to receive such mail, or

(B) Petition the Judicial Officer for the return of such mail. (ii) The notice must be in writing and served by personal service upon the addressee or by Certified Mail (Return Receipt Requested) and by First Class Mail.

(3) *Enforcement.* Notice of any order issued pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004, and any necessary implementing instructions, are published in the Postal Bulletin.

[45 FR 1613, Jan. 8, 1980. Redesignated at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981, and amended at 53 FR 1780, Jan. 22, 1988]

§ 233.5 Requesting financial records from a financial institution.

(a) *Definitions.* The terms used in this section have the same meaning as similar terms used in the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, Title XI of Pub. L. 95–630. *Act* means the *Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978.*

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of these regulations is: (1) To authorize the Inspection Service Department of the U.S. Postal Service to request financial records from a financial institution pursuant to the formal written request procedure authorized by section 1108 of the Act and (2) to set forth the conditions under which such request may be made.

(c) *Authorization.* The Inspection Service Department is authorized to request financial records of any customer from a financial institution pursuant to a formal written request under the Act only if:

(1) No administrative summons or subpoena authority reasonably appears to be available to the Inspection Service Department to obtain financial records for the purpose for which the records are sought;

(2) There is reason to believe that the records sought are relevant to a legitimate law enforcement inquiry and will further that inquiry;

(3) The request is issued by a supervisory official of a rank designated by the Chief Postal Inspector. Officials so designated shall not delegate this authority to others;

(4) The request adheres to the requirements set forth in paragraph (d) of this section; and

(5) The notice requirements set forth in section 1108(4) of the Act, or the requirements pertaining to the delay of notice in section 1109 of the Act, are satisfied, except in situations (*e.g.*, section 1113(g)) where no notice is required.

(d) *Written request.* (1) The formal request must be in the form of a letter or memorandum to an appropriate official of the financial institution and must contain:

(i) The signature of the issuing official and the official's name, title, business address, and business phone number;

(ii) The identity of the customer or customers to whom the records pertain;

(iii) A reasonable description of the records sought; and

(iv) Any additional information which may be appropriate—*e.g.*, the date when the opportunity for the customer to challenge the formal written request expires, the date when the Inspection Service Department expects to present a certificate of compliance with the applicable provisions of the Act, the name and title of the individual (if known) to whom disclosure is to be made.

(2) In cases where customer notice is delayed by court order, a copy of the

court order must be attached to the formal written request.

(e) *Certification.* Before obtaining the requested records following a formal written request, a supervisory official authorized to issue a request must certify in writing to the financial institution that the Inspection Service Department has complied with the applicable provisions of the Act.

[44 FR 39161, July 5, 1979. Redesignated at 46 FR 34330, July 1, 1981]

§ 233.6 Test purchases under 39 U.S.C. 3005(e).

(a) *Scope.* This section, which implements 39 U.S.C. 3005(e), supplements any postal regulations or instructions regarding test purchases or test purchase procedures. It is limited to test purchases conducted according to 39 U.S.C. 3005(e).

(b) *Definitions*—(1) *Test purchase.* The acquisition of any article or service, for which money or property are sought through the mails, from the person or representative offering the article or service. The purpose is to investigate possible violations of postal laws.

(2) *Test Purchase Request.* A written document requesting the sale of an article or service pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005(e) and containing the following information:

(i) The name and address of the person, firm, or corporation to whom the request is directed;

(ii) The name, title, signature, office mailing address, and office telephone number of the person making the request;

(iii) A description of the article or service requested which is sufficient to enable the person to whom the request is made to identify the article or service being sought;

(iv) A statement of the nature of the conduct under investigation;

(v) A statement that the article or service must be tendered at the time and place stated in the purchase request, unless the person making the request and the person to whom it is made agree otherwise in writing;

(vi) A verbatim statement of 39 U.S.C. 3005, 3007; and

(vii) A statement that failure to provide the requested article or service may be considered in a proceeding under 39 U.S.C. 3007 to determine whether probable cause exists to believe that 39 U.S.C. 3005 is being violated.

(c) *Service of Test Purchase Request.*—(1) The original of the Test Purchase Request must be delivered to the person, firm, or corporation to whom the request is made or to his or its representative. It must be accompanied by a check or money order in the amount for which the article or service is offered for sale, made payable to the person, firm or corporation making the offer.

(2) The person serving the Test Purchase Request must make and sign a record, stating the date and place of service and the name of the person served. The person making the request must retain a copy of the Test Purchase Request, the record of service, and the money order receipt or a photocopy of the issued check or the cancelled check. Alternatively, the request may be made by certified mail.

(d) *Authorizations.* The Chief Postal Inspector is the principal officer of the Postal Service for the administration of all matters governing test purchases under this section. The Chief Inspector may delegate any or all authority in this regard to any or all postal inspectors.

[49 FR 7230, Feb. 28, 1984; 49 FR 8250, Mar. 6, 1984]

§ 233.7 Forfeiture authority and procedures.

(a) *Designation of officials having forfeiture authority.* The Chief Postal Inspector is authorized to perform all duties and responsibilities necessary on behalf of the Postal Service to enforce 18 U.S.C. 981, 2254, and 21 U.S.C. 881, to delegate all or any part of this authority to Deputy Chief Inspectors, Inspectors in Charge, and Inspectors of the Postal Inspection Service, and to issue such instructions as may be necessary to carry out this authority.

(b) *Administrative forfeiture authority.* The Chief Postal Inspector is authorized to conduct administrative forfeitures under the statutes identified in paragraph (a) of this section, following,

where applicable, the procedures provided by the customs laws of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1600 *et seq.*), and to pay valid liens and mortgages against property that has been so forfeited.

(c) *Inventory.* An inventory of all property seized for forfeiture under the statutes identified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be prepared and maintained by the Postal Inspection Service. The inventory should occur within seven days of the seizure. The inventory must, at a minimum, identify all property seized, state the exact location of the property at the time of its seizure, and describe in detail the condition of the property. A written receipt containing such information and identifying the Postal Inspector who conducted the seizure must be provided to the party from whom the property was seized, or the party's agent or representative, at the time of the seizure or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

(d) *Custody.* Custody of all property seized for forfeiture under the statutes identified in paragraph (a) of this section is maintained by the U.S. Marshals Service, except property held for evidentiary purposes; retained for official use upon forfeiture; subject to equitable transfer to federal, state or local law enforcement agencies; or subject to civil administrative forfeiture.

(e) *Appraisal.* The Postal Inspection Service must promptly obtain or complete an appraisal of all seized property. The appraisal value is the fair market value of the property, which is the highest price, in terms of money, which a property will bring in a competitive and open market.

(f) *Quick-release.* Property subject to administrative forfeiture may, prior to forfeiture, be released by the Postal Inspection Service to the owner of the property having an immediate right to possession of the property when the Postal Inspection Service concludes that release of the property is in the best interest of justice. An agreement to hold harmless the United States, the Postal Inspection Service, and all other involved entities should be obtained from the owner. A decision for quick release of the property should be made within five days of the seizure.

(g) *Judicial forfeiture.* If the appraised value of property seized exceeds $500,000, with the exception of: (1) Monetary instruments within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. 5312(a)(3), or (2) any conveyance which was used to import, export, transport, or store any controlled substance or if a claim and satisfactory bond have been received for property appraised at $500,000 or less, or for any monetary instruments within the meaning of 31 U.S.C. 5312(a)(3) or any conveyance which was used to import, export, transport, or store any controlled substance the Postal Inspection Service must transmit the claim and bond to the U.S. Attorney for the judicial district in which the seizure was made and request that the U.S. Attorney promptly institute a judicial forfeiture proceeding against the property. The Postal Inspection Service must provide the U.S. Attorney a complete written description of the property, a statement of the facts and circumstances leading to the seizure of the property, including all facts and documentation leading to the conclusion that the seized property is subject to forfeiture, and such additional information as the U.S. Attorney may require for the purpose of instituting a judicial forfeiture action.

(h) *Notice of seizure for property having a value of $500,000 or less, or for monetary instruments or for conveyances which were used to transport or store any controlled substance; advertisement; declaration of forfeiture.* (1) The Postal Inspection Service must cause written notice of the seizure of all property subject to civil administrative forfeiture to be sent to each known party that may have a possessory or ownership interest in the seized property. The notice must describe the property seized; state the date, place, and cause for seizure; and inform the party of the intent of the Postal Inspection Service to forfeit the property. In addition, the notice must state that any person desiring a judicial determination of forfeiture must file a claim and bond (see paragraph 2 of this subsection) with a designated official of the Postal Inspection Service, within twenty days from the date of the first publication of the notice of seizure (see paragraph (4) of this subsection), or of the date of the letter of personal notice required by this paragraph, whichever is later. Any claim

submitted pursuant to this paragraph is invalid unless accompanied by a bond meeting the requirements of paragraph (2), or a completed PS Form 1518, *Petition to Proceed in Forma Pauperis.*

(2) A bond in the amount of $5,000 or ten percent of the value of the claimed property, whichever is lower, but in no event less than $250, must accompany any claim submitted pursuant to paragraph (1). The bond may be in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or money order made payable to the United States of America, or satisfactory sureties. If a claimant is financially unable to post the bond because of indigency, such a person may request a waiver of the bond by completion of PS Form 1518, *Petition to Proceed in Forma Pauperis.*

(3) Upon receipt of the claim and bond, the Postal Inspection Service must, upon determining that the documents are in proper form and the sureties satisfactory, transmit the documents to the appropriate U.S. Attorney as provided in subsection (g). If the documents are not satisfactory, the Postal Inspection Service must notify the party making the claim and may allow a reasonable time for correction. If correction is not made within the time allowed for that purpose, the administrative forfeiture must proceed as though the claim and bond had not been tendered.

(4) Notice of administrative forfeiture proceedings containing the information required by subsection (h)(1) must be published once each week for at least three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the judicial district in which the property was seized. If a claim and satisfactory bond is not filed within the time allowed, the Postal Inspection Service may declare the property forfeited.

(i) *Disposition of forfeited property.* (1) Whenever property is forfeited administratively, the Postal Inspection Service may:

(i) Retain the property for official use;

(ii) Transfer ownership of the property to any federal, state or local law enforcement agency that participated in the investigation leading to the forfeiture;

(iii) Sell any property which is not required to be destroyed by law and which is not harmful to the public;

(iv) Destroy the property; or

(v) Dispose of the property as otherwise permitted by law.

(2) If the laws of a state in which an article of forfeited property is located prohibit the sale or possession of such property or if the Postal Service and the Marshals Service are of the opinion that it would be more advantageous to sell the forfeited property in another district, the property may be moved to and sold in such other district.

(3) If, after an administrative forfeiture of property is completed, it appears that the proceeds of sale will not be sufficient to pay the costs of sale or the proceeds will be insignificant in relation to the expenses involved in the forfeiture, then the Postal Service or the Marshals Service may order destruction or other disposition of the property including alteration of the property into an article that is not prohibited.

(j) *Remission or mitigation of administrative, civil, and criminal forfeitures*—(1) *Authority, purpose, and scope*—(i) *Purpose.* This section sets forth the procedures for Postal Inspection Service officials to follow when considering remission or mitigation of administrative forfeitures under the jurisdiction of the Postal Service. The purpose of these regulations is to provide a basis for ameliorating the effects of forfeiture through the partial or total remission of forfeiture for individuals who have an interest in the forfeited property but who did not participate in, or have knowledge of, the conduct that resulted in the property being subject to forfeiture and, where required, took all reasonable steps under the circumstances to ensure that such property would not be used, acquired, or disposed of contrary to law. Additionally, these regulations provide for partial or total mitigation of the forfeiture and imposition of alternative conditions in appropriate circumstances.

(ii) *Authority to grant remission and mitigation.* (A) Remission and mitigation functions in administrative forfeitures are performed by the agency seizing the property. Within the Postal Inspection Service, authority to grant

remission and mitigation is delegated to the Independent Counsel, Office of the Chief Inspector, Washington, DC.

(B) Remission and mitigation functions in judicial cases are within the jurisdiction of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. Within the Criminal Division, authority to grant remission and mitigation has been delegated to the Chief, Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section.

(C) The powers and responsibilities within these regulations may be redelegated to attorneys or managers working under the supervision of the designated officials.

(D) The time periods and internal requirements established in these regulations are designed to guide the orderly administration of the remission and mitigation process and are not intended to create rights or entitlements in favor of individuals seeking remission or mitigation. These regulations will apply to all decisions on petitions for remission or mitigation made on or after July 1, 1997. These regulations will apply to decisions on requests for reconsideration of a denial of a petition under paragraphs (j)(3)(x) and (3)(xi) of this section only if the initial decision on the petition was made under the provisions of this part effective July 1, 1997.

(E) This section governs any petition for remission or mitigation filed with the Chief Postal Inspector and supersedes any Postal Service regulation governing petitions for remission or mitigation to the extent such regulation is inconsistent with this section.

(2) *Definitions.* As used in this part:

(i) The term *administrative forfeiture* means the process by which property may be forfeited by an investigative agency rather than through judicial proceedings.

(ii) The term *appraised value* means the estimated market value of an asset at the time and place of seizure if such or similar property was freely offered for sale between a willing seller and a willing buyer.

(iii) The term *Attorney General* means the Attorney General of the United States or his or her designee.

(iv) The term *beneficial owner* means a person with actual use of, as well as an interest in, the property subject to forfeiture.

(v) The term *general creditor* means one whose claim or debt is not secured by a specific right to obtain satisfaction against the particular property subject to forfeiture.

(vi) The term *judgment creditor* means one who has obtained a judgment against the debtor but has not yet received full satisfaction of the judgment.

(vii) The term *judicial forfeiture* means either a civil or criminal proceeding in a United States District Court that may result in a final judgment and order of forfeiture.

(viii) The term *lienholder* means a creditor whose claim or debt is secured by a specific right to obtain satisfaction against the particular property subject to forfeiture. A lien creditor qualifies as a lienholder if the lien:

(A) Was established by operation of law or contract;

(B) Was created as a result of an exchange of money, goods, or services; and

(C) Is perfected against the specific property forfeited for which remission or mitigation is sought (e.g., a real estate mortgage, a mechanic's lien).

(ix) The term *net equity* means the amount of a lienholder's monetary interest in property subject to forfeiture. Net equity shall be computed by determining the amount of unpaid principal and unpaid interest at the time of seizure, and by adding to that sum unpaid interest calculated from the date of seizure through the last full month prior to the date of the decision on the petition. Where a rate of interest is set forth in a security agreement, the rate of interest to be used in this computation will be the annual percentage rate so specified in the security agreement that is the basis of the lienholder's interest. In this computation, however, there shall be no allowances for attorneys' fees, accelerated or enhanced interest charges, amounts set by contract as damages, unearned extended warranty fees, insurance, service contract charges incurred after the date of seizure, allowances for dealer's reserve, or any other similar charges.

(x) The term *owner* means the person in whom primary title is vested or

whose interest is manifested by the actual and beneficial use of the property, even though the title is vested in another. A victim of an offense as defined in paragraph (j) (2)(xxi) of this section may also be an owner if he or she has a present legally cognizable ownership interest in the property forfeited. A nominal owner of property will not be treated as its true owner if he or she is not its beneficial owner.

(xi) The term *person* means an individual, partnership, corporation, joint business enterprise, estate, or other legal entity capable of owning property.

(xii) The term *petition* means a petition for remission or mitigation of forfeiture under these regulations. This definition includes a petition for restoration of the proceeds of sale of forfeited property and a petition for the value of forfeited property placed into official use.

(xiii) The term *petitioner* means the person applying for remission, mitigation, restoration of the proceeds of sale, or for the appraised value of forfeited property under these regulations. A petitioner may be an owner of forfeited property as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(x) of this section; a lienholder as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(viii) of this section; or a victim as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(xxi) of this section subject to the limitations of paragraph (j)(8) of this section.

(xiv) The term *Postal Service Fund* means the United States Postal Fund established under 39 U.S.C. 2003.

(xv) The term *property* means real or personal property of any kind capable of being owned or possessed.

(xvi) The term *record* means a series of arrests for related crimes, unless the arrestee was acquitted or the charges were dismissed for lack of evidence; a conviction for a related crime or completion of sentence within ten years of the acquisition of the property subject to forfeiture; or two convictions for a related crime at any time in the past.

(xvii) The term *related crime* as used in paragraphs (j)(2)(xvi) and (6)(v) of this section means any crime similar in nature to that which gives rise to the seizure of property for forfeiture. For example, where property is seized for a violation of the federal laws dealing with drugs, a related crime would be any offense involving a violation of the federal laws relating to drugs or the laws of any state or political subdivision thereof relating to drugs.

(xviii) The term *related offense* as used in paragraph (j)(8) of this section means:

(A) Any predicate offense charged in a Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) count for which forfeiture was ordered; or

(B) An offense committed as part of the same scheme or design, or pursuant to the same conspiracy, as was involved in the offense for which the forfeiture was ordered.

(xix) The term *Ruling Official* means any official to whom decision making authority has been delegated pursuant to paragraph (j)(1)(ii) of this section.

(xx) The term *seizing agency* means the federal agency that seized the property or adopted the seizure of another agency for federal forfeiture.

(xxi) The term *victim* means a person who has incurred a pecuniary loss as a direct result of the commission of the offense underlying a forfeiture. A drug user is not considered a victim of a drug trafficking offense under this definition. A victim does not include one who acquires a right to sue the perpetrator of the criminal offense for any loss by assignment, subrogation, inheritance, or otherwise from the actual victim, unless that person has acquired an actual ownership interest in the forfeited property.

(xxii) The term *violator* means the person whose use or acquisition of the property in violation of the law subjected such property to seizure for forfeiture.

(3) *Petitions in administrative forfeiture cases*—(i) *Notice of seizure.* The notice of seizure and intent to forfeit the property shall advise any persons who may have a present ownership interest in the property to submit their petitions for remission or mitigation within thirty (30) days of the date they receive the notice in order to facilitate processing. Petitions shall be considered any time after notice until the forfeited property is placed into official

use, sold, or otherwise disposed of according to law, except in cases involving petitions to restore the proceeds from the sale of forfeited property. A notice of seizure shall include the title of the seizing agency, the Ruling Official, the mailing and street address of the official to whom petitions should be sent, and an asset identifier number.

(ii) *Persons who may file.* A petition for remission or mitigation must be filed by a petitioner as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(xiii) of this section or as prescribed in paragraphs (j)(9) (vii) and (viii) of this section.

(iii) *Contents of petition.* (A) All petitions must include the following information in clear and concise terms:

(*1*) The name, address, and social security or other taxpayer identification number of the person claiming an interest in the seized property who is seeking remission or mitigation;

(*2*) The name of the seizing agency, the asset identifier number, and the date and place of seizure;

(*3*) A complete description of the property including make, model, and serial numbers, if any; and

(*4*) A description of the petitioner's interest in the property as owner, lienholder, or otherwise, supported by original or certified bills of sale, contracts, deeds, mortgages, or other documentary evidence.

(B) Any factual recitation or documentation of any type in a petition must be supported by a sworn affidavit.

(iv) *Releases.* In addition to the contents of the petition for remission or mitigation set forth in paragraph (j)(3)(iii) of this section, upon request, the petitioner shall also furnish the agency with an instrument executed by the titled or registered owner and any other known claimant of an interest in the property releasing interest in such property.

(v) *Filing petition with agency.* (A) A petition for remission or mitigation of an administrative forfeiture by the Postal Inspection Service shall be sent to the Chief Postal Inspector, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260–2100.

(B) The petition shall be sworn to by the petitioner or by the petitioner's attorney upon information and belief, supported by the client's sworn notice of representation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, as set out in paragraph (j)(9)(vii) of this section.

(vi) *Agency investigation.* Upon receipt of a petition, the Postal Inspection Service shall investigate the merits of the petition and prepare a written report containing the results of that investigation. This report shall be submitted to the Ruling Official for review and consideration.

(vii) *Ruling.* Upon receipt of the petition and the agency report, the Ruling Official shall review the petition and the report, and shall rule on the merits of the petition. No hearing shall be held.

(viii) *Petitions granted.* If the Ruling Official grants a remission or mitigation of the forfeiture, a copy of the decision shall be sent by certified mail to the petitioner, or, if represented by an attorney, to the petitioner's attorney. A copy of the decision shall also be sent to the U.S. Marshals Service or other property custodian. The written decision shall include the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the remission or mitigation is granted and the procedures the petitioner must follow to obtain release of the property or the monetary interest therein.

(ix) *Petitions denied.* If the Ruling Official denies a petition, a copy of the decision shall be sent by certified mail to the petitioner, or, if represented by an attorney, to the petitioner's attorney of record. A copy of the decision shall also be sent to the U.S. Marshals Service or other property custodian. The written decision shall specify the reason that the petition was denied. The decision shall advise the petitioner that a request for reconsideration of the denial of the petition may be submitted to the Ruling Official in accordance with paragraph (j)(3)(x) of this section.

(x) *Request for reconsideration.* (A) A request for reconsideration of the denial of the petition shall be considered if:

(*1*) It is postmarked or received by the office of the Ruling Official within ten (10) days from the receipt of the notice of the denial of the petition by the petitioner; and

(*2*) The request is based on information or evidence not previously considered that is material to the basis for the denial or presents a basis clearly demonstrating that the denial was erroneous.

(B) In no event shall a request for reconsideration be decided by the same Ruling Official who ruled on the original petition.

(C) Only one request for reconsideration of a denial of a petition shall be considered.

(xi) *Restoration of proceeds from sale.* (A) A petition for restoration of the proceeds from the sale of forfeited property, or for the appraised value of forfeited property when the forfeited property has been retained by or delivered to a government agency for official use, may be submitted by an owner or lienholder in cases in which the petitioner:

(*1*) Did not know of the seizure prior to the entry of a declaration of forfeiture; and

(*2*) Could not reasonably have known of the seizure prior to the entry of a declaration of forfeiture.

(B) Such a petition shall be submitted pursuant to paragraphs (j)(3)(ii) through (v) of this section within ninety (90) days from the date the property is sold or otherwise disposed of.

(4) *Petitions in judicial forfeiture cases*—(i) *Procedure for filing petition.* If the forfeiture proceedings are judicial, a petition for remission or mitigation of a judicial forfeiture shall be addressed to the Attorney General; shall be sworn to by the petitioner or by the petitioner's attorney upon information and belief, supported by the client's sworn notice of representation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746; and shall be submitted to the United States Attorney for the district in which the judicial forfeiture proceedings are brought. A petitioner also shall submit a copy of the petition to the Chief Postal Inspector if the Postal Inspection Service was the seizing agency.

(ii) *Ruling.* Department of Justice regulations on petitions for remission or mitigation in judicial forfeiture cases are stated in 29 CFR 9.4.

(5) *Criteria governing administrative remission and mitigation*—(i) *Remission.* (A) The Ruling Official shall not grant remission of a forfeiture unless the petitioner establishes that:

(*1*) The petitioner has a valid, good faith and legally cognizable interest in the seized property as owner or lienholder as defined in these regulations; and

(*2*) The petitioner is innocent within the meaning of the innocent owner provisions of the applicable civil forfeiture statute, is a bona fide purchaser for value without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture at the time of the purchase, or is one who held a legally cognizable interest in the seized property at the time of the violation underlying the forfeiture superior to that of the defendant within the meaning of the applicable criminal forfeiture statute, and is thereby entitled to recover his or her interest in the forfeited property by statute. (If the applicable civil forfeiture statute contains no innocent owner defense, the innocent owner provisions applicable to 21 U.S.C. 881(a)(4) shall apply.) Unless otherwise provided by statute, in the case of petitioners who acquired their interest in the property after the time of the violation underlying the forfeiture, the question of whether the petitioner had knowledge of the violation shall be determined as of the point in time when the interest in the property was acquired.

(B) The knowledge and responsibilities of petitioner's representative, agent, or employee in paragraph (j)(5)(i)(A)(*2*) of this section are imputed to the petitioner where the representative, agent, or employee was acting in the course of his or her employment and in furtherance of the petitioner's business.

(C) The petitioner has the burden of establishing the basis for granting a petition for remission or mitigation of forfeited property, a restoration of proceeds of sale or appraised value of forfeited property, or a reconsideration of a denial of such a petition. Failure to provide information or documents and to submit to interviews, as requested, may result in a denial of the petition.

(D) The Ruling Official shall presume a valid forfeiture and shall not consider whether the evidence is sufficient to support the forfeiture.

(E) Willful, materially false statements or information, made or furnished by the petitioner in support of a petition for remission or mitigation of forfeited property, the restoration of proceeds or appraised value of forfeited property, or the reconsideration of a denial of any such petition, shall be grounds for denial of such petition and possible prosecution for the filing of false statements.

(ii) *Mitigation*. (A) The Ruling Official may grant mitigation to a party not involved in the commission of the offense underlying forfeiture:

(*1*) Where the petitioner has not met the minimum conditions for remission, but the Ruling Official finds that some relief should be granted to avoid extreme hardship and that return of the property combined with imposition of monetary and/or other conditions of mitigation in lieu of a complete forfeiture will promote the interest of justice and will not diminish the deterrent effect of the law. Extenuating circumstances justifying such a finding include those circumstances that reduce the responsibility of the petitioner for knowledge of the illegal activity, knowledge of the criminal record of a user of the property, or failure to take reasonable steps to prevent the illegal use or acquisition by another for some reason, such as a reasonable fear of reprisal; or

(*2*) Where the minimum standards for remission have been satisfied but the overall circumstances are such that, in the opinion of the Ruling Official, complete relief is not warranted.

(B) The Ruling Official may in his or her discretion grant mitigation to a party involved in the commission of the offense underlying the forfeiture where certain mitigating factors exist, including, but not limited to: The lack of a prior record or evidence of similar criminal conduct; if the violation does not include drug distribution, manufacturing, or importation, the fact that the violator has taken steps, such as drug treatment, to prevent further criminal conduct; the fact that the violation was minimal and was not part of a larger criminal scheme; the fact that the violator has cooperated with federal, state, or local investigations relating to the criminal conduct underlying the forfeiture; or the fact that complete forfeiture of an asset is not necessary to achieve the legitimate purposes of forfeiture.

(C) Mitigation may take the form of a monetary condition or the imposition of other conditions relating to the continued use of the property, and the return of the property, in addition to the imposition of any other costs that would be chargeable as a condition to remission. This monetary condition is considered as an item of cost payable by the petitioner, and shall be deposited into the Postal Service Fund as an amount realized from forfeiture in accordance with the applicable statute. If the petitioner fails to accept the Ruling Official's mitigation decision or any of its conditions, or fails to pay the monetary amount within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the decision, the property shall be sold, and the monetary amount imposed and other costs chargeable as a condition to mitigation shall be subtracted from the proceeds of the sale before transmitting the remainder to the petitioner.

(6) *Special rules for specific petitioners*—(i) *General creditors.* A general creditor may not be granted remission or mitigation of forfeiture unless he or she otherwise qualifies as a petitioner under these regulations.

(ii) *Rival claimants.* If the beneficial owner of the forfeited property and the owner of a security interest in the same property each file a petition, and if both petitions are found to be meritorious, the claim of the beneficial owner shall take precedence.

(iii) *Voluntary bailments.* A petitioner who allows another to use his or her property without cost, and who is not in the business of lending money secured by property or of leasing or renting property for profit, shall be granted remission or mitigation of forfeiture in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (j)(5) of this section.

(iv) *Lessors.* A person engaged in the business of leasing or renting real or personal property on a long-term basis with the right to sublease shall not be entitled to remission or mitigation of a forfeiture of such property unless the lessor can demonstrate compliance with all the requirements of paragraph (j)(5) of this section.

(v) *Straw owners.* A petition by any person who has acquired a property interest recognizable under these regulations and who knew or had reason to believe that the interest was conveyed by the previous owner for the purpose of circumventing seizure, forfeiture, or these regulations, shall be denied. A petition by a person who purchases or owns property for another who has a record for related crimes as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(xvii) of this section, or a petition by a lienholder who knows or has reason to believe that the purchaser or owner of record is not the real purchaser or owner, shall be denied unless both the purchaser of record and the real purchaser or owner meet the requirements of paragraph (j)(5) of this section.

(vi) *Judgment creditors.* (A) A judgment creditor will be recognized as a lienholder if:

(*1*) The judgment was duly recorded before the seizure of the property for forfeiture;

(*2*) Under applicable state or other local law, the judgment constitutes a valid lien on the property that attached to it before the seizure of the property for forfeiture; and

(*3*) The petitioner had no knowledge of the commission of any act or acts giving rise to the forfeiture at the time the judgment became a lien on the forfeited property.

(B) A judgment creditor will not be recognized as a lienholder if the property in question is not property of which the judgment debtor is entitled to claim ownership under applicable state or other local law (e.g., stolen property). A judgment creditor is entitled under these regulations to no more than the amount of the judgment, exclusive of any interest, costs, or other fees including attorney's fees associated with the action that led to the judgment or its collection.

(C) A judgment creditor's lien must be registered in the district where the property is located if the judgment was obtained outside the district.

(7) *Terms and conditions of remission and mitigation*—(i) *Owners.* (A) An owner's interest in property that has been forfeited is represented by the property itself or by a monetary interest equivalent to that interest at the time of seizure. Whether the property or a monetary equivalent will be remitted to an owner shall be determined at the discretion of the Ruling Official.

(B) If a civil judicial forfeiture action against the property is pending, release of the property must await an appropriate court order.

(C) Where the government sells or disposes of the property prior to the grant of the remission, the owner shall receive the proceeds of that sale, less any costs incurred by the government in the sale. The Ruling Official, at his or her discretion, may waive the deduction of costs and expenses incident to the forfeiture.

(D) Where the owner does not comply with the conditions imposed upon release of the property by the Ruling Official, the property shall be sold. Following the sale, the proceeds shall be used to pay all costs of the forfeiture and disposition of the property, in addition to any monetary conditions imposed. The remaining balance shall be paid to the owner.

(ii) *Lienholders.* (A) When the forfeited property is to be retained for official use or transferred to a state or local law enforcement agency or foreign government pursuant to law, and remission or mitigation has been granted to a lienholder, the recipient of the property shall assure that:

(*1*) In the case of remission, the lien is satisfied as determined through the petition process; or

(*2*) In the case of mitigation, an amount equal to the net equity, less any monetary conditions imposed, is paid to the lienholder prior to the release of the property to the recipient agency or foreign government.

(B) When the forfeited property is not retained for official use or transferred to another agency or foreign country pursuant to law, the lienholder shall be notified by the Ruling Official of the right to select either of the following alternatives:

(*1*) *Return of property.* The lienholder may obtain possession of the property after paying the United States, through the Ruling Official, the costs and expenses incident to the forfeiture, the amount, if any, by which the appraised value of the property exceeds

the lienholder's net equity in the property, and any amount specified in the Ruling Official's decision as a condition to remit the property. The Ruling Official, at his or her discretion, may waive costs and expenses incident to the forfeiture. The Ruling Official shall forward a copy of the decision, a memorandum of disposition, and the original releases to the U.S. Marshals Service or other property custodian who shall thereafter release the property to the lienholder; or

(*2*) *Sale of Property and Payment to Lienholder*—Subject to the provisions of paragraph (j)(9)(i) of this section, upon sale of the property, the lienholder may receive the payment of a monetary amount up to the sum of the lienholder's net equity, less the expenses and costs incident to the forfeiture and sale of the property, and any other monetary conditions imposed. The Ruling Official, at his or her discretion, may waive costs and expenses incident to the forfeiture.

(iii) If the lienholder does not notify the Ruling Official of the selection of one of the two options set forth above in paragraph (j)(7)(ii)(B) of this section within twenty (20) days of the receipt of such notification, the Ruling Official shall direct the U.S. Marshal or other property custodian to sell the property and pay the lienholder an amount up to the net equity, less the costs and expenses incurred incident to the forfeiture and sale, and any monetary conditions imposed. In the event a lienholder subsequently receives a payment of any kind on the debt owed for which he or she has already received payment as a result of the granting of remission or mitigation, the lienholder shall reimburse the Postal Service Fund to the extent of the payment received.

(iv) Where the lienholder does not comply with the conditions imposed upon the release of the property, the property shall be sold after forfeiture. From the proceeds of the sale, all costs incident to the forfeiture and sale shall first be deducted, and the balance up to the net equity, less any monetary conditions, shall be paid to the lienholder.

(8) *Provisions applicable to victims.*

The provisions of this section apply to victims of an offense underlying the forfeiture of property, or of a related offense, who do not have a present ownership interest in the forfeited property (or, in the case of multiple victims of an offense, who do not have a present ownership interest in the forfeited property that is clearly superior to that of other petitioner victims). The provisions of this section apply only with respect to property forfeited pursuant to statutes that explicitly authorize restoration or remission of forfeited property to victims. Victims who have a superior present legally cognizable ownership interest in forfeited property may file petitions as other owners, subject to the regulations set forth in paragraph (j)(7)(i) of this section. The claims of such owner victims, like those of any other owners, shall have priority over the claims of any non-owner victims whose claims are recognized pursuant to this section.

(i) *Qualifications to file.* A victim, as defined in paragraph (j)(2)(xxi) of this section, of an offense that was the underlying basis for the criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of specific property, or a victim of a related offense, may be granted remission of the forfeiture of that property, if in addition to complying with the other applicable provisions of this section, the victim satisfactorily demonstrates that:

(A) A pecuniary loss of a specific amount has been directly caused by the criminal offense, or related offense, that resulted in the forfeiture, or by a related offense, and that the loss is supported by documentary evidence including invoices and receipts;

(B) The pecuniary loss is the direct result of the illegal acts and is not the result of otherwise lawful acts which were committed in the course of a criminal offense;

(C) The victim did not knowingly contribute to, participate in, benefit from, or act in a willfully blind manner towards the commission of the offense, or related offense, that was the underlying basis of the forfeiture;

(D) The victim has not in fact been compensated for the wrongful loss of the property by the perpetrator or others; and

(E) The victim does not have recourse reasonably available to other

assets from which to obtain compensation for the wrongful loss of the property.

(ii) *Pecuniary loss.* The amount of the pecuniary loss suffered by a victim for which remission may be granted is limited to the fair market value of the property of which the petitioner was deprived as of the date of the occurrence of the loss. No allowance shall be made for interest foregone or for collateral expenses incurred to recover lost property or to seek other recompense.

(iii) *Torts.* A tort associated with illegal activity that formed the basis for the forfeiture shall not be a basis for remission, unless it constitutes the illegal activity itself, nor shall remission be granted for physical injuries to a petitioner or for damage to a petitioner's property.

(iv) *Denial of petition.* In the exercise of his or her discretion, the Ruling Official may decline to grant remission where:

(A) There is substantial difficulty in calculating the pecuniary loss incurred by the victim or victims;

(B) The amount of the remission, if granted, would be small compared with the amount of expenses incurred by the government in determining whether to grant remission; or

(C) The total number of victims is large and the monetary amount of the remission so small as to make its granting impractical.

(v) *Pro rata basis.* In granting remission to multiple victims pursuant to this section, the Ruling Official should generally grant remission on a pro rata basis to recognized victims when petitions cannot be granted in full due to the limited value of the forfeited property. However, the Ruling Official may consider, among others, the following factors in establishing appropriate priorities in individual cases:

(A) The specificity and reliability of the evidence establishing a loss;

(B) The fact that a particular victim is suffering an extreme financial hardship;

(C) The fact that a particular victim has cooperated with the government in the investigation related to the forfeiture or to a related prosecution or civil action; and

(D) In the case of petitions filed by multiple victims of related offenses, the fact that a particular victim is a victim of the offense underlying the forfeiture.

(vi) *Reimbursement.* Any petitioner granted remission pursuant to this section shall reimburse the Postal Service Fund for the amount received to the extent the individual later receives compensation for the loss of the property from any other source. The petitioner shall surrender the reimbursement upon payment from any secondary source.

(vii) *Claims of financial institution regulatory agencies.* In cases involving property forfeitable under 18 U.S.C. 981(a)(1)(C) or (a)(1)(D), the Ruling Official may decline to grant a petition filed by a petitioner in whole or in part due to the lack of sufficient forfeitable funds to satisfy both the petition and claims of the financial institution regulatory agencies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981 (e)(3) or (7). Generally, claims of financial regulatory agencies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(e)(3) or (7) shall take priority over claims of victims.

(9) *Miscellaneous Provisions*—(i) *Priority of payment.* Except where otherwise provided in this section, costs incurred by the Postal Inspection Service and other agencies participating in the forfeiture that were incident to the forfeiture, sale, or other disposition of the property shall be deducted from the amount available for remission or mitigation. Such costs include, but are not limited to, court costs, storage costs, brokerage and other sales-related costs, the amount of any liens and associated costs paid by the government on the property, costs incurred in paying the ordinary and necessary expenses of a business seized for forfeiture, awards for information as authorized by statute, expenses of trustees or other assistants pursuant to paragraph (j)(9)(iii) of this section, investigative or prosecutive costs specially incurred incident to the particular forfeiture, and costs incurred incident to the processing of the petition(s) for remission or mitigation. The remaining balance shall be available for remission or mitigation. The Ruling Official shall direct the distribution of the remaining balance in the following order of

priority, except that he or she may exercise discretion in determining the priority between petitioners belonging to classes described in paragraphs (j)(9)(iii) and (9)(iv) of this section in exceptional circumstances:

(A) Owners;

(B) Lienholders;

(C) Federal financial institution regulatory agencies (pursuant to paragraph (j)(9)(vi) of this section, not constituting owners or lienholders); and

(D) Victims not constituting owners or lienholders (pursuant to paragraph (j)(8) of this section).

(ii) *Sale or disposition of property prior to ruling.* If forfeited property has been sold or otherwise disposed of prior to a ruling, the Ruling Official may grant relief in the form of a monetary amount. The amount realized by the sale of the property is presumed to be the value of the property. Monetary relief shall not be greater than the appraised value of the property at the time of seizure and shall not exceed the amount realized from the sale or other disposition. The proceeds of the sale shall be distributed as follows:

(A) Payment of the government's expenses incurred incident to the forfeiture and sale, including court costs and storage charges, if any;

(B) Payment to the petitioner of an amount up to his or her interest in the property;

(C) Payment to the Postal Service Fund of all other costs and expenses incident to the forfeiture;

(D) In the case of victims, payment of any amount up to the amount of his or her loss; and

(E) Payment of the balance remaining, if any, to the Postal Service Fund.

(iii) *Trustees and other assistants.* In the exercise of his or her discretion, the Ruling Official may use the services of a trustee, other government official, or appointed contractors to notify potential petitioners, process petitions, and make recommendations to the Ruling Official on the distribution of property to petitioners. The expense for such assistance shall be paid out of the forfeited funds.

(iv) *Other agencies of the United States.* Where another agency of the United States is entitled to remission or mitigation of forfeited assets because of an interest that is recognizable under these regulations, or is eligible for such transfer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(e)(6), such agency shall request the transfer in writing, in addition to complying with the provisions of paragraphs (j)(3) through (5) of this section. The decision to make such transfer shall be made in writing by the Ruling Official.

(v) *Financial institution regulatory agencies.* A Ruling Official may direct the transfer of property under 18 U.S.C. 981(e) to certain federal financial institution regulatory agencies or an entity acting in their behalf, upon receipt of a written request, in lieu of ruling on a petition for remission or mitigation.

(vi) *Transfers to foreign governments.* A Ruling Official may decline to grant remission to any petitioner other than an owner or lienholder so that forfeited assets may be transferred to a foreign government pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 981(i)(1), 19 U.S.C. 1616a(c)(2), or 21 U.S.C. 881(e)(1)(E).

(vii) *Filing by attorneys.* (A) A petition for remission or mitigation may be filed by a petitioner or by his or her attorney or legal guardian. If an attorney files on behalf of the petitioner, the petition must include a signed and sworn statement by the client-petitioner stating that:

(*1*) The attorney has the authority to represent the petitioner in this proceeding;

(*2*) The petitioner has fully reviewed the petition; and

(*3*) The petition is truthful and accurate in every respect.

(B) Verbal notification of representation is not acceptable. Responses and notification of rulings shall not be sent to an attorney claiming to represent a petitioner unless a written notice of representation is filed. No extensions of time shall be granted due to delays in submission of the notice of representation.

(viii) *Consolidated petitions.* At the discretion of the Ruling Official in individual cases, a petition may be filed by one petitioner on behalf of other petitioners, provided the petitions are based on similar underlying facts, and the petitioner who files the petition has written authority to do so on behalf of the other petitioners. This authority must be either expressed in

documents giving the petitioner the authority to file petitions for remission, or reasonably implied from documents giving the petitioner express authority to file claims or lawsuits related to the course of conduct in question on behalf of these other petitioners. An insurer or an administrator of an employee benefit plan, for example, which itself has standing to file a petition as a ''victim'' within the meaning of paragraph (j)(2)(xxi) of this section, may also file a petition on behalf of all its insured or plan beneficiaries for any claims they may have based on co-payments made to the perpetrator of the offense underlying the forfeiture or the perpetrator of a ''related offense'' within the meaning of paragraph (j)(2)(xviii) of this section, if the authority to file claims or lawsuits is contained in the document or documents establishing the plan. Where such a petition is filed, any amounts granted as a remission must be transferred to the other petitioners, not the party filing the petition; although, in his or her discretion, the Ruling Official may use the actual petitioner as an intermediary for transferring the amounts authorized as a remission to the other petitioners.

[52 FR 4497, Feb. 12, 1987; 52 FR 5765, Feb. 26, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 47520, Nov. 15, 1989; 56 FR 20361, May 3, 1991; 57 FR 32726, July 23, 1992; 59 FR 31154, June 17, 1994; 59 FR 35852, July 14, 1994; 60 FR 5581, Jan. 30, 1995; 60 FR 8306, Feb. 14, 1995; 62 FR 31726, June 11, 1997]

§ 233.8 Expedited forfeiture proceedings for property seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings specified:

(1) *Appraised Value* means the estimated domestic price at the time of seizure at which such or similar property is freely offered for sale.

(2) *Controlled Substance* has the meaning given in 21 U.S.C. 802.

(3) *Legal and Factual Basis of the Seizure* means a statement of the applicable law under which the property is seized, and a written statement of the circumstances of the seizure sufficiently precise to enable an owner or other interested party to identify the date, place, and use or acquisition which makes the property subject to forfeiture.

(4) *Owner* means one having a legal and possessory interest in the property seized for forfeiture. Even though one may hold primary and direct title to the property seized, such person may not have sufficient actual beneficial interest in the property to support a petition as owner if the facts indicate that another person had dominion and control over the property.

(5) *Personal Use Quantities* means possession of a controlled substance in circumstances where there is not other evidence of an intent to distribute, or to facilitate the manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting of any controlled substance. Evidence of personal use quantities does not include sweepings or other evidence of possession of quantities of a controlled substance for other than personal use.

(i) Such other evidence includes:

(A) Evidence, such as drug scales, drug distribution paraphernalia, drug records, drug packaging material, method of drug packaging, drug ''cutting'' agents and other equipment, that indicates an intent to process, package or distribute a controlled substance;

(B) Information from reliable sources indicating possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute;

(C) The arrest and/or conviction record of the person or persons in actual or constructive possession of the controlled substance for offenses under Federal, State or local law that indicates an intent to distribute a controlled substance;

(D) Relationship of the controlled substance to large amounts of cash or any amount of prerecorded government funds;

(E) Possession of the controlled substance under circumstances that indicate the substance is a sample intended for distribution in anticipation of a transaction involving large quantities, or is part of a larger delivery; or

(F) Statements by the possessor, or otherwise attributable to the possessor, including statements of conspirators, that indicate possession with intent to distribute.

(ii) Possession of a controlled substance is presumed to be for personal use when there are no indicia of illicit drug trafficking or distribution such as, but not limited to, the factors listed in § 233.8(a)(5)(i), and the amounts do not exceed the following quantities:

(A) One gram of a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of heroin;

(B) One gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of:

(*1*) Coca leaves, except coca leaves and extracts of coca leaves from which cocaine, ecgonine, and derivations of ecgonine or their salts have been removed;

(*2*) Cocaine, its salts, optical and geometric isomers, and salts of isomers;

(*3*) Ecgonine, its derivatives, their salts, isomers, and salts of isomers; or

(*4*) Any compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of any of the substances referred to in § 233.8(a)(5) (ii)(B)(*1*)–(*3*);

(*5*) 1/10th gram of a mixture or substance described in § 233.8(a)(5)(ii) which contains cocaine base;

(*6*) 1/10 gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of phencyclidine (PCP);

(*7*) 500 micrograms of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD);

(*8*) One ounce of a mixture of substance containing a detectable amount of marihuana;

(*9*) One gram of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, and salts of its isomers, or one gram of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts, isomers, or salts of its isomer.

(iii) The possession of a narcotic, a depressant, a stimulant, a hallucinogen or cannabis-controlled substance will be considered in excess of personal use quantities if the dosage unit amount possessed provides the same or greater equivalent efficacy as described in § 233.8(a)(5)(ii).

(6) *Property* means property subject to forfeiture under title 21, U.S.C., Sections 881(a)(4), (6), and (7).

(7) *Statutory Rights or Defenses to the Forfeiture* means all legal and equitable rights and remedies available to a claimant of property seized for forfeiture.

(8) *Sworn to* as used in § 233.8(b)(4)(ii) refers to the oath as provided by 28 U.S.C. 1746.

(b) *Petition for expedited release in an administrative forfeiture action.* (1) Where property is seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities, the owner may petition the Postal Inspection Service for expedited release of the property.

(2) The owner filing the petition for expedited release must establish the following:

(i) The owner has a valid, good faith interest in the seized property as owner or otherwise;

(ii) The owner reasonably attempted to ascertain the use of the property in a normal and customary manner; and

(iii) The owner did not know or consent to the illegal use of the property, or in the event that the owner knew or should have known of the illegal use, the owner did what reasonably could be expected to prevent the violation.

(3) In addition to those factors listed in § 233.8(b)(2), if an owner can demonstrate that he has other statutory rights or defenses that would cause him to prevail on the issue of forfeiture, such factors must also be considered in ruling on the petition for expedited release.

(4) A petition for expedited release must be:

(i) Filed in a timely manner to be considered; in order to be filed in a timely manner, the petition must be received by the Postal Inspection Service within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice of seizure.

(ii) Executed and sworn to by the owner and both the envelope and the request must be clearly marked ''PETITION FOR EXPEDITED RELEASE'';

(iii) Filed in accordance with the notice of seizure; and

(iv) Addressed to the Chief Postal Inspector, Postal Inspection Service.

(5) The petition must include the following:

(i) A complete description of the property, including identification numbers, if any, and the date and place of seizure;

(ii) The petitioner's interest in the property, which must be supported by title documentation, bills of sale, contracts, mortgages, or other satisfactory documentary evidence; and

(iii) A statement of the facts and circumstances, to be established by satisfactory proof, relied upon by the petitioner to justify expedited release of the seized property.

(c) *Ruling on petition for expedited release in an administrative forfeiture action involving personal use quantities of a controlled substance.* (1) Upon receipt of a petition for expedited release filed pursuant to §233.8(b), the Postal Inspection Service must determine first whether a final administrative determination of the case, without regard to the provisions of this section, can be made within 21 days of the seizure. If such a final administrative determination is made within 21 days, no further action need be taken under this section.

(2) If no such final administrative determination is made within 21 days of the seizure, the following procedure applies:

(i) The Postal Inspection Service, within 20 days after the receipt of the petition for expedited release, determines whether the petition filed by the owner has established the factors listed in §233.8(b)(2); and

(ii) If the Postal Inspection Service determines that those factors have been established, it terminates the administrative proceedings and returns the property to the owner except where it is evidence of a violation of law; or

(iii) If the Postal Inspection Service determines that those factors have not been established, it proceeds with the administrative forfeiture.

(d) *Posting of substitute res.* (1) Where property is seized for administrative forfeiture involving controlled substances in personal use quantities, the owner may obtain release of the property by posting a substitute res with the Postal Service. The property will be released to the owner upon the payment of an amount equal to the appraised value of the property if it is not evidence of a violation of law or has design or other characteristics that particularly suit it for use in illegal activities. This payment must be in the form of a traveler's check, a money order, a cashier's check or an irrevocable letter of credit made payable to the Postal Service. A bond in the form of a cashier's check will be considered as paid once the check has been accepted for payment by the financial institution which issued the check.

(2) If a substitute res is posted and the property is administratively forfeited, the Postal Inspection Service will forfeit the substitute res in lieu of the property.

[54 FR 47520, Nov. 15, 1989]

§233.9 Expedited release of conveyances being forfeited in a judicial forfeiture proceeding for a drug-related offense.

(a) *Petition for expedited release of conveyance.* Where a conveyance has been seized and is being forfeited in a judicial proceeding for a drug-related offense, the owner may petition the United States Attorney for an expedited release of the conveyance in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Justice (21 CFR part 1316).

(b) *Petition filed in timely manner.* A petition for expedited release must be filed in a timely manner in order to be considered by the United States Attorney. To be considered as filed in a timely manner, in accordance with 21 CFR part 1316, the petition must be received by the appropriate United States Attorney within 20 days from the date of the first publication of the notice of the action and arrest of the property, or within 30 days after filing of the claim, whichever occurs later.

(c) *Obtaining release of the property by filing a substitute res bond.* Where a conveyance is being forfeited in a judicial proceeding for a drug-related offense, the owner may obtain release of the property by filing a substitute res bond with the Postal Inspection Service. The conveyance will be released to the owner upon the payment of a bond in the amount of the appraised value of the conveyance if it is not evidence of a violation of law or has design or other characteristics that particularly suit it for use in illegal activities. This bond must be in the form of a traveler's check, a money order, a cashier's check or an irrevocable letter of credit made payable to the United States

Postal Service. A bond in the form of a cashier's check will be considered as paid once the check has been accepted for payment by the financial institution which issued the check.

(d) *Forfeiture of the bond.* If a substitute res bond is filed and the conveyance is judicially forfeited, the court will forfeit the bond in lieu of the property.

[54 FR 47522, Nov. 15, 1989]

§ 233.10 Notice provisions.

(a) *Special notice provision.* At the time of seizure of property defined in § 233.8(b) for violations involving the possession of personal use quantities of a controlled substance, written notice will be provided to the possessor of the property regarding applicable statutes and Federal regulations including the procedures established for the filing of a petition for expedited release and for the posting of a substitute res bond.

(b) *Standard notice provision.* The standard notice to the owner as required by 19 U.S.C. 1607 will be made at the earliest practicable opportunity after determining ownership of the seized property and must include the legal and factual basis of the seizure.

[54 FR 47522, Nov. 15, 1989]

233.11 Mail reasonably suspected of being dangerous to persons or property.

(a) *Screening of mail.* When the Chief Postal Inspector determines that there is a credible threat that certain mail may contain a bomb, explosives, or other material that would endanger life or property, including firearms which are not mailable under Section C024 of the Domestic Mail Manual, the Chief Postal Inspector may, without a search warrant or the sender's or addressee's consent, authorize the screening of such mail by any means capable of identifying explosives, nonmailable firearms, or other dangerous contents in the mails. The screening must be within the limits of this section and without opening mail that is sealed against inspection or revealing the contents of correspondence within mail that is sealed against inspection. The screening is conducted according to these requirements.

(1) Screening of mail authorized by paragraph (a) of this section must be limited to the least quantity of mail necessary to respond to the threat.

(2) Such screening must be done in a manner that does not avoidably delay the screened mail.

(3) The Chief Postal Inspector may authorize screening of mail by postal employees and by persons not employed by the Postal Service under such instruction that require compliance with this part and protect the security of the mail. No information obtained from such screening may be disclosed unless authorized by this part.

(4) Mail of insufficient weight to pose a hazard to air or surface transportation, or to contain firearms which are not mailable under Section C024 of the Domestic Mail Manual, and international transit mail must be excluded from such screening.

(5) After screening conducted under paragraph (a) of this section, mail that is reasonably suspected of posing an immediate and substantial danger to life or limb, or an immediate and substantial danger to property, may be treated by postal employees as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(6) After screening, mail sealed against inspection that presents doubts about whether its contents are hazardous, that cannot be resolved without opening, must be reported to the Postal Inspection Service. Such mail must be disposed of under instructions promptly furnished by the Inspection Service.

(b) *Threatening pieces of mail.* Mail, sealed or unsealed, reasonably suspected of posing an immediate danger to life or limb or an immediate and substantial danger to property may, without a search warrant, be detained, opened, removed from postal custody, and processed or treated, but only to the extent necessary to determine and eliminate the danger and only if a complete written and sworn statement of the detention, opening, removal, or treatment, and the circumstances that prompted it, signed by the person purporting to act under this section, is promptly forwarded to the Chief Postal Inspector.

(c) *Reports.* Any person purporting to act under this section who does not report his or her action to the Chief Postal Inspector under the requirements of this section, or whose action is determined after investigation not to have been authorized, is subject to disciplinary action or criminal prosecution or both.

[61 FR 28060, June 4, 1996]

§ 233.12 Civil penalties.

False representation and lottery orders—

(a) *Issuance.* Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005, the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service, acting upon a satisfactory evidentiary basis, may issue a mail return and/or a cease and desist order against anyone engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money or property through the mail by means of a false representation, including the mailing of matter which is nonmailable, or engaged in conducting a lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money or of real or personal property, by lottery, chance, or drawing of any kind.

(b) *Enforcement.* Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3012, any person:

(1) Who, through the use of the mail, evades or attempts to evade the effect of an order issued under 39 U.S.C. 3005(a)(1) or 3005(a)(2);

(2) Who fails to comply with an order issued under 39 U.S.C. 3005(a)(3); or

(3) Who (other than a publisher described by 39 U.S.C. 3007(b)) has actual knowledge of any such order, is in privity with any person described by paragraph (b) (1) or (2) of this section, and engages in conduct to assist any such person to evade, attempt to evade, or fail to comply with such order, as the case may be, through the use of the mail;

Shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $11,000 for each day that such person engages in conduct described by this paragraph (b). A separate penalty may be assessed under this paragraph (b) with respect to the conduct described by paragraphs (b) (1), (2), or (3) of this section.

[61 FR 56450, Nov. 1, 1996]

PART 235—DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Sec.
235.1 Postal Service to the Armed Forces.
235.2 Civil preparedness.

§ 235.1 Postal Service to the Armed Forces.

(a) Publication 38, Postal Agreement with the Department of Defense, defines the Postal Service's responsibilities for providing postal service to the Armed Forces.

(b) The Chief Inspector is responsible for military liaison.

(c) Postal inspectors provide liaison between postmasters and military commanders, visit military installations as required, and make any necessary recommendations.

(39 U.S.C. 401(2), 402, 403, 404, as enacted by Pub. L. 91–375, 84 Stat. 719)

[38 FR 26193, Sept. 9, 1973]

§ 235.2 Civil preparedness.

(a) *Mission.* The prime objective of postal emergency preparedness planning is to maintain or restore essential postal service in a national emergency, natural disaster, or disruptive domestic crisis.

(b) *Emergency Coordinator.* The Chief Inspector is designated Emergency Coordinator for the Postal Service. As Emergency Coordinator, he provides general direction and coordination of the following programs:

(1) National Civil Preparedness and Defense Mobilization;

(2) Natural Disaster Preparedness;

(3) Emergency Response to Disruptive Domestic Crisis.

(c) *Regional Emergency Coordinator.* The Chief Inspector may delegate authority to Regional Chief Postal Inspectors, or others, for the function of Regional Emergency Coordinator and the general direction and coordination of all such programs within the Postal Regions, as are conducted by him at the National level.

(d) *Postmaster General emergency line of succession.* (1) Deputy Postmaster General; (2) Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Administration; (3) Senior Assistant Postmaster General, Operations.

(e) *Headquarters and field lines of succession.* Each Headquarters organizational unit shall establish its own internal line of succession to provide for continuity under emergency conditions. Each Regional Postmaster General, Regional Chief Inspector, Postal Data Center Director, Inspector in Charge, and postmaster at first-class post offices shall prepare a succession list of officials who will act in his stead in the event he is incapacitated or absent in an emergency. Orders of succession shall be shown by position titles, except those of the Inspection Service may be shown by names.

(f) *Field responsibilities.* Postmasters and heads of other installations shall:

(1) Carry out civil preparedness assignments, programs, etc., as directed by regional officials.

(2) Comply with, and cooperate in community civil preparedness plans (including exercise) for evacuation, take cover and other survival measures prescribed for local populations.

(3) Designate representatives for continuing liaison with local civil preparedness organizations where such activity will not interfere with normal duties.

(4) Endeavor to serve (at their own option) as members on the staff of the local civil preparedness director, provided such service will not interfere with their primary postal responsibility in an emergency.

(5) Authorize and encourage their employees to participate voluntarily in nonpostal pre-emergency training programs and exercises in cooperation with States and localities.

(39 U.S.C. 401(2), 402, 403, 404, as enacted by Pub. L. 91–375, 84 Stat. 719)

[38 FR 26193, Sept. 9, 1973]

Post Office Organization and Administration

PART 241—ESTABLISHMENT CLASSIFICATION, AND DISCONTINUANCE

Sec.

241.1 Post offices.
241.2 Stations and branches.
241.3 Discontinuance of post offices.

§ 241.1 Post offices.

(a) *Establishment.* See § 113.1 of this chapter.

(b) *Classification.* As of July 1 each year, post offices are classified by the Postmaster General based on the allowable postal revenue units for the second preceding fiscal year as follows:

(1) *First Class.* Post offices having 950 or more revenue units.

(2) *Second Class.* Post offices having 190 but less than 950 revenue units.

(3) *Third Class.* Post offices having 36 but less 190 revenue units.

(4) *Fourth Class.* Post offices having less than 36 revenue units.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4764, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 59082, Nov. 15, 1977]

§ 241.2 Stations and branches.

(a) *Description.* (1) Stations are established within the corporate limits or boundary, and branches are established outside the corporate limits or boundary of the city, town, or village in which the main post office is located. Stations and branches may be designated by number, letter or name. As a general rule, branches are named.

(2) Stations and branches transact registry and money order business, sell postage supplies, and accept matter for mailing. Delivery service, post office boxes, and other services may be provided when directed by the postmaster.

(3) Stations and branches, except nonpersonnel rural stations and branches, are designated as independent when registered and other mail is received or dispatched without passing through the main office.

(b) *Classification*—(1) *Classified.* Operated by postal employees in quarters provided by the Federal Government.

(2) *Contract.* Operated under contract by persons who are not Federal Government employees. Persons operating contract stations and branches are independent contractors and neither the contractors nor any person employed by them to assist in the conduct of contract stations or branches shall be employees of the Federal Government for any purpose whatsoever.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4764, Mar. 12, 1971]

§ 241.3 Discontinuance of post offices.

(a) *Introduction*—(1) *Coverage.* This section establishes the rules governing the Postal Service's consideration of whether an existing post office should be discontinued. The rules cover any proposal to replace a post office with a community post office, station or branch, consolidation with another post office, and any proposal to discontinue a post office without providing a replacement facility.

(2) *Legal requirements.* Under 39 U.S.C. 404(b), any decision to close or consolidate a post office must be based on certain criteria. These include the effect on the community served; the effect on employees of the post office; compliance with government policy established by law that the Postal Service must provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining; the economic savings to the Postal Service; and any other factors the Postal Service determines necessary. In addition, certain mandatory procedures apply as follows:

(i) The public must be given 60 days' notice of a proposed action to enable the persons served by a post office to evaluate the proposal and provide comments.

(ii) After public comments are received and taken into account, any final determination to close or consolidate a post office must be made in writing and must include findings covering all the required considerations.

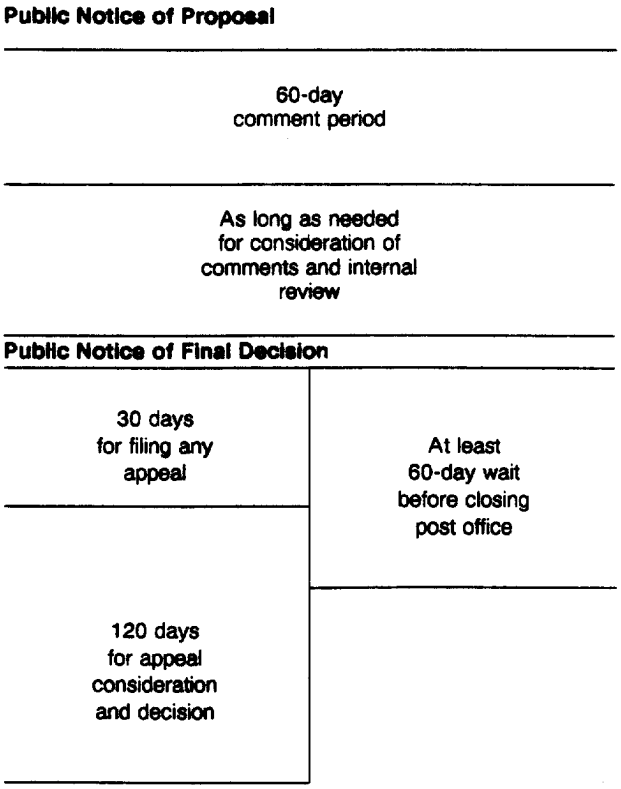
(iii) The written determination must be made available to persons served by the post office at least 60 days before the discontinuance takes effect.

(iv) Within the first 30 days after the written determination is made available, any person regularly served by the affected post office may appeal the decision to the Postal Rate Commission.

(v) The Commission may only affirm the Postal Service determination or return the matter for further consideration but may not modify the determination.

(vi) The Commission is required by 39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5) to make a determination on the appeal no later than 120 days after receiving the appeal.

(vii) The following is a summary table of the notice and appeal periods under the statute for these regulations.



(3) *Additional requirements.* This section also includes:

(i) Rules to ensure that the community's identity as a postal address is preserved.

(ii) Rules for consideration of a proposed discontinuance and for its implementation, if approved. These rules are designed to ensure that the reasons leading a district manager, Customer Service and Sales, to propose the discontinuance of a particular post office are fully articulated and disclosed at a stage that enables customer participation to make a helpful contribution toward the final decision.

(b) *Preservation of community address*—(1) *Policy.* The Postal Service permits the use of a community's separate address to the extent practicable.

(2) *ZIP Code assignment.* The ZIP Code for each address formerly served from the discontinued post office should be the ZIP Code of the facility providing replacement service to that address. In some cases, the ZIP Code originally assigned to the discontinued post office may be kept, if the responsible district manager, Customer Service and Sales, submits a request with justification to Address Management, Postal Service Headquarters, before the proposal to discontinue the post office is posted.

(i) In a consolidation, the ZIP Code for the replacement community post office, station, or branch is either (A) the ZIP Code originally assigned to the discontinued post office, or (B) the ZIP Code of the replacement facility's parent post office, whichever provides the most expeditious distribution and delivery of mail addressed to the customers of the replacement facility.

(ii) If the ZIP Code is changed and the parent post office covers several ZIP Codes, the ZIP Code must be that

of the delivery area within which the facility is located.

(3) *Post office name in address.* If all the delivery addresses using the name of the post office to be discontinued are assigned the same ZIP Code, customers may continue to use the discontinued post office name in their addresses, instead of the new delivering post office name.

(4) *Name of facility established by consolidation.* If a post office to be discontinued is consolidated with one or more other post offices by establishing in its place a community post office, classified or contract station, or branch affiliated with another post office involved in the consolidation, the replacement unit is given the same name of the discontinued post office.

(5) *List of discontinued post offices.* Publication 65, National Five-Digit ZIP Code and Post Office Directory, lists all post offices discontinued after March 14, 1977, for mailing address purposes only if they are used in addresses. The ZIP Codes listed for discontinued offices are those assigned under this subsection.

(c) *Initial proposal*—(1) *In general.* If a district manager, Customer Service and Sales, believes that the discontinuance of a post office within his or her responsibility may be warranted, the manager:

(i) Must use the standards and procedures in § 241.3 (c) and (d).

(ii) Must investigate the situation.

(iii) May propose the post office be discontinued.

(2) *Consolidation.* The proposed action may include a consolidation of post offices to substitute a community post office or a classified or contract station or branch for the discontinued post office if:

(i) The communities served by two or more post offices are being merged into a single incorporated village, town, or city; or

(ii) A replacement facility is necessary for regular and effective service to the area served by the post office considered for discontinuance.

(3) *Views of postmasters.* Whether the discontinuance under consideration involves a consolidation or not, the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must discuss the matter with the postmaster (or the officer in charge) of the post office considered for discontinuance, and with the postmaster of any other post office affected by the change. The manager should make sure that these officials submit written comments and suggestions as part of the record when the proposal is reviewed.

(4) *Preparation of written proposal.* The district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must gather and preserve for the record all documentation used to assess the proposed change. If the manager thinks the proposed action is warranted, he or she must prepare a document titled ''Proposal to (Close) (Consolidate) the (Name) Post Office.'' This document must describe, analyze, and justify in sufficient detail to Postal Service management and affected customers the proposed service change. The written proposal must address each of the following matters in separate sections:

(i) *Responsiveness to community postal needs.* It is the policy of the Government, as established by law, that the Postal Service will provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal services to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. The proposal should (A) contrast the services available before and after the proposed change; (B) describe how the changes respond to the postal needs of the affected customers; and (C) highlight particular aspects of customer service that might be less advantageous as well as more advantageous.

(ii) *Effect on community.* The proposal must include an analysis of the effect the proposed discontinuance might have on the community served, and discuss the application of the requirements in § 241.3(b).

(iii) *Effect on employees.* The written proposal must summarize the possible effects of the change on the postmaster, supervisors, and other employees of the post office considered for discontinuance. (The district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must suggest measures to comply with personnel regulations related to post office discontinuance and consolidation.)

(iv) *Savings.* The proposal must include an analysis of the economic savings to the Postal Service from the proposed action, including the cost or savings expected from each major factor contributing to the overall estimate.

(v) *Other factors.* The proposal should include an analysis of other factors that the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, determines are necessary for a complete evaluation of the proposed change, whether favorable or unfavorable.

(vi) *Summary.* The proposal must include a summary that explains why the proposed action is necessary, and assesses how the factors supporting the proposed change outweigh any negative factors. In taking competing considerations into account, the need to provide regular and effective service is paramount.

(vii) *Notice.* The proposal must include the following notice: ''This Is A Proposal. It Is Not A Final Determination To (Close) (Consolidate) This Post Office.''

(A) If a final determination is made to close or consolidate this post office, after public comments on this proposal are received and taken into account, a notice of that final determination must be posted in this post office.

(B) The final determination must contain instructions on how affected customers may appeal that decision to the Postal Rate Commission. Any such appeal must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the posting of the final determination.

(d) *Notice, public comment, and record*—(1) *Posting proposal and comment notice.* A copy of the written proposal and a signed invitation for comments must be posted prominently in each affected post office. The invitation for comments must:

(i) Ask interested persons to provide written comments within 60 days, to a stated address, offering specific opinions and information, favorable or unfavorable, on the potential effect of the proposed change on postal services and the community.

(ii) State that copies of the proposal with attached optional comment forms are available in the affected post offices.

(iii) Provide a name and telephone number to call for information.

(2) *Proposal and comment notice.* The following is a sample format that may be used for the proposal and comment notice.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Proposal to (Close)(Consolidate) the (Name) Post Office and Optional Comment Form

Attached is a proposal that we are considering to attempt to provide your community's postal service more economically and efficiently, while also providing regular and effective service. Please read the proposal carefully and then let us have your comments and suggestions. If you choose, you may use the form provided below. Your comments will be carefully considered and will be made part of a public record. If you use the form provided below and need additional room, please attach additional sheets of paper.
Return the completed form to _____ by _____.

In considering this proposal, if you have any questions you want to ask a postal official, you may call _____ whose telephone number is _____.

I. Effect on Your Postal Services
Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on the regularity or effectiveness of your postal service.

_____
_____
_____
_____

II. Effect on Your Community
Please describe any favorable or unfavorable effects that you believe the proposal would have on your community.

_____
_____
_____
_____

III. Other Comments
Please provide any other view or information that you believe the USPS should consider in deciding whether to adopt the proposal.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
(Signature of Postal Customer) (Date)
_____
(Mailing Address)
_____
(City) (State) (ZIP Code)

(3) *Other steps.* In addition to providing notice and inviting comment, the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must take any other steps necessary to ensure that the persons served by the affected post office understand the nature and implications of the proposed action (e.g., meeting with community groups and following up on comments received that seem to be based on incorrect assumptions or information).

(i) If oral contacts develop views or information not previously documented, whether favorable or unfavorable to the proposal, the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, should encourage persons offering the views or information to provide written comments to preserve them for the record.

(ii) As a factor in making his or her decision, the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, may not rely on communications received from anyone unless submitted in writing for the record.

(4) *Record.* The district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must keep as part of the record for his or her consideration and for review by the chief marketing officer/senior vice president all the documentation gathered about the proposed change.

(i) The record must include all information that the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, considered, and the decision must stand on the record. No information or views submitted by customers may be excluded.

(ii) The docket number assigned to the proposal must be the ZIP Code of the office proposed for closing or consolidation.

(iii) The record must include a chronological index in which each document contained is identified and numbered as filed.

(iv) As written communications are received in response to the public notice and invitation for comments, they are included in the record.

(v) A complete copy of the record must be available for public inspection during normal office hours at the post office proposed for discontinuance or at the post office providing alternative service, if the office to be discontinued was temporarily suspended, beginning no later than the date on which notice is posted and extending through the comment period.

(vi) Copies of documents in the record (except the proposal and comment form) are provided on request and on payment of fees as noted in the Administrative Support Manual (ASM) § 352.6.

(e) *Consideration of public comments and final local recommendation*—(1) *Analysis of comments.* After waiting not less than 60 days after notice is posted under § 241.3(d)(1) the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must prepare an analysis of the public comments received for consideration and inclusion in the record. If possible, comments subsequently received should also be included in the analysis. The analysis should list and briefly describe each point favorable to the proposal and each point unfavorable to the proposal. The analysis should identify to the extent possible how many comments support each point listed.

(2) *Re-evaluation of proposal.* After completing the analysis, the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must review the proposal and re-evaluate all the tentative conclusions previously made in light of additional customer information and views in the record.

(i) *Discontinuance not warranted.* If the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, decides against the proposed discontinuance, he or she must post, in the post office considered for discontinuance, a notice stating that the proposed closing or consolidation is not warranted.

(ii) *Discontinuance warranted.* If the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, decides that the proposed discontinuance is justified, the appropriate sections of the proposal must be revised, taking into account the comments received from the public. After making necessary revisions, the manager must:

(A) Forward the revised proposal and the entire record to the chief marketing officer/senior vice president for final review.

(B) Attach a certificate that all documents in the record are originals or true and correct copies.

(f) *Postal Service decision*—(1) *In general.* The chief marketing officer/senior vice president or a designee must review the proposal of the district manager, Customer Service and Sales. This review and the decision on the proposal must be based on and supported by the record developed by the district manager, Customer Service and Sales. The chief marketing officer/senior vice president can instruct the district manager to provide more information to supplement the record. Each such instruction and the response must be added to the record. The decision on the proposal of the district manager, which must also be added to the record, may approve or disapprove the proposal, or return it for further action as set forth below.

(2) *Approval.* The chief marketing officer/senior vice president or a designee may approve the proposal of the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, with or without further revisions. If approved, the term ''Final Determination'' is substituted for ''Proposal'' in the title. A copy of the Final Determination must be provided to the district manager. The Final Determination constitutes the Postal Service determination for the purposes of 39 U.S.C. 404(b). The Final Determination must include the following notices:

(i) *Supporting materials.* ''Copies of all materials on which this Final Determination is based are available for public inspection at the (Name) Post Office during normal office hours.''

(ii) *Appeal rights.* ''This Final Determination to (close) (consolidate) the (name) Post Office may be appealed by any person served by that office to the Postal Rate Commission. Any appeal must be received by the Commission within 30 days of the date this Final Determination was posted. If an appeal is filed, copies of appeal documents prepared by the Postal Rate Commission, or the parties to the appeal, must be made available for public inspection at the (name) Post Office during normal office hours.''

(3) *Disapproval.* The chief marketing officer/senior vice president or a designee may disapprove the proposal of the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, and return it and the record to the manager with written reasons for disapproval. The manager must post a notice in each affected post office that the proposed closing or consolidation has been determined to be unwarranted.

(4) *Return for further action.* The chief marketing officer/senior vice president or a designee may return the proposal of the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, with written instructions to give additional consideration to matters in the record, or to obtain additional information. Such instructions must be placed in the record.

(5) *Public file.* Copies of each Final Determination and each disapproval of a proposal by the chief marketing officer/senior vice president, must be placed on file in the Postal Service Headquarters Library.

(g) *Implementation of final determination*—(1) *Notice of final determination to discontinue post office.* The district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must:

(i) Provide notice of the Final Determination by posting a copy prominently in the affected post office or offices. The date of posting must be noted on the first page of the posted copy as follows:

''Date of posting:''

The district manager, Customer Service and Sales, must notify the chief marketing officer/senior vice president in writing of the date of posting.

(ii) Ensure that a copy of the completed record is available for public inspection during normal business hours at each post office where the Final Determination is posted for 30 days from the posting date.

(iii) Provide copies of documents in the record on request and payment of fees as noted in the ASM 352.6.

(2) *Implementation of determinations not appealed.* If no appeal is filed pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 404(b)(5), the official closing date of the office must be published in the Postal Bulletin, effective the first Saturday 90 days after the Final Determination was posted. A district manager, Customer Service and Sales, may request a different date for official discontinuance in the Post Office Change Announcement document

submitted to the chief marketing officer/senior vice president. However, the post office may not be discontinued sooner than 60 days after the posting of the notice required by § 241.3(g)(1).

(3) *Actions during appeal*—(i) *Implementation of discontinuance.* If an appeal is filed, only the chief marketing officer/senior vice president may direct a discontinuance before disposition of the appeal. However, the post office may not be discontinued sooner than 60 days after the posting of notice required by § 241.3(g)(1).

(ii) *Display of appeal documents.* Classification and Customer Service, Postal Service General Counsel, must provide the district manager, Customer Service and Sales, with copies of all pleadings, notices, orders, briefs, and opinions filed in the appeal proceeding.

(A) The district manager must ensure that copies of all these documents are prominently displayed and available for public inspection in the post office to be discontinued. If the operation of that post office has been suspended, the manager must display copies in the affected post offices.

(B) All documents except the Postal Rate Commission's final order and opinion must be displayed until the final order and opinion are issued. The final order and opinion must be displayed for 30 days.

(4) *Actions following appeal decision*—(i) *Determination affirmed.* If the Commission dismisses the appeal or affirms the Postal Service's determination, the official closing date of the office must be published in the Postal Bulletin, effective the first Saturday 90 days after the Commission renders its opinion, if not previously implemented under § 241.3(g)(3)(i). However, the post office may not be discontinued sooner than 60 days after the posting of the notice required under § 241.3(g)(1).

(ii) *Determination returned for further consideration.* If the Commission returns the matter for further consideration, the chief marketing officer/senior vice president must direct that either (A) notice be provided under § 241.3(f)(3) that the proposed discontinuance is determined not to be warranted or (B) the matter be returned to an appropriate stage under these regulations for further consideration following such instructions as the chief marketing officer/senior vice president may provide.

[59 FR 29725, June 9, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 32273, June 21, 1995]

PART 242—CHANGE OF SITE

§ 242.2 Change of site—fourth-class offices.

Report by memorandum to chief, organization and management branch, when change in site is necessary. Complete Form 1021 when furnished. Retain one copy in files. If new location is one-fourth of a mile or more from existing location, furnish a statement signed by majority of customers approving change. When a change involves moving a post office from one county to another, notify the Deputy Postmaster General, of the circumstances (including a sketch showing present and proposed sites), and await approval of that Division.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[36 FR 4765, Mar. 12, 1971]

PART 243—CONDUCT OF OFFICES

§ 243.2 Quarters.

(a) *Employee bulletin boards.* Bulletin boards may be placed in workrooms and employees' lunchrooms for displaying notices as prescribed in this manual and Management Labor Organization Agreements.

(b) *Location of offices.* Postal units may not be located in, or directly connected to, a room in which intoxicating liquor is sold to be consumed on the premises.

(c) *Lost articles.* When articles are turned in to employees, the name and address of the finder shall be recorded so the article may be returned to him if not claimed by the loser. If the name of the finder cannot be obtained, and the article is not claimed within 30 days, it must be disposed of in the same manner as unidentified material found loose in the mail. Do not return postal money orders to the finder. Mail to Money Order Branch, Accounting Division, U.S. Postal Service, General

Accounting Office Building, Washington, DC 20260, with a memorandum of explanation.

(d) *Public use of restrooms.* Restrooms off public corridors shall normally be kept open during regular hours of business for the benefit of the public. Where vandalism or loitering cannot be controlled, postmasters may lock restrooms, furnishing those agencies served by the restrooms, keys for employee use. This shall not be construed to permit access by nonpostal personnel to restrooms in restricted postal areas.

(e) *Letter drops.* At all except fourth-class post offices, provide a regulation letterbox for depositing mail in front of or next to the post office. Show collection time schedules on letterboxes. At fourth-class offices, if a letterbox is not supplied, provide a slot in the outer post office door. When messengers or star route carriers have access to lobbies, door slot deposits must lead to a locked box.

(f) *Hour signs.* Display hours of window service prominently at all first-, second-, and third-class post offices, classified stations and branches, and annexes. Use Sign 41, Hours decal set, available in supply centers.

(g) *Service of process on postal premises.* Postmasters or other installation heads shall permit service on postal premises of civil and criminal process affecting employees in personal matters, when such service of process will not interfere with postal operations. Process servers should be directed to the postmaster's or installation head's office, where the employee will be called in and service made. Section 265.10 of this chapter contains rules regarding compliance with subpoena duces tecum, court orders, and summonses where official business or official records are involved.

(h) *Public service areas—prohibited items.* Photographs of an incumbent or former President or Postmaster General are not to be displayed in post office lobbies or in common use public service areas such as elevator lobbies and corridors in facilities owned by or leased to the Postal Service. Further, such photographs are not to be requisitioned or purchased by postal installations at Postal Service expense.

(39 U.S.C. 501)

[36 FR 4765, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 39 FR 38376, Oct. 31, 1974; 40 FR 8820, Mar. 3, 1975; 42 FR 33722, July 1, 1977; 44 FR 39854, July 6, 1979]

General Postal Administration

PART 255—ACCESS OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS TO POSTAL SERVICES, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES, AND EMPLOYMENT

Sec.

255.1 Discrimination against handicapped persons prohibited.
255.2 Special arrangements for postal services.
255.3 Access to postal facilities.
255.4 Other postal regulations; authority of postal officials and employees.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 1001, 1003, 3403, 3404; 29 U.S.C. 791, 794.

SOURCE: 50 FR 14102, Apr. 10, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 255.1 Discrimination against handicapped persons prohibited.

(a) *Policy.* Postal Service policy is to comply fully with sections 501 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other applicable laws. Accordingly, no otherwise qualified handicapped individual shall, solely by reason of his or her handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity operated by the Postal Service, or in employment.

(b) *Definition.* For purposes of paragraph (a) of this section, the term *handicapped* applies to a person who has, has a record of, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities.

(c) *Customer Service Complaints*—(1) *How made.* Complaints by or on behalf of otherwise qualified handicapped customers who believe that they have been discriminated against in the provision of postal services solely by reason of their handicap may be made in accordance with Domestic Mail Manual 114.1. The customer should provide, or

be willing to provide upon request, sufficient information regarding the matter to permit a complete examination of all of the relevant circumstances concerning the complaint.

(2) *Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies.* See Domestic Mail Manual 114.14.

(3) *Resolution.* A local official receiving a complaint of unlawful discrimination against a handicapped person, such as a refusal to serve an otherwise qualified customer solely because of the customer's handicap, must handle it in accordance with existing regulations and procedures for resolution of customer complaints, including the time limits prescribed in or under § 255.1(c)(4). The steps taken by the official should include an initial review of the complaint to determine whether further investigation is necessary to resolve the complaint, or whether immediate action can be taken to remedy any illegal discrimination that may be occurring. Such corrective action as is determined to be necessary to resolve the complaint should be taken as soon as possible. The complainant should be notified promptly of the action taken; if the matter cannot be resolved quickly, appropriate interim reports, including an acknowledgment of receipt of the complaint, should be furnished to the complainant. Replies to written complaints must be in writing; replies to nonwritten complaints may be in writing or any other appropriate medium. If a complaint claims that discrimination has resulted from the lack of special arrangements for handicapped persons, the complaint should be handled in accordance with § 255.2(b) or § 255.3(b), as appropriate. Legal advice on whether a particular complaint seeks to end unlawful discrimination or to request special arrangements may be sought from the Regional Counsel.

(4) *Time Limits.* If a complaint cannot be resolved within fifteen (15) days the customer must be sent a written acknowledgment of the receipt of the complaint. If the complaint cannot be resolved within thirty (30) days of its receipt, the customer must be sent an interim report in writing, including a statement of when the matter is expected to be resolved. Whenever it appears that a complaint cannot be resolved within sixty (60) days of its receipt, a written report and explanation must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office, and to the Consumer Advocate, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–6320. Local managers may prescribe shorter time limits for complaint responses within their area of responsibility by memorandum or other appropriate written directive.

(5) *Automatic Review.* If an associate office postmaster or management sectional center manager proposes to deny a request by a handicapped customer for a special arrangement or the alteration of a facility, the proposed decision shall be submitted to the next higher level of management (if the request is for a special arrangement) or to the appropriate Field Real Estate and Buildings Office (if the request is for the alteration of a facility). The customer shall be notified of the approved decision. No review under this provision limits the customer's right of appeal to the Consumer Advocate under Domestic Mail Manual 114.14.

(6) *Appeal.* See Domestic Mail Manual 114.14.

(d) *Postal Employment.* Discrimination against otherwise qualified handicapped postal employees or job applicants is prohibited, under section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 791, and by implementing regulations promulgated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Postal Service. Complaints of discrimination against handicapped applicants or employees may be made in accordance with the procedures prescribed in the Employee and Labor Relations Manual (ELM) concerning Equal Employment Opportunity, which apply to discrimination against handicapped persons.

§ 255.2 Special arrangements for postal services.

(a) *Policy.* The Postal Service offers all of its services to all of its customers without discrimination. Customers who would have difficulty using or be unable to use certain services may be eligible under postal regulations for special arrangements. Some of the special arrangements that the Postal Service has authorized are listed below.

No customer is required to use any special arrangement offered by the Postal Service, but a customer's refusal to make use of such special arrangement does not require the Postal Service to offer other special arrangements to that customer.

(1) *Carrier Delivery Services and Programs.* See Domestic Mail Manual 155.262.

(2) *Postal Retail Services and Programs*—(i) *Stamps by Mail.* See Postal Operations Manual 145.

(ii) *Retail Service from Rural Carriers.* See Domestic Mail Manual 156.41.

(iii) *Self-Service Postal Centers.* Self-Service Postal Centers (SSPCs) contain vending equipment for the sale of stamps and stamp items, and parcel and letter deposit boxes. See Postal Operations Manual 154. Many SSPCs are accessible to individuals in wheelchairs. Customers may obtain information concerning the nearest such SSPC from their local post office.

(iv) *Postage-Free Mailing for Certain Mailings.* See Domestic Mail Manual parts 135 and 115.24, and International Mail Manual 225.

(b) *Inquiries and Requests*—(1) *How made:* Customers wishing further information about special arrangements for particular postal services may contact the postmaster or other local postal official responsible for such service.

(2) *Response.* A local official receiving a request for special arrangements must provide the customer with any such arrangements as are required by postal regulations and must notify the customer of the special arrangements. If no such special arrangements are required, the responsible official may take such actions to accommodate the customer as are within his or her authority to provide under postal regulations, if he or she determines that doing so would be reasonable, practical, and consistent with the economical and proper operation of the program or activity for which he or she has budgetary responsibility. Every customer who requests special arrangements shall be notified promptly of the determination made and the reasons therefor. If a determination cannot be made quickly, appropriate interim reports, including an acknowledgment of receipt of the request, must be furnished to the customer. Replies to written requests must be in writing; replies to nonwritten requests may be in writing or any other appropriate medium.

(c) *Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies and Appeal.* See Domestic Mail Manual 114.14.

§ 255.3 Access to postal facilities.

(a) *Policy*—(1) *Legal and Policy Requirements.* It is Postal Service policy to comply fully with the physical access requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended. Pursuant to that Act, the Postal Service designs, constructs, and alters its facilities in accordance with its published standards for access to postal facilities. Such standards are contained in Handbook RE–4, Standards for Facility Accessibility by the Physically Handicapped, single copies of which may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Real Estate and Buildings Department, U.S Postal Service Headquarters, Washington, DC 20260–6400. In general, the Postal Service's access standards apply prospectively to all newly constructed facilities, and to all new alterations of certain features of existing facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are owned or leased, and regardless of whether the alteration is required or discretionary. In addition, the Postal Service remodels facilities for handicapped access whenever such remodeling is legally required under section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as a ''reasonable accommodation'' to handicapped employees or applicants. Moreover, where handicapped persons are employed or are to be employed, their work areas are required by postal policy to be altered in accordance with Postal Service access standards to make them accessible to the handicapped employees. At every available opportunity, accessible facilities must be selected for lease or purchase, where cost is at an acceptable level, and such facilities provide desirable working conditions, a maximum degree of convenient and efficient postal services, proper access to existing and future air and surface transportation facilities, and control of postal costs (*see* 39 U.S.C. 101(g) and 403(b)(3)). For purposes of the preceding

sentence, a facility and its elements are considered ''accessible'' if they comply with any handicapped access code which has been adopted by any government agency or recommended by the American National Standards Institute, and if any needed off-street parking is provided.

(2) *Discretionary Modifications.* The Postal Service may also modify facilities not legally required to conform to the Barriers Act's standards when it determines that doing so would be consistent with efficient postal operations. Not all facilities are required to conform to the standards adopted under the Act. In determining whether modifications not legally required should be made, due regard is given to:

(i) The cost of the discretionary modification;

(ii) The number of customers to be benefited by the modification;

(iii) The inconvenience, if any, to the general public;

(iv) The anticipated useful life of the modification to the Postal Service;

(v) If the facility is leased, whether the lease would require the Postal Service to restore the premises to their original condition at the expiration of the lease, and, if so, the possible cost of such restoration;

(vi) The historic or architectural significance of the property in accordance with paragraph (a)(4) of this section;

(vii) The availability of other options to foster service accessibility; and

(viii) Any other factor that may be relevant and appropriate to the decision.

(3) *Handicapped Parking.* Handicapped parking restrictions must be rigorously enforced by the installation's Security Control Officer. Where members of the U.S. Postal Security Force are not available to exercise the powers of special policemen under 40 U.S.C. 318, local postmasters and installation heads must, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 318b and with the approval of the chief postal inspector or his designee, seek the assistance of state and local enforcement agencies to insure that these restrictions are enforced. See 39 CFR 232.1(q).

(4) *Historic Preservation.* Postal Service policy is to comply with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Executive Order 11593, and the procedures prescribed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 36 CFR Part 800 (1984) as they pertain to the modification of historic and architecturally significant properties.

(5) *Blind Vendor Facilities.* See Employee & Labor Relations Manual 614 (Issue 6, 5–20–81).

(b) *Inquiries and Requests*—(1) *How made.* Inquiries concerning access to postal facilities, and requests for discretionary alterations of postal facilities not covered by the access standards, may be made to the local postmaster or to the manager of the facility involved.

(2) *Response.* The official contacted, if authorized to do so, must determine, in consultation with appropriate supervisors, whether the facility is required to be modified to conform to access standards, and if it is not, whether discretionary alterations should be made. If the facility is required to be modified, arrangements for the required alterations must be made as soon as practicable. If modifications are not required, discretionary alterations may be made, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the criteria listed in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. Every customer who requests modifications must be notified promptly of the determination made and the reasons therefor. If a determination cannot be made quickly, appropriate interim reports, including an acknowledgement of the request, must be furnished to the customer. Replies to written requests must be in writing; replies to nonwritten requests must be in writing or any other appropriate medium.

(c) *Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies and Appeal.* See Domestic Mail Manual 114.14.

§ 255.4 Other postal regulations; authority of postal officials and employees.

This part 255 supplements all other postal regulations. Nothing in this part is intended either to repeal, modify, or amend any other postal regulation, to authorize any postal official or employee to violate or exceed any regulatory limit, or to confer any budgetary authority on any postal official

or employee outside normal budgetary procedures. Officials or employees receiving complaints which they lack authority to resolve must promptly refer any such complaint to a higher-level or more appropriate official or employee, and at the same time must notify the customer of the name of the person who is handling the complaint.

PART 259—SERVICES PERFORMED FOR OTHER AGENCIES

Sec.
259.1 Government.
259.2 Red Cross.

§ 259.1 Government.

(a) *Policy*. The Postal Service cooperates with Federal Agencies whenever the overall costs to Government will be reduced. Assistance in a number of special projects and programs is provided when the knowledge and abilities of postal employees are helpful.

(b) *Reimbursement*. The Postal Service establishes reasonable fees and charges for nonpostal services performed for agencies of the Federal as well as State governments. In establishing such fees and charges, the Postal Service considers the value of time of the personnel directly involved in the performance of the service, including direct supervision and supporting functions, plus the cost of materials and supplies specifically sold, used or consumed. Also included is an element representing a reasonable share of Postal Service general overhead costs which are not attributable or assignable specifically to any product or service. The establishment of such fees and charges shall be reasonably consistent with the methods employed in establishing rates and fees for postal services then in effect.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, arrangements for Postal Service participation in special surveys, censuses, and other activities must be made between the national headquarters of the requesting agencies and the Customer Services Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260. Refer all requests to the Regional Postmaster General for forwarding to Headquarters. Authority to perform services for Government agencies is announced in the Postal Bulletin or by individual letters to the offices involved.

(d) *Housing Vacancy Surveys*—(1) *General*. An interagency agreement between the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board (FHLBB) establishes the terms and conditions and reimbursement rates under which USPS will conduct Housing Vacancy Surveys in City Delivery offices when requested by FHLBB.

(2) *Restrictions*. The Agreement only authorizes the disclosure of aggregate statistical data. Postal managers must not permit the name or address of any past or present postal patron, or any other person to be disclosed unless such disclosure is authorized in writing by USPS Regions or Headquarters and is not in violation of 39 U.S.C. 412.

(3) *Postmaster's Responsibility*. (i) A postmaster will receive notification from FHLBB when his office has been selected to conduct a Housing Vacancy Survey. Normally, written notification will be mailed to the postmaster 30 days in advance of the date FHLBB would like USPS to conduct the survey, since USPS is under no obligation to use overtime or auxiliary assistance to conduct these surveys. The postmaster or his designee will schedule the survey on or near the date requested and will promptly reply to FHLBB so that the necessary forms will be provided on time.

(ii) All necessary forms and instructions will be supplied directly to each post office to be surveyed. Postmasters will designate a manager in each delivery unit to coordinate the survey within the unit and to review completed survey forms for accuracy.

(iii) FHLBB may request USPS to perform special or emergency surveys with less than 30 days advance notice. Since FHLBB has agreed to reimburse USPS at twice the normal rates for promptly performing such surveys, every reasonable effort should be made to accommodate such requests in a timely manner.

(iv) Housing Vacancy Surveys will not be conducted during the month of December of any year.

(v) Postmasters will notify the Office of Delivery and Collection, Washington, DC 20260, of the number of each

type survey form completed for FHLBB. FHLBB will then remit payment directly to Headquarters, USPS.

(vi) USPS will not release or publish any survey results except in response to a court order, subpoena, or as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

(e) *Unauthorized projects prohibited.* Do not conduct special surveys or otherwise participate in any cooperative projects without the authorization in paragraph (c) of this section.

(39 U.S.C. 401, 411)

[36 FR 4773, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 40 FR 26511, June 24, 1975; 41 FR 56196, Dec. 27, 1976; 42 FR 58170, Nov. 8, 1977; 42 FR 63170, Dec. 15, 1977]

§ 259.2 Red Cross.

(a) *General.* The Postal Service and the Red Cross cooperate to maintain communication between the individual and the community during times of disaster. This applies only to natural disasters such as those caused by floods, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, explosions, etc., and not to those caused by enemy action.

(b) *Role of Postal Service.* The Postal Service and the Red Cross will share information on the whereabouts of persons displaced by disasters, and otherwise cooperate with each other, as follows:

(1) The Red Cross will use Form 3575, Change of Address Order, as a standard item in Red Cross disaster relief. It will urge disaster victims displaced from their homes to obtain and complete the forms, it will distribute the forms to disaster victims who need them, and it will collect from the victims and turn over to the Postal Service any completed forms received.

(2) The Postal Service will provide the Red Cross the blank forms needed.

(3) During each disaster and subsequent disaster relief efforts, the Postal Service will establish a separate file of change of address forms completed by disaster victims, and will make available to the Red Cross information in the file. This information will be used by the Red Cross only to locate individuals and families, to answer inquiries from relatives and friends concerning the whereabouts and welfare of the disaster victims, or to make contact with disaster victims who have applied for assistance from the Red Cross but who cannot be located because of a change of address.

(4) The Postal Service and the Red Cross will encourage appropriate local postal officials and Red Cross chapters to maintain contact with each other and to participate in local and community planning for disasters.

(5) When appropriate, the Postal Service and the Red Cross will meet and exchange information at the national headquarters level concerning the effectiveness of their joint efforts for disaster relief.

(6) Regional Postmasters General and Postal Inspectors in Charge are responsible for seeing that post offices implement these cooperative arrangements in disaster situations.

(7) The instructions in § 259.2 serve as a broad framework within which field officials of both agencies may coordinate their facilities and resources. However, postal officials shall cooperate with Red Cross officials to the maximum feasible degree during times of natural disasters.

(39 U.S.C. 401, 411)

[36 FR 4773, Mar. 12, 1971, as amended at 40 FR 26511, June 24, 1975]

Records and Information

PART 261—RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Sec.
261.1 Purpose and scope.
261.2 Authority.
261.3 Policy.
261.4 Responsibility.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

§ 261.1 Purpose and scope.

As a result of the Postal Reorganization Act, 39 U.S.C. 410, the U.S. Postal Service is no longer subject to the provisions of the Federal Records Act of 1950, or any of its supporting regulations which provide for the conduct of records management in Federal agencies. The objective of Parts 261 through 268 is to provide the basis for a Postal Service-wide records and information management program affecting all organizational components having the

custody of any form of information and records.

[40 FR 45721, Oct. 2, 1975; 40 FR 48511, Oct. 16, 1975]

§ 261.2 Authority.

(a) 39 U.S.C. 401(5) states that the Postal Service has the power to acquire property it deems necessary or convenient in the transaction of its business and to hold, maintain, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of such property.

(b) 39 CFR 224.1(f) assigns to the Postal Service Records Office, located under Finance responsibility for the retention security and privacy of Postal Service records and the power to authorize the disclosure of such records and to order their disposal by destruction or transfer. Included is the authority to issue records management policy and to delegate or take appropriate action if that policy is not adhered to or if questions of interpretation of procedure arise.

[40 FR 45721, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 44 FR 51223, Aug. 31, 1979; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 261.3 Policy.

It is the policy of the Postal Service:

(a) To, as appropriate, create, preserve, protect and disclose records which contain adequate and proper documentation of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, operations, procedures, activities and transactions of the Postal Service,

(b) To reduce to an absolute minimum the records holdings of the Postal Service by strict adherence to established records retention schedules.

[40 FR 45721, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 44 FR 51223, Aug. 31, 1979]

§ 261.4 Responsibility.

(a) The Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, administers the Postal Service records and information management program through a Headquarters organizational component and records office coordinators in the finance function of area and district offices.

(b) Postal Service managers are responsible for administering records and information management policies and for complying with all handbooks, directives, and instructions in support of this policy.

[40 FR 45721, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 44 FR 51223, Aug. 31, 1979; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

PART 262—RECORDS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

Sec.
262.1 Purpose and scope.
262.2 Officials.
262.3 Information.
262.4 Records.
262.5 Systems (Privacy).
262.6 Retention and disposal.
262.7 Non-records.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; 5 U.S.C. 552a.

SOURCE: 49 FR 30693, Aug. 1, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 262.1 Purpose and scope.

This part contains the official definition of those basic records and information management terms that are frequently used throughout Postal Service regulations and directives.

§ 262.2 Officials.

(a) *Records Custodian.* The postmaster or other head of a facility such as a postal data center, mailbag depository, management sectional center, district office, or regional headquarters who *maintains* USPS records. Department heads are the custodians of records maintained at Headquarters. Senior medical personnel are the custodians of restricted medical records maintained within Postal facilities. EAP counselors are the custodians of records pertaining to program participants.

(b) *Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records.* The official responsible for the retention, security, and privacy of Postal Service records with the power to authorize the disclosure of such records and to order their disposal by destruction or transfer; included is the authority to issue records management policy and to delegate or take appropriate action if that policy is not adhered to or if questions of interpretation or procedure arise.

(c) *Information System Executive.* The Postal Service official who prescribes the existence of and the policies for an

information system; usually this is a Vice President.

[49 FR 30693, Aug. 1, 1984, as amended at 51 FR 26385, July 23, 1986; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 262.3 Information.

Data combined with the knowledge of its context and having the potential to serve a Postal Service use.

(a) *Sensitive information.* Information which has been identified by the USPS as *restricted* or *critical.*

(1) *Critical information.* Information that must be available in order that the Postal Service effectively perform its mission and meet legally assigned responsibilities; and for which special precautions are taken to ensure its accuracy, relevance, timeliness and completeness. This information, if lost, would cause significant financial loss, inconvenience or delay in performance of the USPS mission.

(2) *Restricted information.* Information that has limitations placed upon both its access within the Postal Service and disclosure outside the Postal Service consistent with the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts.

(i) *Restricted mandatory.* Information that has limitations upon its internal access and that may be disclosed *only* in accordance with an Executive Order, public law, or other Federal statute and their supporting postal regulations.

(ii) *Restricted discretionary.* Information that has limitations upon its internal access and that *may* be withheld from external disclosure solely in accordance with postal regulations, consistent with the Freedom of Information Act.

(b) *Classified information (National Security).* Information about the national defense and foreign relations of the United States that has been determined under Executive Order 12356 to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and has been so designated.

§ 262.4 Records.

Recorded information, regardless of media or physical characteristics, developed or received by the U.S. Postal Service in connection with the transaction of its business and retained in its custody; for machine-readable records, a collection of logically related data treated as a unit.

(a) *Permanent record.* A record determined by the USPS Records Office or the National Archives and Records Administration as having sufficient historical or other value to warrant continued preservation. (All other records are considered temporary and must be scheduled for disposal.)

(b) *Corporate records.* Those records series that are designated by the Records Office as containing information of legal, audit, obligatory or archival value about events and transactions of interest to the entire corporate body of the Postal Service. Corporate records are distinguished from operational records, which have value only in their day-to-day use, and from precedential files, which have value only as examples.

(c) *Active record.* A record that contains information used for conducting current business.

(d) *Inactive record.* A record that contains information which is not used for conducting current business, but for which the retention period has not yet expired.

(e) *Vital records.* Certain records which must be available in the event of a national emergency in order to ensure the continuity of Postal Service operations and the preservation of the rights and interests of the Postal Service, its employees, contractors and customers. There are two types of vital records: Emergency Operating Records and Rights and Interests Records.

(1) *Emergency operating records.* Certain vital records necessary to support essential functions of the Postal Service during and immediately following a national emergency.

(2) *Rights and interest records.* Certain vital records maintained to ensure the preservation of the rights and interests of the Postal Service, its employees, contractors and customers.

[49 FR 30693, Aug. 1, 1984, as amended at 51 FR 26385, July 23, 1986; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 262.5 Systems (Privacy).

(a) *Privacy Act system of records.* A Postal Service system containing information about individuals, including

mailing lists, from which information is retrieved by the name of an individual or by some identifying number or symbol assigned to the individual, such as a Social Security Account Number.

(b) *Individual (record subject).* A living person. Does not include sole proprietorships, partnerships or corporations. A business firm identified by the name of one or more persons is not an individual.

(c) *Computer matching program.* A ''matching program,'' as defined in the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a(a)(8), is subject to the matching provisions of the Act, published guidance of the Office of Management and Budget, and these regulations. The term ''matching program'' includes any computerized comparison of:

(1) A Postal Service automated system of records with an automated system of records of another Federal agency, or with non-Federal records, for the purpose of:

(i) Establishing or verifying the eligibility of, or continuing compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements by, applicants for, recipients or beneficiaries of, participants in, or providers of services with respect to, cash or in-kind assistance or payments under Federal benefit programs, or

(ii) Recouping payments or delinquent debts under such Federal benefit programs;

(2) A Postal Service automated personnel or payroll system of records with another automated personnel or payroll system of records of the Postal Service or other Federal Agency or with non-Federal records.

(d) *Other computer matching activities.* (1) The following kinds of computer matches are specifically excluded from the term ''matching program'':

(i) Statistical matches whose purpose is solely to produce aggregate data stripped of personal identifiers.

(ii) Statistical matches whose purpose is in support of any research or statistical project.

(iii) Law enforcement investigative matches whose purpose is to gather evidence against a named person or persons in an existing investigation.

(iv) Tax administration matches.

(v) Routine administrative matches using Federal personnel records, provided that the purpose is not to take any adverse action against an individual.

(vi) Internal matches using only records from Postal Service systems of records, provided that the purpose is not to take any adverse action against any individual.

(vii) Matches performed for security clearance background checks or for foreign counterintelligence.

(2) Although these and other matching activities that fall outside the definition of ''matching program'' are not subject to the matching provisions of the Privacy Act or OMB guidance, other provisions of the Act and of these regulations may be applicable. No matching program or other matching activity may be conducted without the prior approval of the Records Office.

[49 FR 30693, Aug. 1, 1984, as amended at 59 FR 37160, July 21, 1994; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 262.6 Retention and disposal.

(a) *Records control schedule.* A directive describing records series that are maintained by components of the Postal Service; it provides maintenance, retention, transfer, and disposal instructions for each series listed, and serves as the authority for Postal officials to implement such instructions.

(b) *Disposal (records).* The permanent removal of records or information from Postal Service custody; included are:

(1) Transfer to the National Archives.

(2) Donation to the Smithsonian Institution, local museums or historical societies.

(3) Sale as waste material.

(4) Discarding.

(5) Physical destruction.

(c) *Retention period.* The authorized length of time that a records series must be kept before its disposal, usually stated in terms of months or years, but sometimes expressed as contingent upon the occurrence of an event; usually the retention period refers to the period of time between the creation of a series and its authorized disposal date; however, in some cases it refers to the length of time between the cutoff point and the disposal date.

§ 262.7 Non-records.

(a) *Non-record material.* Includes blank forms and surplus publications, handbooks, circulars, bulletins, announcements, and other directives as well as any material not directly associated with the transaction of Postal Service business.

(b) *Personal papers.* Those materials created or received during an individual's period of employment with the Postal Service which are of a purely private or nonofficial character, or which were neither created nor received in connection with Postal Service business.

PART 263—RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION

Sec.
263.1 Purpose and scope.
263.2 Policy.
263.3 Responsibility.
263.4 Records retention schedules.
263.5 Records disposal.
263.6 Inquiries.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 40 FR 45722, Oct. 2, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§ 263.1 Purpose and scope.

This part contains the policy and general regulations pertaining to the retention and disposition of records and information throughout all organizational levels and components.

§ 263.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the U.S. Postal Service to establish and maintain schedules specifying the retention periods required for all official and duplicate record copies. Furthermore, it is the policy that all duplicate record copies and non-record material will be disposed of as soon as they have served their purpose.

§ 263.3 Responsibility.

(a) *Records Office.* The Records Office has the responsibility for providing for the establishment of retention schedules and has the authority to approve them. Furthermore, that office has the authority to dispose of Postal Service records by transfer or destruction.

(b) *Custodians.* Custodians are responsible for the retention and prompt disposal of records in their custody and for delegating in writing, persons to perform these duties.

[40 FR 45722, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 263.4 Records retention schedules.

The following retention schedules will be maintained within the Postal Service:

(a) General schedule.
(b) Headquarters schedule.
(c) Regional schedule.
(d) District schedule.
(e) Inspection service schedule.
(f) Postal data centers schedule.
(g) Automatic data processing centers schedule.
(h) Post Office schedule.
(i) Other facility schedules.

§ 263.5 Records disposal.

All disposals of records containing sensitive information, i.e. transfers to records storage centers, destruction, transfers external to the USPS, and maintenance of accounting records regarding such disposal, must be accomplished in accordance with procedures issued by the Records Office.

[40 FR 45722, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 263.6 Inquiries.

Inquiries regarding records retention and disposal should be directed to the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260–5243, or, by telephone, to the Records Specialist, telephone number (202) 268–4869.

[60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

PART 264—VITAL RECORDS

Sec.
264.1 Purpose and scope.
264.2 Policy.
264.3 Responsibility.
264.4 Vital Records Program.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 44 FR 51224, Aug. 31, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§264.1 Purpose and scope.

Certain records are critical to the continuity of Postal Service operations or to the preservation of the rights and interests of the Postal Service, its employees, contractors or customers. To ensure that these records are available when needed, specific controls are required which affect all organizational components having the custody of records defined as being ''vital.''

§264.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the U.S. Postal Service to ensure the availability of all records considered critical to the continuity of its operations and the preservation of the rights and interests of the Postal Service, its employees, contractors, and customers. Vital records shall be routinely maintained at predesignated off-site locations to ensure their availability when needed by management and operating personnel.

§264.3 Responsibility.

(a) *Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records.* The Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, is responsible for categorizing records as vital and shall establish and maintain the vital records program, insofar as rights and interests records are concerned, and ensure compliance with supportive procedures.

(b) *Chief Postal Inspector.* As the Postal Service's Emergency Coordinator, the Chief Postal Inspector (with the assistance of Headquarters and Regional Emergency Coordinating Committees and the advice of the Records Office) shall establish and maintain a program to ensure that emergency operating records are available at predesignated off-site locations for use during a national emergency.

(c) *Custodians.* Custodians are responsible for following vital records program procedures including the forwarding of vital records to predesignated off-site locations.

[44 FR 51224, Aug. 31, 1979, as amended at 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§264.4 Vital Records Program.

Complete procedures concerning the identification, categorization, processing, protection, and transfer of vital records are provided by the USPS Records Office or the USPS Emergency Coordinator, as appropriate.

[44 FR 51224, Aug. 31, 1979, as amended at 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

PART 265—RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Sec.

265.1 Purpose and scope.
265.2 Policy.
265.3 Responsibility.
265.4 Inquiries.
265.5 Public reading room.
265.6 Availability of records.
265.7 Procedure for inspection and copying of records.
265.8 Business information; procedures for predisclosure notification to submitters.
265.9 Schedule of fees.
265.10 Annual reports.
265.11 Compliance with subpoena duces tecum, court orders, and summonses.
265.12 Demands for testimony or records in certain legal proceedings.
265.13 Compliance with subpoenas, summonses, and court orders by postal employees within the Inspection Service where the Postal Service, the United States, or any other federal agency is not a party.

APPENDIX A TO PART 265—INFORMATION SERVICES PRICE LIST

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552; 5 U.S.C. App. 3; 39 U.S.C. 401, 403, 410, 1001, 2601.

§265.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part contains the regulations of the Postal Service relating to the availability to the public of Postal Service records. Included in this part are the regulations which implement section 552 of title 5, U.S.C., the ''Freedom of Information Act,'' insofar as it applies to the Postal Service.

(b) Official records of the Postal Service made available pursuant to the requirements of the Act shall be furnished to members of the public as prescribed by this part.

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975]

§265.2 Policy.

(a) It is the policy of the Postal Service to make its official records available to the public to the maximum extent consistent with the public interest. This policy requires a practice of

full disclosure subject only to the specific exemptions required or authorized by law.

(b) The exemptions from mandatory disclosure provided by section 552(b) of title 5, and section 410(c) of title 39, U.S.C., for various types of records, reflect the fact that under some circumstances the public interest may be better served by leaving the disclosure of particular records to the discretion of the Postal Service than by requiring their disclosure. As to those records the disclosure of which is not prohibited by statute, Executive Order, or regulation, the discretion vested in the Postal Service is exercised after giving consideration to the following: The effect of non-disclosure on the public's right to know about a particular matter; the effect of disclosure on the right of privacy of any affected individuals; the effect of disclosure on the public interest in the economical, efficient, and orderly operation of the nation's mail system; and any other factors that may be relevant under the circumstances.

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44270, July 1, 1980]

§ 265.3 Responsibility.

(a) *Custodian.* Official records are in the custody of the postmaster or other head of the facility, such as a postal data center, mail bag depository, sectional center facility, district office or regional headquarters, or of a group or department or headquarters, at which they are maintained. These custodians are responsible for responding in the first instance to requests from members of the public for Postal Service records.

(b) *Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer.* The USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, under the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, is responsible for the overall administration of this part, including the issuance of detailed instructions to custodians.

(c) *General Counsel.* The General Counsel decides timely appeals authorized by this part.

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44270, July 1, 1980; 60 FR 57344, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.4 Inquiries.

Inquiries regarding the availability of Postal Service records should be directed to the appropriate records custodian. If the appropriate records custodian is not known, inquiries should be directed to the USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260–5243, telephone number (202) 268–2608.

[60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.5 Public reading room.

The Library of the Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260–1641, serves as public reading room for the materials which are listed in paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of § 265.6 as available for public inspection and copying.

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44270, July 1, 1980; 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986]

§ 265.6 Availability of records.

(a) *Records available to the public upon request*—(1) *General.* Postal Service records are available for inspection or copying at the request of any person, in accordance with the provisions of this part, except as otherwise provided by law or regulations, including but not limited to, § 265.6(b) through (g). Certain categories of records of particular interest are available on a continuing basis as provided in paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section and are listed in a public index as provided in paragraph (a)(4) of this section. Access to other records may be requested on an individual basis in accordance with the procedures provided in § 265.7. Official records which are maintained on an electronic storage medium will normally be made available, in accordance with this part, as an exact duplicate of the requested original in a form readable by the human eye, such as a computer print-out.

(2) *Opinions.* All final opinions and orders made in the adjudication of cases by the Judicial Officer, Administrative Law Judges, and Board of Contract Appeals, all final determinations pursuant to section 113.263 of the Domestic Mail Manual, to close or consolidate a post office, or to disapprove

a proposed closing or consolidation, and all advisory opinions concerning the private express statutes issued pursuant to § 310.6 of title 39, CFR, all bid protest decisions and all decisions on appeals pursuant to this part, rendered by the General Counsel are on file and available for inspection and copying in the Headquarters Library, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260–1641.

(3) *Administrative Manuals and Instructions to Staff.* The manuals, instructions, and other publications of the Postal Service that affect members of the public are available through the Headquarters Library, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, and at many post offices and other postal facilities. Those which are available to the public but are not listed for sale may be inspected in the Library or at any postal facility which maintains a copy. Copies of publications which are not listed as for sale or as available free of charge may be obtained by paying a fee in accordance with § 265.8.

(4) *Public index.* (i) A public index is maintained in the Headquarters Library of all final opinions and orders made by the Postal Service in the adjudication of cases, Postal Service policy statements which may be relied on as precedents in the disposition of cases, administrative staff manuals and instructions that affect the public, and other materials which the Postal Service elects to index and make available to the public upon request in the manner set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

(ii) The index contains references to matters issued after July 4, 1967 and may reference matters issued prior to that date.

(iii) Any person may arrange for the inspection of any matter in the public index in accordance with the procedures of § 265.7.

(iv) Copies of the public index and of matters listed in the public index may be purchased through the Headquarters Library upon payment of fees as listed in the index or as provided in § 265.8.

(5) *Listings of Employees' Names.* Upon written request, the Postal Service will, to the extent required by law, provide a listing of postal employees working at a particular postal facility.

(b) *Records not subject to mandatory public disclosure.* Certain classes of records are exempt from mandatory disclosure under exemptions contained in the Freedom of Information Act and in section 410(c) of title 39, U.S.C. The Postal Service will exercise its discretion, in accordance with the policy stated in § 265.2, as implemented by instructions issued by the Records Office with the approval of the General Counsel in determining whether the public interest is served by the inspection or copying of records that are:

(1) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Postal Service.

(2) Trade secrets, or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, obtained from any person.

(3) Information of a commercial nature, including trade secrets, whether or not obtained from a person outside the Postal Service, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed. This class includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Information pertaining to methods of handling valuable registered mail.

(ii) Records of money orders, except as provided in 940 of the *Domestic Mail Manual (DMM).*

(iii) Technical information concerning postage meters and prototypes submitted for Postal Service approval prior to leasing to mailers.

(iv) Reports of market surveys conducted by or under contract in behalf of the Postal Service.

(v) Records indicating rural carrier lines of travel.

(vi) Records compiled within the Postal Service which would be of potential benefit to persons or firms in economic competition with the Postal Service.

(vii) Information which, if publicly disclosed, could materially increase procurement costs.

(viii) Information which, if publicly disclosed, could compromise testing or examination materials.

(4) Interagency or internal memoranda or letters that would not be available by law to a private party in litigation with the Postal Service.

(5) Reports and memoranda of consultants or independent contractors,

except to the extent they would be required to be disclosed if prepared within the Postal Service.

(6) Files personal in nature, including medical and personnel files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(7) Information prepared for use in connection with proceedings under chapter 36 of title 39, U.S.C., relating to rate, classification, and service changes.

(8) Information prepared for use in connection with the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements under chapter 12 of title 39, U.S.C., or minutes of, or notes kept during, negotiating sessions conducted under such chapter.

(9) Other matter specifically exempted from disclosure by statute.

(c) *Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes.* (1) Investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes, whether or not considered closed, are exempt by statute from mandatory disclosure except to the extent otherwise available by law to a party other than the Postal Service, 39 U.S.C. 410(c)(6). As a matter of policy, however, the Postal Service will normally make records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes available upon request unless the production of these records:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority (such as the Postal Inspection Service) in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(2) Whenever a request is made which involves access to records described in § 265.6(c)(1)(i), and

(i) The investigation or proceeding involves a possible violation of criminal law; and

(ii) There is reason to believe that,

(A) The subject of the investigation or proceeding is not aware of its pendency, and

(B) Disclosure of the existence of the records could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, the Postal Service may, during only such time as that circumstance continues, treat the records as not subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

(3) Whenever informant records maintained by a criminal law enforcement agency (such as the Postal Inspection Service) under an informant's name or personal identifier are requested by a third party according to the informant's name or personal identifier, the records may be treated as not subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act unless the informant's status as an informant has been officially confirmed.

(4) Authority to disclose records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes to persons outside the Postal Service must be obtained from the Chief Postal Inspector, U.S. Postal Serivce, Washington, DC 20260–2100, or designee.

(d) *Disclosure of names and addresses of customers.* Upon request, the addresses of specifically identified postal customers will be made available only as follows:

(1) *Change of address.* The new address of any specific customer who has filed a permanent or temporary change of address order (by submitting PS Form 3575, a hand-written order, or an electronically communicated order) will be

furnished to any person upon payment of the fee prescribed in § 265.9 (e)(3) and (g)(5), except that the new address of a specific customer who has indicated on the order that the address change is for an individual or an entire family will be furnished only in those circumstances stated at paragraph (d)(4) of this section. Disclosure will be limited to the address of the specifically identified individual about whom the information is requested (not other family members or individuals whose names may also appear on the change of address order). The Postal Service reserves the right not to disclose the address of an individual for the protection of the individual's personal safety. Other information on PS Form 3575 or copies of the form will not be furnished except in those circumstances stated at paragraphs (d)(4)(i), (d)(4(iii), or (d)(4)(iv) of this section. The fee is waived for providing information under the circumstances listed at paragraph (d)(4) of this section. See § 265.9(g)(5).

(2) *Name and address of permit holder.* The name and address of the holder of a particular bulk mail permit, permit imprint or similar permit, or postage meter permit, and the name of any person applying for a permit in behalf of a holder, will be furnished to any person upon the payment of any fees authorized by paragraph (b) of § 265.9. (Lists of permit holders may not be disclosed to members of the public. See paragraph (e)(1) of this section.)

(3) *Post office boxholder information.* Information *from* Form 1093, *Application for Post Office Box or Caller Number,* will be provided only as follows:

(i) *Business use*—The recorded name, address, and telephone number of the holder of a post office box being used for the purpose of doing or soliciting business with the public, and any person applying for a box in behalf of a holder, will be furnished to any person without charge. The postmaster may furnish this information from Form 1093 when he is satisfied from the entries appearing on it, or from evidence furnished by the requester (such as an advertising circular), that the box is being used for such a business purpose. When the postmaster is unable to determine whether a business use is involved, he shall refer the request to Chief Field Counsel for advice.

(ii) *Non-business use*—Information from Form 1093 about the holder of a post office box which is not being used for the purpose of doing or soliciting business with the public will not be furnished except in those circumstances stated at paragraphs (d)(4)(i) through (d)(4)(iv) of this section.

(iii) *Copies of Form 1093*—Copies of Form 1093 will not be furnished except in those circumstances stated at paragraphs (d)(4)(i), (d)(4)(iii), or (d)(4)(iv) of this section.

(4) *Exceptions.* Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, names or addresses of postal customers will be furnished only as follows:

(i) To a federal, state or local government agency upon prior written certification that the information is required for the performance of its duties.

(ii) To a person empowered by law to serve legal process, or the attorney for a party in whose behalf service will be made, or a party who is acting pro se, upon receipt of written information that specifically includes all of the following: (A) A certification that the name or address is needed and will be used solely for service of legal process in connection with actual or prospective litigation; (B) a citation to the statute or regulation that empowers the requester to serve process, if the requester is other than the attorney for a party in whose behalf service will be made, or a party who is acting *pro se*; (C) the names of all known parties to the litigation; (D) the court in which the case has been or will be commenced; (E) the docket or other identifying number, if one has been issued; and (F) the capacity in which the boxholder is to be served, *e.g.*, defendant or witness. By submitting such information, the requester certifies that it is true. The address of an individual who files with the postmaster a copy of a protective court order will not be disclosed except as provided under paragraphs (d)(4)(i), (d)(4)(iii), or (d)(4)(iv) of this section.

The Postal Service suggests use of the standard format appearing at the end of this section when requesting information under this paragraph. When

using the standard format on the submitter's own letterhead, the standard format must be used in its entirety. The warning statement and certification specifically must be included immediately before the signature block. If the request lacks any of the required information or a proper signature, the postmaster will return it to the requester specifying the deficiency.

NOTE: The term *pro se* means that a party is not represented by an attorney but by himself or herself.

(iii) In compliance with a subpoena or court order, except that change of address or boxholder information which is not otherwise subject to disclosure under these regulations may be disclosed only pursuant to a court order.

(iv) To a law enforcement agency, for oral requests made through the Inspection Service, but only after the Inspection Service has confirmed that the information is needed in the course of a criminal investigation. (All other requests from law enforcement agencies should be submitted in writing to the postmaster as in paragraph (d)(4)(i) of this section.)

(5) *Jury service.* The mailing address of any customer sought in connection with jury service, if known, will be furnished without charge upon prior written request to a court official, such as a judge, court clerk or jury commissioner.

(6) *Address verification.* The address of a postal customer will be verified at the request of a Federal, State, or local government agency upon written certification that the information is required for the performance of the agency's duties. ''Verification'' means advising such an agency whether or not its address for a postal customer is one at which mail for that customer is currently being delivered. ''Verification'' neither means nor implies knowledge on the part of the Postal Service as to the actual residence of the customer or as to the actual receipt by the customer of mail delivered to that address. The Postal Service requires government agencies to use the format appearing at the end of this section when requesting the verification of a customer's current address or a customer's new mailing address. If the request lacks any of the required information or a proper signature, or if the request has been sent to the wrong post office, the postmaster will return the request to the agency, specifying the deficiency in the space marked ''OTHER''.

(7) *Business/Residence location.* If the location of a residence or a place of business is known to a Postal Service employee, whether as a result of official duties or otherwise, the employee may, but need not, disclose the location or give directions to it. No fee is charged for such information.

(8) Form 1583, Application for Delivery of Mail Through Agent. Except as provided by this paragraph, information contained in Form 1583 may not be disclosed to the public. Information contained in Form 1583 may be disclosed to the public only for the purpose of identifying a particular address as an address of an agent to whom mail is delivered on behalf of other persons. No other information, including, but not limited to, the identities of persons on whose behalf agents receive mail, may be disclosed from Form 1583.

(e) *Information not available for public disclosure.* (1) Except as provided by paragraph (a)(5) of this section, the Postal Service and its officers and employees shall not make available to the public by any means or for any purpose any mailing list or other list of names or addresses (past or present) of postal patrons or other persons.

(2) Records or other documents which are classified or otherwise specifically authorized by Executive Order 12356 and implementing regulations to be kept secret in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy are not subject to disclosure pursuant to this part.

(3) Records consisting of trade secrets or confidential financial data, the disclosure of which is prohibited by section 1905 of title 18, U.S.C., are not subject to disclosure pursuant to this part.

(4) Other records, the disclosure of which is prohibited by statute, are not subject to disclosure pursuant to this part.

(f) *Protection of the right of privacy.* If any record required or permitted by this part to be disclosed contains the

name of, or other identifying details concerning, any person, including an employee of the Postal Service, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the name or other identifying details shall be deleted before the record is disclosed and the requester so informed.

(g) *Disclosure in part of otherwise exempt record.* Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided after deleting the information which is neither subject to mandatory disclosure nor available as a matter of discretion.

(LETTERHEAD OPTIONAL)

Postmaster Date _____

City, State, ZIP Code

Request for Change of Address or Boxholder
Information Needed for Service of Legal Process

Please furnish the new address or the name and street address (if a boxholder) for the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

NOTE: The name and last known address are required for change of address information. The name, if known, and post office box address are required for boxholder information.

The following information is provided in accordance with 39 CFR 265.6(d)(6)(ii). There is no fee for providing boxholder information. The fee for providing change of address information is **waived** in accordance with 39 CFR 265.6(d)(1) and corresponding Administrative Support Manual 352.44a.

1. Capacity of requester (e.g., process server, attorney, party representing himself): _____

2. Statute or regulation that empowers me to serve process (not required when requester is an attorney or a party acting *pro se* - except a corporation acting *pro se* must cite statute): _____

3. The names of all known parties to the litigation: _____

4. The court in which the case has been or will be heard: _____

5. The docket or other identifying number if one has been issued: _____

6. The capacity in which this individual is to be served (e.g. defendant or witness): _____

WARNING

THE SUBMISSION OF FALSE INFORMATION EITHER (1) TO OBTAIN AND USE CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION OR BOXHOLDER INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE SERVICE OF LEGAL PROCESS IN CONNECTION WITH ACTUAL OR PROSPECTIVE LITIGATION OR (2) TO AVOID PAYMENT OF THE FEE FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN CRIMINAL PENALTIES INCLUDING A FINE OF UP TO $10,000 OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT MORE THAN 5 YEARS, OR BOTH (TITLE 18 U.S.C. SECTION 1001).

I certify that the above information is true and that the address information is needed and will be used solely for service of legal process in connection with actual or prospective litigation.

_____ _____
Signature Address

_____ _____
Printed Name City, State, ZIP Code

FOR POST OFFICE USE ONLY

___ No change of address order on file.
___ Moved, left no forwarding address.
___ No such address.

NEW ADDRESS or BOXHOLDER'S NAME and STREET ADDRESS

_____

_____

_____

POSTMARK

(Required Format Referenced at Paragraph 265.6(d)(6))

(AGENCY LETTERHEAD)

To: Postmaster

Agency Control No. _____

Date: _____

ADDRESS INFORMATION REQUEST

Please furnish this agency with the new address, if available, for the following individual or verify whether or not the address given below is one at which mail for this individual is currently being delivered. *If the following address is a post office box, please furnish the street address as recorded on the boxholder's application form.*

Name: _____

Last Known Address: _____

I certify that the address information for this individual is required for the performance of this agency's official duties.

(Signature of Agency Official)

(Title)

FOR POST OFFICE USE ONLY

		NEW ADDRESS
[ ]	MAIL IS DELIVERED TO ADDRESS GIVEN	
[ ]	NOT KNOWN AT ADDRESS GIVEN	_____
[ ]	MOVED, LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS	_____
		BOXHOLDER'S STREET ADDRESS
[ ]	NO SUCH ADDRESS	
[ ]	OTHER (SPECIFY):	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	

Agency return address	Postmark/Date Stamp

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 41 FR 52052, Nov. 26, 1976; 42 FR 59085, Nov. 15, 1977; 45 FR 44270, July 1, 1980; 47 FR 20304, May 12, 1982; 47 FR 21248, May 18, 1982; 48 FR 1969, Jan. 17, 1983; 51 FR 8825, Mar. 14, 1986; 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986; 52 FR 13668, Apr. 24, 1987; 52 FR 22778, June 16, 1987; 53 FR 49983, Dec. 13, 1988; 54 FR 3558, Jan. 24, 1989; 59 FR 11550, Mar. 11, 1994; 59 FR 22757, May 3, 1994; 59 FR 62324, Dec. 5, 1994; 59 FR 67225, 67226, 67227, Dec. 29, 1994; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.7 Procedure for inspection and copying of records.

(a) *Submission of requests*—(1) *Form and content of request.* To permit expeditious handling and timely response in accordance with the provisions of this part, a request to inspect or to obtain a copy of an identifiable Postal Service record shall be in writing and bear the caption ''Freedom of Information Act Request'' or otherwise be clearly and prominently identified as a request for records pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. A request shall be clearly and prominently identified as such on the envelope or other cover. Other requests for information will be considered informal requests and will be handled as expeditiously as practicable but not necessarily within the time limitations set forth in § 265.7(b). An informal request will be granted or denied according to the substantive rules in § 265.6, if found to be a request for a record. A Freedom of Information Act request shall identify the record sought as completely as possible, by name, description, or subject matter, and be sufficient to permit the custodian to locate it with a reasonable amount of effort. The request may state the maximum amount of fees for which the requester is willing to accept liability without prior notice. See paragraph (f)(2) of § 265.8. If no amount is stated, the requester will be deemed willing to accept liability for fees not to exceed $25.

(2) *To whom submitted.* A request shall be submitted to the custodian of the requested record. If the location of the record is not known, inquiry should be directed to the USPS Records Officer, USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–5243, telephone (202) 268–2608. If a request is submitted to a facility other than that at which the record is maintained, it shall be promptly transmitted to the appropriate custodian with a copy of the transmittal furnished to the requester. A request which is not initially submitted to the appropriate custodian shall be deemed to have been received by the Postal Service for purposes of computing the time for response is accordance with § 265.7(b) at the time that it is actually received by

the appropriate custodian. If a request seeks records maintained at two or more facilities, the custodian shall be deemed to be the next senior common supervisor of the heads of the facilities, e.g., district manager, area vice president. The USPS Records Office is deemed to be the custodian, for purposes of this part, in all instances in which a request is for a listing of postal employees. See § 265.6(a)(5).

(3) *Reasons for request.* In view of the possibility that some or all of the records may be exempt from mandatory disclosure, the requester may state any reasons why the record should nevertheless be made available to him even if exempt.

(4) *Request for waiver of fees.* The requester may ask that fees or the advance payment of fees be waived in whole or in part. A fee waiver request shall indicate how the information will be used; to whom it will be provided; whether the requester intends to use the information for resale at a fee above actual cost; any personal or commercial benefit that the requester expects as a result of disclosure; in what manner the general public will benefit from disclosure; and information as to the intended user's identity, qualifications, expertise in the subject area, and ability and intention to disseminate the information to the public. (See § 265.8(g)(3).)

(5) *Categorical requests.* A request for all or substantially all of the records within a specific category will be deemed a reasonable description of those records only if it is possible, without further information, to determine which particular records are sought. See paragraph (b)(3) of this section concerning the providing of additional information.

(6) *Request for records located at numerous facilities.* A request for records which are, or may be, located at all or a substantial number of post offices or other postal facilities will be deemed to be a reasonable description only of such of those records as are maintained at the post office or other facility to which the request is submitted, and of those records maintained at any other post offices or facilities specifically identified in the request. See paragraph (a)(2) of this section concerning the custodian of records of two or more facilities.

(b) *Responsibilities of the custodian.* (1) The custodian of the requested record is the person responsible for determining whether to comply with or to deny the request. A custodian who is not an Officer as defined in § 221.7, however, should not deny a request, until he has obtained the advice of Chief Field Counsel. If denial of a request appears necessary, the custodian should seek advice as soon as possible after receipt of the request so as to provide adequate time for legal review.

(2) The custodian shall make his determination within ten working days, i.e., exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, of receiving the request, and more rapidly if feasible. The custodian and the requester may, by mutual agreement, preferably in writing, establish a different response period.

(3) If a requested record cannot be located from the information supplied, the requester should be given an opportunity to supply additional information and, if feasible, to confer with the custodian or his representative, in an attempt to provide a reasonable description of the records sought. If additional information is furnished, the request will be deemed to have been received by the custodian when sufficient additional information to identify and locate the record with a reasonable amount of effort has been received.

(4) The ten working day response period allowed above may be extended by the custodian, after consultation with Chief Field Counsel or with the General Counsel if the custodian is at Headquarters, for a period not to exceed an additional ten working days when, and to the extent, reasonably necessary to permit the proper processing of a particular request, under one or more of the following unusual circumstances:

(i) The request requires a search for and collection of records from a facility other than that processing the request;

(ii) The request requires the search for, and collection and appropriate examination of, a voluminous amount of separate and distinct records; or

(iii) The request requires consultation (A) with another agency having a

substantial interest in the determination of whether to comply with the request or (B) among two or more components of the Postal Service having substantial subject matter interest in the determination of whether to comply with the request.

(5) When the custodian finds that the additional time is required, he shall acknowledge the request in writing within the initial ten day response period, state the reason for the delay, and indicate the date on which a decision as to disclosure is expected.

(6) If the custodian has been unable to comply with the applicable time limit provisions of this section, in spite of the exercise of due diligence, he shall nonetheless make a determination as promptly as possible. He shall notify the requester of the exceptional circumstances preventing timely compliance and of the date by which it is expected that the determination will be made. A copy of this notification shall be sent to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–1100.

(7) If a requested record is known to have been destroyed, disposed of, or otherwise not to exist, the requester shall be so notified.

(c) *Compliance with request upon affirmative determination by custodian.* (1) When a requested record has been identified and is to be disclosed in whole or in part, the custodian shall ensure that the record is made available promptly and shall immediately notify the requester where and when and upon what reasonable conditions, if any, including the payment of fees, the record will be available for inspection or copies will be available. Postal Service records will normally be available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at the postal facilities at which they are maintained. The custodian may, however, designate other reasonable locations and times for inspection and copying of some or all of the records within his custody.

(2) Any fees authorized or required to be paid in advance by § 265.(f)(3) shall be paid by the requester before the record is made available or a copy is furnished unless payment is waived or deferred pursuant to § 265.8(g).

(3) A custodian complying with a request may designate a representative to monitor any inspection or copying.

(d) *Denial of request.* (1) A reply denying a request in whole or in part shall be in writing, signed by the custodian or his designee, and shall include:

(i) A statement of the reason for, or justification of, the denial, e.g., records personal in nature, including, if applicable, a reference to the provision or provisions of § 265.6 authorizing the withholding of the record and a brief explanation of how each provision applies to the records requested;

(ii) The name and title or position of the person responsible for the denial of the request (see paragraph (d)(2) of this section); and

(iii) A statement of the right to appeal and of the appeal procedure within the Postal Service (described in paragraph (e) of this section).

(2) The custodian is ordinarily the person responsible for the denial of the request. If the denial of a particular request has been directed by higher authority, however, the name and title or position of the person directing the denial shall be given in the reply to the requester in place of the custodian as the person responsible for the denial, and a copy of the denial shall be sent to that person.

(e) *Appeal procedure.* (1) If a request to inspect or to copy a record is denied, in whole or in part, if no determination is made within the period prescribed by this section, or if a request for waiver of fees is not granted, the requester may appeal to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–1100.

(2) The requester shall submit his appeal in writing within 30 days of the date of the denial or of the other action complained of, or within a reasonable time if the appeal is from a failure of the custodian to act. The General Counsel may, in his discretion, consider late appeals.

(3) In the event of the denial of a request or of other action or failure to act on the part of a custodian from which no appeal is taken, the General Counsel may, if he considers that there is doubt as to the correctness of the custodian's action or failure to act, review the action or failure to act as

though an appeal pursuant to this section had been taken.

(4) A letter of appeal should include, as applicable:

(i) A copy of the request, of any notification of denial or other action, and of any other related correspondence;

(ii) A statement of the action, or failure to act, from which the appeal is taken;

(iii) A statement of the reasons why the requester believes the action or failure to act is erroneous; and

(iv) A statement of the relief sought.

(f) *Action on appeals.* (1) The decision of the General Counsel or his designee constitutes the final decision of the Postal Service on the right of the requester to inspect or copy a record. The decision will normally be made within twenty working days from the time of the receipt by the General Counsel. The 20 day response period may be extended by the General Counsel or his designee for a period not to exceed an additional ten working days when reasonably necessary to permit the proper consideration of an appeal, under one or more of the unusual circumstances set forth in paragraph (b)(4) of this section. The aggregate number of additional working days utilized pursuant to this paragraph (f)(1) and paragraph (b) of this section, however, may not exceed ten.

(2) The decision on the appeal shall be in writing. If the decision sustains a denial of a record, in whole or in part, it shall state the justification therefor and shall specify any exemption or exemptions relied on and the manner in which they apply to the record withheld, and shall inform the requester of his right to judicial review. An indexed file of decisions on appeals shall be maintained by the Headquarters Library and be made available to the public.

(3) If not prohibited by or under law, the General Counsel or his designee may direct the disclosure of a record even though its disclosure is not required by law or regulation.

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44271, July 1, 1980; 47 FR 20304, May 12, 1982; 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986; 52 FR 13668, Apr. 24, 1987; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.8 Business information; procedures for predisclosure notification to submitters.

(a) *In general.* This section provides a procedure by which persons submitting business information to the Postal Service can request that the information not be disclosed pursuant to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. This section does not affect the Postal Service's right, authority, or obligation to disclose information in any other context, nor is it intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the Postal Service, its officers, or any person. Existing rights of submitters are also unaffected. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) *Business information* means commercial or financial information provided directly or indirectly to the Postal Service by a submitter that arguably is protected from disclosure under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), which is restated in § 265.6(b)(2).

(2) *Submitter* means any person or entity who provides business information, directly or indirectly, to the Postal Service. The term includes, but is not limited to, corporations, state governments, and foreign governments.

(b) *Notice to submitters.* (1) The custodian shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide a submitter with prompt written notice of a Freedom of Information Act request for the submitter's business information whenever required under paragraph (c) of this section, except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, in order to afford the submitter an opportunity to object to disclosure pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. Such written notice shall either describe the exact nature of the business information requested or provide copies of the records or portions of records containing the business information. In the case of an administrative appeal, the General Counsel shall be responsible for providing such notification as may be appropriate under this section.

(2) When notice is given to a submitter under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the requester also shall be notified that notice and an opportunity to

object are being provided to the submitter pursuant to this section.

(c) *When notice is required.* Notice shall be given to a submitter whenever:

(1) The submitter has in good faith designated the information as information deemed protected from disclosure under Exemption 4, in accordance with the procedure described in paragraph (e) of this section; or

(2) In the opinion of the custodian, or of the General Counsel in the case of an administrative appeal, it is likely that disclosure of the information would result in competitive harm to the submitter.

(d) *Exceptions to notice requirements.* The notice requirements of paragraph (b) of this section shall not apply if:

(1) The Postal Service determines without reference to the submitter that the information will not be disclosed;

(2) The information lawfully has been published or has been officially made available to the public;

(3) Disclosure of the information is required by law (other than the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552); or

(4) Disclosure of the particular kind of information is required by a Postal Service regulation, except that, in such case, advance written notice of a decision to disclose shall be provided to the submitter if the submitter had provided written justification for protection of the information under Exemption 4 at the time of submission or a reasonable time thereafter.

(e) *Procedure for designating business information at the time of its submission.* (1) Submitters of business information shall use good-faith efforts to designate, by appropriate markings, either at the time of submission or at a reasonable time thereafter, those portions of their submissions which they deem to be protected from disclosure under Exemption 4. Each record, or portion thereof, to be so designated, shall be clearly marked with a suitable legend such as Privileged Business Information—Do Not Release. When the designated records contain some information for which an exemption is not claimed, the submitter shall clearly indicate the portions for which protection is sought.

(2) At the time a designation is made pursuant to paragraph (e)(1) of this section, the submitter shall furnish the Postal Service with the name, title, address and telephone number of the person or persons to be contacted for the purpose of the notification described in paragraph (b) of this section.

(3) Submitters who provide to a postal facility business information on a recurring basis and in substantially identical form may use the following simplified process: The first submission will provide in full the information required in paragraphs (e)(1) and (2) of this section; shall identify the type of information, *e.g.,* PS Form 3602, to which it is intended to apply; and shall state that it is intended to serve as a designation for all of the information of this type that is submitted to the particular facility. Thereafter when providing this type of information, the submitter need only mark a submission with a reference to the designation, *e.g.,* Privileged: see letter of 4–1–91. By written agreement with the head of the facility, even this marking may be dispensed with if it is not necessary to alert postal employees at that facility of the claim of exemption.

(4) A designation made pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section shall be deemed to have expired ten years after the date the records were submitted unless the submitter requests, and provides reasonable justification for, a designation period of greater duration.

(5) The Postal Service will not determine the validity of any request for confidential treatment until a request for disclosure of the information is received.

(f) *Opportunity to object to disclosure.* Through the notice described in paragraph (b) of this section, the submitter shall be afforded a reasonable period of time within which to provide the Postal Service with a detailed written statement of any objection to disclosure. Such statement shall specify all grounds for withholding any of the information under any exemption of the Freedom of Information Act and, in the case of Exemption 4, shall demonstrate why the information is contended to be a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential. Whenever possible, the

submitter's claim of confidentiality should be supported by a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the submitter that the information in question is in fact confidential, has not been disclosed to the public by the submitter, and is not routinely available to the public from other sources. Information provided by a submitter pursuant to this paragraph may itself be subject to disclosure under the FOIA.

(g) *Determination that confidential treatment is warranted.* If the custodian determines that confidential treatment is warranted for any part of the requested records, he shall inform the requester in writing in accordance with the procedures set out in § 265.7(d) of this chapter, and shall advise the requester of the right to appeal. A copy of the letter of denial shall also be provided to the submitter of the records in any case in which the submitter had been notified of the request pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section.

(h) *Notice of intent to disclose.* The custodian, in the case of an initial request, or the General Counsel, in the case of an appeal, shall consider carefully a submitter's objections and specific grounds for nondisclosure prior to determining whether to disclose business information. In the event of a decision to disclose business information over the objection of the submitter, the submitter shall be furnished a written notice which shall include:

(1) A description of the business information to be disclosed;

(2) A statement of the reasons for which the submitter's disclosure objections were not sustained; and

(3) The specific date upon which disclosure will occur. Such notice of intent to disclose shall be forwarded to the submitter a reasonable number of days prior to the specified disclosure date and the requester shall be notified likewise.

(i) *Notice of FOIA lawsuit.* Whenever a requester brings suit seeking to compel disclosure of business information, the General Counsel shall promptly notify the submitter.

[56 FR 56934, Nov. 7, 1991]

§ 265.9 Schedule of fees.

(a) *Policy.* The purpose of this section is to establish fair and equitable fees to permit the furnishing of records to members of the public while recovering the full allowable direct costs incurred by the Postal Service. The Postal Service will use the most efficient and least costly methods available to it when complying with requests for records.

(b) *Standard rates*—(1) *Record retrieval.* Searches may be done manually or by computer using existing programming.

(i) *Manual search.* The fee for each quarter hour spent by clerical personnel in searching for records is $4.40. When a search cannot be performed by clerical personnel and must be performed by professional or managerial personnel, the fee for each quarter hour in searching for records is $5.35.

(ii) *Computer search.* The fee for retrieving data by computer is the actual direct cost of the retrieval, including computer search time, runs and operator salary, as calculated in accordance with the Information Services Price List in effect at the time that the retrieval services are performed. The list is subject to periodic revision. A copy of the list is included within the public index. (See appendix A.)

(2) *Duplication.* (i) Except where otherwise specifically provided in postal regulations, the fee for duplicating any record or publication is $.15 per page.

(ii) The Postal Service may at its discretion make coin-operated copy machines available at any location or otherwise give the requester the opportunity to make copies of Postal Service records at his own expense. Unless authorized by the Records Office, however, no off-site copying shall be permitted of records which, if lost, could not be replaced without inconvenience to the Postal Service.

(iii) The Postal Service will normally furnish only one copy of any record. If duplicate copies are furnished at the request of the requester, the per-page fee shall be charged for each copy of each duplicate page without regard to whether the requester is eligible for free copies pursuant to paragraph (c) or (g) of this section. At his discretion, when it is reasonably necessary because of a lack of adequate copying facilities or other circumstances, the

custodian may make the requested record available to the requester for inspection under reasonable conditions and need not furnish a copy thereof.

(3) *Review.* The fee for each quarter hour spent by clerical personnel in reviewing records located in response to a commercial use request is $4.40. When review cannot be performed by clerical personnel and must be performed by professional or managerial personnel, the fee for each quarter hour is $5.35. Only requesters who are seeking documents for commercial use may be charged for review. ''Review'' is defined in paragraph (h)(4) of this section; ''commercial use'' is defined in paragraph (h)(5) of this section.

(4) *Micrographics.* Paragraphs (b) (1), (2) and (3) of this section also apply to information stored within micrographic systems.

(c) *Four categories of fees to be charged.* For the purpose of assessing fees under this section, a requester shall be classified into one of four categories: commercial use requesters; educational and noncommercial scientific institutions; representatives of the news media; and all other requesters. Requesters in each category must reasonably describe the records sought. Fees shall be charged requesters in each category in accordance with the following.

(1) *Commercial use requesters.* Fees shall be charged to recover the full direct costs of search, review and duplication in accordance with the rates prescribed in paragraphs (b) (1) through (3) of this section, subject only to the general waiver set out in paragraph (g)(1) of this section. The term ''commercial use request'' is defined in paragraph (h)(5).

(2) *Educational and noncommercial scientific institutions.* Fees shall be charged only for duplication in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section, except that the first 100 pages furnished in response to a particular request shall be furnished without charge. (See also the general waiver provision in paragraph (g)(1) of this section.) To be eligible for the reduction of fees applicable to this category, the requester must show that the request is being made as authorized by and under the auspices of a qualifying institution and that the records are not sought for a commercial use, but are sought in furtherance of scholarly or scientific research. These institutions are defined in paragraphs (h)(6) and (h)(7) of this section, respectively.

(3) *Representatives of the news media.* Fees shall be charged only for duplication in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section, except that the first 100 pages furnished in response to a particular request shall be furnished without charge. (See also the general waiver provision in paragraph (g)(1) of this section.) To be eligible for the reduction of fees applicable to this category, the requester must meet the criteria in paragraph (h)(8) of this section, and the request must not be made for a commercial use.

(4) *All other requesters.* Fees shall be charged for search and duplication in accordance with paragraphs (b) (1) and (2) of this section, except that the first 100 pages of duplication and the first two hours of search time shall be furnished without charge. (See also paragraphs (g)(1) and (g)(2) of this section.)

(d) *Aggregating requests.* When the custodian reasonably believes that a requester is attempting to break a request down into a series of requests in order to evade the assessment of fees, the custodian may aggregate the requests and charge accordingly. The custodian shall not aggregate multiple requests when the requests pertain to unrelated subject matter. Requests made by more than one requester may be aggregated only when the custodian has a concrete basis on which to conclude that the requesters are acting in concert specifically to avoid payment of fees.

(e) *Other costs*—(1) *Publications.* Publications and other printed materials may, to the extent that they are available in sufficient quantity, be made available at the established price, if any, or at cost to the Postal Service. Fees established for printed materials pursuant to laws, other than the Freedom of Information Act, that specifically provide for the setting of fees for particular types of records are not subject to waiver or reduction under this section.

(2) *Other charges.* When a response to a request requires services or materials other than the common one listed in

paragraph (b) of this section, the direct cost of such services or materials to the Postal Service may be charged, but only if the requester has been notified of the nature and estimated amount of such cost before it is incurred.

(3) *Change of address orders.* Although change of address information is not required by the Freedom of Information Act to be made available to the public, the fee for obtaining this information in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of § 265.6 is included in this section as a matter of convenience. The fee for searching for a change of address order is $3.00. This fee is charged regardless of whether a permanent change of address is found on file. (See paragraph (g)(5) of this section.)

(f) *Advance notice and payment of fees*—(1) *Liability and payment.* The requester is responsible, subject to limitations on liability provided by this section, for the payment of all fees for services resulting from his request, even if responsive records are not located or are determined to be exempt from disclosure. Checks in payment of fees should be made payable to ''U.S. Postal Service.''

(2) *Advance notice.* To protect members of the public from unwittingly incurring liability for unexpectedly large fees, the custodian shall notify the requester if the estimated cost is expected to exceed $25. When search fees are expected to exceed $25, but it cannot be determined in advance whether any records will be located or made available, the custodian shall notify the requester of the estimated amount and of the responsibility to pay search fees even through records are not located or are determined to be exempt from disclosure. The notification shall be transmitted as soon as possible after physical receipt of the request, giving the best estimate then available. It shall include a brief explanatory statement of the nature and extent of the services upon which the estimate is based and shall offer the requester an opportunity to confer with the custodian or his representative in an attempt to reformulate the request so as to meet his needs at lower cost. The time period for responding to the request shall not run during the interval between the date such notification is transmitted and the date of receipt of the requester's agreement to bear the cost. No notification is required if the request specifically states that whatever cost is involved is acceptable or is acceptable up to a specified amount that covers estimated costs or if payment of all fees in excess of $25 has been waived.

(3) *Advance payment.* Advance payment of fees shall not be required, except: (i) When it is estimated that the fees chargeable under this section are likely to exceed $250. If the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, the custodian shall notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment before commencing work on the request. If the requester has no history of payment, the custodian may require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charge before commencing work on the request.

(ii) When a requester has previously failed to pay a fee in a timely fashion (i.e., within 30 days of the date of the billing), the requester shall be required to pay the full amount owed, and to make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated fee before processing will begin on a new or pending request.

(iii) When advance payment is required under paragraphs (f)(3)(i) or (ii) of this section, the time periods for responding to the initial request or to an appeal shall not run during the interval between the date that notice of the requirement is transmitted and the date that the required payment or assurance of payment is received.

(g) *Restrictions on assessing fees*—(1) *General waiver.* Fees shall not be charged to any requester if they would amount, in the aggregate, for a request or a series of related requests, to $10 or less. When the fees for the first 100 pages or the first two hours of search time are excludable under paragraph (c) of this section, additional costs will not be assessed unless they exceed $10. This general waiver does not apply to the fee for providing change of address information.

(2) *Certain fees not charged*—(i) *All requests except those for commercial use.* Fees shall not be charged for the first 100 pages of duplication and the first

two hours of search time except when the request is for a commercial use as defined in paragraph (h)(5) of this section. When search is done by computer, the fees to be excluded for the first two hours of search time shall be determined on the basis of the standard rates set out in the Information Services Price List then in effect. (See appendix A.) Assessment of search fees will begin at the point when the cost of the search (including the cost of equipment use and operator's time) reaches the equivalent dollar amount of the operator's basic rate for two hours plus a factor to cover benefits.

(ii) *Requests of educational and noncommercial scientific institutions, and representatives of the news media.* Fees shall not be charged for time spent searching for records in response to requests submitted by educational and noncommercial scientific institutions or representatives of the news media.

(3) *Public interest waiver.* The custodian shall waive a fee, in whole or in part, and any requirement for advance payment of such a fee, when he determines that furnishing the records is deemed to be in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the federal government, and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. This waiver may be granted notwithstanding the applicability of other fee reductions prescribed by this section for requesters in certain categories. In determining whether disclosure is in the public interest for the purposes of this waiver, the following factors may be considered:

(i) The relation of the records to the operations or activities of the Postal Services;

(ii) The informative value of the information to be disclosed;

(iii) Any contribution to an understanding of the subject by the general public likely to result from disclosure;

(iv) The significance of that contribution to the public understanding of the subject;

(v) The nature of the requester's personal interest, if any, in the disclosure requested; and

(vi) Whether the disclosure would be primarily in the requester's commercial interest.

(4) *Waiver by officer.* Any officer of the Postal Service, as defined in § 221.8, his designee, or the USPS Records Office may waive in whole or in part any fee required by this part or the requirement for advance payment of any fee.

(5) *Waiver of fee for changes of address.* The fee prescribed by paragraph (e)(3) of this section is waived when change of address information is provided:

(i) To a Federal, state or local government agency upon prior written certification that the information is required for the performance of its duties.

(ii) To persons requesting the information for the purpose of serving legal process in accordance with paragraph (d)(4)(ii) of § 265.6.

(iii) In compliance with a subpoena or other court order.

(iv) To a law enforcement agency, for oral requests made through the Inspection Service in accordance with paragraph (d)(4)(iv) of § 265.6.

(v) To postage meter manufacturers when they are attempting to locate a missing meter.

This waiver does not apply to fees for services performed in accordance with section 945 of the Domestic Mail Manual.

(h) *Definitions.* As used in this section, the term:

(1) *Direct costs* include expenditures actually incurred in searching for and duplicating (and in the case of commercial requesters, reviewing) documents to respond to a FOIA request. Direct costs include, for example, the salary of the employee performing work (the basic rate of pay for the employee plus a factor to cover benefits) and the cost of operating duplicating machinery. Not included in direct costs are overhead expenses such as costs of space, and heating or lighting the facility in which the records are stored.

(2) *Search* includes all time spent looking for material that is responsive to a request, including page-by-page or line-by-line identification of material within documents. Searches may be done manually or by computer using existing programming. A line-by-line search will be conducted only when

necessary to determine whether the document contains responsive information and will not be employed in those instances in which duplication of the entire document would be the less expensive and quicker method of complying with a request. *Search* does not include review of material to determine whether the material is exempt from disclosure (see paragraph (h)(4) of this section).

(3) *Duplication* refers to the process of making a copy of a document necessary to respond to a FOIA request. Such copies can take the form of paper copy, microform, audio-visual materials, or machine readable documentation (e.g., magnetic tape or disk), among others. The copy provided must be in a form that is reasonably usable by requesters.

(4) *Review* refers to the process of examining documents located in response to a request that is for a commercial use (see paragraph (h)(5) of this section) to determine whether any portion of any document located is exempt from mandatory disclosure. It also includes processing any documents for disclosure, e.g., doing all that is necessary to excise them and otherwise prepare them for release. Review does not include time spent resolving general legal or policy issues regarding the application of exemptions. Charges may be assessed only for the initial review, i.e., the first time the applicability of a specific exemption is analyzed. Costs for a subsequent review are properly assessable only when a record or portion of a record withheld solely on the basis of an exemption later determined not to apply must be reviewed again to determine the applicability of other exemptions not previously considered.

(5) *Commercial use request* refers to a request from or on behalf of one who seeks information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or the person on whose behalf the request is made. In determining whether a request properly belongs in this category, the Postal Service will look to the use to which the requester will put the documents requested. If the use is not clear from the request itself, or if there is reasonable cause to doubt the requester's stated use, the custodian shall seek additional clarification from the requester before assigning the request to this category.

(6) *Educational institution* refers to a pre-school, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of graduate higher education, an institution of undergraduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(7) *Noncommercial scientific institution* refers to an institution that is not operated on a ''commercial'' basis as that term is defined in paragraph (h)(5) of this section, and which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research the resutls of which are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(8) *Representative of the news media* refers to any person actively gathering news for an entity that is organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. The term ''news'' means information that is about current events or that would be of current interest to the public. Requests by news organizations for information that will be used for the furtherance of the organization's commercial interests, rather than for the dissemination of news to the public, shall be considered commercial use requests. Examples of news media entities include television or radio stations broadcasting to the public at large, and publishers of periodicals (but only in those instances when they can qualify as disseminators of ''news'') who make their products available for purchase or subscription by the general public. These examples are not intended to be all-inclusive. A ''freelance'' journalist will be regarded as a representative of the news media if he can demonstrate a solid basis for expecting publication through a news organization, even though not actually employed by it. This may be demonstrated either by a publication contract with the news organization or by

the past publication record of the requester.

[52 FR 13668, Apr. 24, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 49983, Dec. 13, 1988; 54 FR 7417, Feb. 21, 1989. Redesignated at 56 FR 56934, Nov. 7, 1991, and amended at 56 FR 57805, Nov. 14, 1991; 59 FR 11550, Mar. 11, 1994; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.10 Annual reports.

A report concerning the administration of the Freedom of Information Act and this part for the preceding calendar year is submitted to the Congress by March 1 of each year. The Records Office shall prescribe the form and content of the report.

[45 FR 44271, July 1, 1980. Redesignated at 56 FR 56934, Nov. 7, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.11 Compliance with subpoena duces tecum, court orders, and summonses.

(a) *Compliance with subpoena duces tecum.* (1) Except as required by Part 262, produce other records of the Postal Service only in compliance with a subpoena duces tecum or appropriate court order.

(2) Time, leave, and payroll records of postal employees are subject to production when a subpoena duces tecum or appropriate court order has been properly served. The custodian of the records may designate a postal employee to present the records. The presentation by a designee rather than the employee named in the subpoena or court order must meet with the approval of the attorneys for each side. In addition, such records may be released if authorized in writing by the employee.

(3) If the subpoena involves a job-connected injury, the records are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor. Requests for authorization to produce these records shall be addressed to: Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210–0001. Also notify the attorney responsible for the issuance of the subpoena or court order.

(4) Employee medical records are primarily under the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. The Commission has delegated authority to the Postal Service and to the Commission's Regional Directors to release medical information, in response to proper requests and upon competent medical advice, in accordance with the following criteria:

(i) Except in response to a subpoena or court order, do not release any medical information about an employee to any non-Federal entity or individual without authorization from the employee.

(ii) With authorization from the employee, the Area, Information Systems Service Center, or Chief Field Counsel will respond as follows to a request from a non-Federal source for medical information:

(*a*) If, in the opinion of a Federal medical officer, the medical information indicates the existence of a malignancy, a mental condition, or other condition about which a prudent physician would hesitate to inform a person suffering from such a condition as to its exact nature and probable outcome, do not release the medical information to the employee or to any individual designated by him, except to a physician, designated by the employee in writing. If a subpoena or court order was issued, the responding official shall caution the moving party as to the possible dangers involved if the medical information is divulged.

(*b*) If, in the opinion of a Federal medical officer, the medical information does not indicate the presence of any condition which would cause a prudent physician to hesitate to inform a person of the exact nature and probable outcome of his condition, release it in response to a subpoena or court order, or to the employee or to any person, firm, or organization he authorizes in writing.

(*c*) If a Federal medical officer is not available, refer the request to the Civil Service Commission regional office with the medical certificates or other medical reports concerned.

(5) Do not release any records containing information as to the employee's security or loyalty.

(6) Honor subpoenas or court orders only when disclosure is authorized.

(7) When authorized to comply with a subpoena duces tecum, do not leave the original records with the court.

(b) [Reserved]

[40 FR 7331, Feb. 19, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986; 56 FR 55824, Oct. 30, 1991. Redesignated at 56 FR 56934, Nov. 7, 1991; 60 FR 36712, July 18, 1995; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 265.12 Demands for testimony or records in certain legal proceedings.

(a) *Scope and applicability of this section.* (1) This section establishes procedures to be followed if the Postal Service or any Postal Service employee receives a demand for testimony concerning or disclosure of:

(i) Records contained in the files of the Postal Service;

(ii) Information relating to records contained in the files of the Postal Service; or

(iii) Information or records acquired or produced by the employee in the course of his or her official duties or because of the employee's official status.

(2) This section does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any person against the Postal Service.

(3) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(i) Any legal proceeding in which the United States is a party;

(ii) A demand for testimony or records made by either House of Congress or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee of Congress;

(iii) An appearance by an employee in his or her private capacity in a legal proceeding in which the employee's testimony does not relate to the employee's official duties or the functions of the Postal Service; or

(iv) A demand for testimony or records submitted to the Postal Inspection Service (a demand for Inspection Service records or testimony will be handled in accordance with rules in § 265.11).

(4) This section does not exempt a request from applicable confidentiality requirements, including the requirements of the Privacy Act. 5 U.S.C. 552a.

(b) *Definitions.* The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) *Adjudicative authority* includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) A court of law or other judicial forums, whether local, state, or federal; and

(ii) Mediation, arbitration, or other forums for dispute resolution.

(2) *Demand* includes a subpoena, subpoena duces tecum, request, order, or other notice for testimony or records arising in a legal proceeding.

(3) *Employee* means a current employee or official of the Postal Service.

(4) *General Counsel* means the General Counsel of the United States Postal Service, the Chief Field Counsels, or an employee of the Postal Service acting for the General Counsel under a delegation of authority.

(5) *Legal proceeding means:*

(i) A proceeding before an adjudicative authority;

(ii) A legislative proceeding, except for a proceeding before either House of Congress or before any committee or subcommittee of Congress; or

(iii) An administrative proceeding.

(6) *Private litigation* means a legal proceeding to which the United States is not a party.

(7) *Records custodian* means the employee who maintains a requested record. For assistance in identifying the custodian of a specific record, contact the Records Office, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–5243, telephone (202) 268–2608.

(8) *Testimony* means statements made in connection with a legal proceeding, including but not limited to statements in court or other forums, depositions, declarations, affidavits, or responses to interrogatories.

(9) *United States* means the federal government of the United States and any of its agencies, establishments, or instrumentalities, including the United States Postal Service.

(c) *Requirements for submitting a demand for testimony or records.* (1) Ordinarily, a party seeking to obtain records from the Postal Service should submit a request in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552, and

the Postal Service's regulations implementing the FOIA at 39 CFR 265.1 through 265.9 or the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a and the Postal Service's regulations implementing the Privacy Act at 39 CFR 266.1 through 266.9.

(2) A demand for testimony or records issued pursuant to the rules governing the legal proceeding in which the demand arises must:

(i) Be in writing;

(ii) Identify the requested record and/or state the nature of the requested testimony, describe the relevance of the record or testimony to the proceeding, and why the information sought is unavailable by any other means; and

(iii) If testimony is requested, contain a summary of the requested testimony and a showing that no document could be provided and used in lieu of testimony.

(3) Procedures for service of demand are made as follows:

(i) Service of a demand for testimony or records (including, but not limited to, personnel or payroll information) relating to a current or former employee must be made in accordance with the applicable rules of civil procedure on the employee whose testimony is requested or the records custodian. The requester also shall deliver a copy of the demand to the District Manager, Customer Services and Sales, for all current employees whose work location is within the geographic boundaries of the manager's district, and any former employee whose last position was within the geographic boundaries of the manager's district. A demand for testimony or records must be received by the employee whose testimony is requested and the appropriate District Manager, Customer Services and Sales, at least ten (10) working days before the date the testimony or records are needed.

(ii) Service of a demand for testimony or records other than those described in paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section must be made in accordance with the applicable rules of civil procedure on the employee whose testimony is requested or the records custodian. The requester also shall deliver a copy of the demand to the General Counsel, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington DC 20260–1100, or the Chief Field Counsel. A demand for testimony or records must be received by the employee and the General Counsel or Chief Field Counsel at least ten (10) working days before the date testimony or records are needed.

(d) *Procedures followed in response to a demand for testimony or records.* (1) After an employee receives a demand for testimony or records, the employee shall immediately notify the General Counsel or Chief Field Counsel and request instructions.

(2) An employee may not give testimony or produce records without the prior authorization of the General Counsel.

(3)(i) The General Counsel may allow an employee to testify or produce records if the General Counsel determines that granting permission:

(A) Would be appropriate under the rules of procedure governing the matter in which the demand arises and other applicable laws, privileges, rules, authority, and regulations; and

(B) Would not be contrary to the interest of the United States. The interest of the United States includes, but is not limited to, furthering a public interest of the Postal Service and protecting the human and financial resources of the United States.

(ii) An employee's testimony shall be limited to the information set forth in the statement described at paragraph (c)(2) of this section or to such portions thereof as the General Counsel determines are not subject to objection. An employee's testimony shall be limited to facts within the personal knowledge of the employee. A Postal Service employee authorized to give testimony under this rule is prohibited from giving expert or opinion testimony, answering hypothetical or speculative questions, or giving testimony with respect to privileged subject matter. The General Counsel may waive the prohibition of expert testimony under this paragraph only upon application and showing of exceptional circumstances and the request substantially meets the requirements of this section.

(4) The General Counsel may establish conditions under which the employee may testify. If the General Counsel authorizes the testimony of an

employee, the party seeking testimony shall make arrangements for the taking of testimony by those methods that, in the General Counsel's view, will least disrupt the employee's official duties. For example, at the General Counsel's discretion, testimony may be provided by affidavits, answers to interrogatories, written depositions, or depositions transcribed, recorded, or preserved by any other means allowable by law.

(5) If a response to a demand for testimony or records is required before the General Counsel determines whether to allow an employee to testify, the employee or counsel for the employee shall do the following:

(i) Inform the court or other authority of the regulations in this section; and

(ii) Request that the demand be stayed pending the employee's receipt of the General Counsel's instructions.

(6) If the court or other authority declines the request for a stay, or rules that the employee must comply with the demand regardless of the General Counsel's instructions, the employee or counsel for the employee shall respectfully decline to comply with the demand, citing *United States ex rel. Touhy* v. *Ragen*, 340 U.S. 462 (1951), and the regulations in this section.

(7) The General Counsel may request the assistance of the Department of Justice or a U.S. Attorney where necessary to represent the interests of the Postal Service and the employee.

(8) At his or her discretion, the General Counsel may grant a waiver of any procedure described by this section, where waiver is considered necessary to promote a significant interest of the United States or for other good cause.

(9) If it otherwise is permissible, the records custodian may authenticate, upon the request of the party seeking disclosure, copies of the records. No employee of the Postal Service shall respond in strict compliance with the terms of a subpoena duces tecum unless specifically authorized by the General Counsel.

(e) *Postal Service employees as expert witnesses.* No Postal Service employee may testify as an expert or opinion witness, with regard to any matter arising out of the employee's official duties or the functions of the Postal Service, for any party other than the United States, except that in extraordinary circumstances, the General Counsel may approve such expert testimony in private litigation. A Postal Service employee may not testify as such an expert witness without the express authorization of the General Counsel. A litigant must obtain authorization of the General Counsel before designating a Postal Service employee as an expert witness.

(f) *Substitution of Postal Service employees.* Although a demand for testimony may be directed to a named Postal Service employee, the General Counsel, where appropriate, may designate another Postal Service employee to give testimony. Upon request and for good cause shown (for example, when a particular Postal Service employee has direct knowledge of a material fact not known to the substitute employee designated by the Postal Service), the General Counsel may permit testimony by a named Postal Service employee.

(g) *Fees and costs.* (1) The Postal Service may charge fees, not to exceed actual costs, to private litigants seeking testimony or records by request or demand. The fees, which are to be calculated to reimburse fully the Postal Service for processing the demand and providing the witness or records, may include, among others:

(i) Costs of time spent by employees, including attorneys, of the Postal Service to process and respond to the demand;

(ii) Costs of attendance of the employee and agency attorney at any deposition, hearing, or trial;

(iii) Travel costs of the employee and agency attorney;

(iv) Costs of materials and equipment used to search for, process, and make available information.

(2) All costs for employee time shall be calculated on the hourly pay of the employee (including all pay, allowance, and benefits) and shall include the hourly fee for each hour, or portion of each hour, when the employee is in travel, in attendance at a deposition, hearing, or trial, or is processing or responding to a request or demand.

(3) At the discretion of the Postal Service, where appropriate, costs may be estimated and collected before testimony is given.

(h) *Acceptance of service.* This section does not in any way abrogate or modify the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. Appendix) regarding service of process.

[60 FR 17224, Apr. 5, 1995, as amended at 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§265.13 Compliance with subpoenas, summonses, and court orders by postal employees within the Inspection Service where the Postal Service, the United States, or any other federal agency is not a party.

(a) *Applicability of this section.* The rules in this section apply to all federal, state, and local court proceedings, as well as administrative and legislative proceedings, other than:

(1) Proceedings where the United States, the Postal Service, or any other federal agency is a party;

(2) Congressional requests or subpoenas for testimony or documents;

(3) Consultative services and technical assistance rendered by the Inspection Service in executing its normal functions;

(4) Employees serving as expert witnesses in connection with professional and consultative services under §447.23 of this chapter and under title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, part 7001, provided that employees acting in this capacity must state for the record that their testimony reflects their personal opinions and should not be viewed as the official position of the Postal Service;

(5) Employees making appearances in their private capacities in proceedings that do not relate to the Postal Service (e.g., cases arising from traffic accidents, domestic relations) and do not involve professional or consultative services; and

(6) When in the opinion of the Counsel or the Counsel's designee, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector, it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the Inspection Service or in the public interest.

(b) *Purpose and scope.* The provisions in this section limit the participation of postal employees within or assigned to the Inspection Service, in private litigation, and other proceedings in which the Postal Service, the United States, or any other federal agency is not a party. The rules are intended to promote the careful supervision of Inspection Service resources and to reduce the risk of inappropriate disclosures that might affect postal operations.

(c) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(1) *Authorizing official* is the person responsible for giving the authorization for release of documents or permission to testify.

(2) *Case* or *matter* means any civil proceeding before a court of law, administrative board, hearing officer, or other body conducting a judicial or administrative proceeding in which the United States, the Postal Service, or another federal agency is not a named party.

(3) *Demand* includes any request, order, or subpoena for testimony or the production of documents.

(4) *Document* means all records, papers, or official files, including, but not limited to, official letters, telegrams, memoranda, reports, studies, calendar and diary entries, graphs, notes, charts, tabulations, data analyses, statistical or information accumulations, records of meetings and conversations, film impressions, magnetic tapes, computer discs, and sound or mechanical reproductions;

(5) *Employee* or *Inspection Service employee,* for the purpose of this section only, refers to a Postal Service employee currently or formerly assigned to the Postal Inspection Service, student interns, contractors and employees of contractors who have access to Inspection Service information and records.

(6) *Inspection Service* means the organizational unit within the Postal Service as outlined in §224.3 of this chapter.

(7) *Inspection Service Legal Counsel* is an attorney authorized by the Chief Postal Inspector to give legal advice to members of the Inspection Service.

(8) *Inspection Service Manual* is the directive containing the standard operating procedures for Postal Inspectors and certain Inspection Service employees.

(9) *Nonpublic* includes any material or information not subject to mandatory public disclosure under § 265.6(b).

(10) *Official case file* means official documents that relate to a particular case or investigation. These documents may be kept at any location and do not necessarily have to be in the same location in order to constitute the file.

(11) *Postal Inspector reports* include all written reports, letters, recordings, or other memorializations made in conjunction with the duties of a Postal Inspector.

(12) *Testify* or *testimony* includes both in-person oral statements before any body conducting a judicial or administrative proceeding and statements made in depositions, answers to interrogatories, declarations, affidavits, or other similar documents.

(13) *Third-party action* means an action, judicial or administrative, in which the United States, the Postal Service, or any other federal agency is not a named party.

(d) *Policy*. (1) No current or former employee within the Inspection Service may testify or produce documents concerning information acquired in the course of employment or as a result of his or her relationship with the Postal Service in any proceeding to which this section applies (see paragraph (a) of this section), unless authorized to do so. Authorization will be provided by:

(i) The Postal Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division, or designee, for Division personnel and records, after that official has determined through consultation with Inspection Service legal counsel that no legal objection, privilege, or exemption applies to such testimony or production of documents.

(ii) The Chief Postal Inspector or designee for Headquarters employees and records, after that official has determined through consultation with Inspection Service legal counsel, that no legal objection, privilege, or exemption applies to such testimony or production of documents.

(2) Consideration shall be given to:

(i) Statutory restrictions, as well as any legal objection, exemption, or privilege that may apply;

(ii) Relevant legal standards for disclosure of nonpublic information and documents;

(iii) Inspection Service rules and regulations and the public interest;

(iv) Conservation of employee time; and

(v) Prevention of the expenditure of Postal Service resources for private purposes.

(3) If additional information is necessary before a determination can be made, the authorizing official may, in coordination with Inspection Service legal counsel, request assistance from the Department of Justice.

(e) *Compliance with subpoena duces tecum*. (1) Except as required by part 262 of this chapter, produce any other record of the Postal Service only in compliance with a subpoena *duces tecum* or appropriate court order.

(2) Do not release any record containing information relating to an employee's security or loyalty.

(3) Honor subpoenas and court orders only when disclosure is authorized.

(4) When authorized to comply with a subpoena *duces tecum* or court order, do not leave the originals with the court.

(5) Postal Inspector reports are considered to be confidential internal documents and shall not be released unless there is specific authorization by the Chief Postal Inspector or the Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division, after consulting with Inspection Service legal counsel.

(6) The Inspection Service Manual and other operating instructions issued to Inspection Service employees are considered to be confidential and shall not be released unless there is specific authorization, after consultation with Inspection Service legal counsel. If the requested information relates to confidential investigative techniques, or release of the information would adversely affect the law enforcement mission of the Inspection Service, the subpoenaed official, through Inspection Service legal counsel, may request an *in camera, ex parte* conference to determine the necessity for the release of the information. The entire Manual should not be given to any party.

(7) Notes, memoranda, reports, transcriptions, whether written or recorded

and made pursuant to an official investigation conducted by a member of the Inspection Service, are the property of the Inspection Service and are part of the official case file, whether stored with the official file.

(f) *Compliance with summonses and subpoenas ad testificandum.* (1) If an Inspection Service employee is served with a third-party summons or a subpoena requiring an appearance in court, contact should be made with Inspection Service legal counsel to determine whether and which exemptions or restrictions apply to proposed testimony. Inspection Service employees are directed to comply with summonses, subpoenas, and court orders, as to appearance, but may not testify without authorization.

(2) Postal Inspector reports or records will not be presented during testimony, in either state or federal courts in which the United States, the Postal Service, or another federal agency is not a party in interest, unless authorized by the Chief Postal Inspector or the Postal Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division, who will make the decision after consulting with Inspection Service legal counsel. If an attempt is made to compel production, through testimony, the employee is directed to decline to produce the information or matter and to state that it may be exempted and may not be disclosed or produced without the specific approval of the Chief Postal Inspector or the Postal Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division. The Postal Service will offer all possible assistance to the courts, but the question of disclosing information for which an exemption may be claimed is a matter of discretion that rests with the appropriate official. Paragraph (e) of this section covers the release of Inspection Service documents in cases where the Postal Service or the United States is not a party.

(g) *General procedures for obtaining Inspection Service documents and testimony from Inspection Service employees.* (1) To facilitate the orderly response to demands for the testimony of Inspection Service employees and production of documents in cases where the United States, the Postal Service, or another federal agency is not a party, all demands for the production of nonpublic documents or testimony of Inspection Service employees concerning matters relating to their official duties and not subject to the exemptions set forth in paragraph (a) of this section shall be in writing and conform to the requirements outlined in paragraphs (g)(2) and (g)(3) of this section.

(2) Before or simultaneously with service of a demand described in paragraph (g)(1) of this section, the requesting party shall serve on the Counsel, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–2181, an affidavit or declaration containing the following information:

(i) The title of the case and the forum where it will be heard;

(ii) The party's interest in the case;

(iii) The reasons for the demand;

(iv) A showing that the requested information is available, by law, to a party outside the Postal Service;

(v) If testimony is sought, a summary of the anticipated testimony;

(vi) If testimony is sought, a showing that Inspection Service records could not be provided and used in place of the requested testimony;

(vii) The intended use of the documents or testimony; and

(viii) An affirmative statement that the documents or testimony is necessary for defending or prosecuting the case at issue.

(3) The Counsel, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector, shall act as agent for the receipt of legal process for demands for production of records or testimony of Inspection Service employees where the United States, the Postal Service, or any other federal agency is not a party. A subpoena for testimony or for the production of documents from an Inspection Service employee concerning official matters shall be served in accordance with the applicable rules of civil procedure. A copy of the subpoena and affidavit or declaration, if not previously furnished, shall also be sent to the Chief Postal Inspector or the appropriate Postal Inspector in Charge.

(4) Any Inspection Service employee who is served with a demand shall promptly inform the Chief Postal Inspector, or the appropriate Postal Inspector in Charge, of the nature of the

documents or testimony sought and all relevant facts and circumstances.

(h) *Authorization of testimony or production of documents.* (1) The Chief Postal Inspector or the Postal Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division, after consulting with Inspection Service legal counsel, shall determine whether testimony or the production of documents will be authorized.

(2) Before authorizing the requested testimony or the production of documents, the Chief Postal Inspector or the Postal Inspector in Charge of the affected field Division shall consider the following factors:

(i) Statutory restrictions, as well as any legal objection, exemption, or privilege that may apply;

(ii) Relevant legal standards for disclosure of nonpublic information and documents;

(iii) Inspection Service rules and regulations and the public interest;

(iv) Conservation of employee time; and

(v) Prevention of expenditures of government time and resources solely for private purposes.

(3) If, in the opinion of the authorizing official, the documents should not be released or testimony should not be furnished, that official's decision is final.

(4) Inspection Service legal counsel may consult or negotiate with the party or the party's counsel seeking testimony or documents to refine and limit the demand, so that compliance is less burdensome, or obtain information necessary to make the determination whether the documents or testimony will be authorized. If the party or party's counsel seeking the documents or testimony fails to cooperate in good faith, preventing Inspection Service legal counsel from making an informed recommendation to the authorizing official, that failure may be presented to the court or other body conducting the proceeding as a basis for objection.

(5) Permission to testify or to release documents in all cases will be limited to matters outlined in the affidavit or declaration described in paragraph (g)(2) of this section or to such parts as deemed appropriate by the authorizing official.

(6) If the authorizing official allows the release of documents or testimony to be given by an employee, arrangements shall be made for the taking of testimony or receipt of documents by the least disruptive methods to the employee's official duties. Testimony may, for example, be provided by affidavits, answers to interrogatories, written depositions, or depositions transcribed, recorded, or preserved by any other means allowable by law.

(i) While giving a deposition, the employee may, at the option of the authorizing official, be represented by Inspection Service legal counsel.

(ii) While completing affidavits, or other written reports or at any time during the process of preparing for testimony or releasing documents, the employee may seek the assistance of Inspection Service legal counsel.

(7) Absent written authorization from the authorizing official, the employee shall respectfully decline to produce the requested documents, testify, or, otherwise, disclose the requested information.

(8) If the authorization is denied or not received by the return date, the employee, together with counsel, where appropriate, shall appear at the stated time and place, produce a copy of this section, and respectfully decline to testify or produce any document on the basis of the regulations in this section.

(9) The employee shall appear as ordered by the subpoena, summons, or other appropriate court order, unless:

(i) Legal counsel has advised the employee that an appearance is inappropriate, as in cases where the subpoena, summons, or other court order was not properly issued or served, has been withdrawn, discovery has been stayed; or

(ii) Where the Postal Service will present a legal objection to furnishing the requested information or testimony.

(i) *Inspection Service employees as expert or opinion witnesses.* No Inspection Service employee may testify as an expert or opinion witness, with regard to any matter arising out of the employee's duties or functions at the Postal Service, for any party other than the

United States, except that in extraordinary circumstances, the Counsel, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector, may approve such testimony in private litigation. An Inspection Service employee may not testify as such an expert or opinion witness without the express authorization of the Counsel, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector. A litigant must first obtain authorization of the Counsel, Office of the Chief Postal Inspector, before designating an Inspection Service employee as an expert or opinion witness.

(j) *Postal liability.* This section is intended to provide instructions to Inspection Service employees and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the Postal Service.

(k) *Fees.* (1) Unless determined by 28 U.S.C. 1821 or other applicable statute, the costs of providing testimony, including transcripts, shall be borne by the requesting party.

(2) Unless limited by statute, such costs shall also include reimbursement to the Postal Service for the usual and ordinary expenses attendant upon the employee's absence from his or her official duties in connection with the case or matter, including the employee's salary and applicable overhead charges, and any necessary travel expenses as follows:

(i) The Inspection Service is authorized to charge reasonable fees to parties demanding documents or information. Such fees, calculated to reimburse the Postal Service for the cost of responding to a demand, may include the costs of time expended by Inspection Service employees, including attorneys, to process and respond to the demand; attorney time for reviewing the demand and for legal work in connection with the demand; expenses generated by equipment used to search for, produce, and copy the requested information; travel costs of the employee and the agency attorney, including lodging and per diem where appropriate. Such fees shall be assessed at the rates and in the manner specified in § 265.9.

(ii) At the discretion of the Inspection Service where appropriate, fees and costs may be estimated and collected before testimony is given.

(iii) The provisions in this section do not affect rights and procedures governing public access to official documents pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C 552a.

(l) *Acceptance of service.* The rules in this section in no way modify the requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 U.S.C. Appendix) regarding service of process.

[60 FR 36712, July 18, 1995]

APPENDIX A TO PART 265—INFORMATION SERVICES PRICE LIST

When information is requested that must be retrieved by computer, the requester is charged for the resources required to furnish the information. Estimates are provided to the requester in advance and are based on the following price list.

Description of services	Rate	Unit
A. Central Processing Unit Utilization based upon IMB 3090–200 Performance Standard:		
Batch Processing Services	$3,600.00	Hour
On-Line Services	$4,000.00	Hour
Channel Utilization:		
Direct access Storage Devices	.54	[1] 1,000
Tape Channel (*execution of channel program)	.96	[1] 1,000
Local Printing	1.20	[2] 1,000
B. Personnel Charges:		
Programming Services	53.00	Hour
Manual Unit Services	37.00	Hour

[1] EXCPs.
[2] Print lines.

[56 FR 57984, Nov. 15, 1991]

PART 266—PRIVACY OF INFORMATION

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; 5 U.S.C. 552a.

§ 266.1 Purpose and scope.

This part is intended to protect individual privacy and affects all personal information collection and usage activities of the entire U.S. Postal Service. This includes the information interface of Postal Service employees to other employees, to individuals from the public at large, and to any private organization or governmental agency.

[40 FR 45723, Oct. 2, 1975]

§ 266.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the U.S. Postal Service to ensure that any record within its custody that identifies or describes any characteristic or provides historical information about an individual or that affords a basis for inferring personal characteristics, or things done by or to such individual, including the record of any affiliation with an organization or activity, or admission to an institution, is accurate, complete, timely, relevant, and reasonably secure from unauthorized access. Additionally, it is the policy to provide the means for individuals to know: (a) Of the existence of all Postal Service Privacy Act systems of records, (b) the recipients and usage made of such information, (c) what information is optional or mandatory to provide to the Postal Service, (d) the procedures for individuals to review and request update to all information maintained about themselves, (e) the reproduction fees for releasing records, (f) the procedures for individual legal appeal in cases of dissatisfaction; and (g) of the establishment or revision of a computer matching program.

[45 FR 44272, July 1, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 37160, July 21, 1994]

§ 266.3 Responsibility.

(a) *Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer.* The USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, under the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, will ensure Postal Service-wide compliance with this policy.

(b) *Custodian.* Custodians are responsible for adherence to this part within their respective units and in particular for affording individuals their rights to inspect and obtain copies of records concerning them.

(c) *Information System Executive.* These managers are responsible for reporting to the Records Office the existence or proposed development of Privacy Act systems of records. They also must report any change that would alter the systems description as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. They establish the relevancy of the information within those systems.

(d) *Data Integrity Board*—(1) *Responsibilities.* The Data Integrity Board oversees Postal Service computer matching activities. Its principal function is to review, approve, and maintain all written agreements for use of Postal Service records in matching programs to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act and all relevant statutes, regulations, and guidelines. In addition, the Board annually reviews matching programs and other matching activities in which the Postal Service has participated during the preceding year to determine compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and agreements; compiles a biennial matching report of matching activities; and performs review and advisement functions relating to records accuracy, recordkeeping and disposal practices, and other computer matching activities.

(2) *Composition.* The Privacy Act requires that the senior official responsible for implementation of agency Privacy Act policy and the Inspector General serve on the Board. The Records Officer, as administrator of Postal Service Privacy Act policy, serves as Secretary of the Board and performs the administrative functions of the Board. The Board is composed of these and other members designated by the Postmaster General, as follows:

(i) Vice President/Controller (Chairman).

(ii) Chief Postal Inspector in his or her capacity as Inspector General.

(iii) Vice President, Employee Relations.

(iv) General Counsel.

(v) Records Officer (Secretary).

[40 FR 45723, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44272, July 1, 1980; 59 FR 37160, July 21, 1994; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§266.4 Collection and disclosure of information about individuals.

(a) The following rules govern the collection of information about individuals thorughout Postal Service operations;

(1) The Postal Service will:

(i) Collect, solicit and maintain only such information about an individual as is relevant and necessary to accomplish a purpose required by statute or Executive Order,

(ii) Collect information, to the greatest extent practicable, directly from the subject individual when such information may result in adverse determinations about an individual's rights, benefits or privileges,

(iii) Inform any individual who has been asked to furnish information about himself whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what authority it is being solicited, the principal purposes for which it is intended to be used, the routine uses which may be made of it, and any penalties and specific consequences for the individual, which are known to the Postal Service, which will result from refusal to furnish it.

(2) The Postal Service will not discriminate against any individual who fails to provide information about himself unless that information is required or necessary for the conduct of the system or program in which the individual desires to participate.

(3) No information will be collected (or maintained) describing how individuals exercise rights guaranteed by the First Amendment unless the Postmaster General specifically determines that such information is relevant and necessary to carry out a statutory purpose of the Postal Service.

(4) The Postal Service will not require individuals to furnish their Social Security account number or deny a right, privilege or benefit because of an individual's refusal to furnish the number unless it must be provided by Federal law.

(b) *Disclosures*—(1) *Disclosure: Limitations On.* The Postal Service will not disseminate information about an individual unless reasonable efforts have been made to assure that the information is accurate, complete, timely and relevant and unless:

(i) The individual to whom the record pertains has requested in writing that the information be disseminated, or

(ii) It has obtained the prior written consent of the individual to whom the record pertains, or

(iii) The dissemination is in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Dissemination of personal information may be made:

(i) To a person pursuant to a requirement of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552);

(ii) To those officers and employees of the Postal Service who have a need for such information in the performance of their duties;

(iii) For a routine use as contained in the system notices published in the FEDERAL REGISTER;

(iv) To a recipient who has provided advance adequate written assurance that the information will be used solely as a statistical reporting or research record, and to whom the information is transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable;

(v) To the Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13, U.S.C.;

(vi) To the National Archives of the United States as a record which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the U.S. Government, or for evaluation by the Administrator of General Services or his designee to determine whether the record has such value;

(vii) To a person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of an individual, if upon such disclosure notification is transmitted to the last known address of such individual;

(viii) To a federal agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity, if such activity is authorized by law and if the head of the agency or instrumentality has made a written request to the Postal Service specifying the particular portion of the record desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought;

(ix) To either House of Congress or its committees or subcommittees to the extent of matter within their jurisdiction;

(x) To the Comptroller General or any of his authorized representatives in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office;

(xi) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(3) *Names and Addresses of Postal Customers.* The disclosure of lists of names or addresses of Postal customers or other persons to the public is prohibited (39 U.S.C. 412). Names or addresses will be disclosed only in those cases permitted by 39 CFR 265.6(d) relating to the Release of Information.

(4) *Employee Credit References.* A credit bureau or commercial firm from which an employee is seeking credit may be given the following information upon request: grade, duty status, length of service, job title, and salary.

(5) *Employee Job References.* Prospective employers of a postal employee or a former postal employee may be furnished with the information in paragraph (b)(4) of this section, in addition to the date and the reason for separation, if applicable. The reason for separation must be limited to one of the following terms: retired, resigned, or separated. Other terms or variations of these terms (e.g., retired—disability) may not be used. If additional information is desired, the requester must submit the written consent of the employee, and an accounting of the disclosure must be kept.

(6) *Computer matching purposes.* Records from a Postal Service system of records may be disclosed to another agency for the purpose of conducting a computer matching program or other matching activity as defined in paragraphs (c) and (d) of § 262.5, but only after a determination by the Data Integrity Board that the procedural requirements of the Privacy Act, the guidelines issued by the Office of Management and Budget, and these regulations as may be applicable are met. These requirements include:

(i) *Routine use.* Disclosure is made only when permitted as a routine use of the system of records. The USPS Records Officer determines the applicability of a particular routine use and the necessity for adoption of a new routine use.

(ii) *Notice.* Publication of new or revised matching programs in the FEDERAL REGISTER and advance notice to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget must be made pursuant to paragraph (f) of § 266.5.

(iii) *Computer matching agreement.* The participants in a computer matching program must enter into a written agreement specifying the terms under which the matching program is to be conducted (see § 266.10). The Records Officer may require that other matching activities be conducted in accordance with a written agreement.

(iv) *Data Integrity Board approval.* No record from a Postal Service system of records may be disclosed for use in a computer matching program unless the matching agreement has received approval by the Postal Service Data Integrity Board (see § 266.10). Other matching activities may, at the discretion of the Records Officer, be submitted for Board approval.

(c) *Correction Disclosure.* Any person or other agency to which a personal record has been or is to be disclosed shall be informed of any corrections or notations of dispute relating thereto affecting the accuracy, timeliness or relevance of that personal record.

(d) *Recording of Disclosure.* (1) An accurate accounting of each disclosure will be kept in all instances except those in which disclosure is made to the subject of the record, or to Postal Service employees in the performance of their duties or is required by the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

(2) The accounting will be maintained for at least five (5) years or the life of the record, whichever is longer.

(3) The accounting will be made available to the individual named in the record upon inquiry, except for disclosures made pursuant to provision paragraph (b)(2)(viii) of this section relating to law enforcement activities.

[40 FR 45723, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44272, July 1, 1980; 58 FR 62036, Nov. 24, 1993; 59 FR 37160, July 21, 1994]

§266.5 Notification.

(a) *Notification of Systems.* The following procedures permit individuals to determine the types of personal records systems maintained by the Postal Service.

(1) Upon written request, the Postal Service will notify any individual whether a specific system named by him contains a record pertaining to him. See §266.6 for suggested form of request.

(2) The Postal Service shall publish annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of existence and character of all personal systems of records. This notice will contain the following information:

(i) Name and location of the system,

(ii) Nature and purposes of the system,

(iii) Categories of individuals on whom personal information is maintained and categories of personal information generally maintained in the system,

(iv) Confidentiality requirements and the extent to which access controls apply to such information,

(v) Postal Service policies and standards regarding the safeguarding and disclosure of information, information storage, duration of retention of information, and elimination of such information from the system,

(vi) Routine uses made by the Postal Service of the personal information contained in the system, including the categories of users and the purpose of the use,

(vii) Title and official address of the custodian,

(viii) Procedures by which an individual can be informed if a system contains personal information pertaining to him, gain access to such information, and contest the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, relevance and necessity for retention of the information.

(ix) Categories of sources of such personal information,

(x) System status—either developmental or operational.

(b) *Notification of Disclosure.* The Postal Service shall make reasonable efforts to serve notice on an individual before any personal information on such individual is made available to any person under compulsory legal process when such process becomes a matter of public record.

(c) *Notification of Amendment.* (See §266.7 (b)(3) relating to amendment of records upon request.)

(d) *Notification of New Use.* Any newly intended use of personal information maintained by the Postal Service will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER thirty (30) days before such use becomes operational. Public views may then be submitted to the Records Office.

(e) *Notification of Exemptions.* The Postal Service will publish within the FEDERAL REGISTER its intent to exempt any system of records and shall specify the nature and purpose of that system.

(f) *Notification of computer matching program.* The Postal Service publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER and forwards to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget advance notice of its intent to establish, substantially revise, or renew a matching program, unless such notice is published by another participant agency. In those instances in which the Postal Service is the ''recipient'' agency, as defined in the Act, but another participant agency sponsors and derives the principal benefit from the matching program, the other agency is expected to publish the notice. The notice must be sent to Congress and OMB 40 days, and published at least thirty (30) days, prior to (1) initiation of any matching activity under a new or substantially revised program, or (2) expiration of the existing matching agreement in the case of a renewal of a continuing program.

[40 FR 45724, Oct. 2, 1975; 40 FR 48512, Oct. 16, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44272, July 1, 1980; 59 FR 37161, July 21, 1994; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§266.6 Procedures for requesting inspection, copying, or amendment of records.

The purpose of this section is to provide procedures by which an individual may have access and request amendment to personal information within a Privacy Act System of Records.

(a) *Submission of Requests*—(1) *Manner of submission.* Inquiries regarding the contents of records systems or access or amendment to personal information

should be submitted in writing to the custodian of the official record, if known, or to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–5243, telephone (202) 268–2608. Inquiries should be clearly marked, ''Privacy Act Request''. Any inquiry concerning a specific system of records should provide the Postal Service with the information contained under ''Notification'' for that system as published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If the information supplied is insufficient to locate or identify the record, the requester will be notified promptly and, if possible, informed of additional information required. If the requester is not a Postal Service employee, he should designate the post office at which he wishes to review or obtain copies of records. Amendment requests contest the relevance, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the record and will include a statement of the amendment requested.

(2) *Third party inquiries.* Anyone desiring to review or copy records pertaining to another person must have the written consent of that person.

(3) *Period for response by custodian.* Upon receipt of an inquiry, the custodian will respond with an acknowledgement of receipt within ten (10) days. If the inquiry requires the custodian to determine whether a particular record exists, the inquirer shall be informed of this determination as a part of the acknowledgement letter.

(b) *Compliance with Request for Access*—(1) *Notification of time and place for inspection.* When a requested record has been identified and is to be disclosed, the custodian shall ensure that the record is made available promptly and shall immediately notify the requester where and when the record will be available for inspection or copying. Postal Service records will normally be available for inspection and copying during regular business hours at the postal facilities at which they are maintained. The custodian may, however, designate other reasonable locations and times for inspection and copying of some or all of the records within his custody.

(2) *Identification of requester.* The requester must present personal identification sufficient to satisfy the custodian as to his identity prior to record review. Examples of sufficient identification are a valid driver's license, medicare card, and employee identification cards.

(3) *Responsibilities of requester.* The requester shall assume the following responsibilities regarding the review of official personal records:

(i) Requester must agree not to leave Postal Services premises with official records unless specifically given a copy for that purpose by the custodian or his representative.

(ii) Requester must sign a statement indicating he has reviewed a specific record(s) or category of record.

(iii) Requester may be accompanied by a person he so chooses to aid in the inspection of information; however, requester must furnish the Postal Service with written authorization for such review in that person's presence.

(4) *Special rules for medical records.* A medical record shall be disclosed to the requester to whom it pertains unless, in the judgment of the medical officer, access to such record could have an adverse effect upon such individual. When the medical officer determines that the disclosure of medical information could have an adverse effect upon the individual to whom it pertains, the medical officer will transmit such information to a medical doctor named by the requesting individual.

(5) *Limitations on access.* Nothing in this section shall allow an individual access to any information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding. Other limitations on access are those specifically addressed in §§ 266.6(b)(4) and 266.9.

(6) *Response when compliance is not possible.* A reply denying a written request to review a record shall be in writing signed by the custodian or other appropriate official and shall be made only if such a record does not exist or does not contain personal information relating to the requester, or is exempt from disclosure. This reply shall include a statement regarding the determining factors of denial, and the right to appeal to denial to the General Counsel.

(c) *Compliance With Request for Amendment.* (1) Correct or eliminate

any information that is found to be incomplete, inaccurate, not relevant to a statutory purpose of the Postal Service, or not timely and notify the requester when this action is complete, or

(2) Not later than thirty (30) working days after receipt of a request to amend, notify the reqester of a determination not to amend and of the requester's right to appeal, or to submit, in lieu of an appeal, a statement of reasonable length setting forth a position regarding the disputed information to be attached to the contested personal record.

(d) *Availability of Assistance in Exercising Rights.* The Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer is available to provide an individual with assistance in exercising rights pursuant to this part.

[40 FR 45723, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 45 FR 44272, July 1, 1980; 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§266.7 Appeal procedure.

(a) *Appeal Procedure.* (1) If a request to inspect, copy, or amend a record is denied, in whole or in part, or if no determination is made within the period prescribed by this part, the requester shall appeal to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–1100.

(2) The requester should submit his appeal in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of denial, or within ninety (90) days of such request if the appeal is from a failure of the custodian to make a determination. The letter of appeal should include, as applicable:

(i) Reasonable identification of the record access to which or the amendment of which was requested.

(ii) A statement of the Postal Service action or failure to act and of the relief sought.

(iii) A copy of the request, of the notification of denial and of any other related correspondence.

(3) Any record found on appeal to be incomplete, inaccurate, not relevant, or not timely, shall within thirty (30) working days of the date of such findings be appropriately amended.

(4) The decision of the General Counsel, constitutes the final decision of the Postal Service on the right of the requester to inspect, copy, change, or update a record. The decision on the appeal shall be in writing and in the event of a denial shall set forth the reasons for such denial and state the individual's right to obtain judicial review in a district court. An indexed file of decisions on appeals shall be maintained by the Records Office.

(b) *Submission of Statement of Disagreement.* If the final decision concerning a request for the amendment of a record does not satisfy the requester, any statement of reasonable length provided by that individual setting forth a position regarding the disputed information will be accepted and attached to the relevant personal record.

[40 FR 45723, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 41 FR 24709, June 18, 1976; 45 FR 44273, July 1, 1980; 51 FR 26386, July 23, 1986; 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§266.8 Schedule of fees.

(a) *Policy.* The purpose of this section is to establish fair and equitable fees to permit duplication of records for subject individuals (or authorized representatives) while recovering the full allowable direct costs incurred by the Postal Service.

(b) *Duplication.* (1) For duplicating any paper or micrographic record or publication or computer report, the fee is $.15 per page, except that the first 100 pages furnished in response to a particular request shall be furnished without charge. See paragraph (d) of this section for fee limitations.

(2) The Postal Service may at its discretion make coin-operated copy machines available at any location. In that event, requesters will be given the opportunity to make copies at their own expense.

(3) The Postal Service normally will not furnish more than one copy of any record. If duplicate copies are furnished at the request of the requester, the per page fee is charged for each copy of each duplicate page without regard to whether the requester is eligible for free copies pursuant to §266.8(b)(1).

(c) *Aggregating requests.* When the custodian reasonably believes that a requester is attempting to break a request for similar types of records down

into a series of requests in order to evade the assessment of fees, the custodian may aggregate the requests and charge accordingly.

(d) *Limitations.* No fee will be charged an individual for the process of retrieving, reviewing, or amending a record pertaining to that individual.

(e) The Postal Service may, at its discretion, require reimbursement of its costs as a condition of participation in a computer matching program or activity with another agency. The agency to be charged is notified in writing of the approximate costs before they are incurred. Costs are calculated in accordance with the schedule of fees at § 265.9.

[52 FR 38230, Oct. 15, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 37161, July 21, 1994]

§ 266.9 Exemptions.

(a) Subsections 552a(j) and (k) of title 5, U.S.C., empower the Postmaster General to exempt systems of records meeting certain criteria from various other subsections of section 552a. With respect to systems of records so exempted, nothing in this part shall require compliance with provisions hereof implementing any subsections of section 552a from which those systems have been exempted.

(b) At paragraph (b)(1) of this section is a summary of the Act's provisions for which exemption is claimed pursuant to, and to the extent permitted by, subsections 552a(j) and (k) of title 5, U.S.C., for some systems of records. Paragraphs (b)(2) through (6) of this section identify the exempted systems of records, the exemptions applied to each, and the reasons for the exemptions:

(1) *Explanation of the Act's provisions for which an exemption is claimed in the systems discussed below.* (i) Subsection (c)(3) requires an agency to make available to the individual named in the records an accounting of each disclosure of records.

(ii) Subsection (c)(4) requires an agency to inform any person or other agency to which a record has been disclosed of any correction or notation of dispute the agency has made to the record in accordance with subsection (d) of the Act.

(iii) Subsection (d)(1)–(4) requires an agency to permit an individual to gain access to records about the individual, to request amendment of such records, to request a review of an agency decision not to amend such records, and to provide a statement of disagreement about a disputed record to be filed and disclosed with the disputed record.

(iv) Subsection (e)(1) requires an agency to maintain in its records only such information about an individual that is relevant and necessary to accomplish a purpose required by statute or executive order of the President.

(v) Subsection (e)(2) requires an agency to collect information to the greatest extent practicable directly from the subject individual when the information may result in adverse determinations about an individual's rights, benefits, and privileges under federal programs.

(vi) Subsection (e)(3) requires an agency to inform each person whom it asks to supply information of the authority under which the information is sought, the purposes for which the information will be used, the routine uses that may be made of the information, whether disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, and the effects of not providing the information.

(vii) Subsection (e)(4) (G) and (H) requires an agency to publish a FEDERAL REGISTER notice of its procedures whereby an individual can be notified upon request whether the system of records contains information about the individual, how to gain access to any record about the individual contained in the system, and how to contest its content.

(viii) Subsection (e)(5) requires an agency to maintain its records with such accuracy, relevance, timeliness, and completeness as is reasonably necessary to ensure fairness to the individual in making any determination about the individual.

(ix) Subsection (e)(8) requires an agency to make reasonable efforts to serve notice on an individual when any record on such individual is made available to any person under compulsory legal process when such process becomes a matter of public record.

(x) Subsection (f) requires an agency to establish procedures whereby an individual can be notified upon request if any system of records named by the individual contains a record pertaining to the individual, obtain access to the record, and request amendment.

(xi) Subsection (g) provides for civil remedies if an agency fails to comply with the access and amendment provisions of subsections (d)(1) and (d)(3), and with other provisions of the Act, or any rule promulgated thereunder, in such a way as to have an adverse effect on an individual.

(xii) Subsection (m) requires an agency to cause the requirements of the Act to be applied to a contractor operating a system of records to accomplish an agency function.

(2) *Inspection Requirements—Investigative File System, USPS 080.010; Inspection Requirements—Mail Cover Program, USPS 080.020.* These systems of records are exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a (c) (3) and (4), (d)(1)–(4), (e)(1)–(3), (e)(4) (G) and (H), (e) (5) and (8), (f), (g), and (m). The reasons for exemption follow:

(i) Disclosure to the record subject pursuant to subsections (c)(3), (c)(4), or (d)(1)–(4) could (A) Alert subjects that they are targets of an investigation or mail cover; (B) alert subjects of the nature and scope of the investigation, and of evidence obtained; (C) enable the subject of an investigation to avoid detection or apprehension; (D) subject confidential sources, witnesses, and law enforcement personnel to harassment or intimidation if their identities were released to the target of an investigation; (E) constitute unwarranted invasions of the personal privacy of third parties who are involved in a certain investigation; (F) intimidate potential witnesses and cause them to be reluctant to offer information; (G) lead to the improper influencing of witnesses, the destruction or alteration of evidence yet to be discovered, the fabrication of testimony, or the compromising of classified material; and (H) seriously impede or compromise law enforcement, mail cover, or background investigations that might involve law enforcement aspects as a result of the above.

(ii) Application of subsections (e)(1) and (e)(5) is impractical because the relevance, necessity, or correctness of specific information might be established only after considerable analysis and as the investigation progresses. As to relevance (subsection (e)(1)), effective law enforcement requires the keeping of information not relevant to a specific Postal Service investigation. Such information may be kept to provide leads for appropriate law enforcement and to establish patterns of activity that might relate to the jurisdiction of the Postal Inspection Service and/or other agencies. As to accuracy (subsection (e)(5)), the correctness of records sometimes can be established only in a court of law.

(iii) Application of subsections (e)(2) and (e)(3) would require collection of information directly from the subject of a potential or ongoing investigation. The subject would be put on alert that he or she is a target of an investigation or mail cover, enabling avoidance of detection or apprehension, thereby seriously compromising law enforcement, mail cover, or background investigations involving law enforcement aspects. Moreover, in certain circumstances the subject of an investigation is not required to provide information to investigators, and information must be collected from other sources.

(iv) The requirements of subsections (e)(4)(G) and (H), and (f) do not apply because this system is exempt from the individual access and amendment provisions of subsection (d). Nevertheless, the Postal Service has published notice of its notification, access, and contest procedures because access is appropriate in some cases.

(v) Application of subsection (e)(8) could prematurely reveal an ongoing criminal investigation to the subject of the investigation.

(vi) The provisions of subsection (g) do not apply because exemption from the provisions of subsection (d) renders the provisions on suits to enforce subsection (d) inapplicable.

(vii) If one of these systems of records is operated in whole or in part by a contractor, the exemptions claimed herein shall remain applicable to it (subsection (m)).

(3) *Personnel Records—Preemployment Investigation Records, USPS 120.110; Personnel Records—Postmaster Selection Program Records, USPS 120.130.* These systems of records are exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(1)–(4) and (e)(1) to the extent that information in the system is subject to exemption under 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5) as relating to the identity of a source who furnished information to the government in confidence as a part of an investigation conducted solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications of an individual for employment. The reasons for exemption follow:

(i) During its investigation and evaluation of an applicant for a position, the Postal Service contacts individuals who, without an assurance of anonymity, would refuse to provide information concerning the subject of the investigation. If a record subject were given access pursuant to subsection (d)(1)–(4), the promised confidentiality would be breached and the confidential source would be identified. The result would be restriction of the free flow of information vital to a determination of an individual's qualifications and suitability for appointment to or continued occupancy of his position.

(ii) In collecting information for investigative and evaluative purposes, it is impossible to determine in advance what information might be of assistance in determining the qualifications and suitability of an individual for appointment. Information that seems irrelevant, when linked with other information, can sometimes provide a composite picture of an individual that assists in determining whether that individual should be appointed to or retained in a position. For this reason, exemption from subsection (e)(1) is claimed.

(4) *Personnel Records—Personnel Research and Test Validation Records, USPS 120.120; Personnel Records—Career Development and Training Records, USPS 120.152.* These systems of records are exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(1)–(4), (e)(4)(G) and (H), and (f) to the extent that information in the system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(6) as relating to the compromise of the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process. The reasons for exemption follow:

(i) These systems contain questions and answers to standard testing materials, the disclosure of which would compromise the fairness of the future use of these materials. It is not feasible to develop entirely new examinations after each administration as would be necessary if questions or answers were available for inspection and copying. Consequently, exemption from subsection (d) is claimed.

(ii) The requirements of subsections (e)(4)(G) and (H), and (f) do not apply to these systems for which exemption from subsection (d) of the Act has been claimed. Nevertheless, the Postal Service has published notice of its notification, access, and contest procedures because access to system records that do not compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing examination process is appropriate in some cases.

(5) *Personnel Records—Recruiting, Examining, and Appointment Records, USPS 120.151.* This system is exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(d)(1)–(4), (e)(1), (e)(4)(G) and (H), and (f) to the extent that information in the system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5) as relating to the identity of a source who has furnished information to the government in confidence as part of an investigation conducted solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications of an individual for employment; and to exemption pursuant to subsection 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(6) as relating to the compromise of the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process. The reasons for exemption follow:

(i) To the extent that information in this system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), application of the provisions at subsection (d)(1)–(4) would reveal to the applicant whose suitability is being investigated the identity of individuals who supplied information under a promise of anonymity. As a result, the Postal Service's promise of confidentiality would be breached, its ability to obtain information in the future would be diminished, and the information source could be subjected to harassment by

the applicant. To the extent that information in this system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(6), the requirements of the exemption at subsection (d)(1)–(4) and the reasons for exempting information relating to the compromise of the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process are the same as those given in paragraph (b)(5)(i) of this section.

(ii) The reasons for exempting this system of records from subsection (e)(1) are the same as those given in paragraph (b)(4)(ii) of this section.

(iii) The requirements of subsections (e) (4) (G) and (H), and (f) do not apply to this system for which exemption from subsection (d) of the Act has been claimed. Nevertheless, the Postal Service has published notice of its notification, access, and contest procedures because access to system records that do not compromise the objectivity or fairness of the testing or examination process or reveal the identity of a confidential is appropriate in some cases.

(6) *Equal Employment Opportunity—EEO Discrimination Complaint Investigations, USPS 030.010.* This system is exempt from 5 U.S.C. 552a(d) (1)–(4), (e) (4) (G) and (H), and (f) to the extent that information in the system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2) as material compiled for law enforcement purposes and subsection (k)(5) as relating to the identity of a source who has furnished information to the government in confidence as a part of an investigation conducted solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications of an individual for employment. The reasons for exemption follow.

(i) To the extent that information in this system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(2), application of the requirements of the exemption at subsection (d)(1)–(4) would cause disruption of enforcement of the laws relating to equal employment opportunity (EEO). To the extent that information in this system is subject to exemption pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(k)(5), application of the provisions at subsection (d)(1)–(4) would reveal to the EEO complainant the identity of individuals who supplied information under a promise of anonymity. It is essential to the integrity of the EEO complaint system that information collected in the investigative process not be prematurely disclosed and that witnesses be free from restraint, interference, coercion, or reprisal.

(ii) The requirements of subsections (e) (4) (G) and (H), and (f) do not apply to this system for which exemption from subsection (d) of the Act has been claimed. Nevertheless, the Postal Service has published notice of its notification, access, and contest procedures because access to system records that do not compromise the investigative process or reveal the identity of confidential sources is appropriate in some cases.

[59 FR 35625, July 13, 1994]

§ 266.10 Computer matching.

(a) *General.* Any agency or Postal Service component that wishes to use records from a Postal Service automated system of records in a computerized comparison with other postal or non-postal records must submit its proposal to the USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer. Computer matching programs as defined in paragraph (c) of § 262.5 must be conducted in accordance with the Privacy Act, implementing guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget and these regulations. Records may not be exchanged for a matching program until all procedural requirements of the Act and these regulations have been met. Other matching activities must be conducted in accordance with the Privacy Act and with the approval of the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer. See paragraph (b)(6) of § 266.4.

(b) *Procedure for submission of matching proposals.* A proposal must include information required for the matching agreement discussed in paragraph (d)(1) of this section. The Inspection Service must submit its proposals for matching programs and other matching activities to the USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer through: Independent Counsel, Inspection Service, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Rm 3417, Washington, DC 20260–2181. All other matching proposals, whether from postal organizations or other government agencies, must be

mailed directly to: Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–5243.

(c) *Lead time.* Proposals must be submitted to the USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer at least 3 months in advance of the anticipated starting date to allow time to meet Privacy Act publication and review requirements.

(d) *Matching agreements.* The participants in a computer matching program must enter into a written agreement specifying the terms under which the matching program is to be conducted. The Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer may require similar written agreements for other matching activities.

(1) *Content.* Agreements must specify:

(i) The purpose and legal authority for conducting the matching program;

(ii) The justification for the program and the anticipated results, including, when appropriate, a specific estimate of any savings in terms of expected costs and benefits, in sufficient detail for the Data Integrity Board to make an informed decision;

(iii) A description of the records that are to be matched, including the data elements to be used, the number of records, and the approximate dates of the matching program;

(iv) Procedures for providing notice to individuals who supply information that the information may be subject to verification through computer matching programs;

(v) Procedures for verifying information produced in a matching program and for providing individuals an opportunity to contest the findings in accordance with the requirement that an agency may not take adverse action against an individual as a result of information produced by a matching program until the agency has independently verified the information and provided the individual with due process;

(vi) Procedures for ensuring the administrative, technical, and physical security of the records matched; for the retention and timely destruction of records created by the matching program; and for the use and return or destruction of records used in the program;

(vii) Prohibitions concerning duplication and redisclosure of records exchanged, except where required by law or essential to the conduct of the matching program;

(viii) Assessments of the accuracy of the records to be used in the matching program; and

(ix) A statement that the Comptroller General may have access to all records of the participant agencies in order to monitor compliance with the agreement.

(2) *Approval.* Before the Postal Service may participate in a computer matching program or other computer matching activity that involves both USPS and non-USPS records, the Data Integrity Board must have evaluated the proposed match and approved the terms of the matching agreement. To be effective, the matching agreement must receive approval by each member of the Board. Votes are collected by the USPS Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer. Agreements are signed on behalf of the Board by the Chairman. If a matching agreement is disapproved by the Board, any party may appeal the disapproval in writing to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503–0001, within 30 days following the Board's written disapproval.

(3) *Effective dates.* No matching agreement is effective until 40 days after the date on which a copy is sent to Congress. The agreement remains in effect only as long as necessary to accomplish the specific matching purpose, but no longer than 18 months, at which time the agreement expires unless extended. The Data Integrity Board may extend an agreement for one additional year, without further review, if within 3 months prior to expiration of the 18-month period it finds that the matching program is to be conducted without change, and each party to the agreement certifies that the program has been conducted in compliance with the matching agreement. Renewal of a continuing matching program that has run for the full 30-month period requires a new agreement that has received Data Integrity Board approval.

[59 FR 37161, July 21, 1994, as amended at 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

PART 267—PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

Sec.
267.1 Purpose and scope.
267.2 Policy.
267.3 Responsibility.
267.4 Information security standards.
267.5 National Security Information.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; Pub. L. 93–579, 88 Stat. 1896.

§267.1 Purpose and scope.

This part addresses the protection of information and records in the custody of the Postal Service throughout all phases of information flow and within all organization components, and includes micromated, manual and data processing information.

[40 FR 45726, Oct. 2, 1975]

§267.2 Policy.

Consistent with the responsibility of the Postal Service to make its official records available to the public to the maximum extent required by the public interest, and to ensure the security, confidentiality, and integrity of official records containing sensitive or national security information, it is the policy of the Postal Service to maintain definitive and uniform information security safeguards. These safeguards will have as their purpose: (a) Ensuring the effective operation of the Postal Service through appropriate controls over critical information, and (b) Protecting personal privacy, the public interest, and the national security by limiting unauthorized access to both restricted and national security information.

[44 FR 51224, Aug. 31, 1979]

§267.3 Responsibility.

(a) *Chief Postal Inspector and Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer.* The Chief Postal Inspector and the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer will ensure within their respective areas of jurisdiction:

(1) Postal Service-wide compliance with this policy and related standards and procedures; and

(2) Implementation of remedial action when violations or attempted violations of these standards and procedures occur.

(b) *Custodians.* All custodians are responsible for insuring that information security standards and procedures are followed and that all relevant employees participate in the information security awareness programs.

[40 FR 45726, Oct. 2, 1975, as amended at 60 FR 57345, Nov. 15, 1995]

§267.4 Information security standards.

(a) The Postal Service will operate under a uniform set of information security standards which address the following functional aspects of information flow and management:

(1) Information system development,

(2) Information collection,

(3) Information handling and processing,

(4) Information dissemination and disclosure,

(5) Information storage and destruction,

(b) Supplementing this list are information security standards pertaining to the following administrative areas:

(1) Personnel selection and training,

(2) Physical environment protection,

(3) Contingency planning,

(4) Information processing or storage system procurement,

(5) Contractual relationships.

[40 FR 45726, Oct. 2, 1975; 40 FR 48512, Oct. 16, 1975]

§267.5 National Security Information.

(a) *Purpose and scope.* The purpose of this section is to provide regulations implementing Executive Order 12356 National Security Information (hereinafter referred to as the Executive Order) which deals with the protection, handling and classification of national security information.

(b) *Definitions.* (1) In this section, *National Security Information* means information on the national defense and foreign relations of the United States that has been determined under the Executive Order or prior Orders to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and has been so designated.

(2) *Derivative Classification* means the carrying forward of a classification from one document to a newly created

document that contains national security information which is in substance the same as information that is currently classified.

(3) *In the Custody of the Postal Service* means any national security information transmitted to and held by the U.S. Postal Service for the information and use of postal officials. (This does not include any national security information in the U.S. Mails.)

(c) *Responsibility and authority.* (1) The Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, serves as the USPS National Security Information Oversight Officer. This officer shall:

(i) Conduct an active oversight program to ensure that the appropriate provisions of these regulations are complied with;

(ii) Chair a committee composed of the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records; the Chief Postal Inspector (USPS Security Officer); the General Counsel; the Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General; and the Director, Operating Policies Office; or their designees, with authority to act on all suggestions and complaints concerning compliance by the Postal Service with the regulations in this part;

(iii) Ensure that appropriate and prompt corrective action is taken whenever a postal employee knowingly, willfully and without authorization:

(A) Discloses national security information properly classified under the Executive order, or prior orders,

(B) Compromises properly classified information through negligence, or

(C) Violates any provisions of these regulations or procedures;

(vi) Establish, staff, and direct activities for controlling documents containing national security information at USPS Headquarters and to provide functional direction to the field.

(v) In conjunction with the USPS Security Officer, prepare and issue instructions for the control, protection, and derivative classification of national security information in the custody of, and use by, the Postal Service. These instructions shall include requirements that:

(A) A demonstrable need for access to national security information is established before requesting the initiation of administrative clearance procedures;

(B) Ensure that the number of people granted access to national security information is reduced to and maintained at the minimum number consistent with operational requirements and needs;

(vi) Establish, staff and direct activities for controlling documents containing national security information at USPS Headquarters and provide functional direction to each Regional Records Control Officer;

(vii) As part of the overall program implementation, develop a training program to familiarize appropriate postal employees of the requirements for control, protection and classification; and

(viii) Report to the USPS Security Officer any incidents of possible loss or compromise of national security information.

(2) The USPS Security Officer (the Chief Postal Inspector) shall:

(i) Provide technical guidance to the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records in implementing the national security information program;

(ii) Conduct investigations into reported program violations or loss or possible compromise of national security information and report any actual loss or compromise to the originating agency;

(iii) Periodically conduct an audit of the USPS national security information program;

(iv) Process requests for sensitive clearances; conduct the appropriate investigations and grant or deny a sensitive clearance to postal employees having an official ‘‘need to know’’ national security information; and

(v) Report to the Attorney General any evidence of possible violations of federal criminal law by a USPS employee and of possible violations by any other person of those federal criminal laws.

(3) All postal employees who have access to national security information shall:

(i) Sign a nondisclosure agreement;

(ii) Be familiar with and follow all Program regulations and instructions;

(iii) Actively protect and be accountable for all national security information entrusted to their care;

(iv) Disclose national security information only to another individual who is authorized access;

(v) Immediately report to the Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records and the USPS Security Officer any suspected or actual loss or compromise of national security information; and

(vi) Be subject to administrative sanctions should requirements (ii) through (v) not be followed.

(d) *Derivative classification.* When applying derivative classifications to documents created by the Postal Service, the Postal Service shall:

(1) Respect original classification decisions;

(2) Verify the information's current level of classification so far as practicable before applying the markings; and

(3) Carry forward to any newly created documents the assigned dates or events for declassification or review and any additional authorized markings in accordance with section 2 of the Executive order.

(e) *General provisions*—(1) *Dissemination.* National security information received by the U.S. Postal Service shall not be further disseminated to any other agency without the consent of the originating agency.

(2) *Disposal.* Classified documents no longer needed by the Postal Service shall be either properly destroyed or returned to the originating agency.

(3) Freedom of Information Act or mandatory review requests.

(i) Requests for classified documents made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and mandatory review requests (requests under Section 3–501 of the Executive Order for the declassification and release of information), including requests by the news media, should be submitted to: Manager, Payroll Accounting and Records, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–5243.

(ii) In response to an FOIA request or a mandatory review request, the Postal Service shall not refuse to confirm the existence or non–existence of a document, unless the fact of its existence or non–existence would itself be classifiable.

(iii) The Postal Service shall forward all FOIA and mandatory review requests for national security information in its custody (including that within records derivatively classified by the USPS) to the originating agency for review unless the agency objects on the grounds that its association with the information requires protection. The requester shall be notified that:

(A) The request was referred; and

(B) The originating agency will provide a direct response.

(4) *Research requests.* Requests from historical researchers for access to national security information shall be referred to the originating agency.

(39 U.S.C. 401 (2), (10), 404(a)(7))

[44 FR 51224, Aug. 31, 1979, as amended at 45 FR 30069, May 7, 1980; 49 FR 22476, May 30, 1984; 60 FR 57345, 57346, Nov. 15, 1995]

PART 268—PRIVACY OF INFORMATION—EMPLOYEE RULES OF CONDUCT

Sec.
268.1 General principles.
268.2 Consequences of non-compliance.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; 5 U.S.C. 552a.

§ 268.1 General principles.

In order to conduct its business, the Postal Service has the need to collect various types of personally identifiable information about its customers, employees and other individuals. Information of this nature has been entrusted to the Postal Service, and employees handling it have a legal and ethical obligation to hold it in confidence and to actively protect it from uses other than those compatible with the purpose for which the information was collected. This obligation is legally imposed by the Privacy Act of 1974, which places specific requirements upon all Federal agencies, including the Postal Service, and their employees. In implementation of these requirements, the following rules of conduct apply:

(a) Except as specifically authorized in § 266.4(b)(2) of this chapter, no employee shall disclose, directly or indirectly, the contents of any record about another individual to any person

or organization. Managers are to provide guidance in this regard to all employees who must handle such information.

(b) No employee will maintain a secret system of records about individuals. All records systems containing personally identifiable information about individuals must be reported to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Officer.

(c) All employees shall adhere strictly to the procedures established by the U.S. Postal Service to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of information about individuals that is collected, maintained and used for official Postal Service business. Employees shall be held responsible for any violation of these procedures.

[45 FR 44273, July 1, 1980, as amended at 60 FR 57346, Nov. 15, 1995]

§ 268.2 Consequences of non-compliance.

(a) The Privacy Act authorizes any individual, whether or not an employee, to bring a civil action in U.S. District Court to obtain judicial review of the failure of the Postal Service to comply with the requirements of the Act or its implementing regulations. In certain instances of willful or intentional non-compliance, the plaintiff may recover damages from the Postal Service in the minimum amount of $1,000 together with costs of the action and attorney fees.

(b) The Act provides criminal sanctions for individuals, including employees, who violate certain of its provisions.

(1) Any officer or employee who, by virtue of his employment or position, has possession of, or access to, official records which contain individually identifiable information and who, knowing that disclosure of the specific material is prohibited by Postal Service regulations, willfully discloses the material to a person or agency not entitled to receive it, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $5,000.

(2) Any officer or employee who willfully maintains a system of records without meeting the notice requirements set forth in Postal Service regulations shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $5,000.

(3) Any person who knowingly and willfully requests or obtains any record concerning another individual from the Postal Service under false pretense shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than $5,000.

(c) In addition to the criminal sanctions, any employee violating any provisions of these rules of conduct is subject to disciplinary action which may result in dismissal from the Postal Service.

[40 FR 45726, Oct. 2, 1975]

PART 273—ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES ACT

Sec.

273.1 Purpose.
273.2 Definitions.
273.3 Liability for false claims and statements.
273.4 Non-exclusivity of penalty authority.
273.5 Investigations of alleged violations.
273.6 Evaluation by reviewing official.
273.7 Concurrence of Attorney General.
273.8 Issuance of complaint.
273.9 Collection of civil penalties or assessments.
273.10 Reports.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38; 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987.

§ 273.1 Purpose.

This part establishes procedures for imposing civil penalties and assessments under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (codified at 31 U.S.C. 3801–3812) against any person who makes, submits, or presents, or causes to be made, submitted, or presented, a false fictitious, or fraudulent claim or written statement to the Postal Service. Procedures governing the hearing and appeal rights of any person alleged to be liable for such penalties and assessments are set forth in part 962 of this title.

§ 273.2 Definitions.

(a) *Claim* means any request, demand, or submission:

(1) Made to the Postal Service for property, services, or money (including

money representing grants, loans, insurance, or benefits); or

(2) Made to a recipient of property, services, or money from the Postal Service or to a party to a contract with the Postal Service:

(i) For property or services if the United States:

(A) Provided such property or services;

(B) Provided any portion of the funds for the purchase of such property or services; or

(C) will reimburse such recipient or party for the purchase of such property or services; or

(ii) For the payment of money (including money representing grants, loans, insurance or benefits) if the United States:

(A) Provided any portion of the money requested or demanded; or

(B) Will reimburse such recipient or party for any portion of the money paid on such request or demand; or

(3) Made to the Postal Service which has the effect of decreasing an obligation to pay or account for property, services, or money.

(b) *Complaint* refers to the administrative Complaint served by the Reviewing Official on a Respondent pursuant to § 273.8.

(c) *Investigating Official* refers to the Chief Postal Inspector of the Postal Service or any designee within the United States Postal Inspection Service who serves in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS–16 under the General Schedule.

(d) *Judicial Officer* refers to the Judicial Officer or Acting Judicial Officer of the United States Postal Service or for purposes other than specified in § 962.21 of this title any designee within the Judicial Officer Department.

(e) *Knows or has reason to know,* for purposes of establishing liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802, means that, with respect to a claim or statement, although no proof of specific intent to defraud is required, a person:

(1) Has actual knowledge that the claim or statement is false, fictitious, or fraudulent;

(2) Acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement; or

(3) Acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement.

(f) *Person* refers to any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or private organization.

(g) *Postmaster General* refers to the Postmaster General of the United States or his designee.

(h) *Presiding Officer* refers to an Administrative Law Judge designated by the Judicial Officer to conduct a hearing authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3803 in accordance with Part 962 of this title.

(i) *Respondent* refers to any person alleged to be liable for civil penalty or assessment under 31 U.S.C. 3802.

(j) *Reviewing Official* refers to the General Counsel of the Postal Service or any designee within the Law Department who serves in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS–16 under the General Schedule.

(k) *Statement* means any representation, certification, affirmation, document, record, or accounting or bookkeeping entry made:

(1) With respect to a claim or to obtain the approval or payment of a claim (including relating to eligibility to make a claim); or

(2) With respect to (including relating to eligibility for)—

(i) A contract with, or a bid or proposal for a contract with; or

(ii) A grant, loan, or benefit from, the Postal Service, or any State, political subdivision of a State, or other party, if the United States Government provides any portion of the money or property under such contract or for such grant, loan, or benefit, or if the Government will reimburse such State, political subdivision, or party for any portion of the money or property under such contract or for such grant, loan or benefit.

[52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 55825, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 273.3 Liability for false claims and statements.

Section 3802 of title 31, United States Code, provides for liability as follows:

(a) *Claims.* (1) Any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a claim that the person knows or has reason to know—

(i) Is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; or

(ii) Includes or is supported by any written statement asserting a material fact which is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; or

(iii) Includes or is supported by any written statement that—

(A) Omits a material fact;

(B) Is false, fictitious, or fraudulent as a result of such omission; and

(C) Is a statement in which the person making, presenting, or submitting such statement has a duty to include such material fact; or

(iv) Is for payment for the provision of property or services which the person has not provided as claimed

Shall be subject to, in addition to any other remedy that may be prescribed by law, a civil penalty of not more than $5,500 for each such claim.

(2) Each voucher, invoice, claim form, or other individual request or demand for property, services, or money constitutes a separate claim.

(3) A claim shall be considered made, presented, or submitted to the Postal Service, recipient, or party when such claim is actually made to an agent, fiscal intermediary, or other entity, including any State or political subdivision thereof, acting for or on behalf of the Postal Service, recipient, or party.

(4) Each claim for property, services, or money is subject to the civil penalty referred to in paragraph (a)(1) of this section regardless of whether such property, service, or money is actually delivered or paid.

(5) If the Government has made payment on a claim, a person subject to the civil penalty referred to in paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall also be subject to an assessment of not more than twice the amount of such claim or twice the amount of that portion thereof that is determined to be in violation of paragraph (a)(1) of this section. This assessment shall be in lieu of damages sustained by the United States because of such claim.

(b) Statements. (1) Any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a written statement that—

(i) The person knows or has reason to know—

(A) Asserts a material fact which is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; or

(B) Is false, fictitious, or fraudulent because it omits a material fact that the person making, presenting or submitting such statement had a duty to include in such statement; and

(ii) Contains or is accompanied by an express certification or affirmation of the truthfulness and accuracy of the contents of the statement.

Shall be subject to, in addition to any other remedy that may be prescribed by law, a civil penalty of not more than $5,500 for each such statement.

(2) Each written representation, certification, or affirmation constitutes a separate statement.

(3) A statement shall be considered made, presented, or submitted to the Postal Service when such statement is actually made to an agent, fiscal intermediary, or other entity, including any State or political subdivision thereof, acting for or on behalf of the Postal Service.

(c) In any case in which it is determined that more than one person is liable for making a claim or statement under this section, the civil penalty referred to in paragraph (a)(1) of this section may be imposed on each such person without regard to the amount of any penalties collected or demanded from others.

(d) In any case in which it is determined that more than one person is liable for making a claim under this section on which the Government has made payment, an assessment may be imposed against any such person or jointly and severally against any combination of such persons. The aggregate amount of the assessments collected with respect to such claim shall not exceed twice the portion of such claim determined to be in violation of paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

[52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 55825, Oct. 30, 1991; 61 FR 55750, Oct. 29, 1996]

§273.4 Non-exclusivity of penalty authority.

(a) A determination by the Reviewing Official that there is adequate evidence to believe that a person is liable under 31 U.S.C 3802, or a final determination that a person is liable under such statute, may provide the Postal Service with grounds for commencing any administrative or contractual action against such person which is authorized by law and which is in addition to any action against such person under chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) In the case of an administrative or contractual action to suspend or debar any person from eligibility to enter into contracts with the Postal Service, a determination referred to in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be considered as a conclusive determination of such person's responsibility pursuant to Postal Service procurement regulations.

§273.5 Investigations of alleged violations.

(a) Investigations of allegations of liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 shall be conducted by the Investigating Official.

(b)(1) For purposes of an investigation under this part, the Investigating Official may issue a subpoena requiring the production of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and data not otherwise reasonably available to the Postal Service. Any subpoena issued by the Investigating Official under this authority shall cite 31 U.S.C. 3804(a) as the authority under which it is issued, shall be signed by the Investigating Official, and shall command each person to whom it is directed to produce the specified documentary material at a prescribed time and place.

(2) In the case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the district courts of the United States have jursidiction to issue an appropriate order for the enforcement of such subpoena. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punishable as contempt. In any case in which the Postal Service seeks the enforcement of a subpoena under this section, the Postal Service shall request the Attorney General to petition the district court for the district in which the person receiving the subpoena resides or conducts business to issue such an order.

(c) Upon completing an investigation under this part, the Investigating Official shall submit to the Reviewing Official a report containing the findings and conclusions of his investigation, including:

(1) A description of the claims or statements for which liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 is alleged;

(2) A description of any evidence which supports allegations of liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802, or where applicable, a description of any evidence that tends to support a conclusion that such statute has not been violated;

(3) An estimate of the amount of money or the value of property or services allegedly requested or demanded in violation of 31 U.S.C. 3802;

(4) A statement of any exculpatory or mitigating circumstances which may relate to the claims or statements under investigation;

(5) A statement of the amount of penalties and assessments that, considering the information described in paragraphs (c) (3) and (4) of this section, the Investigating Official recommends be demanded from the person alleged to be liable; and

(6) An estimate of the prospects of collecting the amount specified in paragraph (c)(5) of this section, and any reasons supporting such estimate.

(d) Nothing in these regulations modifies any responsibility of the Investigating Official to report violations of criminal law to the Attorney General

[52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 55825, Oct. 30, 1991]

§273.6 Evaluation by reviewing official.

(a) Based upon the investigatory report prepared by the Investigating Offical, the Reviewing Official shall determine whether there is adequate evidence to believe that a person is liable under 31 U.S.C. 3802, and , if so, whether prosecution would likely result in the imposition and collection of civil penalties and applicable assessments.

(b) If the Reviewing Offical determines that a case has merit and should be referred to the Judicial Officer for assignment to a Presiding Officer, he must first transmit to the Attorney General a written notice containing the following information:

(1) A statement setting forth the Reviewing Official's reasons for proposing to refer the case to a Presiding Officer;

(2) A description of the claims or statements for which liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 is alleged;

(3) A statement specifying the evidence that supports the allegations of liability;

(4) An estimate of the amount of money or the value of property or services allegedly requested or demanded in violation of 31 U.S.C. 3802;

(5) A statement of any exculpatory or mitigating circumstances which may relate to the claims or statements under investigation;

(6) A statement of the amount of penalties and assessments that, considering the factors listed in paragraphs (b)(4) and (5) of this section, the Reviewing Official recommends be demanded from the person alleged to be liable; and

(7) A statement that, in the opinion of the Reviewing Official, there is a reasonable prospect of collecting the amount specified in paragraph (b)(6) of this section and the reasons supporting such statement.

(c) No allegations of liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 with respect to any claim made, presented, or submitted by any person shall be referred to the Judicial Officer if the Reviewing Official determines that (1) an amount of money in excess of $150,000; or (2) property or service with a value in excess of $150,000 is requested or demanded in violation of section 3802 in such claim or in a group of related claims which are submitted at the time such claim is submitted.

§ 273.7 Concurrence of Attorney General.

(a) The Attorney General is required by 31 U.S.C. 3803(b) to respond to the Reviewing Official's written notice described in § 273.6 within 90 days. The Reviewing Official may refer allegations of liability to the Judicial Officer only if the Attorney General or his designee approves such action in a written statement which specifies:

(1) That the Attorney General or his designee approves the referral to the Judicial Officer of the allegations of liability set forth in the notice described in § 273.6; and

(2) That the initiation of a proceeding under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act is appropriate.

(b) If at any time after the Attorney General approves the referral of a case to the Judicial Officier, the Attorney General or his designee transmits to the Postmaster General a written finding that the continuation of any proceeding under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act with respect to a claim or statement may adversely affect any pending or potential criminal or civil action related to such claim or statement, such proceeding shall be immediately stayed and may be resumed only upon written authorization of the Attorney General.

§ 273.8 Issuance of complaint.

(a) If the Attorney General or his designee approves the referral of allegations of liability to the Judicial Officer, the Reviewing Official shall serve on the Respondent, pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, a Complaint, which:

(1) Specifies the allegations of liability against the Respondent, including the statutory basis for liability;

(2) Identifies the claims or statements that are the basis for the alleged liability, and the reasons why liability allegedly arises from such claims or statements;

(3) Specifies the amount of penalties or assessments the Postal Service seeks to impose;

(4) Informs the Respondent of his right to request an oral hearing before, or a decision on the record by, a Presiding Officer concerning the allegations of liability and the amount of proposed penalties or assessments;

(5) Informs the Respondent of how to request a hearing described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section;

(6) Includes a copy of the procedures which govern hearings under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, and

which are set forth in part 962 of this title; and

(7) Notifies the Respondent that his or her failure to request a hearing on the issues raised by the Complaint within 30 days of its receipt may result in the imposition of the proposed penalty and assessments pursuant to §§ 962.4(a) and 962.15(d) of this title.

(b) Service of a Complaint issued under paragraph (a) of this section must be effected by registered or certified mail, return-receipt requested, or by personal delivery. In the case of personal service, the person making service shall, if possible, secure from the person sought to be served, or his or her agent, a written acknowledgment of receipt, showing the date and time of such receipt. If the person upon whom service is made declines to acknowledge receipt, the person effecting service shall execute a statement, indicating the time, place and manner of service, which shall constitute evidence of service.

[52 FR 12901, Apr. 20, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 55825, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 273.9 Collection of civil penalties or assessments.

(a) Any penalty or assessment imposed under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General. In any such action, no matter that was raised or that could have been raised in a hearing conducted under part 962 of this title or pursuant to judicial review under 31 U.S.C. 3805 may be raised as a defense and the determination of liability and the determination of amounts of penalties and assessments shall not be subject to review. A civil action to recover a penalty or assessment shall be commenced within three years after the date on which the determination of liability for such penalty or assessment becomes final.

(b) The amount of any penalty or assessment which has become final may be collected by administrative offset in accordance with 31 U.S.C 3716, 3807.

(c) Any penalty or assessment imposed by the Postal Service under this part shall be deposited in the Postal Service Fund established by section 2003 of title 39.

§ 273.10 Reports.

(a) Not later than October 31 of each year, the Postmaster General shall prepare and transmit to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of the Congress an annual report summarizing actions taken under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act during the most recent 12-month period ending the previous September 30.

(b) The report referred to in paragraph (a) of this section shall include the following information for the period covered by the report:

(1) A summary of matters referred by the Investigating Official to the Reviewing Official under this part;

(2) A summary of matters transmitted to the Attorney General under this part;

(3) A summary of all hearings conducted by a Presiding Officer under part 962 of this title, and the results of such hearings; and

(4) A summary of the actions taken during the reporting period to collect any civil penalty or assessment imposed under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act.

Damage to or Destruction of Firm Mailings

PART 281—FIRM MAILINGS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED THROUGH TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS OR CATASTROPHES

Sec.

281.1 Notification of firm mailers.
281.2 Action required by processing postal officials.
281.3 Postal inspector responsibilities.
281.4 Disclaimer.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 403, and 404.

§ 281.1 Notification of firm mailers.

Whenever bulk firm mail shipments are involved in transportation accidents or catastrophes, such as train or highway accidents, fire, flood, etc., it will be the responsibility of the sectional center director of customer services at the office of mailing to give known mailers timely notification of

the incident and its effect on their mail shipment(s).

[39 FR 20974, June 17, 1974, as amended at 40 FR 2179, Jan. 10, 1975]

§ 281.2 Action required by processing postal officials.

Postal officials processing salvable mail recovered from the scene of an accident or catastrophe are responsible for giving timely notification of the incident to the sectional center director of customer services at the office of mailing. The notification should include, but not be limited to:

(a) The determinable names of the major mailers involved;

(b) The nature and extent of damage or destruction;

(c) Anticipated delivery delay; and

(d) If known, the shipment delivery destination(s).

[39 FR 20974, June 17, 1974, as amended at 40 FR 2179, Jan. 10, 1975]

§ 281.3 Postal inspector responsibilities.

The postal inspector investigating the incident should assure that the processing postal officials are fulfilling their notification responsibilities on a timely basis. Should the situation arise where no postal officials are involved in processing affected mail, then the investigating postal inspector will take necessary action to insure that appropriate notification is made.

[39 FR 20974, June 17, 1974]

§ 281.4 Disclaimer.

The Postal Service will not be liable in damages for any loss occasioned by any failure to notify firm mailers in accordance with this part of damage to or destruction of firm mailings.

[39 FR 20974, June 17, 1974]

SUBCHAPTER E—RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE CARRIAGE OF LETTERS

PART 310—ENFORCEMENT OF THE PRIVATE EXPRESS STATUTES

Sec.
310.1 Definitions.
310.2 Unlawful carriage of letters.
310.3 Exceptions.
310.4 Responsibility of carriers.
310.5 Payment of postage on violation.
310.6 Advisory opinions.
310.7 Amendment of regulations.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 601–606; 18 U.S.C. 1693–1699.

SOURCE: 39 FR 33211, Sept. 16, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

§ 310.1 Definitions.

(a) *Letter* is a message directed to a specific person or address and recorded in or on a tangible object, subject to the following:

(1) Tangible objects used for letters include, but are not limited to, paper (including paper in sheet or card form), recording disks, and magnetic tapes. Tangible objects used for letters do not include (i) objects the material or shape and design of which make them valuable or useful for purposes other than as media for long-distance communications, unless they are actually used as media for personal and business correspondence, and (ii) outsized, rigid objects not capable of enclosure in envelopes, sacks, boxes or other containers commonly used to transmit letters or packets of letters.

(2) *Message* means any information or intelligence that can be recorded as described in paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(3) A message is directed to a ''specific person or address'' when, for example, it, or the container in which it is carried, singly or with other messages, identical or different, is marked for delivery to a specific person or place, or is delivered to a specific person or place in accordance with a selective delivery plan. Selective delivery plans include delivery to particular persons or addresses by use of detached address labels or cards; address lists; memorized groups of addresses; or ''piggy-backed'' delivery with addressed articles of merchandise, publications, or other items. Selective delivery plans do not include distributions of materials without written addresses to passersby on a particular street corner, or to all residents or randomly selected residents of an area. A message bearing the name or address of a specific person or place is a letter even if it is intended by the sender to be read or otherwise used by some person or persons other than or in addition to the addressee.

(4) Methods by which messages are recorded on tangible objects include, but are not limited to, the use of written or printed characters, drawing, holes, or orientations of magnetic particles in a manner having a predetermined significance.

(5) Whether a tangible object bears a message is to be determined on an objective basis without regard to the intended or actual use made of the object sent.

(6) Identical messages directed to more than one specific person or address or separately directed to the same person or address constitute separate letters.

(7) The following are not letters within the meaning of these regulations:[1]

(i) Telegrams.

(ii) Checks, drafts, promissory notes, bonds, other negotiable and nonnegotiable financial instruments, stock certificates, other securities, insurance policies, and title policies when shipped to, from, or between financial institutions.

(A) As used above, *checks* and *drafts* include documents intrinsically related to and regularly accompanying the

[1] Several of the items enumerated in this paragraph (a)(7) do not self-evidently lie outside of the definition of ''letter''. To the extent, however, that there is any question whether these items may properly be excluded by definition, the Postal Service has determined by adoption of these regulations that the restrictions of the Private Express Statutes are suspended pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 601(b).

movement of checks or drafts within the banking system. ''Checks'' do not include materials accompanying the movement of checks to financial institutions from persons who are not financial institutions, or vice versa, except such materials as would qualify under § 310.3(a) if ''checks'' were treated as cargo. Specifically, for example, ''checks'' do not include bank statements sent to depositors showing deposits, debits, and account balances.

(B) As used above, *financial institutions* means:

(*1*) As to checks and drafts: banks, savings banks, savings and loan institutions, credit unions, and their offices, affiliates, and facilities.

(*2*) As to other instruments: institutions performing functions involving the bulk generation, clearance, and transfer of such instruments.

(iii) Abstracts of title, mortgages and other liens, deeds, leases, releases, articles of incorporation, papers filed in lawsuits or formal quasi-judicial proceedings, and orders of courts and of quasi-judicial bodies.

(iv) Newspapers and periodicals.

(v) Books and catalogs consisting of 24 or more bound pages with at least 22 printed, and telephone directories. Separate letters of less than 24 bound and 22 printed pages bound to other material do not qualify for this exclusion. In determining whether separate letters have been bound to other material, the following factors will be considered, along with any other relevant factors: Whether the parts are visually similar; whether the parts were printed and bound together at the same time and by the same process; whether the binding serves an important purpose and has been a longstanding practice; and whether the same individual reads all parts of the bound document. Ordinarily, books and catalogs deal with matters of interest to, and are intended for, a substantial number of recipients. In addition, books generally contain a substantial number of pages. Accordingly, this exclusion will not apply when the nature of the message conveyed, the limited numbers of published copies and of recipients, the limited number of pages, or other relevant factors suggest that it is not appropriate to treat the material as a book or catalog. An item distributed privately, or privately and by mail, to fewer than 25 separate persons or places will generally not be treated as a book or catalog falling within this exclusion.

(vi) Matter sent from a printer, stationer, or similar source, to a person ordering such matter for use as his letters. This exclusion applies whether or not the printer, stationer, or similar source is owned by or affiliated with the person who orders such matter for use as his letters.

(vii) Letters sent to a records storage center exclusively for storage, letters sent exclusively for destruction, letters retrieved from a records storage center, and letters sent as part of a household or business relocation.

(viii) Tags, labels, stickers, signs or posters the type-size, layout or physical characteristics of which indicate they are primarily intended to be attached to other objects for reading.

(ix) Photographic material being sent by a person to a processor and processed photographic material being returned from the processor to the person sending the material for processing.

(x) Copy sent from a person to an independent or company-owned printer or compositor, or between printers and compositors, and proofs or printed matter returned from the printer or compositor to the office of the person who initially sent the copy.

(xi) Sound recordings, films, and packets of identical printed letters containing messages all or the overwhelming bulk of which are to be disseminated to the public. The ''public'' does not include individuals residing at the place of address; individuals employed by the organization doing business at the place of address (whether or not the actual place of employment is the place of address); individuals who are members of an organization, if an organization is located at the place of address; or other individuals who, individually or as members of a group, are reasonably identifiable to the sender.

(xii) Computer programs recorded on media suitable for direct input. For the conditions under which the Private Express Statutes are suspended for data processing materials, see § 320.2.

(b) *Packet* means two or more letters, identical or different, or two or more packets of letters, under one cover or otherwise bound together. As used in these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, ''letter'' or ''letters'' includes ''packet'' or ''packets''.

(c) *Person* means an individual, corporation, association, partnership, governmental agency, or other organization or entity.

(d) *Post routes* are routes on which mail is carried by the Postal Service, and includes post roads as defined in 39 U.S.C. 5003, as follows:

(1) The waters of the United States, during the time the mail is carried thereon;

(2) Railroads or parts of railroads and air routes in operation;

(3) Canals, during the time the mail is carried thereon;

(4) Public roads, highways, and toll roads during the time the mail is carried thereon; and

(5) Letter-carrier routes established for the collection and delivery of mail.

(e) *Private carriage, private carrier,* and terms of similar import used in connection with the Private Express Statutes or these regulations mean carriage by anyone other than the Postal Service, regardless of any meaning ascribed to similar terms under other bodies of law or regulation.

(f) The *Private Express Statutes* are set forth in 18 U.S.C. 1693–1699 and 39 U.S.C. 601–606 (1970).

(g) The term *identical printed letters* includes letters that differ only in name, address or serial number.

[39 FR 33211, Sept. 16, 1974, as amended at 44 FR 52833, Sept. 11, 1979; 45 FR 3034, Jan. 16, 1980; 45 FR 59873, Sept. 11, 1980; 48 FR 42354, Sept. 27, 1982]

§ 310.2 Unlawful carriage of letters.

(a) It is generally unlawful under the Private Express Statutes for any person other than the Postal Service in any manner to send or carry a letter on a post route or in any manner to cause or assist such activity. Violation may result in injunction, fine or imprisonment or both and payment of postage lost as a result of the illegal activity (see § 310.5).

(b) Activity described in paragraph (a) of this section is lawful with respect to a letter if:

(1)(i) The letter is enclosed in an envelope or other suitable cover;

(ii) The amount of postage which would have been charged on the letter if it had been sent through the Postal Service is paid by stamps, or postage meter stamps, on the cover or by other methods approved by the Postal Service;

(iii) The name and address of the person for whom the letter is intended appear on the cover;

(iv) The cover is so sealed that the letter cannot be taken from it without defacing the cover;

(v) Any stamps on the cover are canceled in ink by the sender; and

(vi) The date of the letter, or of its transmission or receipt by the carrier, is endorsed on the cover in ink by the sender or carrier, as appropriate; or

(2)(i) The activity is in accordance with the terms of a written agreement between the shipper or the carrier of the letter and the Postal Service. Such an agreement may include some or all of the provisions of paragraph (b)(1) of this section, or it may change them, but it must:

(A) Adequately ensure payment of an amount equal to the postage to which the Postal Service would have been entitled had the letters been carried in the mail;

(B) Remain in effect for a specified period (subject to renewals); and

(C) Provide for periodic review, audit, and inspection.

(ii) Possible alternative arrangements may include but are not limited to:

(A) Payment of a fixed sum at specified intervals based on the shipper's projected shipment of letters for a given period, as verified by the Postal Service; or

(B) Utilization of a computer record to determine the volume of letters shipped during an interval and the applicable postage to be remitted to the Postal Service.

(c) The Postal Service may suspend the operation of any part of paragraph (b) of this section where the public interest requires the suspension.

(d) Activity described in paragraph (a) of this section is permitted with respect to letters which:

(1) Relate to some part of the cargo of, or to some article carried at the same time by, the conveyance carrying it (see § 310.3(a));

(2) Are sent by or addressed to the carrier (see § 310.3(b));

(3) Are conveyed or transmitted without compensation (see § 310.3(c));

(4) Are conveyed or transmitted by special messenger employed for the particular occasion only, provided that not more than twenty-five such letters are conveyed or transmitted by such special messenger (see § 310.3(d)); or

(5) Are carried prior or subsequent to mailing (see § 310.3(e)).

[39 FR 33211, Sept. 16, 1974, as amended at 45 FR 77029, Nov. 21, 1980]

§ 310.3 Exceptions.

(a) *Cargo.* The sending or carrying of letters is permissible if they accompany and relate in all substantial respects to some part of the cargo or to the ordering, shipping or delivering of the cargo.

(b) *Letters of the carrier.* (1) The sending or carrying of letters is permissible if they are sent by or addressed to the person carrying them. If the individual actually carrying the letters is not the person sending the letters or to whom the letters are addressed, then such individual must be an officer or employee of such person (see § 310.3(b)(2)) and the letters must relate to the current business of such person.

(2) The fact that the individual actually carrying the letters may be an officer or employee of the person sending the letters or to whom the letters are addressed for certain purposes does not necessarily mean that he is an officer or employee for purposes of this exception. The following factors bear on qualifications for the exception: the carrying employee is employed for a substantial time, if not fulltime (letters must not be privately carried by casual employees); the carrying employee carries no matter for other senders; the carrying employee is a regular salaried employee and shares in all privileges enjoyed by other regular employees (including employees not engaged primarily by the letter carrying function), including but not limited to salary, annual vacation time, absence allowed for illness, health benefits, workmen's compensation insurance, and retirement benefits.

(3) Separately incorporated carriers are separate entities for purposes of this exception, regardless of any subsidiary, ownership, or leasing arrangement. When, however, two concerns jointly operate an enterprise with joint employees and share directly in its revenues and expenses, either of the concerns may carry the letters of the joint enterprise.

(c) *Private hands without compensation.* The sending or carrying of letters without compensation is permitted. Compensation generally consists of a monetary payment for services rendered. Compensation may also consist, however, of non-monetary valuable consideration and of good will Thus, for example, when a business relationship exists or is sought between the carrier and its user, carriage by the carrier of the user's letter will ordinarily not fall under this exception; or, when a person is engaged in the transportation of goods or persons for hire, his carrying of letters ''free of charge'' for customers whom he does charge for the carriage of goods or persons does not fall under this exception.

(d) *Special messenger.* (1) The use of a special messenger employed for the particular occasion only is permissible to transmit letters if not more than twenty-five letters are involved. The permission granted under this exception is restricted to use of messenger service on an infrequent, irregular basis by the sender or addressee of the message.

(2) A special messenger is a person who, at the request of either the sender or the addressee, picks up a letter from the sender's home or place of business and carries it to the addressees home or place of business, but a messenger or carrier operating regularly between fixed points is not a special messenger.

(e) *Carriage prior or subsequent to mailing.* (1) The private carriage of letters which enter the mail stream at some point between their origin and their destination is permissible. Except as provided in paragraph (e)(3) of this section, however, the carriage of letters

from a place where they have been opened, read, separated, or otherwise utilized, does not fall within this exception even though such letters had previously been in the mail stream. Similarly, the carriage of letters to a place where they will be consolidated or otherwise utilized does not fall within this exception even though they will subsequently enter the mail stream.

(2) Examples of permitted activities are the pickup and carriage of letters which are delivered to post offices for mailing; the pickup and carriage of letters at post offices for delivery to addressees; and the bulk shipment of individually addressed letters ultimately carried by the Postal Service.

(3) The private carriage of letters from branches of an organization to a location for preparation for mailing does not constitute a consolidation. The private carriage of letters from an organization's point of mail delivery to its branches in the locality does not constitute a separation.

[39 FR 33211, Sept. 16, 1974, as amended at 44 FR 52834, Sept. 11, 1979; 45 FR 59873, Sept. 11, 1980]

§310.4 Responsibility of carriers.

Private carriers are cautioned to make sure that their carriage of matter is lawful within the definition, exceptions, suspension, and conditions contained in this part and in part 320 of this chapter. They should take reasonable measures to inform their customers of the contents of these regulations so that only proper matter is tendered to them for carriage. Carriers should desist from carrying any matter when the form of shipment, identity of sender or recipient, or any other information reasonably accessible to them indicates that matter tendered to them for carriage is not proper under these regulations.

§310.5 Payment of postage on violation.

(a) Upon discovery of activity made unlawful by the Private Express Statutes, the Postal Service may require any person or persons who engage in, cause, or assist such activity to pay an amount or amounts not exceeding the total postage to which it would have been entitled had it carried the letters between their origin and destination.

(b) The amount equal to postage will be due and payable not later than 15 days after receipt of formal demand from the Inspection Service unless an appeal is taken to the Judicial Officer Department in accordance with rules of procedure set out in part 959 of this chapter.

(c) Refusal to pay an unappealed demand or a demand that becomes final after appeal will subject the violator to civil suit by the Postal Service to collect the amount equal to postage.

(d) The payment of amounts equal to postage on violation shall in no way limit other actions to enforce the Private Express Statutes by civil or criminal proceedings.

§310.6 Advisory opinions.

An advisory opinion on any question arising under this part and part 320 of this chapter may be obtained by writing the Law Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260. A numbered series of advisory opinions is available for inspection by the public in the Library of the U.S. Postal Service, and copies of individual opinions may be obtained upon payment of charges for duplicating services.

[45 FR 59873, Sept. 11, 1980]

§310.7 Amendment of regulations.

Amendments of the regulations in this part and in part 320 may be made only in accordance with the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act.

[40 FR 23295, May 29, 1975]

PART 320—SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVATE EXPRESS STATUTES

Sec.

320.1 Definitions.
320.2 Suspension for certain data processing materials.
320.3 Operations under suspension for certain data processing materials.
320.4 Suspension for certain letters of college and university organizations.
320.5 Suspension for certain international-ocean carrier-related documents.
320.6 Suspension for extremely urgent letters.

320.7 Suspension for advertisements accompanying parcels or periodicals.
320.8 Suspension for international remailing.
320.9 Revocation or amendment of suspensions.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 601–606; 18 U.S.C. 1693–1699.

§ 320.1 Definitions.

The definitions in § 310.1 apply to part 320 as well.[1]

[39 FR 33212, Sept. 16, 1974]

§ 320.2 Suspension for certain data processing materials.

(a) The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a)(1) through (6) and § 310.2(b) (1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post routes for data processing materials defined in paragraph (c) of this section on the terms detailed in paragraph (b) of this section, subject to the operating requirements in § 320.3.

(b) The suspension referred to in paragraph (a) of this section is for data processing materials conveyed (1) to a data processing center, if carriage is completed within 12 hours or by noon of the addressee's next business day and if data processing work is commenced on such materials within 36 hours of their receipt at the center; or (2) back from the data processing center to the address of the office originating the incoming materials, if carriage is completed within 12 hours or by noon of the addressee's next business day, and if data processing work was commenced on the incoming materials within 36 hours of their receipt at the center. For purposes of the time limitations for completion of delivery referred to in the preceding sentence, delivery of shipments between a domestic point and a foreign point shall be deemed to begin at the time materials of foreign origin are received at the international gateway city or end at the time materials of domestic origin leave the international gateway city. This suspension does not apply to carriages from or to originating offices that are neither part of the firm owning the data processing center nor data processing customers of the firm owning the data processing center.

(c) For purposes of this suspension, (1) ''addressee's next business day'' means the first calendar day, stated in his local time, on which he conducts business, following the calendar day of dispatch, stated in the sender's local time; (2) ''data processing'' means electro-mechanical or electronic processing and includes the recording of data by electro-mechanical or electronic means for further processing; and (3) ''data processing materials'' means materials of all types that are sent exclusively for data processing and are ready for immediate data processing, but only if they are produced recurringly in the course of the normal business operations of the office originating them or receiving them back from the processing center. The performance of clerical work which is merely preparatory and incidental to the commencement of data processing is not, for purposes of this suspension, inconsistent with the requirement that the materials be sent exclusively for data processing and be ready for immediate data processing.

[44 FR 52834, Sept. 11, 1979]

§ 320.3 Operations under suspension for certain data processing materials.

(a) Carriers intending to establish or alter operations based on the suspension granted pursuant to § 320.2 shall, as a condition to the right to operate under the suspension, notify the Private Express Liaison Officer, Customer Services Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, of their intention to establish such operations not later than the beginning of such operations. Such notification, on a form available from the Private Express Liaison Office, shall include information on the identity and authority of the carrier and the scope of its proposed operations.

(b) Carriers operating under the suspension granted pursuant to § 320.2 are

[1] Several of the items enumerated in § 310.1(a)(7) do not self-evidently lie outside of the definition of ''letter''. To the extent, however, that there is any question whether these items may properly be excluded by definition, the Postal Service has determined by adoption of these regulations that the restrictions of the Private Express Statutes are suspended pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 601(b).

responsible for making sure that their carriage of matter under the suspension meets all conditions contained in §320.2. (See §310.4.) The containers or covers of any matter carried under the suspension must be made available for examination upon request by a properly identified postal inspector. Carrier records—either in the form of notations on the containers or covers of any matter carried under the suspension granted pursuant to §320.2 or in the form of records kept by employees of the actual times they make delivery or pickup stops—must be sufficient to show that the delivery of such matter was completed within the applicable time limitation prescribed in §320.2. The provisions of this paragraph shall not restrict the Postal Service in the exercise of search powers conferred upon it by law.

(c) The filing of notifications under this section does not relieve the operator of responsibility for assuring that its operations conform to applicable statutes and regulations.

(d) Failure to comply with the notification requirements of this section and carriage of material or other action in violation of other provisions of this part and of part 310 are grounds for administrative revocation of the suspension as to a particular carrier for a period of not less than one year, in a proceeding instituted by the General Counsel, following a hearing by the Judicial Officer Department in accordance with the rules of procedure set out in part 959 of this chapter.

(NOTE: The form referred to in §320.3 is reproduced below.)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH OPERATIONS UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVATE EXPRESS STATUTES[1]

(SEE 39 CFR PART 320, SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVATE EXPRESS STATUTES)

Private Carriage of Letters

Name of Carrier _____
Address _____
State of Incorporation _____

Geographical Area to Be Served _____

1. Designate the specific markets or areas in which operations will be conducted.

2. Describe specifically any authorizations issued by local, state, or federal regulatory agencies under which operations will be conducted.

(Signature of Officer)

(Name and Title)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of _____, 197___.

Notary Public

Seal

My commission expires _____

(NOTE: False statements contained herein are punishable by law, 18 U.S.C. 1001.)

[39 FR 33212, Sept. 16, 1974; 39 FR 34533, Sept. 26, 1974, as amended at 40 FR 23295, May 29, 1975; 44 FR 52835, Sept. 11, 1979]

§320.4 Suspension for certain letters of college and university organizations.

The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a) (1) through (6) and §310.2(b) (1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post routes to permit colleges and universities to carry in their internal mail systems the letters of their *bona fide* student or faculty organizations to campus destinations. This suspension does not cover the letters of faculty members, students, or organizations other than *bona fide* student or faculty organizations of the carrying college or university. Colleges and universities choosing to provide their student or faculty organizations access to their internal mail systems are responsible for assuring that only letters of *bona fide* student or faculty organizations addressed to campus destinations are carried. (See §310.4.) For purposes of this suspension, ''internal mail systems'' are those which carry letters on, between, and among the various campuses of a single college or university and which operate in accordance with the *Letters of the carrier* exception in 39 CFR 310.3(b).

[44 FR 52835, Sept 11, 1979]

§320.5 Suspension for certain international-ocean carrier-related documents.

The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a) (1) through (6) and §310.2(b) (1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post

[1] Information relates exclusively to operations under the suspension for data processing materials. This form should be used for an initial notice of operations and for any amendments to the initial or subsequent notices.

routes for documents, sent by a shipper or an ocean carrier from a foreign origin to a United States ocean-carrier port city destination or from a United States ocean-carrier port city origin to a foreign destination, that would be excepted under § 310.3(a) if the documents accompanied the cargo. This suspension covers only shipments to or from ports where the cargo to which the documents relate is actually loaded on, or unloaded from, an ocean vessel. For purposes of this suspension ''foreign origins'' or ''foreign destinations'' means origins or destinations outside the contiguous 48 states.

[44 FR 52835, Sept 11, 1979]

§ 320.6 Suspension for extremely urgent letters.

(a) The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a)(1) through (6) and § 310.2(b) (1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post routes for extremely urgent letters if the conditions of either paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, and of the other paragraphs of this section, are met.

(b)(1) For letters dispatched within 50 miles of the intended destination, delivery of those dispatched by noon must be completed within 6 hours or by the close of the addressee's normal business hours that day, whichever is later, and delivery of those dispatched after noon and before midnight must be completed by 10 A.M. of the addressee's next business day. For other letters, delivery must be completed within 12 hours or by noon of the addressee's next business day. The suspension is available only if the value or usefulness of the letter would be lost or greatly diminished if it is not delivered within these time limits. For any part of a shipment of letters to qualify under this paragraph (b), each of the letters must be extremely urgent.

(2) Letters sent from the 48 contiguous states of the United States to other jurisdictions of the United States or to other nations are deemed ''delivered'' when they are in the custody of the international or overseas carrier at its last scheduled point of departure from the 48 contiguous states. Letters sent from other jurisdictions of the United States or from other nations into the 48 contiguous states are deemed ''dispatched'' when they are in the custody of the domestic carrier, having been passed by United States Customs, if applicable, at the letters' point of arrival in the 48 contiguous states.

(3) Except as provided in this paragraph (b)(3), the times and time limits specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section are not applicable to any locations outside the 48 contiguous states. The times and time limits specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section are applicable to letters dispatched and delivered wholly within Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico or a territory or possession of the United States. The regulations provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section relating to the delivery and dispatch of letters are applicable by analogy to letters shipped between these jurisdictions and other nations.

(c) It will be conclusively presumed that a letter is extremely urgent and is covered by the suspension if the amount paid for private carriage of the letter is at least three dollars or twice the applicable U.S. postage for First-Class Mail (including priority mail) whichever is the greater. If a single shipment consists of a number of letters that are picked up together at a single origin and delivered together to a single destination, the applicable U.S. postage may be computed for purposes of this paragraph as though the shipment constituted a single letter of the weight of the shipment. If not actually charged on a letter-by-letter or shipment-by-shipment basis, the amount paid may be computed for purposes of this paragraph on the basis of the carrier's actual charge divided by a *bona fide* estimate of the average number of letters or shipments during the period covered by the carrier's actual charge.

(d) The sender must prominently mark the outside covers or containers of letters carried under this suspension with the words ''Extremely Urgent'' or ''Private Carriage Authorized by Postal Regulations (39 CFR 320.6)'' or with a similar legend identifying the letters as carried pursuant to this suspension. In addition, each outside container or cover must show the name and address of the carrier, and the name and address of the addressee. Carrier records

must be sufficient to show that the delivery of the letters was completed within the applicable time limitations, if carried under the authority of paragraph (b) of this section, and must be made available for inspection at the request of the Postal Service. The required records may be either in the form of notations on the containers or covers of any letters asserted to be carried under this suspension, or in the form of records kept by employees of the actual times they pick up and deliver such materials.

(e) Violation by a shipper or carrier of the terms of this suspension is grounds for administrative revocation of the suspension as to such shipper or carrier for a period of one year in a proceeding instituted by the General Counsel, following a hearing by the Judicial Officer Department in accordance with the rules of procedure set out in Part 959 of this chapter. The period of the revocation may be reduced or be extended for not to exceed one additional year by the Judicial Officer, depending on such mitigating or aggravating factors as the extent of the postal revenue lost because of the violation and the presence or absence of good faith error or of previous violations. The failure of a shipper or carrier to cooperate with an authorized inspection or audit conducted by the Postal Inspection Service for the purpose of determining compliance with the terms of this suspension shall be deemed to create a presumption of a violation for the purpose of this paragraph (e) and shall shift to the shipper or carrier the burden of establishing the fact of compliance. Revocation of this suspension as to a shipper or carrier shall in no way limit other actions as to such shipper or carrier to enforce the Private Express Statutes by administrative proceedings for collection of postage (see § 310.5) or by civil or criminal proceedings.

(f) The following examples illustrate the application of this suspension.

Example (1). The headquarters of a city police department each night compiles a list of the license plate numbers and descriptions of automobiles reported stolen within the metropolitan area during the previous 24 hours. This list is delivered by 7 a.m. the following day to each of the local precinct offices located throughout the city. By 9 a.m. that day, the list is circulated for use by law enforcement units operating from each office. Effective police recovery of stolen vehicles depends upon having this information handed out in written form to all units on at least a daily basis. The private carriage of these lists would qualify under the test set in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (2). The same police department headquarters also from time to time distributes memoranda advising the local precinct officers on departmental policy and vacation schedules, and responding to inquiries from the local precinct offices. Nothing substantial turns on whether these memoranda arrive by midnight or by 10 a.m. of the next business day or whether their transmission takes a day or more longer to complete. The private carriage of these memoranda would not qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (3). A health maintenance organization (HMO) operating its own hospital, clinics, and medical laboratory daily sends test samples and specimens from the HMO's hospital and clinics to its medical laboratory in a different location for immediate analysis. In return, the HMO laboratory sends to the HMO's hospital and clinics the laboratory reports for these samples and specimens on the day the reports are completed. The reports are then promptly utilized by the hospital and clinics as part of regular diagnostic procedures. The private carriage of these reports would qualify under the loss-of-value test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (4). The same HMO's hospital and clinics send requisitions and invoices to the HMO's central office as the need arises for the ordering of and payment for goods and services, which are handled centrally. Every other Friday, the central office sends to the hospital and clinics reports and memoranda on expenditures for personnel, supplies, utilities, and other goods and services. Nothing substantial turns on whether these materials arrive the same day or by 10 a.m. of the next business day or whether their transmission takes a day or more longer to complete. The private carriage of these materials would not qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (5). On Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, the central office of a regional grocery store chain sends out to its various stores in the area inventory bulletins prepared over the previous 24 hours showing the current availability and prices of meat, produce, dairy products, breadstuffs, frozen foods and similar items. Early the following afternoon, each store must send these inventory bulletins back to the central office with a notation of the store's orders to assure that the central office can ship sufficient supplies of such items for sale by the store on its next business day. The private carriage of these bulletins would

qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (*6*). On Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, the central office of a different regional grocery chain sends out to its various stores in the area inventory bulletins showing the current availability and prices of meat, produce, dairy products, breadstuffs, frozen foods and similar items. Early in the afternoon of the second day following receipt of the bulletins, each store sends the bulletins back to the central office so that supplies of such items may be shipped to the store four days later. Nothing substantial turns on whether these bulletins arrive within 12 hours or by noon of the next business day or whether their transmission takes a day or more longer to complete. The private carriage of these materials would not qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (*7*). The headquarters office of a large bank each business day prepares and sends to its branch offices lists showing current foreign exchange rates and similar information that must be updated and distributed to the branches on a daily basis in order for the bank to avoid the risk of serious financial loss. Within three hours of their receipt by each branch office, these lists are circulated and utilized by officials of the branch office in conducting regular banking procedures involving the use of such lists. The private carriage of these lists would qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (*8*). The field office of an insurance company daily sends the insurance applications it has taken in that day to the company's central office. The applications are bound (i.e., constitute evidence of insurance) for 30 days, but may be canceled by the company. Few if any policies have been canceled by the company within 48 hours of their receipt at the central office, though the company normally begins processing the applications soon after their receipt. Nothing substantial turns on whether these bound applications arrive within 12 hours or by noon of the next business day or whether their transmission takes a day or more longer to complete. The private carriage of these materials would not qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (*9*). An organization of real estate brokers in a community issues periodic bulletins containing information about properties which have been listed for sale by the constituent brokers. Each broker is entitled to show the properties to prospective buyers. In order to provide each broker with substantially equal opportunity to secure a buyer, it is necessary that the bulletins be delivered on the same day and within the shortest time span within that day. The bulletins constitute the basic source of information for the brokers and delivery in the foregoing manner is a key element in the functioning of the brokers. The private carriage of the bulletins would therefore qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

Example (*10*). The same organization distributes memoranda regarding speakers at real estate seminars, sales figures for a given period, and other information of significance and interest to real estate brokers but which does not affect their competitive positions. A failure to make simultaneous or near simultaneous delivery to the brokers, or a failure to make delivery within a specified period of time, has no material bearing upon the day-to-day operations of the brokers and private carriage of these materials would not qualify under the test set out in paragraph (b) of this section.

[44 FR 61181, Oct. 24, 1979]

§ 320.7 Suspension for advertisements accompanying parcels or periodicals.

(a) The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a) (1) through (6) and § 310.2(b) (1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post routes for advertisements enclosed with merchandise in parcels or accompanying periodicals under the following circumstances:

(1) The advertisements must not be marked with the names or addresses of the intended recipients.

(2) The advertisements must be incidental to the shipment of the merchandise or the periodical.

(i) An advertisement is incidental to the shipment of the accompanying merchandise or the periodical when the merchandise or the periodical has been ordered by or would otherwise be sent to the recipient even without the accompanying advertisement.

(ii) Notwithstanding § 320.7(a)(2)(i), an advertisement is not incidental to the merchandise when the pertinent circumstances, such as the nominal value of the merchandise, its shipment on an unsolicited basis, or its status as a sample, reasonably indicate that the shipper's primary purpose is the conveyance of the advertisement itself and that the merchandise is merely an adjunct to the advertisement.

(b) An item is an advertisement if its primary purpose is to cause or induce the purchase of goods or services from the shipper or others.

[45 FR 59874, Sept. 11, 1980]

§320.8 Suspension for international remailing.

(a) The operation of 39 U.S.C. 601(a)(1) through (6) and §310.2(b)(1) through (6) of this chapter is suspended on all post routes to permit the uninterrupted carriage of letters from a point within the United States to a foreign country for deposit in its domestic or international mails for delivery to an ultimate destination outside the United States.

Example (*1*) The letters to overseas customers of commercial firm A in Chicago are carried by Carrier B to New York where they are delivered to Carrier C for carriage to Europe. Carrier C holds the letters in its distribution center overnight, then sorts them by country of destination and merges them with letters of other firms to those countries before starting the carriage to Europe in the morning. The carriage of firm A's letters is not interrupted. The suspension for international remailing applies to the carriage by Carrier B and by Carrier C.

Example (*2*) The bills addressed to foreign customers of the Chicago branch office of commercial firm D are carried by Carrier E to New York where they are delivered to the accounting department of firm D's home office. The accounting department uses the information in the bills to prepare its reports of accounts receivable. The bills are then returned to Carrier E which carries them directly to Europe where they are entered into the mails of a foreign country. The carriage of the bills from Chicago to Europe is interrupted in New York by the delivery to firm D's home office. The suspension for international remailing does not apply to the carriage from Chicago to New York. It does apply to the subsequent carriage from New York to Europe.

(b) This suspension shall not permit the shipment or carriage of a letter or letters out of the mails to any foreign country for subsequent delivery to an address within the United States.

Example (*1*) A number of promotional letters originated by firm F in Los Angeles are carried by Carrier G to Europe for deposit in the mails of a foreign country. Some of the letters are addressed to persons in Europe, some to persons in the United States. The suspension for international remailing does not apply to the letters addressed to persons in the United States.

(c) Violation by a shipper or carrier of the terms of this suspension is grounds for administrative revocation of the suspension as to such shipper or carrier for a period of one year in a proceeding instituted by the General Counsel in accordance with part 959 of this chapter. The failure of a shipper or carrier to cooperate with an inspection or audit authorized and conducted by the Postal Inspection Service for the purpose of determining compliance with the terms of this suspension shall be deemed to create a presumption of a violation for the purpose of this paragraph (c) and shall shift to the shipper or carrier the burden of establishing the fact of compliance. Revocation of this suspension as to a shipper or carrier shall in no way limit other actions as to such shipper or carrier to enforce the Private Express Statutes by administrative proceedings for collection of postage (see §310.5) or by civil or criminal proceedings.

[51 FR 29638, Aug. 20, 1986]

§320.9 Revocation or amendment of suspensions.

These suspensions may be revoked or amended in accordance with §310.7. No revocation of the suspension provided in §320.2 will curtail operations of particular carriers existing at the time of the revocation to a level of operations (in dollar or volume terms, whichever is larger) lower than that antedating the revocation in a particular market served prior to the revocation. Should the suspension referred to in §320.2 be revoked, carriers, as a condition to continuing operations under this section, will be required to provide reasonably complete and accurate data to support estimates of past operating levels in particular markets.

[44 FR 52835, Sept. 11, 1979. Redesignated at 44 FR 61181, Oct. 24, 1979]

SUBCHAPTER F—PERSONNEL

PART 447—RULES OF CONDUCT FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES

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447.61 General.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Applicability and Definitions

SOURCE: 60 FR 47243, Sept. 11, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 447.11 Applicability.

This part contains rules of conduct for the employees of the Postal Service. Employees are required to comply with the regulations in this part, and violations of the regulations may be cause for disciplinary action. The regulations in this part are in addition to other rules of conduct provided by applicable statutes, regulations, or Postal Service handbooks and manuals. For applicable rules of ethical conduct, employees are referred to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 CFR part 2635, and Postal Service regulations supplemental thereto, 5 CFR part 7001.

§ 447.12 Definitions.

The following definitions apply for purposes of this part.

(a) *Postal Service.* The United States Postal Service as established by 39 U.S.C. 201.

(b) *Employee.* An individual appointed to a position, temporary or permanent, within the Postal Service, or hired as an executive under an employment contract, including a substitute or a special employee as defined by 18 U.S.C. 202(a). The term ''employee'' does not include the Governors of the Postal Service.

Subpart B—Employee Conduct

§ 447.21 Prohibited conduct.

(a) An employee must not engage, either on a paid or unpaid basis, in teaching, lecturing, or writing for the purpose of the special preparation of a person or class of persons for an examination of the Office of Personnel Management or Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service, or for appointment in the U.S. Postal Service, when these activities are dependent on information obtained as a result of his or her employment with the Postal Service, except when that information has been made available to the general public, or will be made available on request, or when the Postmaster General gives written authorization that the use of nonpublic information is in the public interest.

(b) No employee shall take sick leave to enable himself to engage in outside work.

(c) No employee while acting in his official capacity shall directly or indirectly authorize, permit, or participate in any action, event or course of conduct which subjects any person to discrimination, or results in any person being discriminated against, on the

basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or age.

(d) No employee shall engage in criminal, dishonest, notoriously disgraceful or immoral conduct, or other conduct prejudicial to the Postal Service. Conviction of a violation of any criminal statute may be grounds for disciplinary action by the Postal Service in addition to any other penalty imposed by or pursuant to statute.

(e) No employee shall habitually use intoxicating beverages to excess. No employee shall drink beer, wine, or other intoxicating beverages while on duty. No employee shall begin work or return to duty while intoxicated. No employee shall drink intoxicating beverages in a public place while in uniform. Unless the Postmaster General specifically authorizes an exception (as in the case, for example, of an official reception) no employee shall have or bring any container of beer, wine, or other intoxicating beverage on premises occupied by a postal facility, whether or not the container has been opened.

(f) Illegal use of drugs may be grounds for removal from the Postal Service.

(g) No employee while on property owned or leased by the Postal Service or the United States or while on duty, shall participate in any gambling activity, including the operation of a gambling device, in conducting or acting as an agent for a lottery or pool, in conducting a game for money or property, or in selling or purchasing a numbers slip or ticket.

NOTE: Paragraph (g) of this section does not prohibit participation in activities specified herein if participation is necessitated by an employee's law enforcement duties, or if participation is in accordance with section 3 of Executive Order No. 10927, of March 18, 1961, relating to agency-approved solicitations.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974; 39 FR 3677, Jan. 28, 1974, as amended at 48 FR 48231, Oct. 18, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 47244, Sept. 11, 1995]

Subpart C—Ethical Conduct Advisory Services and Post–Employment Activities

§ 447.31 Advisory service.

(a) The Ethical Conduct Officer is responsible for the administration of the ethics program of the Postal Service. In the exercise of that responsibility, the Ethical Conduct Officer shall coordinate the advisory service provided by this section, assure that authoritative interpretations of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch (Standards) and Supplemental Postal Service Regulations (Supplemental Regulations) are available to the Associate Ethical Conduct Officers, and render final rulings on behalf of the Postal Service in appeals by employees from rulings under the Standards and Supplemental Regulations made by an agency designee. The Ethical Conduct Officer shall provide advice and guidance for the Postmaster General and all Associate Ethical Conduct Officers concerning questions arising under the Standards and Supplemental Regulations. The Ethical Conduct Officer may delegate to an Assistant Ethical Conduct Officer authority to perform any duty or function vested in him or her by this Section. The General Counsel is the Ethical Conduct Officer of the Postal Service and the Designated Agency Ethics Official for purposes of the Ethics in Government Act, as amended, and implementing regulations of the Office of Government Ethics, including 5 CFR part 2638.

(b) The Deputy Postmaster General is the Associate Ethical Conduct Officer for the Office of the Postmaster General and the Office of the Deputy Postmaster General. The Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice Presidents, Vice Presidents, and such other persons as the Ethical Conduct Officer may designate are Associate Ethical Conduct Officers for their respective organizational elements. Each Associate Ethical Conduct Officer shall designate a suitable employee to coordinate the ethics program within his or

her organization and to act as liaison with the Ethical Conduct Officer. Each Associate may designate other suitable employees to assist or act for him or her and shall ensure that there is an adequate number of Qualified Ethics Trainers to comply with the requirements of the annual ethics training program.

(c) The Ethical Conduct Officer and, with his or her approval, Associate Ethical Conduct Officers, may delegate to additional persons or classes of persons the authority to make determinations, to give approval, or to take other action in accordance with the Standards of Ethical Conduct, as is contemplated by 5 CFR 2635.102(b), defining ''agency designee.''

(d) An employee may obtain advice and guidance on questions of conflicts of interest from the Ethical Conduct Officer or the Associate Ethical Conduct Officer having appropriate jurisdiction. In order to avoid undue interference with established grievance and disciplinary procedures, advisory service under this subpart will not normally be available in an instance in which a grievance is pending or disciplinary action has been initiated.

(e) An employee may request any ruling provided for by the Standards and Supplemental Regulations by submitting a request in writing to the Senior Counsel, Ethics, or, in the field, to the Chief Field Counsel or Deputy Chief Field Counsel, General Law.

(f) An employee may appeal to the Ethical Conduct Officer from a ruling made by an agency designee concerning matters covered by the Standards and Supplemental Regulations within 30 days from the date of the ruling. The appeal must be in writing and must contain a full statement of the relevant facts. It should be addressed to the Ethical Conduct Officer, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, and a copy thereof should be sent to the official whose ruling is being appealed.

[60 FR 47244, Sept. 11, 1995]

§ 447.32 Post-employment activities.

(a) Restrictions on the post-employment activities of persons who have been employed by the Postal Service are imposed by 18 U.S.C. 207. The Ethics Reform Act of 1989 includes amendments to 18 U.S.C. 207, which became effective January 1, 1991. Employees who terminated their employment prior to January 1, 1991, are subject to the restrictions imposed under 18 U.S.C. 207 in effect prior to that date, while all other employees are subject to the restrictions imposed under 18 U.S.C. 207 as amended.

(b) The Office of Government Ethics has issued regulations, contained in 5 CFR part 2637, that implement 18 U.S.C. 207 as in effect prior to January 1, 1991. Employees who terminated their employment with the Postal Service prior to January 1, 1991, may refer to 5 CFR part 2637 for guidance concerning applicable post-employment restrictions, and further guidance may be obtained in accordance with § 447.31 of this part.

(c) Employees who terminate their postal employment on or after January 1, 1991, are subject to 18 U.S.C. 207 as amended. Guidance concerning post-employment restrictions applicable to such employees may be obtained in accordance with § 447.31 of this part.

[60 FR 47244, Sept. 11, 1995]

Subpart D—Political Activities

§ 447.41 General.

(a) Postal Service employees, except those mentioned in paragraph (b) of this section, are subject, at all times to restrictions on their participation in political activity (5 U.S.C. subchapter III of chapter 73, and 18 U.S.C. 602, 603, and 607), and to the regulations issued by the Office of Personnel Management relating thereto.

(b) Those Postal Service employees who are employed on an irregular or occasional basis; e.g., experts and consultants, substitute rural carriers, others on a per diem basis, and without compensation or when actually employed employees, are subject to the restrictions mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section only while in an active duty status and only for the entire 24 hours of any day of actual employment. Notwithstanding this paragraph, full-time employees in a leave status

and part-time employees are fully subject to the restrictions of paragraph (a) of this section.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974, as amended at 48 FR 48231, Oct. 18, 1983. Redesignated at 60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

§447.42 Additional prohibited political activities.

(a) In addition to the restrictions on political activities mentioned in §447.51, an employee may not:

(1) Display a political picture or sticker on property owned or leased by the Postal Service. He is not forbidden by this paragraph, however, from displaying a picture, including a personally autographed picture of a political figure in his office or place of work if it has no language in the nature of political campaigning;

(2) Wear a political badge or button while in uniform or while on duty when that duty requires him to deal with the public or be in the view of the public;

(3) Display a political picture or sticker on his private vehicle while that vehicle is being used for official postal purposes.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974. Redesignated at 60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

§447.43 Investigation and enforcement.

The Office of the Special Counsel and the Merit Systems Protection Board investigate and adjudicate allegations of political activity in violation of the regulations of the Office of Personnel Management by Postal Service employees. For jurisdiction in such a case, see 5 CFR 734.102 and part 1201.

[60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

Subpart E—Participation in Community Affairs

§447.51 General.

An employee is permitted to participate in community affairs to the extent consistent with the proper performance of his postal duties and with applicable laws and regulations. Nothing in this section shall prevent an employee from serving as an official of a religious or fraternal organization or of a civil nonpolitical organization which is supported by dues or contributions from its own members.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974. Redesignated at 60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

§447.52 Holding of State or local office by Postal Service employees.

(a) An employee may seek, accept, or hold a nonpartisan State or local office subject to the provisions of this Code and in particular this section. A ''nonpartisan'' office is one filled by a ''nonpartisan election'', which is an election at which none of the candidates are to be nominated or elected as representing a political party any of whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which presidential electors were selected.

(b) An employee who wishes to seek, accept, or hold a nonpartisan State or local office is responsible for ascertaining:

(1) Whether the office is ''nonpartisan'' within the definition in §447.62(a).

(2) Whether State or local law permits a Postal Service employee to seek, accept, or hold the particular office.

(3) Whether the duties of the office would result in a conflict with his Postal Service employment.

(4) Whether the discharge of the duties of the office would interfere with the performance by the particular employee of his Postal Service duties in an acceptable manner or would interfere with the performance by other Postal Service employees of their respective duties in an acceptable manner.

(c) An employee is encouraged to seek advice from his Associate Ethical Conduct Counselor prior to taking any action to seek, accept, or hold a State or local office. If, after the employee has entered upon the discharge of the duties of this non-postal office, his non-postal duties interfere with the proper discharge of postal duties, either by him or by other postal employees, the employee holding the non-postal office shall be advised by his superior to eliminate the interference, either by resignation from the non-postal office, or in such other manner as is appropriate under the circumstances. If

the employee fails, refuses, or neglects to comply with the foregoing advice and the interference continues, he will be subject to disciplinary proceedings.

(d) Employees, other than postmasters or acting postmasters in a salary level of EAS–25 or higher, may be granted permission to campaign for a full-time State or local nonpartisan office while on annual leave or on authorized leave without pay during the campaign when:

(1) The criteria in paragraphs (b) (1) and (2) of this section are met, and

(2) The Vice President, Area Operations, determines that the employee's postal responsibilities are being conducted in a satisfactory manner and that the absence of the employee during the campaign period will not disrupt the operation of the facility where he or she is employed.

NOTE: Requests shall be submitted through the postmaster or other installation head to the Vice President, Area Operations. If the employee is elected to and takes such a full-time office, he or she may either be separated from the Postal Service or granted leave without pay.

(e) A postmaster or acting postmaster in salary level EAS–25 or higher shall not be authorized to take annual leave or leave without pay for the purpose of campaigning for a full-time State or local nonpartisan office.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974, as amended at 48 FR 48231, Oct. 18, 1983. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

Subpart F—Bribery, Undue Influence, or Coercion

§ 447.61 General.

(a) An employee shall report immediately to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260:

(1) Any instance in which a person either within or outside the Postal Service uses or attempts to use a bribe, undue influence, or coercion to induce or attempt to induce the employee to act or neglect to act in regard to his official responsibilities; and

(2) Any information that causes him to believe that there has been a violation of a Federal criminal statute or any law or regulation directly or indirectly related to the responsibilities of the Postal Service. A copy of a report made under this paragraph shall also be sent by the employee to the Chief Postal Inspector, Washington, DC 20260. The report shall be sent in a sealed envelope clearly marked ''Limited Official Use—To Be Opened by Addressee Only''.

[39 FR 1990, Jan. 16, 1974. Redesignated at 60 FR 47245, Sept. 11, 1995]

PART 491—GARNISHMENT OF SALARIES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE POSTAL SERVICE AND THE POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

Sec.
491.1 Authorized Agent to receive service.
491.2 Manner of service.
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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5520a; 39 U.S.C. 401; E.O. 12897.

SOURCE: 59 FR 45625, Sept. 2, 1994, unless othewise noted.

§ 491.1 Authorized Agent to receive service.

Notwithstanding the designation, in § 2.2 of this title, of the General Counsel as agent for the receipt of legal process against the Postal Service, the sole agent for service of garnishment process directed to the pay of Postal Service employees and employees of the Postal Rate Commission (''employees'') is the Manager, Payroll Processing Branch, 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111–9650 (''Authorized Agent''). The Authorized Agent shall have sole authority to receive service of legal process in the nature of garnishment (hereinafter sometimes referred to as ''process'') arising under the law of any state, territory, or possession, or the order of a court of competent jurisdiction of any state, territory, or possession (including any order for child support and alimony). No process shall be effectively served until it is received by the office of the Authorized Agent. No other employee shall have the authority to accept service of such process. Service of process

in conformity with Rule 4(i) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is not waived for any suit or action wherein the Postal Service, its officers, or employees are parties.

§ 491.2 Manner of service.

Service of process on the Authorized Agent may be made in person or by certified or registered mail, with return receipt requested, at the address of the Authorized Agent. Service may also be made on the Authorized Agent by means of any private delivery service pursuant to its authority for the private carriage of letters under an exception to the Private Express Statutes, 39 U.S.C. 601–606, provided that the private delivery organization issues a receipt bearing the name and address of both the addressee and sender, as well as the date of delivery and the signature of the receiving agent. No garnishment is effectively served until it is received by the Authorized Agent regardless of the chosen mode of delivery. Process addressed to, delivered to, or in any manner given to any employee, other than the Authorized Agent, may, at the sole discretion of the employee, be returned to the issuing court marked ''Not Effectively Served.'' A copy of or reference to these regulations may be included. Employees are not authorized to redirect or forward garnishment process to the Authorized Agent. In the event that the address of the Authorized Agent is changed, mail may be forwarded from his or her last published address to the new official address until such time as these regulations are amended to reflect the new address.

§ 491.3 Sufficient legal form.

No document purporting to garnish employee wages shall be deemed sufficient unless it can be determined from the face of the document that it is legal process in the nature of garnishment; that it is issued by a court of competent jurisdiction or an authorized official pursuant to an order of such a court or pursuant to state or local law, evidenced by a signature of the issuing person; and that it contains the name of the garnished party, with his or her social security number, orders the employing agency to withhold from pay a specific amount of money, specifically describes the judgment of debt or administrative action complete with statutory citation and contains specific advice as to where to send the funds withheld including the complete ZIP Code (ZIP+4). Documents deficient in any of these respects may be returned to the issuing court or authorized official inscribed ''Insufficient as to legal form.''

§ 491.4 Identification of employees.

Garnishments must be accompanied by sufficient information to permit prompt identification of the employee and the payments involved. Garnishment of an employee whose name and social security number are similar to but not identical with the name and social security number on the garnishment will not be processed. An exact match of both name and social security number is required in order to permit processing; otherwise, the garnishment will be returned marked ''Insufficient identifying information.'' Garnishments that are insufficient in regard to identifying information will not be held pending receipt of further information.

§ 491.5 Costs.

The Postal Service's administrative costs in executing the garnishment action shall be added to each garnishment and the costs recovered shall be retained as offsetting collections.

§ 491.6 Response to process.

Within 15 days after receipt of process that is sufficient for legal form and contains sufficient information to identify the employee, the Authorized Agent shall send written notice that garnishment process has been served, together with a copy thereof, to the affected employee at his or her duty station or last known address. The Authorized Agent shall respond, in writing, to the garnishment or interrogatories within 30 days of receipt of process. The Authorized Agent may respond within a longer period of time as may be prescribed by applicable state Law. Neither the Authorized Agent nor any employee shall be required to respond in person to any garnishment served according to the provisions of 5

U.S.C. 5520a and the regulations in this section.

§ 491.7 Release of information.

No employee whose duties include responding to interrogatories to garnishments shall release information in response to a garnishment until it is determined that sufficient information, as required in § 491.4 above, has been received in writing as part of the garnishment legal process. The Authorized Agent may, at his or her sole discretion, accept or initiate telephone inquiries concerning garnishments. No other employee may release any information about employees except in conformity with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, and the regulations in 39 CFR part 266, Privacy of Information.

§ 491.8 Execution of process.

All legal process in the nature of garnishment shall be date- and time-stamped by the Authorized Agent when received for the purpose of determining the order of receipt of process that is sufficient as to legal form and contains sufficient information for identification of the employee, the Authorized Agent's date- and time-stamp shall be conclusive evidence. Child support and alimony garnishments will be accorded priority over commercial garnishments under 5 U.S.C. 5520a as provided in 5 U.S.C. 5520a(h)(2). Garnishments shall be executed if the pay cycle is open for input or, if closed, will be held until the next cycle.

§ 491.9 Restrictions on garnishment.

Garnishments under this section shall be subject to the restrictions in 15 U.S.C. 1671–1677, including limits on the amounts that can be withheld from an employee's pay.

SUBCHAPTER G—POSTAGE METERS

PART 501—AUTHORIZATION TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE POSTAGE METERS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 410, 2601, 2605; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95–452, as amended), 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

SOURCE: 60 FR 30726, June 9, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§501.1 Manufacturer authorization.

Any person or concern seeking authorization to manufacture and distribute postage meters must submit a request to the Postal Service in person or in writing. Upon qualification and approval, the applicant is authorized in writing to manufacture meters and to lease them to persons licensed accordingly by the Postal Service. The Postal Service may specify the functional area charged with processing the application and administering its meter program.

§501.2 Manufacturer qualification.

Any concern wanting authorization to manufacture and/or lease postage meters for use by licensees under Domestic Mail Manual P030.1.2 must:

(a) Satisfy the Postal Service of its integrity and financial responsibility;

(b) Obtain approval of at least one meter model incorporating all the features and safeguards specified in §501.6;

(c) Have, or establish, and keep under its supervision and control adequate manufacturing facilities suitable to carry out the provisions of §§501.15 through 501.20 to the satisfaction of the Postal Service (such facilities must be subject to unannounced inspection by representatives of the Postal Service); and

(d) Have, or establish, and keep adequate facilities for the control, distribution, and maintenance of meters and their replacement when necessary.

§501.3 Changes in ownership or control.

Any person or concern wanting to acquire ownership or control of an authorized postage meter manufacturer must provide the Postal Service with satisfactory evidence of that person's or concern's integrity and financial responsibility.

§501.4 Burden of proof standard.

The burden of proof is on the Postal Service in adjudications of suspension and revocation under §§501.5 and 501.12 and administrative sanctions under §§501.14 and 501.23. Except as otherwise indicated in those sections, the standard of proof shall be the preponderance-of-evidence standard.

§501.5 Suspension and revocation of authorization.

(a) The Postal Service may suspend and/or revoke authorization to manufacture and/or distribute any or all of a manufacturer's postage meters if the manufacturer engages in any unlawful scheme or enterprise, fails to comply with any provision in this part 501, or fails to implement instructions issued in accordance with any final decision

issued by the Postal Service within its authority over the meter program.

(b) The decision to suspend or revoke a manufacturer's authorization shall be based on the nature and circumstances of the violation (whether the violation was willful, whether the manufacturer voluntarily admitted to the violation, whether the manufacturer cooperated with the Postal Service, whether the manufacturer implemented successful remedial measures) and on the manufacturer's performance history. Before determining whether a manufacturer's authorization to manufacture and/or distribute meters should be revoked, the procedures in paragraph (c) of this section shall be followed.

(c) Suspension in all cases shall be as follows:

(1) Upon determination by the Postal Service that a manufacturer is in violation of the provisions in this part 501, the Postal Service shall issue a written notice of proposed suspension citing deficiencies for which suspension of authorization to manufacture and/or distribute a specific meter or class of meters may be imposed under paragraph (c)(2) of this section. Except in cases of willful violation, the manufacturer shall be given an opportunity to correct deficiencies and achieve compliance with all requirements within a time limit corresponding to the potential risk to postal revenue.

(2) In cases of willful violation, or if the Postal Service determines that the manufacturer has failed to correct cited deficiencies within the specified time limit, the Postal Service shall issue a written notice setting forth the facts and reasons for the decision to suspend and the effective date if a written defense is not presented as provided in paragraph (d) of this section.

(3) If, upon consideration of the defense as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, the Postal Service deems that the suspension is warranted, the suspension shall remain in effect for up to 90 days unless withdrawn by the Postal Service, as provided in paragraph (c)(4)(iii) of this section.

(4) At the end of the 90-day suspension, the Postal Service may:

(i) Extend the suspension in order to allow more time for investigation or to allow the manufacturer to correct the problem;

(ii) Make a determination to revoke authorization to manufacture and/or distribute the manufacturer's meters in part or in whole; or

(iii) Withdraw the suspension based on identification and implementation of a satisfactory solution to the problem. Manufacturer suspensions may be withdrawn before the end of the 90-day period if the Postal Service determines that the manufacturer's solution and implementation are satisfactory.

(d) The manufacturer may present the Postal Service with a written defense to any suspension or revocation determination within 30 calendar days of receiving the written notice (unless a shorter period is deemed necessary). The defense must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons for which the order should not be imposed.

(e) After receipt and consideration of the defense, the Postal Service shall advise the manufacturer of the decision and the facts and reasons for it. The decision shall be effective on receipt unless it provides otherwise. The decision shall also advise the manufacturer that it may appeal that determination within 30 calendar days of receiving written notice (unless a shorter time frame is deemed necessary), as specified therein. The appeal must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons the manufacturer believes that the decision is erroneous.

(f) An order or final decision under this section does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the Postal Service, the United States, or any other person or concern.

§ 501.6 Specifications.

Postage meters must incorporate all the following features and safeguards:

(a) A postage meter is the postage printing die and postage registering mechanism of a mailing machine. It may be integral with the mailing machine or separable. In either case, the licensee must be able to take the meter to the post office for setting or examination.

(b) A meter may be capable of printing one denomination of postage and registering the number of such impressions made (single denomination), or it may be capable of printing varying denominations and registering either multiples of the smallest unit printed (multidenomination) or the currency value of the impressions made (omnidenomination). The printing die or dies, counters, and counteractuating mechanism must be inseparable from the meter, except by the manufacturer.

(c) In each meter, there must be two accurate and dependable counting devices: one ascending and registering the total imprinted, the other descending and registering the unused postage balance. The descending register must actuate a locking mechanism that prevents further operation of the meter after the register descends to zero or an amount less than the largest denomination printable in one operation. In electronic meters, the locking device must prevent printing if the amount to be printed reduces the descending register to less than zero. The construction of the descending register must allow the post office to set any amount of postage or number of impressions within its capacity, prepaid by the licensee.

(d) The entire meter must be encased in a substantial housing to which unauthorized access cannot be gained without creating obvious damage. The descending register must be accessible to the post office by a door equipped with a suitable lock and with provision for a post office seal. The requirement that accessibility to the descending register be restricted does not apply to Computerized Remote Postage Meter Resetting System electronic meters that have no access to the descending register of the meter. Descending registers on this type of meter are reset electronically by coded input only. The ascending register and all other components must be so shielded as not to be accessible even when the door is open. The readings of both registers must be easily obtainable at any time between operations, by visibility through closed windows, by imprint on tape or card, or by a combination of the two methods. The construction of the housing must make it impossible to alter the readings of the ascending register except by normal operation or impossible to gain access to the internal components, except for setting the descending register under § 501.20(c), without mutilation.

(e) The printing die must either conform in design to one already in use or be approved by the Postal Service. The die must include the serial number of the meter and identification of the manufacturer, and the die must be so constructed or shielded that it is not practically possible without proper registration in the ascending and descending register to obtain imprints fraudulently. The die must be attached to the meter in a manner (such as with breakoff screws) that it is not practicable to remove or replace the die fraudulently.

(f) The meter die must include a postmark to print the name of the city and state from which mail is dispatched and the date of mailing, except as specified by the Postal Service. Information that must appear in the meter postmark and the location of that postmark must be as specified by the Postal Service.

(g) A meter may be designed to print a meter slogan or ad plate to the left of, and next to, the postmark. The size and position of a meter slogan or ad plate must not interfere with or obscure the meter stamp or postmark, and it must be possible to install the plate easily without exposing the meter stamp die. Plates must be made of suitable, durable material that does not soften or disintegrate while in use. Plates must be well-fitted and so securely fastened to the printing mechanism that they do not become loose or detached or otherwise interfere with proper operation of a meter.

(h) The entire meter must be of sufficiently solid, substantial, and dependable construction that protects the Postal Service amply against loss of revenue from fraud, manipulation, misoperation, or breakdown.

(i) In addition to the features and safeguards above, electronic meters must:

(1) Have either nonvolatile ascending and descending registers or a solid-state memory that stores the data for the ascending and descending registers.

Solid-state memories that rely on applied voltage for memory retention must be powered by batteries with a minimum support life of 5 years from the date of battery renewal with no external power applied and with sufficient redundancy to be self-checking.

(2) Be able to display the amounts in both the ascending and the descending registers (not necessarily at the same time).

(3) Be able to display, free from accidental changes, the next amount of postage to be printed.

(4) Be resettable by Postal Service employees, preferably without customized equipment.

(5) Contain a fault-detection device for computational security that automatically locks out the meter and prevents printing of additional postage in the event of malfunction.

(6) Meet Postal Service test specifications in United States Postal Service Specification, Postage Meters, Electronic, Postal Service-M–942 (RDC). Persons wanting to manufacture electronic meters may obtain a copy of this Postal Service test specification from Postal Service Headquarters.

(j) Auxiliary equipment required for the operation of the meters must be part of the final production models submitted for Postal Service approval. Failure of the auxiliary equipment, which could cause malfunction in meter operation, is considered the same as a meter failure.

§ 501.7 Test plans.

To receive Postal Service approval, a postage meter must be tested. Manufacturers of electronic meters must submit a detailed test plan to the Postal Service for approval at least 60 days before conducting the tests. The test plan must include tests that, if passed by a meter, prove compliance by the meter with all postal requirements. The test plan must list the parameters to be tested, test equipment, procedures, test sample sizes, and test data formats. Also, the plan must include detailed descriptions, specifications, design drawings, schematic diagrams, and explanations of the purposes of all special test equipment and nonstandard or noncommercial instrumentation.

§ 501.8 Submission of each model.

Each meter model proposed for manufacture must be approved by the Postal Service after testing at the manufacturer's expense. A preliminary working model that meets the specifications in § 501.6 may be submitted for tentative approval. No meter of any model may be distributed or used for postage payment until a complete unit made to production drawings and specifications is submitted, tested, and approved, unless authorized for preliminary field testing.

§ 501.9 Security testing.

The Postal Service reserves the right to require or conduct additional examination and testing at any time, without cause, of any meter submitted to the Postal Service for approval or approved by the Postal Service for manufacture and distribution.

§ 501.10 Meter approval.

As provided in § 501.13, the manufacturer has a duty to report security weaknesses to the Postal Service to ensure that each meter model and every meter in service protects the Postal Service against loss of revenue at all times. A grant of approval of a model does not constitute an irrevocable determination that the Postal Service is satisfied with the revenue-protection capabilities of the model. After approval is granted to manufacture and distribute a meter, no change affecting the basic features or safeguards of a meter may be made except as authorized or ordered by the Postal Service in writing.

§ 501.11 Conditions for approval.

(a) The Postal Service may require, and reserves future rights to require, that production models of approved meters be deposited with the Postal Service.

(b) The manufacturer must provide copies of resetting and inspection media to each licensing post office before distribution. The contents of the media must explain how the meter is reset and describe any special or unique features of the meter. The manufacturer must also provide a training video for any new metering product

that includes an explanation of how the device is reset as well as recommended methods for detecting evidence of tampering.

(c) As a condition of approval, the manufacturer has a continuing obligation to provide the Postal Service with copies of service manuals and updates to setting instructions. The manufacturer must also promptly provide Retail Systems and Equipment, Postal Service Headquarters, with any additional documentation on request.

(d) On request by the Postal Service, additional meters must be submitted to the Postal Service for testing, at the expense of the manufacturer.

§ 501.12 Suspension and revocation of approval.

(a) The Postal Service may suspend meter approval under § 501.10 if the Postal Service has probable cause to believe that a manufacturer's meter or class of meters poses an unreasonable risk to postal revenue. Suspension of approval to manufacture or distribute a meter or class of meters in whole or in part shall be based on the potential risk to postal revenue. Before determining whether approval of a meter or class of meters should be revoked, the procedures in paragraph (b) of this section shall be followed.

(b) Suspension in all cases shall be as follows:

(1) Upon determination by the Postal Service that a meter poses an unreasonable risk to postal revenue, the Postal Service shall issue a written notice of proposed suspension citing deficiencies for which suspension may be imposed under paragraph (b)(2) of this section. The manufacturer shall be given an opportunity to correct deficiencies and achieve compliance with all requirements within a time limit corresponding to the potential risk to postal revenue.

(2) If the Postal Service determines that the manufacturer has failed to correct cited deficiencies within the specified time limit, the Postal Service shall issue a written notice setting forth the facts and reasons for the decision to suspend and the effective date if a written defense is not presented as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(3) If, upon consideration of the defense as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the Postal Service deems that the suspension is warranted, the suspension shall remain in effect for up to 90 days unless withdrawn by the Postal Service, as provided in paragraph (b)(4)(iii) of this section.

(4) At the end of the 90-day suspension, the Postal Service may:

(i) Extend the suspension in order to allow more time for investigation or to allow the manufacturer to correct the problem;

(ii) Make a determination to revoke the approval of the manufacturer's meter or class of meters; or

(iii) Withdraw the suspension based on identification and implementation of a satisfactory solution to the problem. Manufacturer suspensions may be withdrawn before the end of the 90-day period if the Postal Service determines that the manufacturer's solution and implementation are satisfactory.

(c) The manufacturer may present the Postal Service with a written defense to any suspension or revocation determination within 30 calendar days of receiving the written notice (unless a shorter period is deemed necessary). The defense must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons for which the order should not be imposed.

(d) After receipt and consideration of the written defense, the Postal Service shall advise the manufacturer of the decision and the facts and reasons for it. The decision shall be effective on receipt unless it provides otherwise. The decision shall also advise the manufacturer that it may appeal that determination within 30 calendar days of receiving written notice (unless a shorter period is deemed necessary), as specified therein. The appeal must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons that the manufacturer believes that the decision is erroneous.

(e) An order or final decision under this section does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the Postal Service, the United States, or any other person or concern.

§ 501.13 Reporting.

(a) For purposes of this section, ''manufacturer'' refers to the authorized postage meter manufacturer in § 501.1 and its foreign affiliates, subsidiaries, assigns, dealers, independent dealers, employees, and parent corporations.

(b) Each authorized meter manufacturer in § 501.1 must submit a preliminary report to notify the Postal Service promptly (in no event more than 21 calendar days of discovery or 21 calendar days from June 30, 1995) of the following:

(1) All findings or results of any testing known to the manufacturer concerning the security or revenue protection features, capabilities, or failings of any meters sold, leased, or distributed by the manufacturer that have been approved for sale, lease, or distribution by the Postal Service or any foreign postal administration; or have been submitted for approval by the manufacturer to the Postal Service or other foreign postal administration(s).

(2) All potential security weaknesses or methods of meter tampering of the meters that the manufacturer distributes of which the manufacturer knows or should know, and the meter or model subject to each method. These potential security weaknesses include but are not limited to suspected equipment defects, suspected abuse by a meter licensee or manufacturer employee, suspected security breaches of the Computerized Remote Postage Meter Resetting System, occurrences outside normal performance, or any repeatable deviation from normal meter performance (within the same model family and/or by the same licensee).

(c) Within 45 days of the preliminary notification of the Postal Service under § 501.13(b), the manufacturer must submit a written report to the Postal Service. The report must include the circumstances, proposed investigative procedure, and the anticipated completion date of the investigation. The manufacturer must also provide periodic status reports to the Postal Service during subsequent investigation and, on completion, must submit a summary of the investigative findings.

(d) The manufacturer must establish and adhere to timely and efficient procedures for internal reporting of potential security weaknesses. The manufacturer is required to submit a copy of internal reporting procedures and instructions to the Postal Service for review.

§ 501.14 Administrative sanction on reporting.

(a) Notwithstanding any act, admission, or omission by the Postal Service before June 30, 1995, an authorized postage meter manufacturer may be subject to an administrative sanction for failing to comply with § 501.13.

(b) The Postal Service shall determine all costs and revenue losses measured from the date that the manufacturer knew, or should have known, of a potential security weakness, including, but not limited to, administrative and investigative costs and documented revenue losses that result from any meter for which the manufacturer failed to comply with any provision in § 501.13. The Postal Service shall recover any and all such costs and losses (net of any amount collected by the Postal Service from the licensees or meter users) with interest by issuing a written notice to the manufacturer setting forth the facts and reasons on which the determination to impose the sanction is based. The notice shall advise the manufacturer of the date that the action takes effect if a written defense is not presented within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notice.

(c) The manufacturer may present the Postal Service with a written defense to the proposed action within 30 calendar days of receipt. The defense must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons for which the sanction should not be imposed.

(d) After receipt and consideration of the defense, the Postal Service shall advise the manufacturer of the decision and the facts and reasons for it; the decision shall be effective on receipt unless it provides otherwise. The decision shall also advise the manufacturer that it may, within 30 calendar days of receiving written notice, appeal that determination as specified therein.

(e) The manufacturer may submit a written appeal to the Postal Service within 30 calendar days of receipt of the decision. The appeal must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons that the manufacturer believes that the administrative sanction was erroneously imposed. The submission of an appeal stays the effectiveness of the sanction.

(f) The imposition of an administrative sanction under this section does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the Postal Service, the United States, or any other person or concern.

§ 501.15 Materials and workmanship.

All meters must adhere to the quality in materials and workmanship of the approved production model and must be manufactured with suitable jigs, dies, tools, etc., to ensure proper maintenance and interchangeability of parts.

§ 501.16 Breakdown and endurance testing.

Each meter model proposed for manufacturing must pass without error or breakdown the following described printing cycle endurance test, which includes operation of the printing mechanism with proper registration of the selected postage value in both the ascending and descending registers. At reasonably frequent intervals, the manufacturer must take meters at random from production and subject them to breakdown tests to make certain that quality and performance standards are maintained.

(a) For meters that operate at 100 or more printing cycles per minute—4 million cycles. For meters that operate at less than 100 printing cycles per minute (and cannot be used interchangeably on power-base machines that operate at 100 or more printing cycles per minute)—2 million cycles.

(b) For multidenomination and omnidenomination meters, postage value selection elements must be tested for one-half million operations. A complete operation includes selection of a value and return to zero.

(c) Balance register lockout operation must be done at the start of, at intervals during, and after the printing cycle test.

§ 501.17 Protection of printing dies and keys.

During the process of fabricating parts and assembling postage meters, the manufacturer must exercise due care to prevent loss or theft of keys or of serially numbered postage-printing dies or component parts (such as denomination-printing dies, or auxiliary power supply and meter-setting equipment for electronic meters) that might be used in some manner to defraud the Postal Service of revenue. All serially numbered printing dies produced should be accounted for by assembly into meters or by evidence of mutilation or destruction. Postage printing dies removed from meters and not suitable for reassembly must also be mutilated so that the dies cannot be used or they must be completely destroyed.

§ 501.18 Destruction of meter stamps.

All meter stamps printed in the process of testing dies or meters must be collected and destroyed daily.

§ 501.19 Inspection of new and rebuilt meters.

All new and rebuilt meters must be inspected carefully before leaving the manufacturer's meter service station.

§ 501.20 Keys and setting equipment.

The meter manufacturer must furnish keys and other essential equipment for setting the meters to all post offices under whose jurisdiction its meters are licensed for use. These items must be protected and must not be furnished to persons not authorized by the Postal Service to possess them. The Postal Service shall maintain control over the procurement, manufacture, and distribution of meter security seals. Manufacturers must reimburse the Postal Service promptly for the cost of the seals. All costs associated with meter security seals are apportioned twice annually to the meter manufacturers by the installed base of each manufacturer.

§ 501.21 Distribution facilities.

Authorized manufacturers must keep adequate facilities for and records of

the distribution, control, and maintenance of postage meters. All such facilities and records are subject to inspection by Postal Service representatives.

§ 501.22 Distribution controls.

Each authorized postage meter manufacturer must do the following:

(a) Hold title permanently to all meters of its manufacture except those purchased by the Postal Service.

(b) On behalf of applicants, transmit electronically copies of completed PS Forms 3601–A, Application for a License to Lease and Use Postage Meters, to the designated Postal Service central processing facility.

(c) Lease meters only to parties that have valid licenses issued by the Postal Service.

(d) Supply only those meter slogan or ad plates that meet the Postal Service requirements for suitable quality and content.

(e) (1) Have all meters set, sealed (if applicable), and checked into service by the appropriate Postal Service representative before delivering them to licensees. Meters must be checked into service at the licensing post office, unless the meter is serviced under the on-site meter-setting program.

(2) The meter manufacturer must present the meter and a completed PS Form 3601–C, Postage Meter Installation, Withdrawal, or Replacement, to the appropriate Postal Service representative when checking a meter into service.

(3) A meter should show a zero in the descending register before being checked into service. If a zero is not shown, the initial payment must include the residual amount the locked-out meter could not imprint.

(f) Notify Computerized Remote Postage Meter Resetting System licensees of the dates on which meter examinations are due, and notify the licensing post offices of CMRS meters that have not been reset during the previous 3 months and/or are due for an annual examination. Resetting transactions must not be completed by the manufacturer if the meters are not taken to the post office for examination by the due date. Licensees who do not bring in their meters after the initial manufacturer notification must be approached again within 15 days, preferably by personal contact. If a response is not received within another 15 days, the Postal Service shall notify the licensee that the meter is to be removed from service and the meter license revoked, following the procedures for revocation specified by regulation. The Postal Service shall notify the manufacturer to remove the meter from the licensee's location and present it to the licensing post office to be checked out of service within 15 days.

(g) Present meters to the licensing post office to be checked out of service if the licensee no longer wants the meter or if the meter is to be removed from service for any other reason. Take the meter to the licensing post office for withdrawal, with a completed PS Form 3601–C, Postage Meter Installation, Withdrawal, or Replacement, and copy of the applicable PS Form 3602–A, Record of Meter Register Readings, or equivalent.

(h) Retrieve any misregistering, faulty, or defective meter and present it to the licensing post office to have the meter checked out of service within 3 business days of being notified by the licensee of the defect. After examining a meter withdrawn for apparent faulty operation affecting registration, the manufacturer must furnish a report explaining the malfunction to the licensing post office. That report must include all applicable meter documentation and a recommendation for the appropriate postage adjustment, if applicable, as follows:

(1) *Mechanical meters.* The manufacturer's postage adjustment recommendation for a misregistering mechanical meter must be accompanied by a refund request; a copy of the licensee's PS Form 3610, Record of Postage Meter Settings, and PS Form 3602–A, Record of Meter Register Readings, or equivalent, and the manufacturer's analysis of the licensee's recent mailing history supporting the recommended postage adjustment.

(2) *Electronic meters.* The manufacturer's postage adjustment recommendation for a misregistering electronic meter must be accompanied by a manufacturer-generated summary report of

the appropriate redundant electronic register memory readouts for the meter, clearly indicating the register readings; a letter of instruction explaining the summary report; a copy of the licensee's PS Form 3610, PS Form 3602–A, if maintained, and applicable system-generated register documentation (if maintained in lieu of PS Form 3602–A); and an explanation of the meter malfunction that resulted in inaccurate registration, if determined. If a summary report of the appropriate redundant electronic register memory readouts cannot be retrieved, the manufacturer's recommendation must be accompanied by a refund request; a copy of the licensee's PS Form 3610, PS Form 3602–A, and applicable system-generated register documentation (if the PS Form 3602–A is not maintained); and the manufacturer's analysis of the licensee's recent mailing history supporting the recommended postage adjustment.

(i) Report promptly the loss or theft of any meter or the recovery of any lost or stolen meter. The manufacturer must provide notification by the Postal Service with completing a standardized lost and stolen meter incident report notifying within 30 calendar days of the manufacturer's determination of a meter loss, theft, or recovery. The manufacturer must complete all preliminary location activities specified in § 501.26 before submitting this report to the Postal Service.

(j) Provide the designated Postal Service Information Systems Service Center (ISSC) with a compatible computer magnetic tape, computer diskette, or electronic transmission, listing all licensee meters in service, at the close of business each postal quarter. Include in each file record the meter serial number, model number, the user's name and address, the date that the meter was placed in service, and the ZIP Code or finance number of the licensing post office. Manufacturers are responsible for reconciling differences and keeping accurate records. This reporting includes reconciliation of differences with licensing post offices by the manufacturer's branches or dealers, which results from meters that are not in Postal Service or manufacturer records.

(k) Keep at manufacturer's headquarters a complete record by serial number of all meters manufactured, showing all movements of each from the time that the meter is produced until it is scrapped, and the reading of the ascending register each time the meter is checked into or out of service through a post office. These records must be available for inspection by Postal Service officials at any time during business hours. These records must be destroyed 3 years after the meter is scrapped.

(l) Cancel a lease agreement with any lessee whose meter license is revoked by the Postal Service, remove the meter within 15 calendar days, and have the meter checked out of service.

(m) Promptly remove from service any meter that the Postal Service indicates should be removed from service. When a meter license is canceled, all meters in use by the licensee must be removed from service.

(n) Keep a permanent record by serial number of all meter keys issued to postmasters, as well as those sections of the manufacturer's establishment in which their use of the keys is essential, preferably in the form of signed receipt cards. The record must include the date, location, and details of any loss, theft, or recovery of such keys.

(o) Examine each meter withdrawn from service for failure to record its operations correctly and accurately, and report to the Postal Service the mechanical condition or fault that caused the failure.

(p) Provide monthly the designated ISSC with a compatible computer tape of lost or stolen meters. The file is due on the first of each month (for the preceding month's activity).

(q) Take reasonable precautions in the transportation and storage of meters to prevent use by unauthorized individuals. Manufacturers must ship all meters by Postal Service registered mail unless given written permission by the Postal Service to use another carrier. The manufacturer must demonstrate that the alternative delivery carrier employs security procedures equivalent to those for registered mail.

(r) Affix to all meters both a cautionary label providing the meter user with basic reminders on leasing, meter

movement, and misuse and a barcoded label containing a barcoded representation of the meter serial number.

(1) The cautionary label must be placed on all meters in a conspicuous and highly visible location. Words printed in capital letters should be emphasized, preferably printed in red. The minimum width of the label should be 3.25 inches, and the minimum height should be 1.75 inches. The label should read as follows:

RENTED POSTAGE MEMBER—NOT FOR SALE

PROPERTY OF [NAME OF MANUFACTURER]

Use of this meter is permissible only under U.S. Postal Service license. Call [Name of Manufacturer] at (800) ###-#### to relocate/return this meter.

WARNING! METER TAMPERING IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE.

IF YOU SUSPECT METER TAMPERING,

CALL POSTAL INSPECTORS AT 1–800–654–8896 OR (202) 484–5480.

REWARD UP TO $50,000 for information leading to the conviction of any person who misuses postage meters resulting in the Postal Service not receiving correct postage payments.

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(2) The barcode label must be placed near the stamped serial number and must meet these specifications: Code 3 of 9, ten digits long, with the first two digits being the manufacturer code (01—Ascom Hasler, 02—Pitney Bowes, 03—Francotyp-Postalia, 04—Friden Neopost) and the next eight digits being the meter serial number, zero-filled, right-justified. Additional barcode digits may be used for manufacturer purposes if the Postal Service is notified of the information to be encoded thereby.

(3) Exceptions to the formatting of required labeling are determined on a case-by-case basis. Any deviation from standardized meter labeling requirements must be approved in writing by the Postal Service.

§ 501.23 Administrative sanction.

(a) *Meter* for purposes of this section means any postage meter manufactured by an authorized postage meter manufacturer under § 501.1 that is not owned or leased by the Postal Service.

(b) An authorized manufacturer that, without just cause, fails to conduct or perform adequately any of the controls in § 501.22, to follow standardized lost and stolen meter incident reporting in § 501.26, or to conduct any of the inspections required by § 501.25 in a timely fashion is subject to an administrative sanction based on the investigative and administrative costs and documented revenue losses (net of any amount collected by the Postal Service from the licensee or meter user) with interest per occurrence measured from the date on which the cost and/or loss occurred, as determined by the Postal Service. Sanctions shall be based on the costs and revenue losses that result from the manufacturer's failure to comply with these requirements.

(c) The Postal Service may impose an administrative sanction under this section by issuing a written notice to the manufacturer setting forth the facts and reasons on which the determination to impose the sanction is based. The Postal Service shall determine all costs and losses. The notice shall advise the manufacturer of the date that the action shall take effect if a written defense is not presented within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notice.

(d) The manufacturer may present to the Postal Service a written defense to the proposed action within 30 calendar days of receipt of the notice. The defense must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons for which the sanction should not be imposed.

(e) After receipt and consideration of the written defense, the Postal Service shall advise the manufacturer of the decision and the facts and reasons for it. The decision shall be effective on receipt unless it provides otherwise.

(f) The manufacturer may submit a written appeal of the decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the decision, addressed to the manager of Retail and Customer Service, Postal Service Headquarters. The appeal must include all supporting evidence and state with specificity the reasons that the manufacturer believes that the administrative sanction was erroneously imposed. The submission of an appeal stays the effectiveness of the sanction.

(g) The imposition of an administrative sanction under this section does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the Postal Service, the United States, or any other person or concern.

§501.24 Meter replacement.

The manufacturer must keep its postage meters in proper operating condition for licensees by replacing them when necessary or desirable to prevent mechanical breakdown.

§501.25 Inspection of meters in use.

(a) The manufacturer must have all its meters in service with licensees inspected according to the following schedule. A high-volume mailer is defined as one who has annual metered postage in excess of $12,000.

Meter Type	Monthly	Quarterly	Semiannually	Annually
Mechanical	Special Circumstances	High-Volume Licensees Using System Meters	Other Licensees Using System Meters	Stand-Alone Meters
Electronic	Special Circumstances		High-Volume Licensees Using Non-CMRS System Meters	All CMRS and Other Electronic Meters

(b) Manufacturer inspections must be sufficiently thorough to determine that each meter is clean, in proper operating condition, and recording its operations correctly and accurately. The manufacturers must:

(1) Compare the meter serial number on the meter with the serial number on the source document (manufacturer's records).

(2) Record the ascending and descending register readings and calculate the total readings. Record the locking-seal identification number.

(3) Obtain the licensee's PS Form 3602–A, Record of Meter Register Readings, or equivalent, and a copy of the most recent PS Form 3603, Receipt for Postage Meter Setting, and verify the control total after the last setting with the control total calculated during the proof-of-register procedure.

(4) Verify the accuracy of postage selection, denomination indicator wheels or electronic display, and denomination printing wheels following the proof of registers by printing a .00 meter stamp and then comparing the register readings with the recorded register readings.

(5) Check to determine that the post office locking seal is in place and properly sealed and that the seal wire is properly wound and tightly gripped by the seal-locking mechanism, and tightly pulled up to the lock cover or post. Ensure that the locking-seal identification number matches the seal number recorded at the time of the last meter resetting.

(6) Check to determine that the lock cover properly protects the lock and has not been loosened, bent, or tampered with.

(7) Complete the following, as applicable to the specific meter model:

(i) Check to ensure that the meter fits properly on the meter base.

(ii) Check all breakoff screws to determine that no screw is missing or loose or shows signs of removal.

(iii) Operate the dater and meter ad selector dials to test the dater, postmark die, and meter ad plate.

(iv) Check the alignment and condition of engraving on the denomination printing wheels, when visible.

(v) Check the descending register door for damage, pry marks, or scarring. Make certain that the door cannot be opened without unlocking it.

(vi) Examine the meter drum for damage, pry marks, or scarring.

(vii) Examine the meter cover for pry marks or scarring near the post office lock or breakoff screws, any drilled holes, or any signs of attempted entry into the internal mechanism of the meter.

(viii) Examine the meter stamp die for excessive wear, damage, breakage, or scars from prying, and the postage die retaining screws for signs of wear to ensure that none is missing or shows signs of removal.

(ix) Check the register, counter, and display windows for breakage or cloudiness.

(x) Obtain the signature of the licensee to show that a meter inspection has taken place.

(8) Report immediately to the licensee's licensing postmaster any irregularity in the operation of the meter or sign of improper use, and take steps to replace or remove the meter.

§ 501.26 Meters not located.

Upon learning that one or more of its postage meters in service cannot be located, the manufacturer must undertake reasonable efforts to locate the meters by following a series of Postal Service-specified actions designed to locate the meters. If these efforts are unsuccessful and a meter is determined to be lost or stolen, the manufacturer must notify the Postal Service within 30 days by submitting a Lost and Stolen Meter Incident Report.

(a) If a licensee cannot be located, the manufacturer must, at a minimum, complete the following actions:

(1) Call the licensee's last known telephone number.

(2) Call directory assistance for the licensee's new telephone number.

(3) Contact the licensee's local post office for current change of address information.

(4) Contact the local post office for a copy of the applicable PS Form 3610 and PS Form 3601–C. Verify the location of the meter or licensee currently maintained in those meter records.

(5) Contact the rental agency responsible for the property where the licensee was located, if applicable.

(6) Visit the licensee's last known address to see whether the building superintendent or a neighbor knows the meter licensee's new address.

(7) Check the centralized meter inspection file for change of address notation.

(8) Mail a certified letter with return receipt to the licensee at the last known address with the notation ''Forwarding and Address Correction Requested.''

(9) If new address information is obtained during these steps, any scheduled meter inspections must be completed promptly.

(b) If a meter is reported to be lost or stolen by the licensee, the manufacturer must, at a minimum, complete the following actions:

(1) Ensure that the meter licensee has filed a police report and that copies have been provided to the appropriate Inspection Service Contraband Postage Identification Program (CPIP) specialist.

(2) Withhold issuance of a replacement meter until the missing meter has been properly reported to the police and to the appropriate Inspection Service CPIP specialist.

(c) If the manufacturer later learns that the meter has been located and/or recovered, the manufacturer must update lost and stolen meter activity records, inspect the meter promptly, initiate a postage adjustment or transfer if appropriate, and check the meter out of service if a replacement meter has been supplied to the meter licensee.

(d) If a meter reported to the Postal Service as lost or stolen is later located, the manufacturer is responsible for submitting a new Lost and Stolen Meter Incident Report that references the initial report and outlines the details of how the meter was recovered. This report must be submitted to the Postal Service within 30 days of recovery of the meter. The meter manufacturer is also responsible for purging lost and stolen meter reports that are provided on a periodic basis to the Postal Service ISSC for those meters that have been recovered.

(e) Any authorized manufacturer that fails to comply with standardized lost and stolen reporting procedures and instructions is subject to an administrative sanction under § 501.23, as determined by the Postal Service.

§ 501.27 Repair of internal mechanism.

Repair or reconditioning of meters involving access to internal mechanisms must be done only within a factory or suitable meter repair department under the manufacturer's direct control and supervision. Meters must be checked out of service by the post office of setting before they are opened or internal repairs are undertaken.

§ 501.28 Computerized remote postage meter resetting.

(a) *Description*. The Computerized Remote Postage Meter Resetting System (CMRS) permits postal licensees using specially designed postage meters to reset their meters at their places of business via telephonic communications. Authorized meter manufacturers that offer CMRS services are known as meter resetting companies (MRCs). To reset a meter, the licensee telephones the MRC and provides identifying data. Before proceeding with the setting transaction, the MRC must verify the data and ascertain from its own files whether the licensee has sufficient funds on deposit with the Postal Service. If the funds are available or the manufacturer opts to provide a funds advance in accordance with paragraph (b)(5) of this section, the MRC may complete the setting transaction.

(b) *Deposits with the Postal Service*. (1) Deposits in the Postal Service Fund at Treasury are backed in full faith and credit by the U. S. Treasury.

(2) A CMRS licensee is required to have funds available on deposit with the Postal Service before resetting a meter or the manufacturer may opt to provide a funds advance in accordance with paragraph (b)(4) of this section. The details of this deposit requirement are covered within the Acknowledgment of Deposit Requirement document. By signing this document, the licensee agrees to transfer funds to the Postal Service through a lockbox bank, as specified by the MRC, for the purpose of prepayment of postage. The MRC representative must provide all new CMRS licensees with this document when a new account is established. The document must be completed and signed by the licensee and sent to the licensing post office by the MRC.

(3) The MRC is required to incorporate the following language into its meter rental agreements:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT

By signing this meter rental agreement, you represent that you have read the Acknowledgment of Deposit Requirement and are familiar with its terms. You agree that, upon execution of this Agreement with [the MRC], you will also be bound by all terms and conditions of the Acknowledgment of Deposit Requirement, as it may be amended from time to time.

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(4) The licensee is permitted to make deposits in one of three ways: check, electronic funds transfer (or wire transfer), or automated clearinghouse (ACH) transfer. These deposits are to be processed by the lockbox bank. The lockbox bank must wire daily all available balances to the Postal Service.

(5) If the MRC chooses to offer advancement of funds to licensees, the MRC is required to maintain a deposit with the Postal Service equal to at least 1 day's average funds advanced. The total amount of funds advanced to licensees on any given day may not exceed the amount the manufacturer has on deposit with the Postal Service. The MRC is not authorized to perform settings in excess of the licensee's balance in any other circumstance. The Postal Service shall not be liable for any payment made by the MRC on behalf of a licensee that is not reimbursed by the licensee because the MRC is solely responsible for the collection of advances.

(c) *Revenue protection*. The Postal Service shall conduct periodic assessments of the revenue protection safeguards of each MRC system and shall reserve the right to revoke an MRC's authorization if the CMRS system does not meet all requirements set forth by the Postal Service. In addition, the Postal Service shall reserve the right to suspend the operation of the MRC for any serious operational deficiency that is likely to result in the loss of funds to the Postal Service as provided in § 501.12.

(d) *Equipment.* The meters used in the computerized resetting system must conform to the specifications in § 501.6. They must be tested under § 501.7 and conform to the safeguards, distribution, and maintenance requirements of §§ 501.15 through 501.23 to protect the Postal Service against loss of revenue from fraud, manipulation, misoperation, or breakdown.

(e) *Financial operation.* (1) Before the Postal Service's selection of a lockbox provider, the MRC must establish a lockbox account in the name of the Postal Service at a bank or banks approved by the Postal Service to handle the deposits of licensees. The MRC must make arrangements with such banks under which the banks are to inform the manufacturer of the amounts of licensee funds received each banking day.

(2) The Postal Service lockbox bank processes the CMRS deposits daily, consolidates the data, and performs a direct file transmission to each MRC. The daily deposit processing cutoff times and the automated file transmission times are coordinated independently with each of the MRCs. Manufacturers must ensure that their data center computers are programmed to reflect each licensee deposit and track all licensee activity.

(3) The MRC must require each licensee that requests meter resetting to provide the meter serial number, the licensee account number, and the meter's ascending and descending register readings. The manufacturer must verify that the information provided to the licensee is consistent with its records. The MRC must also verify that there are sufficient funds in the licensee's account to cover the postage setting requested before proceeding with the setting transaction (unless the manufacturer opts to provide the licensee a funds advance). Immediately following each such resetting, the MRC must charge the licensee's account for the amount of the postage reset. After the completion of each transaction, the manufacturer must promptly provide the licensee with a statement documenting the transaction and the balance remaining in the licensee's account. As an alternative, the manufacturer may provide a statement monthly that documents all transactions for the period and that shows the balance in the licensee's account after each transaction.

(4) Each banking day, the lockbox bank is to transfer, by 10 a.m. local time, amounts payable to the Postal Service from the transactions during the previous day to a designated Federal Reserve Bank. The MRC must maintain licensee service activity data to accept and respond to inquiries from licensees concerning the status of their payments. The lockbox bank must provide the MRCs with a nationwide, toll-free telephone number for licensee service. The Postal Service lockbox bank must assign a dedicated senior level licensee service representative to handle all inquiries and investigations.

(5) The Postal Service requires that the MRCs publicize to all CMRS licensees the following payment options (listed in order of preference):

(i) Automated clearinghouse (ACH) debits/credits.

(ii) Electronic funds transfers (wire transfers).

(iii) Checks.

(6) Licensee check deposits must be mailed to a predetermined post office box address specified by the lockbox bank and accompanied by a preencoded deposit ticket. The Postal Service provides CMRS customers with deposit tickets for inclusion with check payments. At the time a new account is opened, a licensee not possessing a preencoded deposit slip must present the initial payment to the MRC representative who in turn assigns the licensee a new account number and manually prepares a deposit ticket to be mailed to the lockbox bank for processing.

(7) If a licensee prefers to use a payment form other than a check, the licensee must contact the MRC representative for instructions, and the MRC must provide the licensee with the appropriate information regarding the use of ACH debits/credits and electronic funds transfers (wire transfers).

(8) Returned checks and ACH debits are the responsibility of the Postal Service. In the case of a returned check, the Postal Service lockbox

bank, after an automatic second presentment, advises the MRC of the account in question so that the MRC data file can be locked. The MRC must lock the licensee account immediately so that the licensee is unable to reset the meter until the Postal Service receives payment in full for the check returned. The lockbox bank provides collection services for returned checks on behalf of the Postal Service. The Postal Service lockbox bank notifies the MRC once this item is paid. The MRC then releases the account for activity.

(f) *Refunds.* The Postal Service issues a refund to a licensee for any unused postage in a meter. Refunds of licensee balances maintained by the Postal Service in the Postal Service fund are intended to be made directly to the licensee by the lockbox bank within 48 hours after receipt of a licensee's request.

(g) *Reports.* The manufacturer must provide reports according to the following schedule:

Report description	Content	Frequency	Medium
MRC CMRS Daily Activity Report	Summary of Business Activity	Daily	Paper (facsimile).
Revenue Allocation Report	ZIP Code of Licensing Post Office; Amount of Resettings.	Postal Accounting Period	Electronic.
Postage Refunds Report	Customer ID; ZIP Code; Amount of Refund.	Daily (by request only)	Paper.
Funds Advanced Report	Customer ID; ZIP Code; Amount of Funds Advanced.	Daily (by request only)	Paper.

(h) *Inspection of records and facilities.* The manufacturer must make its facilities that handle the operation of the computerized resetting system and all records about the operation of the system available for inspection by representatives of the Postal Service at all reasonable times.

SUBCHAPTER H—PROCUREMENT SYSTEM FOR THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OTHER THAN PATENTS

PART 601—PROCUREMENT OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES

Sec.
601.100 Procurement Manual; incorporation by reference.
601.101 Effective date.
601.102 Applicability and coverage.
601.103 Content of Procurement Manual.
601.104 Availability of Procurement Manual.
601.105 Amendments to the Procurement Manual.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 410, 411, 2008, 5001–5605.

SOURCE: 53 FR 24267, June 28, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 601.100 Procurement Manual; incorporation by reference.

Section 552(a) of title 5, U.S.C., relating to public information requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, provides in pertinent part that ''* * * matter reasonably published in the FEDERAL REGISTER when incorporated by reference therein with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register.'' In conformity with that provision, with 39 U.S.C. section 410(b)(1), and as provided in this part, the U.S. Postal Service hereby incorporates by reference its Procurement Manual (PM), Publication 41, a loseleaf publication.

§ 601.101 Effective date.

The provisions of the Procurement Manual are applicable, effective June 1, 1988, with respect to all covered procurement activities of the Postal Service. However, the Procurement Manual is being implemented on the following phased basis: Headquarters Office of Procurement and Office of Design and Construction Management—June 1, 1988; Mail Processing Department—July 1, 1988; Procurement and Material Management Service Centers and Service Offices, U.S. Postal Service Field Divisions, Facilities Service Centers and Facilities Service Offices—August 1, 1988. During the implementation phase procurement actions will be accomplished in accordance with policies prescribed either in the Postal Contracting Manual or the Procurement Manual, depending upon the implementation schedule established for an individual procurement entity.

§ 601.102 Applicability and coverage.

(a) The Procurement Manual applies to all Postal Service procurements of property and services.

(b) When fully effective, the Procurement Manual supersedes the Postal Contracting Manual.

§ 601.103 Content of Procurement Manual.

The Procurement Manual consists of 12 chapters and 6 appendices, as follows:

(a) Chapter 1—Authority, Responsibility, and Policy—covers general procurement policies, including the delegation of procurement authority and responsibility.

(b) Chapter 2—Procurement Planning—establishes requirements and procedures for advance procurement planning including source selection plans, and policies regarding specifications and statements of work.

(c) Chapter 3—Sources—covers sources of supplies and services and their priority, including Postal Service sources, other Government agencies, and commercial sources. It establishes requirements for publicizing procurements and covers matters regarding contractor qualifications.

(d) Chapter 4—Purchasing Methods—covers competitive purchasing procedures, including solicitation, evaluation of proposals, price negotiation, and contractor selection. It includes simplified procedures for purchases below certain dollar ceilings and establishes limitations on noncompetitive purchasing. It sets forth rules for filing and considering protests against Postal Service contracting procedures and awards.

(e) Chapter 5—Contract Pricing—describes the types of contracts authorized for Postal Service use and the circumstances for their use. It establishes policies and procedures for price evaluation, including price analysis, cost analysis, and principles for determining the allowability of costs.

(f) Chapter 6—Contract Administration—Describes responsibilities and procedures for the administration of Postal Service contracts, and for their modification and termination.

(g) Chapter 7—Bonds, Insurance, and Taxes—sets forth policies and procedures governing bonds and insurance under contracts, and discusses the applicability of Federal, State, and local taxes.

(h) Chapter 8—Special Categories of Contracts—covers various types of contracts subject to special procedures and describes the authorities of officials authorized to issue policy and procedural directives supplementing the Procurement Manual.

(i) Chapter 9—Patents and Data Rights—covers the acquisition of patents, copyrights, and other rights in data.

(j) Chapter 10—Socioeconomic policies—contains procedures for contracting with minority-owned businesses, and policies carrying out the requirements of certain statutes, including the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, the Davis-Bacon Act, and the Service Contract Act. It establishes Postal Service policy and preference regarding purchase of domestic-source products and services.

(k) Chapter 11—Facilities and Related Services—covers the specialized procedures involved in the procurement of construction, the acquisition of real property, and leases.

(l) Chapter 12—Mail Transportation—prescribes policies and procedures for the procurement of mail transportation and directly related ancillary services by contract.

(m) Appendix A—Solicitations—prescribes the forms, format, and provisions to be used in preparing solicitations, and the establishment and maintenance of solicitation mailing lists. It contains all solicitation provisions prescribed in the Manual.

(n) Appendix B—Contract Clauses—prescribes certain clauses not prescribed elsewhere in the Manual and contains all clauses prescribed in the Manual.

(o) Appendix C—Forms and formats—states that the forms and computer generated formats necessary to implement and supplement the manual are in the Procurement Handbook, the Facilities Design and Construction Handbook, the Mail Transportation Procurement Handbook, and other publications and directives referenced in the Manual or in these handbooks.

(p) Appendix D—Rules of Practice in Proceedings Relative to Debarment and Suspension from Contracting—contains a reprint of the rules of practice issued by the Judicial Officer as 39 CFR Part 957.

(q) Appendix E—Rules of Practice Before the Postal Service Board of Contract Appeals—contains a reprint of the rules of practice issued as 39 CFR Part 955.

(r) Appendix F—Procurement Manual Index—is an alphabetical index of important words and terms used in the Manual.

§ 601.104 Availability of Procurement Manual.

(a) Copies of the Procurement Manual, Publication 41, may be purchased, and changes to the Manual may be obtained, from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402–9325. The Manual may be examined during normal business hours at the U.S. Postal Service Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW., Washington, DC 20260–1641, and at the following Postal Service Procurement and Materiel Management Service Centers:

Central Region, 433 West Van Buren St., Chicago, IL 60699–6260.

Eastern Region, 1845 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19197–6260.

Northeast Region, 8 Griffin Road North, Windsor, CT 06006–6260.

Southern Region, 1407 Union Ave., Memphis, TN 38166–6260.

Western Region, 850 Cherry Ave., San Bruno, CA 94099–6260.

(b) A copy of the Procurement Manual is on file with the Director, Office

of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., suite 700, Washington, DC.

§ 601.105 Amendments to the Procurement Manual.

Notice of changes made in the Procurement Manual will be periodically published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The text of such changes will be filed with the Director, Office of the Federal Register. Subscribers to the Basic Manual will receive from time to time the amendments from the Postal Service in the form of Procurement Manual Circulars or in Postal Bulletin notices. These amendments will be cumulated in a periodic Transmittal Letter which subscribers will receive from the Government Printing Office.

AMENDMENTS TO PROCUREMENT MANUAL

Transmittal letter	Dated	Federal Register publication
2	June 1, 1988	53 FR 24265
3	December 1, 1989	54 FR 48243
4	January 1, 1991	56 FR 2138
5	February 1, 1992	57 FR 31129

[53 FR 24267, June 28, 1988, as amended at 54 FR 48243, Nov. 22, 1989; 56 FR 2138, Jan. 22, 1991; 57 FR 31129, July 14, 1992]

PART 602—INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OTHER THAN PATENTS

Sec.

602.1 General principles.
602.2 Office of Licensing, Philatelic and Retail Services Department.
602.3 Requests for use.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401(5).

SOURCE: 43 FR 42250, Sept. 20, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

§ 602.1 General principles.

It is the policy of the Postal Service to secure full ownership rights for its intellectual properties other than patents (hereinafter, intellectual properties) having significant economic or other business value, except when to do so would be contrary to the best interest of the Postal Service. Intellectual property rights shall be acquired and managed so as to:

(a) Promote the economic, operational, and competitive well-being of the Postal Service;

(b) Limit restrictions on the use of Postal Service intellectual property to a minimum consistent with its statutory obligations;

(c) Assure that all potential users are treated fairly;

(d) Give due regard to other relevant considerations.

§ 602.2 Office of Licensing, Philatelic and Retail Services Department.

In accordance with the foregoing policy, the Postal Service Office of Licensing, Philatelic and Retail Services Department, formulates the program for the management of the Postal Service's rights in intellectual property (except patents and technical data rights in Postal Service contracts, which is the responsibility of Postal Service contracting officers). The Office of Licensing and the contracting officers identify intellectual properties in which the Postal Service should secure its rights. It receives and makes recommendations for the disposition of applications for use of Postal Service intellectual property. It periodically reviews the intellectual property rights portfolio to determine the extent of the utilization of protected properties and to recommend relinquishment of ownership when it considers ownership no longer desirable. It is advised by the Office of Procurement of performance under license agreements and makes recommendations for corrective measures when necessary. In consultation with the Law Department, it recommends appropriate action against unauthorized use of intellectual property.

[56 FR 58859, Nov. 22, 1991]

§ 602.3 Requests for use.

(a) Inquiries concerning licenses to use Postal Service trademarks or service marks, copyright materials and intellectual property other than patents and technical data rights in Postal Service contracts must be sent to: Office of Licensing, Philatelic and Retail Services Department, US Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20260–6700.

(b) Requests for the use of intellectual property should be submitted on the form provided by the Office of Licensing to the licensing advisor designated by that Office. Each request is considered in a timely fashion in accordance with the policy established in this section. Requests favorably considered are forwarded to the Office of Licensing for approval.

(c) Approved requests contemplating a permissive (no fee) use of the intellectual property are evidenced by a letter of permission furnished to the requester.

(d) Approved requests contemplating a contractual (fee) use of the intellectual property are forwarded to the Office of Licensing for the negotiation of a satisfactory license agreement.

(e) Each license agreement is subject to legal review.

(f) Requesters are promptly advised of unapproved requests.

A transmittal letter effecting the above changes to the Domestic Mail Manual will be published and transmitted automatically to subscribers. Notice of issuance of the transmittal letter will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as provided by 39 CFR 111.3.

[56 FR 58859, Nov. 22, 1991]

SUBCHAPTER I—[RESERVED]
SUBCHAPTER J—POSTAL SERVICE DEBT OBLIGATIONS; DISBURSEMENT POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

PART 760—APPLICABILITY OF TREASURY DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS

§ 760.1 Treasury Department regulations; applicability to Postal Service.

The provisions of Treasury Department Circular No. 300, 31 CFR part 306 (other than subpart O), as amended from time to time, shall apply insofar as appropriate to obligations of the U.S. Postal Service to the extent they are consistent with the Trust Indenture of the Postal Service and the agreement between the Postal Service and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York acting as Fiscal Agent of the United States on behalf of the Postal Service. Definitions and terms used in Treasury Department Circular 300 should be read as though modified to effectuate the application of the regulations to the U.S. Postal Service.

(39 U.S.C. Secs. 401, 402, 2005)

[37 FR 211, Jan. 7, 1972]

PART 761—BOOK-ENTRY PROCEDURES

Sec.

761.1 Definition of terms.
761.2 Authority of Reserve Banks.
761.3 Scope and effect of book-entry procedure.
761.4 Transfer or pledge.
761.5 Withdrawal of Postal Service securities.
761.6 Delivery of Postal Service securities.
761.7 Registered bonds and notes.
761.8 Servicing book-entry Postal Service securities; payment of interest, payment at maturity or upon call.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 402, 2005.

SOURCE: 37 FR 16801, Aug. 19, 1972, unless otherwise noted.

§ 761.1 Definition of terms.

In this part, unless the context otherwise requires or indicates:

(a) *Reserve Bank* means the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (and any other Federal Reserve Bank which agrees to issue Postal Service securities in book-entry form) as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Postal Service and when indicated acting in its individual capacity.

(b) *Postal Service security* means any obligation of the Postal Service issued under 39 U.S.C. 2005, in the form of a definitive Postal Service security or a book-entry Postal Service security.

(c) *Definitive Postal Service security* means a Postal Service security in engraved or printed form.

(d) *Book-entry Postal Service security* means a Postal Service security in the form of an entry made as prescribed in these regulations on the records of a Reserve Bank.

(e) *Pledge* includes a pledge of, or any other security interest in, Postal Service securities as collateral for loans or advances or to secure deposits of public moneys or the performance of an obligation.

(f) *Date of call* is the date fixed in the authorizing resolution of the Board of Governors of the Postal Service on which the obligor will make payment of the security before maturity in accordance with its terms.

(g) *Member bank* means any national bank, State bank, or bank or trust company which is a member of a Reserve bank.

§ 761.2 Authority of Reserve Banks.

Each Reserve Bank is hereby authorized, in accordance with the provisions of this part, to (a) issue book-entry Postal Service securities by means of entries on its records which shall include the name of the depositor, the amount, the loan title (or series) and maturity date; (b) effect conversions between book-entry Postal Service securities and definitive Postal Service securities; (c) otherwise service and maintain book-entry Postal Service securities; and (d) issue a confirmation of transaction in the form of a written advice (serially numbered or otherwise) which specifies the amount and description of any securities; that is, loan title (or series) and maturity date, sold

or transferred, and the date of the transaction.

§761.3 Scope and effect of book-entry procedure.

(a) A Reserve Bank as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Postal Service may apply the book-entry procedure provided for in this part to any Postal Service securities which have been or are hereafter deposited for any purpose in accounts with it in its individual capacity under terms and conditions which indicate that the Reserve Bank will continue to maintain such deposit accounts in its individual capacity, notwithstanding application of the book-entry procedure to such securities. This paragraph is applicable, but not limited, to securities deposited:

(1) As collateral pledged to a Reserve Bank (in its individual capacity) for advances by it;

(2) By a member bank for its sole account;

(3) By a member bank held for the account of its customers;

(4) In connection with deposits in a member bank of funds of States, municipalities, or other political subdivisions; or,

(5) In connection with the performance of an obligation or duty under Federal, State, municipal, or local law, or judgments or decrees of courts.

The application of the book-entry procedure under this paragraph shall not derogate from or adversely affect the relationships that would otherwise exist between a Reserve Bank in its individual capacity and its depositors concerning any deposits under this paragraph. Whenever the book-entry procedure is applied to such Postal Service securities, the Reserve Bank is authorized to take all action necessary in respect of the book-entry procedure to enable such Reserve Bank in its individual capacity to perform its obligations as depository with respect to such Postal Service securities.

(b) A Reserve Bank as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Postal Service may apply the book-entry procedure to Postal Service securities deposited as collateral pledged to the United States under Treasury Department Circulars Nos. 92 and 176, both as revised and amended, and may apply the book-entry procedure, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to any other Postal Service securities deposited with a Reserve Bank as fiscal agent of the United States.

(c) Any person having an interest in Postal Service securities which are deposited with a Reserve Bank (in either its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) for any purpose shall be deemed to have consented to their conversion to book-entry Postal Service securities pursuant to the provisions of this part, and in the manner and under the procedures prescribed by the Reserve Bank.

(d) No deposits shall be accepted under this section on or after the date of maturity or call of the securities.

§761.4 Transfer or pledge.

(a) A transfer or pledge of book-entry Postal Service securities to a Reserve bank (in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) or to the United States, or to any transferee or pledgee eligible to maintain an appropriate book-entry account in its name with a Reserve bank under this part, is effected and perfected, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, by a Reserve bank making an appropriate entry in its records of the securities transferred or pledged. The making of such an entry in the records of a Reserve bank shall (1) have the effect of a delivery in bearer form of definitive Postal Service securities; (2) have the effect of a taking of delivery by the transferee or pledgee; (3) constitute the transferee or pledgee a holder; and (4) if a pledge, effect a perfected security interest therein in favor of the pledgee. A transfer or pledge of book-entry Postal Service securities effected under this paragraph shall have priority over any transfer, pledge, or other interest, theretofore or thereafter effected or perfected under paragraph (b) of this section or in any other manner.

(b) A transfer or a pledge of transferable Postal Service securities, or any interest therein, which is maintained by a Reserve bank (in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) in a book-entry account under

this part, including securities in book-entry form under § 761.3(a)(3), is effected, and a pledge is perfected, by any means that would be effective under applicable law to effect a transfer or to effect and perfect a pledge of the Postal Service securities, or any interest therein, if the securities were maintained by the Reserve bank in bearer definitive form. For purposes of transfer or pledge hereunder, book-entry Postal Service securities maintained by a Reserve bank shall, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, be deemed to be maintained in bearer definitive form. A Reserve bank maintaining book-entry Postal Service securities either in its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States is not a bailee for purposes of notification of pledges of those securities under this paragraph, or a third person in possession for purposes of acknowledgment of transfers thereof under this paragraph. Where transferable Postal Service securities are recorded on the books of a depositary (a bank, banking institution, financial firm, or similar party, which regularly accepts in the course of its business Postal Service securities as a custodial service for customers, and maintains accounts in the names of such customers reflecting ownership of or interest in such securities) for account of the pledgor or transferor thereof and such securities are on deposit with a Reserve bank in a book-entry account hereunder, such depositary shall, for purposes of perfecting a pledge of such securities or effecting delivery of such securities to a purchaser under applicable provisions of law, be the bailee to which notification of the pledge of the securities may be given or the third person in possession from which acknowledgment of the holding of the securities for the purchaser may be obtained. A Reserve bank will not accept notice or advice of a transfer or pledge effected or perfected under this paragraph, and any such notice or advice shall have no effect. A Reserve bank may continue to deal with its depositor in accordance with the provisions of this part, notwithstanding any transfer or pledge effected or perfected under this paragraph.

(c) No filing or recording with a public recording office or officer shall be necessary or effective with respect to any transfer or pledge of book-entry Postal Service securities or any interest therein.

(d) A Reserve Bank shall, upon receipt of appropriate instructions, convert book-entry Postal Service securities into definitive Postal Service securities and deliver them in accordance with such instructions; no such conversion shall effect existing interests in such Postal Service securities.

(e) A transfer of book-entry Postal Service securities within a Reserve Bank shall be made in accordance with procedures established by the Bank not inconsistent with this part.

(f) All requests for transfer or withdrawal must be made prior to the maturity or date of call of the securities.

[37 FR 16801, Aug. 19, 1972, as amended at 38 FR 12919, May 17, 1973]

§ 761.5 Withdrawal of Postal Service securities.

(a) A depositor of book-entry Postal Service securities may withdraw them from a Reserve Bank by requesting delivery of like definitive Postal Service securities to itself or on its order to a transferee.

(b) Postal Service securities which are actually to be delivered upon withdrawal may be issued either in registered or in bearer form.

§ 761.6 Delivery of Postal Service securities.

A Reserve Bank which has received Postal Service securities and effected pledges, made entries regarding them, or transferred or delivered them according to the instructions of its depositor is not liable for conversion or for participation in breach of fiduciary duty even though the depositor had no right to dispose of or take other action in respect of the securities. A Reserve Bank shall be fully discharged of its obligations under this part by the delivery of Postal Service securities in definitive form to its depositor or upon the order of such depositor. Customers of a member bank or other depositary (other than a Reserve Bank) may obtain Postal Service securities in definitive form only by causing the depositor

of the Reserve Bank to order the withdrawal thereof from the Reserve Bank.

§ 761.7 Registered bonds and notes.

No formal assignment shall be required for the conversion to book-entry Postal Service securities of registered Postal Service securities held by a Reserve Bank (in either its individual capacity or as fiscal agent of the United States) on the effective date of this part for any purpose specified in § 761.3(a). Registered Postal Service securities deposited thereafter with a Reserve Bank for any purpose specified in § 761.3 shall be assigned for conversion to book-entry Postal Service securities. The assignment, which shall be executed in accordance with the provisions of part 760 of this subchapter and subpart F of 31 CFR part 306, so far as applicable, shall be to ''Federal Reserve Bank of ———— as fiscal agent of the United States acting on behalf of the Postal Service for conversion to book-entry Postal Service securities.''

§ 761.8 Servicing book-entry Postal Service securities; payment of interest, payment at maturity or upon call.

Interest becoming due on book-entry Postal Service securities shall be charged in the Postal Service Fund on the interest due date and remitted or credited in accordance with the depositor's instructions. Such securities shall be redeemed and charged in the Postal Service Fund on the date of maturity, call or advance refunding, and the redemption proceeds, principal and interest, shall be disposed of in accordance with the depositor's instructions.

PART 762—DISBURSEMENT POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

Subpart A—General, Definitions, Issuance

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762.45 Removal of stoppage of payment.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401(2), 401(3), 401(4), 401(10), and 404(6).

SOURCE: 40 FR 52371, Nov. 10, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General, Definitions, Issuance

§ 762.11 General.

The Postal Service, at its discretion, issues a specialized postal money order, designated a Disbursement Postal Money Order in payment of Postal Service obligations. Disbursement Postal Money Orders are distinguishable on their face from other postal money orders in the following ways:

(a) Disbursement Postal Money Orders have words of negotiability—''Pay to the order of''—printed on their face, while other postal money orders simply bear the words ''Pay to'' on their face;

(b) Disbursement Postal Money Orders, unlike other postal money orders, bear on their face the phrase, ''This

special money order is drawn by the Postal Service to pay one of its own obligations.''; and

(c) The amounts of Disbursement Postal Money Orders are printed in words as well as numbers, while the amounts of postal money orders available at post offices are printed in numbers only.

§ 762.12 Definitions.

As used in part 762 of this chapter, the term:

(a) *Disbursement Postal Money Order* means a money order (described in Part 762) issued by the Postal Service to pay one of its own obligations.

(b) *Federal Reserve Bank* means a Federal Reserve Bank or branch thereof.

(c) *Financial organization* means any bank, savings bank, savings and loan association or similar institution, or Federal or State chartered credit union.

(d) *Person* or *persons* means an individual or individuals, or an organization or organizations, whether incorporated or not, including all forms of banking institutions.

(e) *Presenting Bank* means a bank or other depositor of a Federal Reserve Bank which presents Disbursement Postal Money Orders to and receives credit therefor from a Federal Reserve Bank.

(f) *Reclamation* means the action taken by the Postal Service to obtain refund of the amounts of paid Disbursement Postal Money Orders.

(g) *Postal Service* means the U.S. Postal Service.

§ 762.13 Issuance.

Disbursement Postal Money Orders are issued solely by Postal Data Centers and solely for the purpose of paying Postal Service obligations. Accordingly, Disbursement Postal Money Orders may be issued in lieu of U.S. Treasury checks.

§ 762.14 Amounts for which disbursement postal money orders may be issued.

Disbursement Postal Money Orders may be issued for any amount appropriate to pay Postal Service Obligations. There is no maximum amount above which a Disbursement Postal Money Order may not be issued.

§ 762.15 Postal Service payments not made by disbursement postal money order.

Postal Service payments not made by Disbursement Postal Money Order are made by cash, U.S. Treasury Check, or by regular postal money order, and may be made by electronic funds transfer.

Subpart B—Endorsements, Payment, Guaranties, Warranties and Processing of Disbursement Postal Money Orders

§ 762.21 Scope.

The regulations in this subpart prescribe the requirements for endorsement and the conditions for payment of Disbursement Postal Money Orders drawn by the Postal Service.

§ 762.22 Definitions.

For definitions applicable to this subpart see § 762.12 of this chapter.

§ 762.23 General rules.

All Disbursement Postal Money Orders drawn by the Postal Service are payable without limitation of time. The Postal Service shall have the usual right of a drawee to examine Disbursement Postal Money Orders presented for payment and refuse payment of any Disbursement Postal Money Orders, and shall have a reasonable time to make such examination. Disbursement Postal Money Orders shall be deemed to be paid by the Postal Service only after first examination has been fully completed. If the Postal Service is on notice of a doubtful question of law or fact when a Disbursement Postal Money Order is presented for payment, payment will be deferred pending settlement by the Postal Service.

§ 762.24 Guaranty of endorsements.

The presenting bank and the endorsers of a Disbursement Postal Money Order presented to the Postal Service for payment shall be deemed to guarantee to the Postal Service that all prior endorsements are genuine, whether or not an express guaranty is placed on

the Disbursement Postal Money Order. When the first endorsement has been made by one other than the payee personally, the presenting bank and the endorsers shall be deemed to guarantee to the Postal Service, in addition to other warranties, that the person who so endorsed had unqualified capacity and authority to endorse the Disbursement Postal Money Order on behalf of the payee.

§ 762.25 Reclamation of amounts of paid disbursement postal money orders.

The Postal Service shall have the right to demand refund from the presenting bank of the amount of a paid Disbursement Postal Money Order if after payment the Disbursement Postal Money Order is found to bear a forged or unauthorized endorsement, or an endorsement by another for a deceased payee where the right to the proceeds of such Disbursement Postal Money Orders terminated upon the death of the payee, or to contain any other material defect or alteration which was not discovered upon first examination. If refund is not made, the Postal Service shall take such action against the proper parties as may be necessary to protect its interests.

§ 762.26 Postal facilities not to cash disbursement postal money orders.

Post offices and other postal facilities shall not be expected to cash Disbursement Postal Money Orders or to return cash for endorsed Disbursement Postal Money Orders offered in payment for postal service in amounts less than the value of a Disbursement Postal Money Order. However, properly endorsed Disbursement Postal Money Orders may be accepted as total or partial payment for postal services.

§ 762.27 Processing of disbursement postal money orders by Federal Reserve Banks.

In accordance with an agreement between the Postal Service and the Federal Reserve Banks as depositaries and fiscal agents of the United States, Federal Reserve Banks will handle Disbursement Postal Money Orders as follows:

(a) Federal Reserve Banks shall not be expected to cash Disbursement Postal Money Orders presented directly to them for payment; and

(b) Each Federal Reserve Bank shall:

(1) Receive Disbursement Postal Money Orders from its member banks, and its other depositors which guarantee all prior endorsements thereon;

(2) Give immediate credit therefor in accordance with its current Time Schedules and charge the amount thereof to the general account of the U.S. Treasury, subject to examination and payment by the Postal Service; and

(3) Forward the Disbursement Postal Money Orders to the Postal Service.

§ 762.28 Release of original disbursement postal money orders.

An original Disbursement Postal Money Order may be released to a responsible endorser only upon receipt of a properly authorized request showing the reason it is required.

§ 762.29 Endorsement of disbursement postal money orders by payees.

(a) *General requirements.* Disbursement Postal Money Orders shall be endorsed by the payee or the payees named, or by another on behalf of such payee or payees as set forth in this subpart B. The forms of endorsement shall conform to those recognized by general principles of law and commercial usage for the negotiation, transfer, or collection of negotiable instruments.

(b) *Endorsement of disbursement postal money orders by a financial organization under the payee's authorization.* When a Disbursement Postal Money Order is credited by a financial organization to the payee's account under his authorization, the financial organization may use an endorsement substantially as follows:

> Credit to the account of the within-named payee in accordance with payee's or payees' instructions. Absence of endorsement guaranteed.

A financial organization using this form of endorsement shall be deemed to guarantee to all subsequent endorsers and to the Postal Service that it is acting as an attorney in fact for the payee or payees, under his or their authorization.

(c) *Endorsement of disbursement postal money orders drawn in favor of financial organizations.* All Disbursement Postal Money Orders drawn in favor of financial organizations, for credit to the accounts of persons designating payment so to be made, shall be endorsed in the name of the financial organization as payee in the usual manner.

§ 762.30 Disbursement postal money orders issued to incompetent payees.

(a) If the Disbursement Postal Money Order is endorsed by a legal guardian or other fiduciary and presented for payment by a bank it will be paid by the Postal Service without submission to the Postal Service of documentary proof of authority of the guardian or other fiduciary.

(b) If a guardian has not been or will not be appointed, the Disbursement Postal Money Order shall be forwarded to the Money Order Division, Postal Data Center, P.O. Box 14963, St. Louis, MO 63182, with a full explanation of the circumstances.

§ 762.31 Disbursement postal money orders issued to deceased payees.

(a) If the Disbursement Postal Money Order is endorsed by an Executor or Administrator and presented for payment by a bank it will be paid by the Postal Service without submission to the Postal Service of documentary proof of the authority of the Executor or Administrator.

(b) If an Executor or Administrator has not been appointed or if there is doubt as to whether the proceeds of the Disbursement Postal Money Order pass to the estate of the deceased payee, the instrument should be returned to the Money Order Division, Postal Data Center, P.O. Box 14963, St. Louis, MO 63182, for determination whether, under applicable laws, payment is due, and for reissuance to the appropriate payee.

Subpart C—Issuance of Substitutes for Lost, Destroyed, Mutilated, and Defaced Disbursement Postal Money Orders

§ 762.41 Advice of non-receipt or loss, destruction, or mutilation.

(a) In the event of the non-receipt, loss, or destruction of a Disbursement Postal Money Order, or the mutilation or defacement of a Disbursement Postal Money Order to an extent which renders it non-negotiable, the owner should immediately contact the Money Order Division, Postal Data Center, P.O. Box 14963, St. Louis, MO 63182, describing the Disbursement Postal Money Order, stating the purpose for which it was issued, giving, if possible, its date, number, and amount, and requesting that payment be stopped. In cases involving mutilated or defaced Disbursement Postal Money Orders the owner should enclose the mutilated or defaced item with his communication.

(b) If the Disbursement Postal Money Order, which is the basis of the owner's claim, is determined to be outstanding, the Money Order Division shall furnish the claimant an appropriate application form for obtaining a substitute Disbursement Postal Money Order. However, the execution of an application shall not be required in the event the original written statement submitted by the claimant substantially meets the requirements of the prescribed application form.

§ 762.42 Request for substitute disbursement postal money orders; requirements for undertaking of indemnity.

In the case of a request for a substitute Disbursement Postal Money Order:

(a) An undertaking of indemnity in penal sum equal to the amount of the Disbursement Postal Money Order shall, unless otherwise provided in this section, be executed by the claimant,

as may be required by the Postal Service, and submitted to the Money Order Division.

(b) Unless the Postal Service determines that an undertaking of indemnity is essential in the public interest, no undertaking of indemnity shall be required in the following classes of cases:

(1) If the Postal Service is satisfied that the loss, theft, destruction, mutilation or defacement occurred without fault of the owner or holder, and while the Disbursement Postal Money Order was in the custody or control of the Postal Service;

(2) If substantially the entire Disbursement Postal Money Order is presented and surrendered by the owner or holder and the Postal Service is satisfied as to the identity of the Disbursement Postal Money Order presented and that any missing portions are not sufficient to form the basis of a valid claim against the Postal Service;

(3) If the Postal Service is satisfied that the original Disbursement Postal Money Order is not negotiable and cannot be made the basis of a valid claim against the Postal Service; or

(4) If the amount of the Disbursement Postal Money Order is not more than $200.

§ 762.43 Issuance of substitute disbursement postal money order.

Upon approval of the undertaking of indemnity, application, or statement of claim, the Money Order Division shall issue to the claimant a substitute Disbursement Postal Money Order showing such information as may be necessary to identify the original instrument.

§ 762.44 Receipt or recovery of original disbursement postal money order.

(a) If the original Disbursement Postal Money Order is received or recovered by the owner after he has requested the Postal Service to stop payment on the original but before a substitute has been received, he should immediately advise the Money Order Division and hold such original Disbursement Postal Money Order until receipt of instructions with respect to its negotiability.

(b) If the original Disbursement Postal Money Order is received by the owner after a substitute has been received by him, the original shall not be cashed, but shall be immediately forwarded to the Money Order Division. Under no circumstances shall both the original and substitute be cashed.

§ 762.45 Removal of stoppage of payment.

Requests for removal of stoppage of payment shall be addressed to the Money Order Division. No request for removal of stoppage of payment shall be accepted after issuance of a substitute Disbursement Postal Money Order has been approved.

SUBCHAPTER K—SPECIAL REGULATIONS

PART 775—ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401; 42 U.S.C.4331 *et seq.;* 40 CFR 1500.4(p).

SOURCE: 44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 775.1 Purpose.

These procedures implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (43 FR 55978) issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). These procedures are adopted pursuant to the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the NEPA insofar as the NEPA and its Regulations do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

§ 775.2 Policy.

It is the policy of the Postal Service to:

(a) Interpret and administer applicable policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States in accordance with the policies set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, and the NEPA Regulations.

(b) Make the NEPA process useful to Postal Service decision makers and the public.

(c) Emphasize environmental issues and alternatives in the consideration of proposed actions.

(d) Encourage and facilitate public involvement in decisions which affect the quality of the human environment.

(e) Use the NEPA process to identify and assess reasonable alternatives to proposed actions in order to avoid or minimize adverse effects on the environment.

(f) Use all practicable means to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the human environment.

(g) Reduce paperwork.

(h) Reduce delay.

§ 775.3 Responsibilities.

(a) The Assistant Postmaster General, Real Estate and Buildings Department, is responsible for overall review of NEPA compliance. Requests for information or status reports on environmental impact statements and other elements of the NEPA process should be addressed to:

Assistant Postmaster General, Real Estate & Buildings Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, West, SW., Washington, DC 20260.

(b) Heads of affected Headquarters Departments and Regional Postmasters General must designate ''Environmental Coordinators'' to be specifically responsible for compliance with these procedures.

§ 775.4 Typical classes of action.

(a) *Normally assessed kinds of action.* These procedures apply to the following typical classes of actions:

(1) Those which normally require environmental impact statements: None.

(2) Those which do not normally require environmental impact statements, but do normally require environmental assessment except as excluded by paragraph (b) of this section:

(i) Postal facility actions:

(A) New construction, including lease-construction.

(B) The purchase or lease of an existing building if a new or substantially enlarged occupancy is involved.

(C) The expansion or improvement of an existing facility.

(ii) Real property disposals.

(iii) Postal facility function changes.

(iv) Initiation of legislative proposals.

(b) *Categorical exclusions.* The classes of action in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(15) of this section normally do not require either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact

statement. However, the responsible official must be alert to unusual conditions that would require an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement notwithstanding the applicability of a categorical exclusion to particular action.

(1) New construction, Postal Service owned, including site acquisition by any method, or Postal Service leased, of less than 30,000 net interior square feet.

(2) Acquisition by purchase, lease, or exchange, of existing buildings containing less than 50,000 net interior square feet with occupancy of greater than 90 days where planned postal uses do not differ significantly from past uses of the site.

(3) Lease of existing buildings of any size for occupancy of 90 days or less.

(4) Expansion or improvement of an existing facility where the expansion does not exceed 30,000 net interior square feet.

(5) Acquisition of unimproved real property not connected to specific facility plans or when necessary to protect the interests of the Postal Service in advance of final project approval. This categorical exclusion applies only to the acquisition. Any subsequent use of the property for a facility project must be considered under this part without regard to ownership of the real property.

(6) Routine actions normally conducted to protect and maintain properties and which do not alter the configuration of the building.

(7) Repair to, or replacement-in-kind of, building equipment or components (e.g., electrical distribution, HVAC systems, doors, windows, roofs, etc.).

(8) Obtaining, granting, disposing, or changing of easements, licenses and permits, rights-of-way and similar interests.

(9) Disposal through sale or outlease of unimproved real property of any size or improved real estate under 30,000 net interior square feet.

(10) Purchase of Postal Service occupied leased property where planned postal uses do not differ significantly from past uses of the site.

(11) Extension, renewal, renegotiation, or termination of existing lease agreements.

(12) Joint development and/or joint-use projects involving construction under 30,000 net interior square feet.

(13) Procurement or disposal of motor vehicles not involving a substantial increase in the concentration of vehicles in a geographic impact area. Procurement or disposal of mail handling equipment.

(14) Postal rate or mail classification actions.

(15) Postal facility function changes not involving construction, the relocation of a substantial number of employees, or a substantial increase in the number of motor vehicles at a facility.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 5716, Feb. 8, 1982; 49 FR 23181, June 5, 1984; 55 FR 10454, Mar. 21, 1990]

§ 775.5 Environmental evaluation guidelines.

(a) *Approach.* When dealing with proposals which may have an impact on the human environment, environmental coordinators, planners, decision makers, and other officials responsible for actions, will, as appropriate:

(1) Use a systematic approach that integrates natural and social sciences and environmental design in planning and making decisions.

(2) Identify environmental effects and values in detail, and appraise them in conjunction with economic and technical analyses.

(3) Consider environmental documents at all decision points at which other planning documents are considered. (Plans and decisions are to reflect environmental values. Proposed actions should be assessed as soon as their effects can be meaningfully evaluated, to provide the bases for early decision on whether detailed environmental impact statements must be prepared.)

(4) Study, develop, describe, and evaluate at all decision points, reasonable alternatives to recommended actions which may have a significant effect on the environment.

(b) *Proposal requirements.* When an environmental impact statement has been prepared, it must accompany the

proposal through and be used in the decision-making process. Any other proposal must refer to applicable environmental documents (e.g., determination of categorical exclusion; finding of no significant impact; notice of intent to prepare an impact statement), and relevant comments and responses.

(c) *Lead agency arrangements.* If the Postal Service and another Federal agency become involved in a lead agency arrangement for the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the Service will cooperate fully.

§ 775.6 Environmental evaluation process.

(a) *All actions*—(1) *Assessment of actions.* An environmental assessment must be made of each proposed action, except that an assessment need not be made if a written determination is made that:

(i) The action is one of a class listed in § 775.4(b), Categorical Exclusions, and

(ii) The action is not affected by extraordinary circumstances which may cause it to have a significant environmental effect. This part of the determination may be supported by completion of an environmental checklist (referred to as a level I environmental review in the Handbook RE–6) for certain types of categorical exclusions.

(2) *Findings of no significant impact.* If an environmental assessment indicates that there is no significant impact of a proposed action on the environment, an environmental impact statement is not required. A ''finding of no significant impact'' is prepared and published in accordance with § 775.10. When the proposed action is approved, it may be accomplished without further environmental consideration. A ''finding of no significant impact'' document briefly presents the reasons why an action will not have a significant effect on the human environment and states that an environmental impact statement will not be prepared. It must refer to the environmental assessment and any other environmentally pertinent documents related to it. The assessment may be included in the finding if it is short, in which case the discussion in the assessment need not be repeated in the finding.

(3) *Impact statement preparation decision and notices.* If an environmental assessment indicates that a proposed major action would have a significant impact on the environment, a notice of intent to prepare an impact statement is published (see § 775.10) and an environmental impact statement is prepared.

(4) *Role of impact statement in decision making.* An environmental impact statement is used, with other analyses and materials, to decide which alternative should be pursued, or whether a proposed action should be abandoned or other courses of action pursued. See § 775.9 for restrictions on the timing of this decision.

(5) *Record of decision.* For actions requiring environmental impact statements, a concise public record of decision is prepared when a decision, or a proposal for legislation, is made. The record, which may be integrated into any other record, or notice, including that required by Postal Serivce regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, must:

(i) State what the decision was.

(ii) Identify all alternatives considered in reaching a decision, specifying alternatives considered to be environmentally preferable; identify and discuss all significant factors, including any essential considerations of national policy, which were weighed in making the decision and state how those considerations entered into the decision.

(iii) State whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been or will be adopted, and if not, why not.

(6) *Actions prohibited prior to issuance of record of decision.* Until a record of decision is issued, no action may be taken on a proposal on which an environmental impact statement is made if the action would:

(i) Have an adverse environmental impact, or

(ii) Limit the choice of reasonable alternatives.

(7) *Mitigation measures.* Practicable mitigation measures identified in an

environmental assessment must be implemented. Mitigation measures described in an environmental impact statement and accepted in a decision must be implemented. Upon request, the Postal Service informs federal, state, and local agencies and the public of the progress in carrying out adopted mitigation measures.

(b) *Additional requirements for facility actions.* (1) The environmental assessment of any action which involves the choice of contending sites for a facility must be started early in the planning of the action. An environmental assessment report, however, is not required until the contending project sites have been determined. The information contained in the environmental assessment report must be used, together with other site planning information, in the selection of the final site.

(2) When an environmental assessment indicates that an environmental impact statement may be needed for a proposed facility action, a decision analysis report reflecting the results of the assessment is presented to the Capital Investment Committee, and to the Board of Governors if the Board considers the proposal (see 39 CFR 3.4(f)), so that they may decide if an impact statement is to be prepared.

(3) If the Committee or the Board is requested to authorize the preparation of an environmental impact statement, and an analysis indicates that it would be more cost-effective to proceed immediately with continued control of sites, (including advance acquisition, if necessary, and where authorized by postal procedures), environmental impact statement preparation, and project designs, the request will include authorization of funds to permit:

(i) The preparation of an impact statement encompassing all reasonable site alternatives,

(ii) The continued control of specified competing sites (including advance acquisition, if necessary, and where authorized by postal procedures), chosen to preserve environmental or other options, and

(iii) The development of limited designs of facilities for each competing site.

(4) A completed environmental impact statement will be presented to the Capital Investment Committee, and to the Board of Governors if the Board considers the proposal, for use in deciding whether a proposed project should proceed, be restudied, or be abandoned. If the decision is to proceed with a proposed project, the Committee, or the Board if it considers the proposal, decides which alternative site is to be used for project development, and authorizes the project.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983; 50 FR 32411, Aug. 12, 1985; 50 FR 33036, Aug. 16, 1985; 55 FR 10454, Mar. 21, 1990]

§ 775.7 Environmental assessments.

(a) An environmental assessment must contain:

(1) A summary of major considerations and conclusions,

(2) A description of the proposed action,

(3) For each reasonable alternative, a description of the affected environment, the environmental consequences, the mitigation measures, if any, and a comparison to all alternatives considered.

(b) Those preparing an environmental assessment must solicit information and views from Federal, State, and local agencies and, where there is a substantial likelihood of significant effects on the environment, the public. All responsible views and information must be considered.

§ 775.8 Environmental impact statements.

(a) *Determining scope.* Before an environmental impact statement is prepared, the following procedures must be followed to determine what issues are to be addressed and in what depth:

(1) Affected Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons are invited to participate by furnishing written views and information, or at a hearing if appropriate. Notice is given in accordance with § 775.10.

(2) The significance of issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement is determined through consideration of:

(i) Actions which are closely related, or similar, or have cumulative significant impacts.

(ii) Alternatives, which must include the ''no action'' alternative, other reasonable courses of action, and mitigation measures.

(iii) Impacts, which may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

(3) Issues which are not significant are identified and eliminated.

(4) The determinations made must be revised if substantial changes are made later in the proposed action, or if significant new circumstances or information arise which bear on the proposal or its impacts.

(b) *Preparation*. (1) Except for proposals for legislation, environmental impact statements are prepared in two stages:

(i) Draft environmental impact statement, prepared in accordance with the scope decided upon under paragraph (a) of this section.

(ii) Final environmental impact statement, responding to comments on the draft statement and discussing and responding to any responsible opposing view which was not adequately discussed in the draft statement.

(2) Environmental impact statements must:

(i) Be analytic rather than encyclopedic.

(ii) Contain discussions of impacts in proportion to their significance. Insignificant impacts eliminated during the process under § 775.8(a) to determine the scope of issues must be discussed only to the extent necessary to state why they will not be significant.

(iii) Be concise, and not longer than is necessary to comply with NEPA. They must not contain repeated statements of the same basic points.

(iv) Contain discussions of alternatives considered and of how alternatives chosen will meet the requirements of NEPA and other environmental laws and policies.

(v) Encompass the range of alternatives to be considered by the decision makers.

(vi) Serve to assess the environmental impact of proposed actions, rather than to justify decisions already made.

(3) The text of final environmental impact statements normally should be less than 150 pages. Statements on proposals of unusual scope or complexity normally should be less than 300 pages.

(4) Staged or ''tiered'' environmental impact statements must not contain repetitive discussions of the same issues. Each document must state where each earlier document is available.

(5) Material may be incorporated into an environmental impact statement by reference only when the material is reasonably available for inspection by potentially interested persons within the time allowed for comment.

(6) If information relevant to reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts cannot be obtained because the overall cost of obtaining it is exorbitant or the means to obtain it are not known, the fact that such information is incomplete or unavailable must be stated clearly. In addition, the relevance of the incomplete or unavailable information to the evaluation of the impacts must be stated, and a summary of existing credible scientific evidence relevant to evaluation of the impacts must be included, as well as an evaluation of such impacts on the basis of theoretical approaches or generally accepted research methods. For purposes of this subsection, ''reasonably foreseeable'' includes impacts which have catastrophic consequences, even if their probability of occurrence is low, provided that the analysis of the impacts is supported by credible scientific evidence, is not based on pure conjecture, and is within the rule of reason.

(7) If a cost-benefit analysis relevant to the choice among environmentally different alternatives was prepared for the proposed action, it must be incorporated by reference or appended to the statement to aid in evaluating the environmental consequences. The relationship between the cost-benefit analysis and any analysis of unquantified environmental impacts, values, and amenities must be discussed.

(8) Methods used must be identified, and footnote references must be made to scientific and other sources relied on for conclusions. Analytical techniques may be incorporated in appendices.

(9) Permits, licenses, and other authorizations needed to implement a proposal must be listed in the draft environmental impact statement and the prospects for obtaining them must be

assessed. Where there is uncertainty as to the need for an authorization it must be indicated.

(10) An environmental impact statement must contain a discussion of any inconsistency between the proposed action and any State or local law, ordinance, or approved plan; and must contain a description of the manner and extent to which the proposed action will be reconciled with the law, ordinance, or approved plan.

(11) Where State laws or local ordinances impose environmental impact statement requirements which are not in conflict with those in NEPA, an environmental impact statement made by the Postal Service should satisfy pertinent State and local requirements to the extent practicable.

(c) *Format.* The standard format for environmental statements is:

(1) *Cover Sheet.* The cover sheet, not to exceed one page, must include:

(i) A list of the responsible agencies including the lead agency and any cooperating agencies.

(ii) The title of the proposed action that is the subject of the statement (and if appropriate, the titles of related cooperating agency actions), together with any city, state, and county where the action is to take place.

(iii) The name, address, and telephone number of a person at the agency who can supply further information.

(iv) A designation of the document as a draft or final statement or a draft or final supplement.

(v) A one-paragraph abstract of the statement.

(vi) The date by which comments must be received.

(2) *Summary.* The summary must stress the major conclusions, areas of controversy (including issues raised by agencies and the public), and the issues to be resolved (including the choice among alternatives).

(3) *Table of Contents.*

(4) *Purpose of and Need for Action.*

(5) *Alternatives and Mitigation.* This portion of the environmental impact statement is vitally important. Based on the analysis in the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences section (see § 775.8(c) (6)), the environmental impacts and the alternatives are presented in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choosing alternatives. Those preparing the statement must:

(i) Explore and evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including the ''no action'' alternative, and briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives.

(ii) Devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail, including the proposed action, so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.

(iii) Identify the preferred alternative or alternatives in the draft and final statements.

(iv) Describe appropriate mitigation measures not considered to be an integral part of the proposed action or alternatives. See § 775.6(a)(7).

(6) *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.* For each reasonable alternative, each affected element of the environment must be described, followed immediately by an analysis of the impacts (environmental consequences). The analysis must include, among others, the following:

(i) Any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the action be implemented.

(ii) The relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity,

(iii) Any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources should the action be implemented, and

(iv) Energy requirements and conservation; and natural, or depletable, resource requirements and conservation.

(7) *List of Mitigation Measures.*

(8) *List of Preparers.* List the names, together with the qualifications (expertise, professional disciplines), of persons who were primarily responsible for preparing the environmental impact statement or significant background papers.

(9) *List of Agencies, Organizations and Persons to Whom Copies of the Statement Are Sent.*

(10) *Index.*

(11) *Appendices.* Include comments on draft statement in final statement.

(d) *Distribution.* (1) Any completed draft environmental impact statement

which is made the subject of a public hearing, must be made available to the public as provided in § 775.10 of this part at least 15 days in advance of the hearing.

(2) Draft and final environmental impact statements must be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency. Five copies are filed with EPA's headquarters addressed to the Office of Federal Activities (A–104), Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street SW., Washington, DC 20460; five copies are also filed with the responsible EPA region. Statements may not be filed with the EPA earlier than they are transmitted to commenting agencies and made available to the public.

(3) Copies of draft and final environmental impact statements must be furnished to:

(i) Any Federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved.

(ii) Any appropriate Federal, state, or local agency authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards.

(iii) The appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, when National Register or eligible properties may be affected, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

(iv) Any person, organization or agency requesting them.

(4) Copies of final environmental impact statements must be furnished to any person who, or organization or agency which, submitted substantive comments on the draft.

(e) *Responses to comments.* (1) A final statement responds to comments on a draft statement in one or more of the following ways:

(i) Modification of alternatives, including the proposed action.

(ii) Development and evaluation of alternatives not previously given serious consideration.

(iii) Supplementation, improvement, or modification of analyses.

(iv) Correction of facts.

(v) Explanation of why a comment does not warrant a direct response, citing supporting sources, authorities, or reasons. Relevant circumstances which may trigger reappraisal or further response must be indicated.

(2) Substantive comments received on a draft statement must be attached to the final statement.

(3) If all of the changes are minor and are confined to responses described in paragraphs (e)(1) (iv) and (v) of this section, errata sheets may be written, and only the comments and errata sheets need be recirculated. In such a case, the draft statement with the comments, errata sheets, and a new cover, must be filed as the final statement.

(f) *Supplements.* (1) A supplement to a draft or final environmental impact statement must be issued if:

(i) Substantial changes are made in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or

(ii) Significant new circumstances or information bearing on environmental impacts of the proposed action arise or are discovered.

(2) The decision on a proposed action involving an environmental impact statement, must be delayed until any necessary supplement has been circulated and has gone through the commenting period. A supplement is prepared, circulated, and filed in the same manner (except for determining scope) as draft and final statements, unless alternative procedures are approved by CEQ.

(g) *Contracting.* A contractor employed to prepare an environmental impact statement must certify that it has no financial or other interest in the outcome of the project.

(h) *Proposals for Legislation.* Legislative environmental impact statements must be prepared and transmitted as follows:

(1) A legislative environmental impact statement is considered part of the formal transmittal of a legislative proposal to the Congress. It may be transmitted to the Congress up to 30 days after the proposal. The statement must be available in time for Congressional hearings and deliberations.

(2) Preparation and processing of a legislative statement must conform to the requirements for impact statements, except as follows:

(i) It is not necessary to determine the scope of issues.

(ii) A draft is considered to be a final statement. Both draft and final statements are needed only when:

(A) A Congressional committee with jurisdiction over the proposal has a rule requiring both.

(B) Both are specifically required by statute for proposals of the type being submitted.

(3) Comments received on a legislative statement, and the Postal Service's responses, must be forwarded to the Congress.

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983; 55 FR 10455; Mar. 21, 1990]

§ 775.9 Time frames for environmental impact statement actions.

(a) Each week the EPA publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the draft and final environmental impact statements received in that office during the preceding week. The minimum time periods for decision on an action, specified in paragraphs (b) through (d) of this section, are calculated from the date of publication of an EPA notice of receipt of the relevant impact statement.

(b) A decision on a proposed action may not be made or recorded until the later of the following dates: 90 days after publication of the notice described in paragraph (a) of this section for a draft statement or 30 days after publication of the notice for a final statement.

(c) If a final statement is filed with the EPA within 90 days after a draft statement is filed, the 30 day period and the 90 day period may run concurrently.

(d) A minimum of 45 days must be allowed for comments on draft statements.

§ 775.10 Public notice and information.

(a) Public notice is given of NEPA-related hearings, intent to undertake environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, and the availability of environmental documents (that is, environmental assessments, findings of no significant impact, and environmental impact statements), as follows:

(1) Notices must be mailed to those who have requested them.

(2) Notices concerning a proposal of national concern must be mailed to national organizations reasonably expected to be interested. Any such notice must be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. (See paragraph (a)(4) of this section.

(3) Notices of any proposed action having effects primarily of local concern are given as follows:

(i) Any such notice, including a copy of any pertinent environmental document, must be mailed to the appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions, to the State Historic Preservation Officer, and to local public officials.

(ii) Any such notice must be published in one or more local newspapers.

(iii) Any such notice must be posted on and near any proposed and alternate sites for an action.

(iv) Any such notice may be mailed to potentially interested community organizations, including small business associations.

(v) Any such notice may be mailed to owners and occupants of nearby or affected property.

(4) A copy of every notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement must be furnished to the Assistant General Counsel, Legislative Division, Law Department, who will have it published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) All notices must give the name, address, and telephone number of a postal official who may be contacted for information. Environmental documents are made available to the public on request. Inspection, copying, and the furnishing of copies will be in accordance with 39 CFR Part 265, ''Release of Information.''

[44 FR 63525, Nov. 5, 1979, as amended at 47 FR 19992, May 10, 1982; 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983]

§ 775.11 Hearings.

(a) Public hearings must be held whenever there is:

(1) Substantial environmental controversy concerning a proposed action

and a request for a hearing by any responsible individual or organization;

(2) A request for a hearing by an agency with jurisdiction over or special expertise concerning the proposed action; or

(3) A reasonable expectation that a hearing will produce significant information not likely to be obtained without a hearing.

(b) The distribution and notice requirements of §§ 775.8(d)(1) and 775.10 must be complied with whenever a hearing is to be held.

PART 776—FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION OF WETLANDS PROCEDURES

Sec.
776.1 Purpose and policy.
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776.8 Public notice.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

§ 776.1 Purpose and policy.

(a) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, was issued on May 24, 1977, under authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.) (NEPA), the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4001), and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93–234, 87 Stat. 9451). Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, was issued on May 24, 1977, under authority of NEPA. The purpose of these Orders was to avoid adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and/or modification of floodplains; or the modification and destruction of wetlands.

(b) These procedures implement Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and are adopted under the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the statutes listed in paragraph (a) of this section, to the extent these statutes do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

(c) These procedures provide guidance:

(1) To avoid direct or indirect, long or short term adverse impact on floodplains and wetlands;

(2) To reduce the risk of flood loss;

(3) To minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare;

(4) To restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains;

(5) To minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands;

(6) To preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands; and

(7) To avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development.

(d) These procedures are general in nature. Postal Service Handbook RE–6, *Environmental Procedures*, provides detailed procedures for implementing these executive orders.

§ 776.2 Responsibility.

The Assistant Postmaster General, Facilities Department, is responsible for overall compliance with these procedures.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 51 FR 40170, Nov. 5, 1986]

§ 776.3 Scope.

These procedures are applicable to every proposed postal facility project which involves:

(a) New contruction, for ownership or lease;

(b) Existing buildings, owned or leased, except the acquisition of existing leased facilities when no substantial external change in the configuration of the facility will occur;

(c) Modernization or improvement of an existing facility where the external configuration of the building or the use of the facility is changed substantially and significantly;

(d) Disposal or lease of owned, excess property;

(e) Proposals for granting a property easement or right-of-way to non-federal public or private parties.

§ 776.4 Definitions.

(a) A *floodplain*, for the purposes of these procedures, is the area in which a

flood has a one percent chance of occurrence in any given year (also known as a 100-year flood).

(b) A *wetland*, for the purposes of these procedures, is an area that is inundated by surface or ground water frequently enough to support a prevalence of vegetable or aquatic life requiring saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 10455, Mar. 21, 1990]

§ 776.5 New construction.

(a) *Construction in floodplain/wetland.* During the evaluation of contending sites for a proposed project, information concerning impacts on wetlands and floodplains will be collected and considered. If use of a site would require construction in a floodplain or wetland, the site may be considered only when there is no practicable alternative site.

(b) *Floodplain/Wetland Information.* Floodplain and wetland information must be compiled and considered throughout the facility planning process. If a proposed action will occur in or impact a floodplain or wetland site, specific floodplain or wetland information must be developed. As a minimum, the information should:

(1) Document whether the proposed action will directly or indirectly support floodplain development.

(2) Document the impacts a proposed action would have on the floodplain or wetland, including positive and negative; concentrated and dispersed; short-term and long-term.

(3) Document the flood hazard and risk to lives and property.

(4) Present the natural and beneficial floodplain values.

(5) Present measures which will preserve the floodplain, minimize harm to it, or restore it. Minimization of harm is assessed in terms of:

(i) The amount of investment at risk or the flood loss potential of the action itself,

(ii) The impact the action may have on others, and

(iii) The impact the action may have on floodplain values.

(c) *Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement.* Information developed concerning the floodplain or wetland must be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment, if either is prepared, and made available to the public under 39 CFR part 775.

(d) *Site planning.* During site evaluation, a determination must be made whether any of the identified site alternatives would require construction in, or appear to have an impact on, a floodplain or wetland. This information will be included as part of any required Environmental Assessment.

(e) *Analysis of alternatives.* If any of the site alternatives identified under paragraph (d) of this section would involve construction within a floodplain or wetland, an analysis of alternatives must be prepared, and must include:

(1) Alternate sites as identified in the site planning process;

(2) Other means which accomplish the same purpose as the proposed action; and

(3) A no-action alternative.

(f) *Reevaluation.* If, after consideration of information and analyses produced under paragraphs (b), (d), and (e) of this section, and (if required) review through an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, the determination is that there appears to be no practicable alternative to constructing in a floodplain or wetland, a final reevaluation of alternatives must be conducted. The Facilities Service Center Director is responsible for this reevaluation. To facilitate this reevaluation, the following data must be submitted to the Facilities Service Center Director:

(1) A summary of reasons why the rejected alternatives and alternative sites, if any, were considered impracticable.

(2) Detailed descriptions of all rejected alternatives and alternative sites.

(3) A summary of comments received from the public and the appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions as a result of proper public notices.

(4) Documentation from the site evaluation and planning process.

(5) The Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, if either was required.

(6) The floodplain or wetland location map from which the determination was made. The map or other information should indicate appropriate site elevations (contours), base floor elevation, and the floodplain elevation at the site.

(7) The facility functional design specifications or site utlization drawings, if available.

(8) Other information pertinent to the proposal as determined by the stage of development of the project.

(g) *Alternative Available.* If the Facilities Service Center Director, determines that there may be a practicable site alternative to the one selected, the appropriate Postal Service organization is advised to abandon the selected course and pursue other alternatives.

(h) *No alternative.* If the Facilities Service Center Director determines that there is not a practicable alternative to constructing in a floodplain or wetland, the appropriate Postal Service organization is so advised. The Director may provide instructions for mandatory measures to be accomplished during design and construction to minimize harm to the floodplain or wetland.

(i) *Public Notice.* If there is no practicable alternative to constructing in a floodplain or wetland, the Facilities Service Center Director, must provide a public notice (see § 776.8) as soon as possible for the proposed action. The notice includes:

(1) A description of why the proposed action must be located in a floodplain or wetland;

(2) A description of all significant facts considered in making the determination, including alternative sites and actions;

(3) A statement indicating whether the actions conform to applicable state or local floodplain/wetland protection standards;

(4) If applicable, a statement indicating why the National Flood Insurance Program criteria are demonstrably inappropriate for the proposed action;

(5) A description of measures that will be taken to minimize harm to the floodplain or wetland;

(6) A statement indicating how the action affects natural or beneficial floodplain values; and

(7) A list of any other involved agencies or individuals.

(j) *Design Requirements.* If structures impact, are located in, or support development of a floodplain or wetland, the design must include measures necessary (1) to minimize harm to the floodplain or wetland; (2) to reduce the risk of flood loss; (3) to minimize destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands; (4) to minimize the impact on human safety, health, and welfare; and (5) to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial floodplain and wetland values. Construction must conform, at a minimum, to the standards and criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, except where those standards are demonstrably inappropriate for postal purposes.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983; 50 FR 32411, Aug. 12, 1985; 51 FR 40170, Nov. 5, 1986; 55 FR 10455, Mar. 21, 1990; 55 FR 12822, Apr. 6, 1990]

§ 776.6 Existing buildings, owned or leased.

(a) *Installing Markers for Flood Hazards.* If property used by the general public has suffered flood damage or is located in a floodplain or flood hazard area, conspicuous markers must be installed on structures and other appropriate places to show past flood record height and the probable 100-year flood height. These must be installed where they will be readily visible to the general public visiting or using the facility.

(b) *Warning Procedures for Floods.* The Regional Director, Mail Processing Department, must develop warning and evacuation procedures for properties subject to flash floods or rapid rise floods.

§ 776.7 Disposal, lease, easement to non-federal public or private parties.

For actions involving a lease, easement right-of-way, or disposal to non-federal public or private parties, a determination whether the proposed action will occur in a floodplain or wetland must be made. If the action will

occur in a floodplain or wetland, the Postal Service must:

(a) Reference in the conveyance those uses that are restricted under identified federal, state, or local floodplain or wetland regulations; and

(b) Attach other appropriate restrictions to the use of properties by the Grantee or purchaser and any successors, which assure (1) that harm to lives, property, and the floodplain or wetland values are identified and are minimized, and (2) that floodplain or wetland values are restored and preserved, except where prohibited by law; or

(c) Withhold the property from conveyance.

§ 776.8 Public notice.

(a) Public notice of Postal Service plans for locating a proposed project in a floodplain or a wetland will be sent to: the appropriate review officials identified in the Postal Service regulations and procedures governing intergovernmental review of Postal Service facility project actions; local public officials; local newspapers; and other parties who express interest in the project.

(b) The notice must contain the information described in § 776.5(i).

(c) The public notice also must contain a provision for a 30-day public commenting period before any action is taken to acquire the site.

[46 FR 22366, Apr. 17, 1981, as amended at 48 FR 29378, June 24, 1983]

PART 777—RELOCATION ASSISTANCE AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICIES

Subpart A—General Policy, Purpose and Definitions

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777.21 General procedures.
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777.51 Acceptance of donations.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Policy, Purpose and Definitions

§ 777.11 General policy.

It is the policy of the Postal Service to comply voluntarily with the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91–646; 84 Stat. 1894), hereinafter referred to as the Act.

§ 777.12 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to update policy and procedures for the Postal Service's voluntary compliance with the Act.

§ 777.13 Definitions.

(a) *The Act.* The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Pub. L. 91–646; 84 Stat. 1894).

(b) *Business.* Any lawful activity, except a farm operation, that is:

(1) Conducted primarily for the purchase, sale, lease, and/or rental of personal and/or real property, and for the manufacturing, processing, and/or marketing of products, commodities, and/or any other personal property; or

(2) Conducted primarily for the sale of services to the public; or

(3) Solely for the purposes of reimbursing moving and related expenses,

conducted primarily for outdoor advertising display purposes, when the display(s) must be moved as a result of the project; or

(4) Conducted by a nonprofit organization that has established its nonprofit status under applicable Federal or State law.

(c) *Small business.* A business having at least one but not more than 500 employees working at the location being acquired.

(d) *Comparable Replacement Dwelling.* A dwelling which is:

(1) Decent, safe, and sanitary.

(2) Functionally similar to the displacement dwelling with particular attention to the number of rooms and living space.

(3) In an area that is not subject to unreasonably adverse environmental conditions, is not generally less desirable than the location of the displacement dwelling with respect to public utilities and commercial and public facilities, and is reasonably accessible to the displaced person's place of employment.

(4) On a site that is typical in size for residential development with normal site improvements including customary landscaping. The site need not include special improvements such as outbuildings, fences, swimming pools, and greenhouses.

(5) Currently available to the displaced person.

(6) Within the financial means of the displaced person.

(e) *Decent, Safe, and Sanitary Dwelling.* A dwelling which meets local housing and occupancy codes and the following standards, unless they are waived for good cause by the Postal Service. The dwelling must:

(1) Be structurally sound, weathertight, and in good repair.

(2) Contain a safe electrical wiring system adequate for lighting and other electrical devices.

(3) Contain a heating system capable of sustaining a healthful temperature of approximately 70 degrees except in those areas where local climatic conditions do not require such a system.

(4) Be adequate in size with respect to the number of rooms and areas of living space needed to accommodate the displaced persons. There shall be a separate, well-lighted and ventilated bathroom that provides privacy to the user and contains a bathtub or shower stall, sink, and toilet, all in good working order and properly connected to appropriate sources of water and to a sewage drainage system. In the case of a housekeeping unit—as opposed to, for example, a room in a boarding house—there shall be a kitchen area that contains a fully usable sink, properly connected to potable hot and cold water and to a sewage draining system, and adequate space and utility service connections for a stove and a refrigerator.

(5) Contain unobstructed egress to safe, open space at ground level.

(6) For displaced persons who are handicapped, be free of any barriers which would preclude their reasonable ingress, egress, or use of the dwelling.

(f) *Displaced Person.* (1) Subject to the additional definitions, limitations and exceptions in paragraph (f)(2) of this section, the term ''displaced person'' is defined as follows. (''Displaced persons'' are entitled to receive benefits only as specifically provided for elsewhere in these regulations.)

(i) A person who owns real property, and who is required to move or to move personal property from the real property following Postal Service action to obtain title to, or a leasehold interest in, such real property by the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain.

(ii) A person who is a tenant and who is required to move or to move his or her personal property from real property:

(A) Following Postal Service action to obtain the tenant's leasehold interest in such real property by the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain, or,

(B) Where the Postal Service acquires a fee interest in the property (including long-term leases of 50 years or more), as a result of a Postal Service notice of displacement or notice to vacate such real property, provided the tenant was lawfully in possession on the date title to such property transfers to the Postal Service. (The requirement that the tenant occupy such real property on the date title in such real property transfers to the Postal

Service may be waived for good cause by the Postal Service.)

(C) Where such real property was used to construct a new building for the express purpose of leasing to the Postal Service under circumstances where such tenant would have been a ''displaced person'' hereunder had the Postal Service itself acquired the land and required the removal of the tenant to undertake construction of the building for Postal Service ownership.

(iii) Where the Postal Service acquires either a fee interest or a leasehold interest in the property, a person who is a residential tenant and is or will be required to move or to move his or her property from the real property, in order for the Postal Service to accomplish the project for which the property was acquired, provided such tenant occupies such real property on the date title in such real property transfers to the Postal Service or the date the Postal Service leases or contracts to lease such property, and further provided such tenant was lawfully in possession at the time of the initiation of negotiations. (The requirement that the tenant occupy such real property on the date title in such real property transfers to the Postal Service may be waived for good cause by the Postal Service.)

(2) The term ''displaced person'' covers only persons meeting the requirements in paragraph (f)(1) of this section. The term ''displaced person'' does not cover the following non-exclusive list of examples.

(i) An owner who voluntarily sells his or her real property to the Postal Service, or,

(ii) A tenant who voluntarily transfers his or her leasehold interest to the Postal Service without the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain, or,

(iii) A tenant who is not lawfully in possession at the times for which lawful possession is specified in paragraphs (f)(1)(ii)(B) and (f)(1)(iii) of this section. A tenant who was legally required by the lease or otherwise to have moved from the property at the times specified in such paragraphs shall not be considered to be lawfully in possession.

(iv) A person who, at the determination of the Postal Service, is not required to relocate permanently, or,

(v) A person who, after receiving a notice of displacement or notice to vacate by the Postal Service, is notified in writing that he or she will not be displaced. Such later notification shall not be issued if the person has already moved. If such latter notification is issued, the Postal Service shall reimburse the person for any reasonable expenses incurred to satisfy any binding contractual relocation obligations entered into after the effective date of the notice of displacement or the notice to vacate or,

(vi) A person who is required to temporarily vacate the premises in order to permit fumigation, repair, painting, or other maintenance or code of enforcement work or,

(vii) A tenant who is required to move from real property as a result of a notice from the Postal Service to vacate such real property where such notice to vacate is issued five years or more after the date of the acquisition of such real property. A tenant who is given a notice to vacate as a result of failure to comply with the terms of his/her lease with the Postal Service or failure to renew his/her lease under prevailing market conditions is not considered to be a displaced person.

(viii) A mobile home occupant who owns the site on which the mobile home is located and who voluntarily sells the site to the Postal Service, regardless of whether such person owns or rents the mobile home.

(ix) A person whose property is acquired through a ''friendly condemnation action'' where price is not an issue.

(g) *Displacement Dwelling.* The dwelling acquired by the Postal Service from which a displaced person is required to move.

(h) *Dwelling.* The place of permanent or customary and usual residence of a person including a single family house; a single family unit in a two-family, multi-family, or multi-purpose property; a unit of a condominium or cooperative housing project; a non-housekeeping unit (i.e. room in a boarding house); a mobile home; or any other residential unit.

(i) *Family.* Two or more individuals who are related by blood, adoption, marriage, or legal guardianship who live together as a family unit. If the Postal Service considers that circumstances warrant, others who live together as a family unit may be treated as if they are a family for the purpose of determining assistance under these regulations.

(j) *Farm Operation.* Any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more types of agricultural products or commodities, including timber, for sale or home use, and customarily producing such products or commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.

(k) *Financial Means.* A comparable replacement dwelling is within the financial means of the displaced family or individual if the average monthly rental or housing cost (e.g., monthly mortgage payments, insurance for the dwelling unit, property taxes, and other reasonable recurring related expenses) which the displaced person will be required to pay does not exceed the greater of 25 percent of the monthly gross income of the displaced family or individual or the ratio of the present monthly rental or housing cost to the gross income of the displaced family or individual. (Supplemental payments made by public agencies are to be included in gross income for purposes of these comparisons.)

(l) *Initiation of Negotiations.* In the case where eminent domain is neither exercised nor threatened to be exercised, the initiation of negotiations is the initial written communication stating a price by the owner or the owner's representative to the Postal Service, or by the Postal Service to the owner or the owner's representative, regarding a proposed acquisition (by purchase or lease) or an interest in a specific piece of real property. In the case where eminent domain is either exercised or threatened to be exercised, the initiation of negotiations is the date the Postal Service makes a written offer of just compensation.

(m) *Notice of Displacement.* A notice given in writing by the Postal Service to a person that he or she will be displaced from his or her place of residence, business or farm, as a result of a facility action by the Postal Service. A notice of displacement may be combined with or in a notice to vacate.

(n) *Notice to Vacate.* A notice given in writing by the Postal Service to a person that he or she is to vacate postal owned property on or before a certain date. A notice to vacate may be combined with or in a notice of displacement.

(o) *Owner of Displacement Dwelling.* A person is considered to be an owner, if, at the initiation of negotiations, the person holds any of the following interests in real property acquired for a postal project:

(1) Fee title, a life estate, a 99-year lease, or a lease, including any options for extension, with at least 50 years to run from the date of acquisition; or

(2) An interest other than leasehold interest in a cooperative housing project which includes the right to occupy a dwelling; or

(3) A contract to purchase any of the interests or estates described in paragraph (o)(1) or (o)(2) of this section; or

(4) Any other interest, including a partial interest, which in the judgment of the Postal Service, warrants consideration as ownership.

(p) *Person.* Any individual, family, partnership, corporation, association, business or farm operation.

(q) *Personal Property.* Any tangible property, not considered part of the real property, for which payment has not been included in the acquisition cost.

(r) *Tenant.* A person who has the legal right to temporary use and occupancy of real property owned by another. In some cases, these regulations also use the term ''tenant'' to refer to a person who occupies real property owned by another but whose legal right was terminated due to a timely notice to vacate the real property used and occupied.

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 10666, Mar. 15, 1989]

§ 777.14 Certain indirect actions prohibited.

Postal employees shall take no indirect, coercive, or deceptive actions to

cause persons to move from real property in an effort to avoid the circumstances under which such persons would be eligible to receive relocation benefits as displaced persons under these regulations. If a claimant demonstrates that such prohibited action caused him or her to move, he or she will be treated as a displaced person hereunder, if he or she otherwise meets the definition of a displaced person.

Subpart B—Uniform Relocation Assistance

§ 777.21 General procedures.

(a) *Planning Prior to Site Selection.* When acquisition of a site under consideration would likely involve displacement of a person eligible under § 777.13 for relocation assistance, the Postal Service representative shall prepare a relocation needs and availability analysis. The Postal Service representative shall include in the analysis a complete inventory of persons who may be displaced and specifically identify their needs.

(b) *Planning Subsequent to Site Selection.* Subsequent to site selection, the Postal Service must review the relocation needs and availability analysis and establish a specific plan for providing the assistance covered by these regulations to any eligible displaced persons. It will further determine the necessity of establishing an on-site relocation office which would be accessible to displaced persons and would be staffed with relocation personnel qualified to render all relocation services. The Postal Service will assure that cost estimates reflect current market conditions and that funding is available for all relocation assistance and activities.

(c) *Contracting for Relocation Services.* When the Postal Service determines it to be advantageous, it may enter into a relocation assistance service contract with a public agency or private firm having expertise in relocation assistance. The contract must require the contractor to follow Postal Service relocation assistance regulations.

(d) *Notice to Vacate, Ninety Day Requirement.* Postal Service notices to vacate must be issued at least 90 days prior to the date the property must be vacated. Any such notice must be in writing and delivered in person with receipt acknowledged, or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The 90-day requirement does not apply to any such notice issued subsequent to a valid notice to vacate issued by the prior owner of the property. A 90-day notice may be given with, or such notice may be combined with, but such notice must not be given before, the notice of displacement referred to in paragraph (f) of this section.

(e) *Shorter Notice Period, Unusual Circumstances.* An occupant may be required to vacate the property on less than 90 days advance written notice if the Postal Service determines that a 90-day notice is impracticable. An example of such a situation is when the person's continued occupancy of the property would constitute a substantial danger to the person's health or safety.

(f) *Notice of Displacement.* Normally, a notice of displacement will be given at the time of acquisition or later. Such notice must not be given earlier than the time of contracting, except in the case of acquisitions by eminent domain or by the threat of eminent domain. Such notice may be given at the time of contracting or between the time of contracting and the time of acquisition if the Postal Service considers it wise to start the displacement process then and if, in the judgment of the Postal Service, it is clear that person will in fact be a displaced person.

(g) *Notice of Availability of Advisory Services.* The notice of displacement will state that relocation assistance advisory services will be available to the displaced person and will designate who will provide such services.

(h) *Eviction for cause.* Any person occupying real property and not in unlawful occupancy on the date of initiation of negotiations is presumed to be entitled to relocation payments and other assistance unless the Postal Service determines that:

(1) The person received an eviction notice prior to initiation of negotiations and, as a result of that notice, is later evicted; or

(2) The person is evicted after initiation of negotiations for serious or repeated violation of material terms of the lease or occupancy agreement; and

(3) In either case the eviction is not undertaken for the purpose of evading the obligation to make the relocation payments and other assistance available.

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 10667, Mar. 15, 1989]

§ 777.22 Relocation assistance advisory services.

(a) *General.* The Postal Service carries out an advisory assistance program for displaced persons.

(b) *Relocation Information.* The Postal Service must contact each displaced person to provide an informational statement outlining the assistance available to the particular person. If it is impracticable to contact the displaced persons personally, the informational statement must be mailed to the persons, certified mail, return receipt requested.

(c) *Time of Initial Contact to Provide Relocation Information.* The initial contact to provide relocation information must take place by the following dates:

(1) Where acquisition of the property is to occur as a result of the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain, at the time of initiation of negotiation or within 30 days thereafter.

(2) In any other instance such contact must be made prior to acquisition and prior to the notice of displacement or the notice to vacate, but it should normally not be made prior to contracting for the acquisition.

(d) *Service to be Provided.* The advisory program shall include such services as may be necessary or appropriate to:

(1) Provide current information on the availability, purchase prices, financing, and rental costs of replacement dwellings.

(2) For displaced persons eligible for replacement housing payments, explain that the displaced person cannot be required to move unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling is made available.

(i) At the request of the displaced person, the Postal Service must inform that person, in writing, of the specific comparable replacement dwelling used as the basis for the replacement housing payment offer, the price or rent used to establish the upper limit of that offer, the basis for the determination, and the amount of the replacement housing payment to which he or she may be entitled.

(ii) Where feasible, housing must be inspected by the Postal Service representative prior to its being made available to assure that it is a comparable replacement dwelling and meets the decent, safe, and sanitary standard. The displaced person must be notified that a replacement housing payment will not be made unless the replacement dwelling is inspected and determined to be decent, safe, and sanitary.

(iii) Whenever possible, minority displaced persons must be given reasonable opportunities to relocate to comparable dwellings, not located in a an area of minority concentration, that are within their financial means. This policy, however, does not require the Postal Service to provide a person a larger payment than is necessary to enable that person to relocate to a comparable replacement dwelling.

(iv) All displaced persons, especially the elderly and handicapped, must be offered transportation to inspect housing to which they are referred.

(3) Provide current and continuing information on the availability, purchase prices, and rental costs of comparable and suitable commercial and farm properties and locations, and assist any person displaced from a business or farm operation to obtain and become established in a suitable replacement location.

(4) Minimize hardships to displaced persons in adjusting to relocation by providing counseling, advice about other sources of assistance that may be available, and such other help as may be appropriate.

(5) Supply displaced persons with appropriate information concerning Federal, State, and local housing programs, disaster loan and other programs administered by the Small Business Administration, and other Federal, State, and local programs offering assistance to displaced persons.

(6) Upon selection of a replacement property by a displaced person, the Postal Service may arrange for a representative to assist the displaced person with necessary arrangements for the move.

§ 777.23 Moving expenses.

(a) *Eligibility.* (1) Residential displaced persons are entitled to benefits under paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

(2) Business and farm displaced persons are entitled to benefits under paragraphs (d) through (k) of this section.

(3) Those business or farm displaced persons who reside on the property where the business or farm operation is conducted are eligible for applicable benefits both as residents and as business or farm displaced persons, but no duplicate payments are allowed.

(4) Persons who are required to move or to move personal property from real property, an interest in which is not acquired by the Postal Service, when it is determined by the Postal Service that such move is necessary or reasonable because of the Postal Service's having acquired an interest in other real property owned or leased by such persons and on which such persons conduct a business or farm operation, under circumstances where such persons are displaced persons with regard to such other real property or would have been displaced persons with regard to such other real property had they been required to move or to move personal property from such other real property, are entitled to benefits as residential, business or farm displaced persons under paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section.

(5) Eligibility for moving expenses does not depend upon the owner's or tenant's actual occupancy of the displacement real property.

(b) *Allowable Expenses, Residential Moves.* Allowable moving expenses include:

(1) Transportation of the displaced person and his or her personal property. Transportation costs are limited to the costs of a move up to a distance of 50 miles unless the Postal Service determines that relocation beyond 50 miles is justified.

(2) Packing, crating, unpacking, and uncrating of the personal property.

(3) Disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, and reinstalling relocated household appliances and other personal property.

(4) Storage of the personal property not to exceed 12 months unless the Postal Service determines that a longer period is necessary.

(5) Reasonable costs for insurance for the replacement value of the personal property being moved or stored.

(6) When determined to be fair and reasonable by the Postal Service the replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged in the process of moving (not through the fault or negligence of the displaced person, his or her agent, or employee), but only where insurance covering such loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.

(7) Other moving related expenses that are not listed as non-allowable under paragraph (l)(3) of this section and which the Postal Service determines to be reasonable and necessary.

(c) *Fixed payment for moving expenses. residential moves.* Any person displaced from a dewlling or a seasonal residence is entitled to receive an expense and dislocation allowance as an alternative to a payment for actual moving and related expenses. This allowance shall be determined according to the applicable schedule approved by the Federal Highway Administration. This includes a provision that the expense and dislocation allowance to a person with minimal personal possessions who is in occupancy of a dormitory style room shared by two or more other unrelated persons or a person whose residential move is performed by an agency at no cost to the person shall be limited to $50.

(d) *Allowable Expenses, Business and Farm Operations.* Allowable expenses include:

(1) The expenses allowed under paragraphs (b) (2), (4), (5) and (6) of this section;

(2) Transportation of personal property. Transportation costs are limited to a distance up to 50 miles unless the Postal Service makes a finding that relocation beyond 50 miles is justified.

(3) Disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, and reinstalling relocated machinery, equipment, and other personal property, and substitute personal property as described in paragraph (d)(8) of this section. This includes connection to utilities available at the replacement site or building and minor modifications to personal property to adapt it to the replacement site or building. Excluded are expenses for providing utilities to or installing utilities at the replacement site or building and expenses for repair, alteration, improvement or modification of the replacement site or building. This exclusion includes, but is not limited to, any repairs, alterations, improvements, or modifications required by local code to bring the building up to standard.

(4) Any license, permit, or certification fee required of the displaced person by a governmental authority at the replacement location. However, this payment is limited to the pro rata value for the remaining useful life of any existing license, permit, or certification.

(5) Reasonable professional services necessary for planning the move of the personal property. Such professional services must be approved in advance by the Postal Service and shall not exceed the lowest of three acceptable bids.

(6) Relettering signs and replacing stationary on hand at the time of displacement that are made obsolete as a result of the move.

(7) Actual direct loss of tangible personal property incurred as a result of moving or discontinuing the business or farm operation. The payment will consist of the reasonable costs incurred in attempting to sell the item plus the lesser of:

(i) The fair market value of the item for continued use at the displacement site, less the proceeds from its sale. (To be eligible for this payment the claimant must make a good faith effort to sell the personal property, unless the Postal Service determines that such effort is not necessary. When payment for property loss is claimed for goods held for sale, the fair market value must be based on the cost of the goods to the business, not the potential selling price.); or

(ii) The estimated cost of moving the item no more than 50 miles, but with no allowance for storage.

(8) If an item of personal property which is used as part of a business or farm operation is not moved, is promptly replaced with a substitute item that performs a comparable function at the replacement site, the displaced person is entitled to payment of the lesser of:

(i) The cost of the substitute item, including installation costs at the replacement site, less any proceeds from the sale. (To be eligible for payments under paragraph (d)(8) of this section, the claimant must make a good faith effort to sell the personal property, unless the Postal Service determines that such effort is not necessary.)

(ii) The estimated cost of moving and reinstalling the replaced item, based on the lowest acceptable bid or estimate obtained by the Postal Service for eligible moving and related expenses, but with no allowance for storage.

(9) A displaced business or farm operation is entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses, not to exceed $1,000, which the Postal Service determines to be reasonable and which are incurred in searching for a replacement location. These expenses include transportation, meals and lodging away from home, time spent searching (based on reasonable salary or earnings) and fees paid to a real estate agent or broker to locate a replacement site, exclusive of any fees or commissions related to the purchase of such site.

(10) Other moving-related expenses, not listed as non-allowable under paragraph (l)(3) of this section, which the Postal Service determines to be reasonable and necessary.

(e) *Fixed Payment in Lieu of Moving Expenses, Business Moves.* Any displaced business, other than an outdoor advertising display business, or a non-profit organization, is eligible for a fixed payment in lieu of actual moving and related expenses. This payment must be in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business at that location, as computed under paragraph (i) of this section, but not less than $1,000 nor more than $20,000. For a displaced person to qualify for this

payment, the Postal Service must determine that:

(1) The business owns or rents personal property which must be moved in connection with such displacement and for which an expense would be incurred in such move; and, the business vacates or relocates from its displacement site; and

(2) The business cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of its existing patronage (clientele or net earnings). A business is assumed to meet this test unless the Postal Service determines that it will not suffer a substantial loss of its existing patronage; and

(3) The business is not part of a commercial enterprise having more than three other entities which are not being acquired by the Postal Service, and which are under the same ownership and engaged in the same or similar business activities.

(4) The business contributed materially to the income of the displaced person during the 2 taxable years prior to displacement (see paragraph (h) of this section). However, the Postal Service may waive this test for good cause.

(5) The business is not operated at a displacement dwelling solely for the purpose of renting such dwelling to others.

(f) *Determining the Number of Businesses.* In determining whether two or more displaced legal entities constitute a single business which is entitled to only one fixed payment, all pertinent factors shall be considered, including the extent to which:

(1) The same premises and equipment are shared;

(2) Substantially identical or interrelated business functions are carried out and business and finacial affairs are commingled;

(3) The entities are held out to the public, and to those customarily dealing with them, as one business; and

(4) The same person or closely related persons own, control, or manage the affairs of the entities.

(g) *Fixed Payment in Lieu of Moving Expenses, Farm Operation.* Any displaced farm operation may choose a fixed payment in lieu of a payment for actual moving and related expenses in an amount equal to its average annual net earnings as computed in accordance with paragraph (i) of this section, but not less than $1,000 nor more than $20,000. For a displaced person to qualify for this payment, the Postal Service must determine that the farm operation contributed materially to the income of the displaced person during the two taxable years prior to the displacement (see paragraph (h) of this section). In the case of acquisition of land which was part of a farm operation before the acquisition, the fixed payment shall be made only if the Postal Service determines that:

(1) The acquisition of part of the land caused the operator to be displaced from the operation on the remaining land; or

(2) The partial acquisition caused a substantial change in the nature of the farm operation.

(h) *Contributes materially.* The term ''contributes materially,'' as used in paragraphs (e) and (g) of this section means that, during the 2 taxable years prior to the taxable year in which displacement occurs, or during such other period as the Postal Service determines to be more equitable, a business or farm operation:

(1) Had average annual gross receipts of at least $5,000; or

(2) Had average annual net earnings of at least $1,000; or

(3) Contributed at least 33⅓ percent of the owner's or operator's average annual gross income from all sources.

(4) If the application of the above criteria creates an inequity or hardship in any given case, the Postal Service may approve the use of other criteria as determined appropriate.

(i) *Average Annual Net Earnings of a Business or Farm Operation.* The average annual net earnings of a business or farm operation are one-half of its net earnings before Federal, State, and local income taxes during the 2 taxable years immediately prior to the taxable year in which it was displaced. If the business or farm was not in operation for the full 2 taxable years prior to displacement, net earnings shall be based on the actual period of operation at the displacement site during the 2 taxable years prior to displacement, projected to an annual rate. Average annual net earnings may be based upon a different

period of time when the Postal Service determines it to be more equitable. Net earnings include any compensation obtained from the business or farm operation by its owner, the owner's spouse, and dependents. The displaced person shall furnish the Postal Service proof of net earnings through income tax returns, certified financial statements, or other reasonable evidence which the Postal Service determines is satisfactory.

(j) *Nonprofit Organizations.* Any displaced nonprofit organization may choose a fixed payment in lieu of a payment for actual moving and related expenses in an amount of $2,500, if the Postal Service determines that it:

(1) Cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of existing patronage (membership or clientele). A nonprofit organization is assumed to meet this test, unless the Postal Service demonstrates otherwise; and

(2) Is not part of an enterprise having at least one other establishment engaged in the same or similar activity which is not being acquired by the Postal Service.

(k) *Relocation of Outdoor Advertising Signs.* The amount of a payment for direct loss of an advertising sign which is personal property is the lesser of:

(1) The depreciated replacement cost of the sign, as determined by the Postal Service, less the proceeds from its sale; (To be eligible for payments under this paragraph (k)(1), the claimant must make a good faith effort to sell the sign, unless the Postal Service determines that such effort is not necessary.) or

(2) The estimated cost of moving the sign, no more than 50 miles, but with no allowance for storage.

(l) *Payment for actual reasonable reestablishment expenses, nonresidential moves.* In addition to the payments available as allowable expenses for nonresidential moves, a small business, farm or non-profit organization may be eligible to receive a payment, not to exceed $10,000 for expenses actually incurred in relocating and reestablishing such small business, farm or non-profit organization at a replacement site.

(1) *Allowable expenses.* Reestablishment expenses must be reasonable and necessary, as determined by the Postal Service. They may include the following:

(i) Repairs or improvements to the replacement real property as required by federal, state, local law, code or ordinance.

(ii) Modifications to the replacement property to accommodate the business operation or make replacement structures suitable for occupancy.

(iii) Construction and installation costs not to exceed $1,500 for exterior signing to advertise the business.

(iv) Installation of security or fire protection devices.

(v) Provision of utilities from right-of-way to improvements on the replacement site.

(vi) Redecoration or replacement of soiled or worn surfaces at the replacement site, such as paint, panelling or carpeting.

(vii) Licenses, fees and permits when not paid as part of the moving expenses.

(viii) Feasibility surveys, soil testing and marketing studies.

(ix) Advertisement of replacement location, not to exceed $1,500

(x) Professional services in connection with the purchase or lease of a replacement site.

(xi) Increased costs of operation during the first two years at the replacement site, not to exceed $5,000, for such items as lease or rental charges, personal or real property taxes, insurance premiums, utility charges including impact fees or one time assessments for anticipated heavy utility usage.

(xii) Other items that the Postal Service considers essential to the reestablishment of the business.

(2) *Non-allowable expenses.* Following is a non-exclusive listing of restablishment expenditures not considered to be reasonable, necessary or otherwise allowable.

(i) Purchase of capital assets such as office furniture, filing cabinets, machinery, or trade fixtures.

(ii) Purchase of manufacturing materials, production supplies, product inventory, or other items used in the normal course of the business operation.

(iii) Interior or exterior refurbishment at the replacement site which are for cosmetic purposes only.

(iv) Interest on money borrowed to make the move or purchase the replacement property.

(v) Payment to a part-time business in the home which does not contribute materially to the household income.

(vi) Payment to a person whose sole business at a replacement dwelling is the rental of such dwelling to others.

(m) *General Provisions*—(1) *Self moves.* If the displaced person elects to take full responsibility for all or a part of the move, the Postal Service may approve a payment for the person's moving expenses in an amount not to exceed the lowest of three bids acceptable to the Postal Service. Bids may be obtained by either the displaced person or the Postal Service.

(2) *Transfer of Ownership.* Upon request by the Postal Service and in accordance with applicable law, the displaced person may transfer to the Postal Service ownership of any personal property that is not to be moved, sold, or traded-in by executing a disclaimer of all rights or interest in the property.

(3) *Non-Allowable Expenses.* Except as specifically otherwise provided herein, a displaced person is not entitled to payment for:

(i) The cost of moving any structure or other real property improvement.

(ii) Loss of goodwill.

(iii) Loss of profits.

(iv) Loss of trained employees.

(v) Any additional operating expenses of a business or farm operation caused by operating in a new location.

(vi) Personal injury.

(vii) Any legal fee or other cost for perparing a claim for a relocation payment or for representing the displaced person before the Postal Service.

(viii) Expenses for searching for a replacement dwelling.

(ix) Costs for storage of personal property on real property owned or leased by the displaced person.

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§777.24 Replacement housing payments.

(a) Residential displaced persons are eligible for replacement housing payments as follows:

(1) Residential displaced persons who lawfully and continuously owned and occupied a displacement dwelling for not less than 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiations are entitled to the benefits set out in paragraph (b) of this section. Such displaced persons may alternately choose the benefits under paragraph (f) of this section.

(2) Residential displaced persons who lawfully and continuously owned and occupied, and residential displaced persons who were tenants and lawfully and continously occupied, a displacement dwelling for not less than 90 days prior to the initiation of negotiations are entitled to the benefits set out in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) Where the replacement housing payment provided hereunder does not provide for housing within the financial means (see §777.13(j)) of the displaced person, see §777.27, Last Resort Housing.

(b) *Benefits for 180 Day Owner Occupants.* Displaced persons eligible under paragraph (a)(1) of this section are entitled to benefits as set out below:

(1) An amount which is the sum of:

(i) The amount which must be added to the acquisition cost of the displacement dwelling to provide a total amount equal to the lesser of:

(A) The reasonable cost of a comparable replacement dwelling as determined by paragraph (c) of this section; or

(B) The purchase price of a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling actually purchased and occupied by the displaced person; plus

(ii) Interest Cost (see paragraph (d) of this section); plus

(iii) Incidental Expenses (see paragraph (h) of this section).

(2) The benefits in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, are limited to a maximum payment of $22,500.

(3) The benefits in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, are available only if a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling is purchased within 12 months after the latter of:

(i) The date of acquisition or, in the case of condemnation, the date the required amount is deposited in a court for the displaced person's benefit, or

(ii) The date the person moves from the displacement dwelling.

(c) *Determining the Cost of a Comparable Replacement Dwelling.* The cost of a comparable replacement dwelling for purposes of benefits to be paid to 180 day owner occupants will be determined by applying the following:

(1) If available, at least three representative comparable replacement dwellings must be examined and the payment offer computed on the cost of the fair market value of the dwelling most closely comparable to the displacement dwelling.

(2) To the extent, feasible, comparable replacement dwellings will be selected from the neighborhood in which the displacement dwelling was located. If this is not possible, comparable replacement dwellings will be selected from nearby or similar neighborhoods where housing costs are similar.

(d) *Increased Mortgage Interest Costs.* The amount to be paid to a displaced 180 day owner occupant for increased mortgage interest costs is the amount, if any, by which the present value of the interest on the mortgage loan(s) on the replacement dwelling plus any other debt service costs exceeds the present value of the interest on the mortgage loan(s) on the displacement dwelling plus purchaser's points and loan origination fees, subject to the following:

(1) The payment must be based only on bona fide mortgages that were a valid lien on the displacement dwelling for at least 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiations. All such mortgages on the displacement dwelling must be used to compute the payment.

(2) The payment must be based on the unpaid mortgage balance on the displacement dwelling or the new mortgage amount, whichever is less.

(3) The payment must be based on the remaining term of the mortgage on the displacement dwelling or the actual term of the new mortgage, whichever is shorter.

(4) The new mortgage must be a bona fide mortgage and its interest rate must not exceed the prevailing interest rate currently charged by mortgage lending institutions in the area in which the replacement dwelling is located.

(5) The discount rate used to compute the present value of the increased interest cost must be the prevailing interest rate paid on demand savings deposits by commercial banks in the area in which the replacement dwelling is located.

(6) Purchaser's points and loan origination fees, but not seller's points, are reimbursable to the extent they are not paid as incidental expenses, they do not exceed rates normal to similar real estate transactions in the area, and the Postal Service determines them to be necessary. The computation of such points and fees shall be based on the unpaid mortgage balance on the displacement dwelling, or the new mortgage amount, whichever is less.

(e) *Benefits for 90 Day Owner Occupant and Tenants.* Displaced persons eligible under paragraph (a)(2) of this section are entitled to benefits as set out below:

(1) Rental assistance benefits, as set out in paragraph (f) of this section or downpayment assistane benefits, as set out in paragraph (g) of this section.

(2) The benefits in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, are limited to $5,250.

(3) The benefits in (e)(1) above are available only if a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling is purchased or rented within 12 months after the latter of:

(i) The date of acquisition or, in the case of condemnation, the date the required amount is deposited in the court for the displaced person's benefit, or

(ii) The date the person moves from the displacement dwelling.

(f) *Rental Assistance.* The rental assistance benefits, not to exceed $5,250, for 90 day owner occupants and tenants will be computed as follows:

(1) The amount which must be added to 42 times the average monthly rental paid at the displacement dwelling (or, if the displaced person is an owner occupant, the fair market rental value had the displacement dwelling been rented) for the three-month period prior to displacement to provide a total amount equal to the lesser of:

(i) 42 times the reasonable monthly rental of a comparable replacement dwelling; or

(ii) 42 times the actual monthly rental cost of the decent, safe, and sanitary

dwelling actually rented and occupied by the displaced person.

(2) If utilities are included in either the replacement dwelling or the displacement dwelling rent, appropriate utilities must be factored into both rentals. If utilities are not included in either monthly rental then the payment will be computed using the base rental rates.

(3) If, in the opinion of the Postal Service, the monthly rental at the displacement dwelling is significantly below the fair market rent of the displacement dwelling, such fair market rent must be used in computing the rental assistance payment.

(4) The payment under this section must be disbursed in a lump-sum amount unless the Postal Service determines on a case-by-case basis, for good cause, that the payment should be made in installments. Where the rental assistance payment exceeds $5,250 under the provisions of Last Resort Housing, (§ 777.27), installment payments or payments through escrow accounts may be considered.

(g) *Downpayment assistance.* Downpayment assistance, not to exceed $5,250, is available to 90 day owner occupants and 90 day tenants. This $5,250 amount may be considered to include the full amount of the required downpayment and incidental expenses.

(h) *Incidental Expenses.* Incidental expenses covered under paragraph (b)(1)(iii) or (g) of this section are those reasonable costs actually incurred by the displaced person incident to the purchase of a replacement dwelling and customarily paid by the buyer (not to exceed the costs of such for a comparable replacement dwelling). They include:

(1) Legal, closing, and related costs, including those for title search and insurance, preparing conveyance instruments, notary fees, preparing surveys and plats, and recording fees.

(2) Lender, FHA, or VA appraisal fees.

(3) FHA or VA application fee.

(4) Certification of structural soundness when required by the lender.

(5) Credit report.

(6) Owner's and mortgagee's evidence or assurance of title.

(7) Escrow agent's fee.

(8) State revenue or documentary stamps, sales or transfer taxes.

(9) Such other costs as the Postal Service determines to be incidental to the purchase.

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 52 FR 48029, Dec. 17, 1987]

§ 777.25 Additional rules for replacement housing payments.

(a) *Multiple Owners.* When a single family dwelling is owned by more than one person and occupied by only some of the 180 day owners (for example, when the dwelling is owned by an estate and only one of the heirs is in occupancy), the occupant(s) is (are) eligible to receive a maximum total price differential which is the lesser of:

(1) The difference between (i) the reasonable cost of a comparable replacement dwelling, as determined under § 777.24(c) and (ii) the acquisition cost of the displacement dwelling; or

(2) The difference between (i) the occupant's share of the acquisition cost of the displacement dwelling and (ii) the purchase price of a decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwelling actually purchased and occupied by the displaced person.

(b) *Multiple Occupants of One Displacement Dwelling.* If two or more occupants of the displacement dwelling move to separate replacement dwellings, each occupant is entitled to a reasonable prorated share, as determined by the Postal Service, of any relocation payments that would have been made if the occupants moved together to a comparable replacement dwelling. However, if the Postal Service determines that two or more occupants maintained separate households within the same dwelling, such occupants have separate entitlements to relocation payments.

(c) *Mixed Use and Multi-Family Properties Acquired.* If the displacement dwelling was part of a property that contained another dwelling unit or space used for non-residential purposes, or if it is located on a lot larger than that typical for residential purposes, only that portion of the acquisition payment which is actually attributable to the displacement dwelling and site can be considered its acquisition cost when computing the price differential.

(d) *Disaster-Related Insurance Proceeds.* To the extent necessary to avoid duplicate compensation, the amount of any insurance proceeds received by a person in connection with a disaster related loss to the displacement dwelling must be included in the acquisition cost of the displacement dwelling when computing the price differential.

(e) *Inspection of Replacement Dwelling.* Before making a replacement housing payment or releasing a payment from escrow, the Postal Service must inspect the replacement dwelling and determine that it is a decent, safe, and sanitary dwelling.

(f) *Purchase of Replacement Dwelling.* A displaced person is considered to have met the requirement to purchase a replacement dwelling if the person has purchased an existing dwelling; purchased and rahabilitated or moved and restored an existing dwelling; or constructed a new dwelling, provided in each instance the dwelling is determined to be decent, safe and sanitary.

(g) *Conversion of Payment.* A displaced person who initially rents a replacement dwelling and receives a rental assistance payment may, within the required 12 month eligibility period, purchase a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling. In such case, he or she is eligible to revise his or her original claim, and claim any additional assistance for which he or she was originally eligible. However, any portion of the rental assistance payment that has been disbursed must be deducted from the resultant replacement housing payment or downpayment assistance payment.

(h) *Payment After Death.* A replacement housing payment is personal to the displaced person. Upon his or her death, the undisbursed portion of any such payment shall not be paid to the heirs or assigns, except that:

(1) The amount attributable to the displaced person's period of actual occupancy of the replacement housing will be paid.

(2) The full payment must be disbursed in any case in which a member of a displaced family dies and other family members continue to occupy the replacement dwelling selected in accordance with these regulations.

(3) Any portion of a replacement housing payment necessary to satisfy the legal obligation of an estate in connection with the selection of a replacement dwelling by or on behalf of a deceased person must be disbursed to the estate.

(i) *180 Day Owner Retention of Displacement Dwelling.* If a 180 day owner occupant retains ownership of his or her dwelling or the right to move his or her dwelling from the displacement site, and he or she moves it and reoccupies it on a replacement site, the cost of the actual replacement dwelling to be computed for purposes of § 777.24(b)(1)(i)(A) (not to exceed the purchase price of a comparable replacement dwelling) will be the sum of:

(1) The expenses of moving and restoring the retained dwelling to a condition comparable to that prior to the move; and

(2) The salvage or other value deducted from the acquisition cost for the retained ownership; and

(3) Additional costs, if necessary, incurred to make the unit a decent, safe, and sanitary replacement dwelling; and

(4) The cost of the replacement site, not to exceed the cost of a comparable available and suitable replacement site.

(j) *90 Day Owner/Retention of Displacement Dwelling.* A 90 day owner occupant who retains ownership of his or her dwelling or the right to remove his or her dwelling may receive the benefits as if he or she were a 180 day owner occupant subject, however, to a limitation of $5,250 on maximum benefits in lieu of the $22,500 limitation set out in paragraph § 777.24(b)(2).

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 10668, Mar. 15, 1989]

§ 777.26 Mobile homes.

(a) *Moving Expenses.* Displaced persons who are occupants of mobile homes are eligible for moving expenses under § 777.23 subject to the following:

(1) If the person owns the mobile home, moving expenses may, at the owner's option, include any reasonable costs incurred to move the mobile home to a replacement site, plus the reasonable cost of disassembling, moving, and reassembling any attached appurtenances (such as porches, decks,

skirting, and awnings) which were not acquired, anchoring of the unit, and utility ''hook-up charges.''

(2) If the person rents the mobile home, the Postal Service may allow the person moving expense benefits for moving the mobile home as if the person were an owner of the mobile home under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(3) If costs of moving a mobile home are paid as moving expenses under paragraph (a)(1) or (2) of this section, the person may not receive housing assistance benefits hereunder, other than any benefits to which they are entitled that are limited to the site of the mobile home.

(4) Displaced occupants of mobile homes are eligible for moving expenses for personal property other than the mobile home and its appurtenances, but only to the extent the Postal Service does not pay the costs of moving the mobile home (either as moving expenses or replacement housing payments or, if it does pay such costs, the personal property is of a type that is customarily moved separately from the mobile home.)

(b) *Replacement Housing Payments.* Displaced persons who are 180 day or 90 day occupants of mobile homes qualify for replacement housing payments under §777.24 subject to the following:

(1) If the displaced person owns the mobile home and owns the site, the person is eligible for benefits under either §777.24 (b) or (e).

(2) If the displaced person rents the mobile home and rents the site the person is eligible for benefits under §777.24(e).

(3) If the displaced person rents the mobile home and owns the site the person is eligible for benefits under §777.24(e), with regard to the mobile home and to benefits under §777.24(b) with regard to the site, subject to a limitation on the home and site benefits combined of $22,500. (Persons who voluntarily sell mobile home sites are not displaced persons and are not entitled to benefits under Subpart B. See §777.13(e)(2)(viii)).

(4) If the displaced person owns the mobile home and rents the site the person is eligible for benefits under either §777.24 (b) or (e) with regard to the mobile home and to benefits as a tenant under §777.24(e) with regard to the site, subject to a limitation on home and site benefits combined of $5,250.

(c) *Special Rules for Mobile Homes.* (1) In computing replacement housing payments for mobile home owners under paragraph (b) of this section, apply the terms of §777.25 (i) and (j) as appropriate, to transactions involving moving the mobile home to a new site.

(2) The acquisition of a portion of a mobile home park may leave a remainder that is not adequate to continue the operation of the park. When the Postal Service determines that its acquisition of the real property has had this effect and that for this reason a mobile home occupant located on the remaining part of the property is required to move, such occupant shall be considered a displaced person under these regulations and shall be entitled to such benefits hereunder as the person would otherwise qualify.

[[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 52 FR 48029, Dec. 17, 1987]

§777.27 Last resort housing.

(a) *Basic Determination to Provide Last Resort Housing.* A displaced person cannot be required to move from his or her dwelling unless at least one comparable replacement dwelling is made available to him or her which is within his or her financial means. When such comparable replacement dwelling is not available, additional measures may be taken to provide for ''last resort'' housing for eligible displaced persons.

(b) *Basic Rights of Persons to be Displaced.* The provisions of this section do not deprive any displaced person of any rights the person may have under these regulations such as the right to accept the maximum replacement housing payment available under these regulations and to move to a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling even if such dwelling is beyond the person's financial means.

(c) *Methods of Providing Replacement Housing.* The Postal Service has broad latitude in implementing this section, but implementation must be on a reasonable cost basis. The Postal Service may provide last resort housing using the following methods:

(1) Rehabilitation of and/or additions to an existing replacement dwelling.

(2) The construction of a new replacement dwelling.

(3) The provision of a direct loan which requires regular amortization or deferred repayment. Terms of such loan will be at the discretion of the Postal Service.

(4) A replacement housing payment in excess of the $5,250 and $22,500 limitations contained in § 777.24. A rental subsidy under this section may be provided in installments.

(5) The relocation and any needed rehabilitation of a replacement dwelling.

(6) The purchase or lease of land and/or a replacement dwelling by the Postal Service and subsequent sale or lease to, or exchange with, a displaced person.

(7) The removal of barriers to the handicapped.

(8) Any other method determined by the Postal Service to be reasonable.

(d) *Proof of Financial Need.* Last Resort Housing benefits exceeding the limitations under § 777.24(b)(2) and § 777.24(e)(2) will not be paid unless required to provide housing within the displaced person's financial means. To establish financial means, the displaced person must furnish the Postal Service proof of gross monthly income through income tax returns, certified financial statements or other reasonable evidence which the Postal Service determines is satisfactory.

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 52 FR 48029, Dec. 17, 1987]

§ 777.28 Claims and appeals.

(a) *Preparation of Claim.* The relocation representative should assist eligible displaced persons in the preparation of claims for moving assistance and relocation housing assistance. Preliminary review should be conducted in the field by the relocation representative with the displaced person, to preclude technical difficulties in processing the claim at a higher level.

(b) *Documentation.* Any claim for a relocation payment must be supported by such documentation as may be required to support the claim, for example the length of occupancy at the displacement dwelling, the rent paid at the displacement dwelling, expenses incurred in relocating, etc. A displaced person must be provided reasonable assistance to complete and file any required claim.

(c) *Time for Filing.* All claims must be filed with the Postal Service within 18 months after the date of the actual move from the displacement property.

(d) *Review, Approval and Payment.* The Postal Service will review claims within 60 days of submission and approve or disapprove payment. Upon approval or partial approval of the displaced person's claim, the Postal Service will promptly authorize payment of the approved amount. The certification that the claimant has occupied decent, safe, and sanitary housing must be completed prior to final payment of replacement housing payments.

(e) *Relocation Payments Not Considered as Income.* Upon approval of the claim and delivery of the relocation payment, the displaced person must be advised that no relocation payment made under these procedures shall be considered as income for the purpose of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or for the purpose of determining the eligibility or the extent of eligibility of any person for assistance under the Social Security Act or any other Federal Law.

(f) *Certification.* Certification that a person is displaced will be provided any agency requiring such information to assist that person under any Federal law or program.

(g) *Advance of Funds.* If the displaced person cannot arrange for the acquisition of a replacement property because of financial problems and the problems would be solved by an advance of funds, the Postal Service may determine the estimated amount of the actual claim and authorize an advance of that amount or a portion thereof. The displaced person will be fully informed in writing that his or her final claim will then be subject to adjustment. Advance payments should not be made to persons with a history of financial irresponsibility.

(h) *Money Owed to the Postal Service.* In cases of Postal Service leasing the acquired property to a displaced persons, or in cases of advance moving cost payments, any monies due the Postal Service by the displaced person and not paid before the remainder of the relocation payments are made

must be deducted from such payments and the relocation file so documented.

(i) *Notice of Denial of Claim.* If the Postal Service disapproves all or part of a payment claimed, of refuses to consider the claim on its merits because of untimely filing or other grounds, it must promptly notify the claimant in writing of the determination, the basis for the determination, and the procedures for appealing the determination.

(j) *Appeal Procedure.* If a displaced person wishes to file an appeal:

(1) The appeal must be in writing.

(2) The appeal must be directed to the General Manager, Real Estate Division, and must set forth the displaced person's reasons for the appeal. (The General Manager shall not have taken part in the decision which led to the appeal. Appeals misdirected to others must be forwarded immediately to the General Manager with notification of the forwarding to the appellant.)

(3) The appeal must be submitted within 60 days after the displaced person receives written notification of the Postal Service's original determination concerning the displacee's claim. The Postal Service may extend this time limit for good cause.

(k) *Right of Representation.* A displaced person has a right to be represented by legal counsel or other representative in connection with his or her appeal, but solely at the person's own expense.

(l) *Review of Files by Appellant.* The Postal Service must permit a person to inspect and copy all materials pertinent to his or her appeal, except materials which are confidential. Such inspection will be permitted as allowed under the Freedom of Information Act, 39 CFR Part 265.

(m) *Scope of Review.* In deciding an appeal, the Postal Service must consider all pertinent justification and other material submitted by the displaced person and all other available information that is needed to ensure a fair and full review of the appeal.

(n) *Determination and Notification After Appeal.* Promptly after receipt of all supporting information submitted by the appellant, the General Manager, Real Estate Division, must make a written determination on the appeal, including the basis on which the decision was made, and furnish the appellant a copy. If the full relief requested is not granted at the Service Center level, the General Manager, Real Estate Division, must advise the person of his or her right to appeal the decision to the Director, Office of Real Estate. The rules stated here for appeals to the General Manager apply as well as to appeals to the Director, Office of Real Estate.

[51 FR 6983, Feb. 27, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 10668, Mar. 15, 1989]

Subpart C—Acquisition

§ 777.31 Acquisition procedures.

(a) *Policy; Application of Section.* The Postal Service, as a matter of policy, acquires interests in real property through voluntary agreements with owners. Only under unusual and compelling circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, does the Postal Service acquire real property through the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain. This policy does not, however, prevent the Postal Service from occasionally entering into mutually agreeable condemnation proceedings with an owner, where price is not an issue, and for such purposes as to clear title or to acquire property from certain elected officials. For the purposes of this section, the Postal Service does not consider such voluntary and mutually agreeable uses of condemnation proceedings as the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain. The following regulations apply only to acquisitions by the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain:

(1) *Notice to Owner.* As soon as feasible after deciding to acquire a specific property through the exercise of eminent domain, the Postal Service must notify the owner of its intent to acquire the property.

(2) *Expeditious Negotiations.* The Postal Service must make every reasonable effort to acquire real property expeditiously by negotiation.

(3) *Appraisal and Invitation to Owner.* Before the initiation of negotiations, the real property shall be appraised in accordance with Postal Service appraisal standards as outlined in RE–1

and the owner or the owner's designated agent shall be given an opportunity to accompany the appraiser during the appraiser's inspection of the property.

(4) *Establishment of Offer of Just Compensation.* Prior to the initiation of negotiations (see § 777.13(k) for definition) the Postal Service must establish an amount which it believes is just compensation for the real property rights be acquired. The amount must not be less than the approved appraisal of the fair market value, including damages or benefits to the remaining property. Appraisers shall not give consideration to, or include in their real property appraisals, any allowances for the benefits provided by title II of the Act.

(5) *Summary Statement.* Promptly after determining fair market value, the Postal Service shall make a written offer to acquire the property for the full amount believed to be just compensation. Along with the written purchase offer, the owner must be given a written statement of the basis for the offer of just compensation. This statement must include:

(i) A statement of the amount offered as just compensation. In the case of a partial acquisition, the compensation for the real property to be acquired and the compensation for damages, if any, must be separately stated.

(ii) The location and description of the real property and the interest(s) to be acquired.

(iii) An identification of the buildings, structures, and other improvements (including removable building equipment and trade fixtures) which are considered part of the real property for which the offer of just compensation is made. Where appropriate, the statement shall identify and separately held ownership interest in the improvement(s), for example, a tenant-owned improvement.

(6) *Basic Negotiation Procedures.* The Postal Service must make every reasonable effort to contact the owner or the owner's representative and:

(i) Discuss the Postal Service's offer to purchase the property including the basis for the offer of just compensation, and;

(ii) Explain Postal Service acquisition policies and procedures including the provisions for the payment of incidental expenses as described under § 777.33.

(7) *Opportunity to Consider Offer.* The owner must be given a reasonable opportunity to consider the Postal Service's offer, to present material which he or she believes is relevant to determining the value of the property, and to suggest modification in the proposed terms and conditions of the purchase. The Postal Service must consider the owner's presentation.

(8) *Updating Offer of Just Compensation.* If the information presented by the owner or a material change in the character or condition of the property indicates the need for new appraisal information, or if a significant delay has occurred since the time of the appraisal(s) of the property, the Postal Service must have the appraisal(s) updated or obtain a new appraisal(s). If the latest appraisal information indicates that a change in the purchase offer is warranted, the Postal Service must promptly reestablish just compensation and offer the revised amount to the owner in writing.

(9) *Contracts and Options.* Contracts to purchase shall cover only those items related to the acquisition of the property, and not incorporate provisions for making payments for relocation costs or related costs under title II of these regulations.

(10) *Title II Benefits Not To Be Considered.* In the event of condemnation, estimated compensation shall be determined solely on the basis of the appraised value of the real property with no consideration being given to or reference contained therein to the payments to be made under title II.

(11) *Coercive Action.* The Postal Service shall not advance the time of condemnation, or defer negotiations or condemnation, or the deposit of funds with the court, or take any other coercive action in order to induce an agreement on the price to be paid for the property.

(12) *Inverse Condemnation.* If the Postal Service intends to acquire any interest in real property by exercise of the

power of eminent domain, it must institute formal condemnation proceedings and not intentionally make it necessary for the owner to institute proceedings to prove the fact of the taking of the real property.

(13) *Payment Before Taking Possession.* Before requiring the owner to surrender possession of the real property, the Postal Service must either:

(i) Pay the agreed purchase price to the owner; or

(ii) In the case of a condemnation proceeding, deposit with the court for the benefit of the owner an amount not less than the amount of the approved appraised value of the property or the amount of the award of compensation in the condemnation proceeding for the property.

(14) *Right-of-Entry.* With the prior approval of the owner, the Postal Service may obtain a right-of-entry before making payment to the owner.

§ 777.32 Acquisition of tenant-owned improvements.

(a) *Acquisition of Improvements.* When acquiring any interest in real property, the Postal Service must acquire at least an equal interest in all buildings, structures, or other improvements located upon the real property. This must include any improvement of a tenant owner who has the right or obligation to remove the improvement at the expiration of the lease term.

(b) *Special Conditions.* Payment for tenant-owned improvements will be made to the tenant only if he or she meets the following conditions:

(1) In consideration for the payment the tenant-owner assigns, transfers, and releases to the Postal Service all of the tenant-owner's rights, title, and interests in the improvement;

(2) The owner of the real property on which the improvement is located disclaims all interest in the improvement; and

(3) The payment does not result in the duplication of any compensation otherwise authorized by law.

(c) *Preservation of Tenant's Rights.* Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive the tenant-owner of any rights to reject payment under this section and to obtain payment for such property interests in accordance with other applicable law.

§ 777.33 Expenses incidental to transfer of title to the Postal Service.

(a) *Reimbursement.* When property is acquired through the exercise or the threat of the exercise of eminent domain, the owner shall be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses he or she necessarily incurred in conveying the real property to the Postal Service for:

(1) Recording fees, transfer taxes, documentary stamps, evidence of title, boundary surveys, legal descriptions of the real property, and similar incidental expenses. However, the Postal Service will not pay costs solely required to perfect the owner's title to the real property.

(2) Penalty costs and other charges for prepayment of any preexisting recorded mortgage, entered into in good faith, encumbering the real property.

(3) The pro rata portion of any prepaid real property taxes which are allocable to the period after the Postal Service obtains title to the property or effective possession of it, whichever is earlier.

(b) *Direct Payment.* Whenever feasible the Postal Service must pay these costs directly and thus avoid the need for an owner to pay such costs and then seek reimbursement from the Postal Service.

(c) *Certain Litigation Expenses.* The owner of the real property acquired must be reimbursed any reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney, appraisal, and engineering fees which the owner actually incurred because of a condemnation proceeding if:

(1) The final judgment of the court is that the Postal Service cannot acquire the real property by condemnation; or

(2) The condemnation proceeding is abandoned by the Postal Service other than under an agreed-upon settlement; or

(3) The court having jurisdiction renders a judgment in favor of the owner in an inverse condemnation proceeding or the Postal Service effects a settlement of such a proceeding.

Subpart D—Voluntary Acquisitions

§ 777.41 Acquisition procedures.

(a) *Voluntary Acquisitions.* Acquisition rules for voluntary purchases are set out in Handbook RE–1, Realty Acquisition and Management and cover such areas as appraisal and negotiation procedures.

(b) *Tenant-Owned Improvements.* In general the Postal Service deals exclusively with the fee owner on the acquisition of all real property interest at the site. The Postal Service may, however, in exceptional cases deal directly with a tenant on a leasehold improvements matter. Should the Postal Service acquire the fee interest without acquiring rights in a leasehold improvement under circumstances in which the tenant would be entitled to compensation under § 777.32 of this part, if the acquisition were by eminent domain or the under threat thereof, the tenant will be entitled to the benefits that would, under such circumstances, have been paid under § 777.32 of this part, unless the tenant has formally disclaimed further right in the real property improvement beyond the time of the expiration of his or her tenancy.

Subpart E—Donations

§ 777.51 Acceptance of donations.

Nothing in these regulations shall prevent a person from making a gift or donation of real property or any part thereof, or any interest therein, or of any compensation paid therefor, to the Postal Service. The Postal Service may obtain an appraisal of the real property for income tax or other purposes if the owner thereof requests the Postal Service to do so.

PART 778—INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF POSTAL SERVICE FACILITY ACTIONS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 48 FR 29376, June 24, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

§ 778.1 What is the purpose of these regulations?

(a) The regulations in this part implement Executive Order 12372, ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,'' issued July 14, 1982 and amended on April 8, 1983. These regulations also implement applicable provisions of section 401 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968, which the Postal Service follows as a matter of policy.

(b) These regulations are intended to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened Federalism by relying on state processes and on state, areawide, regional and local coordination for review of proposed direct federal development projects.

(c) These regulations are not intended to create any right or benefit enforceable at law by a party against the Postal Service or its officers.

(d) These regulations implement Executive Order 12372 and are adopted under the Postal Reorganization Act rather than the statute and Executive Order listed in paragraph (a) of this section to the extent the statute and Executive Order do not apply to the Postal Service under 39 U.S.C. 410(a).

§778.2 What definitions apply to these regulations?

Order means Executive Order 12372, issued July 14, 1982, and amended April 8, 1983, and titled ''Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.''

State means any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

§778.3 What categories of facility project actions of the Postal Service are subject to these regulations?

The Postal Service publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER a list of its categories of facility project actions that are subject to these regulations.

§778.4 What are the Postal Service's general responsibilities under the Order?

(a) The Postal Service provides opportunities for consultation by elected officials of those state and local governments that would be directly affected by the Postal Service's facility project actions.

(b) If a state adopts a process under the Order to review and coordinate proposed direct Federal development projects, the Postal Service, to the extent permitted by law:

(1) Uses the state process to determine official views of state and local elected officials;

(2) Communicates with state and local elected officials as early in a facility project action's planning cycle as is reasonably feasible to explain specific plans and actions;

(3) Makes efforts to accommodate state and local elected officials' concerns with proposed direct Federal development projects that are communicated through the state process; and

(4)–(5) [Reserved]

(6) Seeks the coordination of views of affected state and local elected officials in one state with those of another state when a proposed direct Federal development project has an impact on interstate metropolitan urban centers or other interstate areas.

§778.5 What is the Postal Service's obligation with respect to federal interagency coordination?

The Postal Service, to the extent practicable, consults with and seeks advice from other federal departments and agencies substantially affected by Postal Service facility project actions covered under these regulations.

§778.6 What procedures apply to a state's choice of facility action categories under these regulations?

(a) A state may select any categories of facility project actions published in the FEDERAL REGISTER in accordance with §778.3 for intergovernmental review under these regulations. Each state, before selecting categories of facility project actions, shall consult with local elected officials.

(b) Each state that adopts a process shall notify the Postal Service of the Postal Service's categories of facility actions selected for that process.

(c) A state may notify the Postal Service of changes in its selections at any time. For each change, the state shall submit to the Postal Service an assurance that the state has consulted with local elected officials regarding the change. The Postal Service may establish deadlines by which states are required to inform the Postal Service of changes in their facility action category selections.

(d) The Postal Service uses a state's process as soon as feasible, after the Postal Service is notified of the state's selections.

§778.7 How does the Postal Service communicate with state and local officials concerning the Postal Service's facility project actions?

(a) [Reserved]

(b) The Postal Service provides notice directly to affected state, areawide, regional, and local entities in a state of a proposed direct Federal development project if:

(1) The state has not adopted a process under the Order; or

(2) The development project involves a facility project action category not selected for the state process.

This notice may be made by publication in local newspapers and/or by letter.

§ 778.8 How does the Postal Service provide states an opportunity to comment on proposed facility project actions?

(a) Except in unusual circumstances, the Postal Service gives state processes or directly affected state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities:

(1) [Reserved]

(2) At least 60 days from the date established by the Postal Service to comment on proposed facility project actions (except as noted in paragraph (a)(3) of this section).

(3) For facility project actions in the Washington, DC National Capital Region, coordination also is accomplished with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC). The Postal Service gives the NCPC 90 days to comment on projects in the Maryland and Virginia portions of the National Capital Region.

(b) This section also applies to comments in cases in which the review, coordination, and communication with the Postal Service have been delegated.

§ 778.9 How does the Postal Service receive and respond to comments?

(a) The Postal Service follows the procedures in § 778.10 if:

(1) A state office or official is designated to act as a single point of contact between a state process and all federal agencies, and

(2) That office or official transmits a state process recommendation for a facility project action of a category selected under § 778.6.

(b)(1) The single point of contact is not obligated to transmit comments from state, areawide, regional or local officials and entities where there is no state process recommendation.

(2) If a state process recommendation is transmitted by a single point of contact, all comments from state, areawide, regional, and local officials and entities that differ from it must also be transmitted.

(c) If a state has not established a process, or does not submit a state process recommendation, state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities may submit comments directly to the Postal Service.

(d) If a facility project action is not selected for a state process, state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities may submit comments directly to the Postal Service. In addition, if a state process recommendation for a nonselected facility project action is transmitted to the Postal Service by the single point of contact, the Postal Service follows the procedures of § 778.10.

(e) The Postal Service considers comments which do not constitute a state process recommendation submitted under these regulations and for which the Postal Service is not required to apply the procedures of § 778.10 when such comments are provided by a single point of contact or directly to the Postal Service by a commenting party.

§ 778.10 How does the Postal Service make efforts to accommodate intergovernmental concerns?

(a) If a state process provides a state process recommendation to the Postal Service through its single point of contact, the Postal Service either:

(1) Accepts the recommendation;

(2) Reaches a mutually agreeable solution with the state process; or

(3) Provides the single point of contact with such written explanation of its decision as the Postal Service in its discretion deems appropriate. The Postal Service may also supplement the written explanation by providing the explanation to the single pont of contact by telephone, other telecommunication, or other means.

(b) In any explanation under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the Postal Service informs the single point of contact that:

(1) The Postal Service will not implement its decision for at least ten days after the single point of contact receives the explanation; or

(2) The Postal Service has reviewed the decision and determined that because of unusual circumstances, the waiting period of at least ten days is not feasible.

(c) For purposes of computing the waiting period under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, a single point of contact is presumed to have received written notification 5 days after the date of mailing of such notification.

§778.11 What are the Postal Service's obligations in interstate situations?

(a) The Postal Service is responsible for:

(1) Identifying proposed direct federal development projects that have an impact on interstate areas;

(2) Notifying appropriate officials and entities in states which have adopted a process and which select the Postal Service's facility project action for review;

(3) Making efforts to identify and notify the affected state, areawide, regional, and local officials and entities in those states that have not adopted a process under the Order or do not select the Postal Service's facility project action for review;

(4) Responding pursuant to §778.10 if the Postal Service receives a recommendation from a designated areawide agency transmitted by a single point of contact in cases in which the review, coordination, and communication with the Postal Service have been delegated.

(b) The Postal Service uses the procedures in §778.10 if a state process provides a state process recommendation to the Postal Service through a single point of contact.

§778.12 [Reserved]

§778.13 May the Postal Service waive any provision of these regulations?

In an emergency, the Postal Service may waive any provision of these regulations.

SUBCHAPTERS L AND M—[RESERVED]
SUBCHAPTER N—PROCEDURES

Rules of Procedure Before the Office of General Counsel

PART 912—PROCEDURES TO ADJUDICATE CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE ARISING OUT OF THE OPERATION OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.

912.1 Claims responsibility.
912.2 Applicability of Federal Tort Claims Act.
912.3 Time limit for filing.
912.4 Place of filing.
912.5 Administrative claim; when presented.
912.6 Administrative claim; who may file.
912.7 Evidence and information to be submitted.
912.8 Sufficiency of evidence and information submitted.
912.9 Final denial of claim.
912.10 Action on approved claims.
912.11 Exclusiveness of remedy.
912.12 Review by legal officers.
912.13 Attorneys' fees.
912.14 Conclusiveness of remedy.

AUTHORITY: 28 U.S.C. 2671–2680; 28 CFR 14.1 through 14.11; 39 U.S.C. 409.

§ 912.1 Claims responsibility.

The General Counsel is responsible for settlement of claims made against the U.S. Postal Service under the Federal Tort Claims Act and 39 U.S.C. 2603, with authority to redelegate the functions to General Counsel staff members and other Postal Service employees.

[36 FR 12448, June 30, 1971]

§ 912.2 Applicability of Federal Tort Claims Act.

(a) The provisions of chapter 171 and all other provisions of title 28, U.S.C., relating to tort claims shall apply to tort claims arising out of the activities of the Postal Service. (39 U.S.C. 409(c)).

(b) Where the General Counsel, or his designee, finds a claim for damage to persons or property resulting from operation of the U.S. Postal Service to be a proper charge against the United States and it is not cognizable under 28 U.S.C. 2672, he may adjust and settle it under authority of 39 U.S.C. 2603.

[45 FR 43719, June 30, 1980]

§ 912.3 Time limit for filing.

(a) *Claim.* A claim under the Federal Tort Claims Act must be presented within two years from the date the claim accrues.

(b) *Suit.* Suit must be filed within six months after the date of mailing by certified or registered mail of notice of final denial of the claim by the Postal Service.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§ 912.4 Place of filing.

A claim is usually filed with the postmaster of the office within the delivery limits of where the accident happened, but may be filed at any office of the Postal Service, or sent directly to the Assistant General Counsel, Claims Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§ 912.5 Administrative claim; when presented.

(a) For purposes of this part, a claim shall be deemed to have been presented when the U.S. Postal Service receives from a claimant, his duly authorized agent or legal representative, an executed Standard Form 95, Claim for Damage or Injury, or other written notification of an incident, accompanied by a claim for money damages in a sum certain for injury to or loss of property, personal injury, or death alleged to have occurred by reason of the incident. Standard Form 95 may be obtained from postmaster, postal inspectors, or other local Postal Service establishments.

(b) A claim presented in compliance with paragraph (a) of this section may be amended by the claimant at any time prior to final Postal Service action or prior to the exercise of the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a). A claim may not be amended

after the Postal Service has issued payment of the full amount of the claim or has issued a written denial of the claim in accordance with §912.9. Amendments shall be submitted in writing and signed by the claimant or his duly authorized agent or legal representative. Upon the timely filing of an amendment to a pending claim, the Postal Service shall have six months in which to make final disposition of the claim as amended, and the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a) shall not accrue until six months after the filing of an amendment.

[36 FR 12448, June 30, 1971, as amended at 45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§912.6 Administrative claim; who may file.

(a) A claim for injury to or loss of property may be presented by the owner of the property, his duly authorized agent, or legal representative.

(b) A claim for personal injury may be presented by the injured person, his duly authorized agent, or legal representative.

(c) A claim based on death may be presented by the executor or administrator of the decedent's estate, or by any other person legally entitled to assert such a claim in accordance with applicable State law.

(d) A claim for loss wholly compensated by an insurer with the rights of a subrogee may be presented by the insurer. A claim for loss partially compensated by an insurer with the rights of a subrogee may be presented by the parties individually as their respective interests appear, or jointly.

(e) A claim presented by an agent or legal representative shall be presented in the name of the claimant, be signed by the agent or legal representative, show the title or legal capacity of the person signing, and be accompanied by evidence of his authority to present a claim on behalf of the claimant as agent, executor, administrator, parent, guardian, or other representative.

[36 FR 12448, June 30, 1971, as amended at 45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§912.7 Evidence and information to be submitted.

(a) *Death*. In support of a claim based on death, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

(1) An authenticated death certificate or other competent evidence showing cause of death, date of death, and age of the decedent.

(2) Decedent's employment or occupation at time of death, including monthly or yearly salary or earnings, if any, and the duration of his last employment or occupation.

(3) Full names, addresses, birth dates, kinship, and marital status of the decedent's survivors, including identification of those survivors who were dependent for support upon the decedent at the time of his death.

(4) Degree of support afforded by the decedent to each survivor dependent upon him for support at the time of his death.

(5) Decedent's general physical and mental condition before death.

(6) Itemized bills for medical and burial expenses incurred by reason of the incident causing death, or itemized receipts of payment for such expenses.

(7) If damages for pain and suffering prior to death are claimed, a physician's detailed statement specifying the injuries suffered, duration of pain and suffering, any drugs administered for pain, and the decedent's physical condition in the interval between injury and death.

(8) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the death or the damages claimed.

(b) *Personal injury*. In support of a claim for personal injury, including pain and suffering, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

(1) A written report by his attending physician or dentist setting forth the nature and extent of the injury, nature and extent of treatment, any degree of temporary or permanent disability, the prognosis, period of hospitalization, and any diminished earning capacity. In addition, the claimant may be required to submit to a physical or mental examination by a physician employed by the agency or another Federal agency. A copy of the report of the examining physician shall be made available to the claimant upon the claimant's written request, provided

that he has, upon request, furnished the report referred to in the first sentence of this paragraph and has made, or agrees to make available to the agency or another Federal agency. A copy previously or thereafter made of the physical or mental condition which is the subject matter of his claim.

(2) Itemized bills for medical, dental, and hospital expenses incurred, or itemized the report referred to in the first expenses.

(3) If the prognosis reveals the necessity for future treatment, a statement of expected expenses for such treatment.

(4) If a claim is made for loss of time for employment, a written statement from his employment, whether he is a full- or part-time employee, and wages or salary actually lost.

(5) If a claim is made for loss of income and the claimant is self-employed, documentary evidence showing the amount of earnings actually lost.

(6) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the personal injury or the damages claimed.

(c) *Property damage.* In support of a claim for injury to or loss of property, real or personal, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

(1) Proof of ownership.

(2) A detailed statement of the amount claimed with respect to each item of property.

(3) An itemized receipt of payment for necessary repairs or itemized written estimates of the cost of such repairs.

(4) A statement listing date of purchase, purchase price and salvage value, where repair is not economical.

[36 FR 12449, June 30, 1971]

§ 912.8 Sufficiency of evidence and information submitted.

In order to exhaust the administrative remedy provided, a claimant shall submit substantial evidence to prove the extent of any losses incurred and any injury sustained, so as to provide the Postal Service with sufficient evidence for it to properly evaluate the claim.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§ 912.9 Final denial of claim.

(a) Final denial of an administrative claim shall be in writing and sent to the claimant, his attorney, or legal representative by certified or registered mail. The notification of final denial may include a statement of the reasons for the denial and shall include a statement that, if the claimant is dissatisfied with the agency action, he may file suit in an appropriate U.S. District Court not later than 6 months after the date of mailing of the notation.

(b) Prior to the commencement of suit and prior to the expiration of the 6 month period provided in 28 U.S.C. 2401(b), a claimant, his duly authorized agent, or legal representative, may file a written request with the postal official who issued the final denial or with the Assistant General Counsel, Claims Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, for a reconsideration of a final denial of a claim under paragraph (a) of this section. Upon the timely filing of a request for reconsideration, the Postal Service shall have 6 months from the date of filing in which to make a disposition of the claim and the claimant's option under 28 U.S.C. 2675(a) shall not accrue until 6 months after the filing of a request for reconsideration. Final Postal Service action on a request for reconsideration shall be effected in accordance with this part.

(c) For purposes of this section, a request for reconsideration of a final denial of a claim shall be deemed to have been filed when received in the office of the official who issued the final denial or in the office of the Assistant General Counsel, Claims Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–1111.

(d) Only one request for reconsideration of a final denial may be filed. A claimant shall have no right to file a request for reconsideration of a final

denial issued in response to a request for reconsideration.

(28 U.S.C. 2671–2680; 28 CFR 14.1–14.11; 39 U.S.C. 401, 409, 2008)

[36 FR 12448, June 30, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 16868, June 27, 1973; 49 FR 19478, May 8, 1984]

§912.10 Action on approved claims.

In any case where the General Counsel or his designee, upon consideration of all the evidence submitted, finds that compensation is due a claimant, payment will be made by the U.S. Postal Service and in due course a settlement check will be forwarded to the claimant or his representative.

[36 FR 12450, June 30, 1971]

§912.11 Exclusiveness of remedy.

The provisions of 28 U.S.C. 2679(b) provide that the remedy against the United States, as provided by sections 1346(b) and 2672 of title 28, for injury or loss or personal injury or death resulting from the operation by an employee of the Government of any motor vehicle while acting within the scope of his employment is exclusive of any other civil action or proceeding by reason of the same subject matter against the employee or his estate whose act or omission gave rise to the claim.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§912.12 Review by legal officers.

The authority of the Postal Service to adjust, determine, compromise, and settle a claim under the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act shall, if the amount of a proposed compromise, settlement, or award exceeds $2,500, be exercised only after review by a legal officer of the Postal Service.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§912.13 Attorneys' fees.

The provisions of 28 U.S.C. 2678 should be consulted in determining the amount of the attorneys' fees.

[36 FR 12448, June 30, 1971. Redesignated at 45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

§912.14 Conclusiveness of remedy.

Payment by the Postal Service of the full amount claimed or acceptance by the claimant, his agent, or legal representative, of any award, compromise, or settlement made pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act, shall be final and conclusive on the claimant, his agent, or legal representative, and any other person on whose behalf or for whose benefit the claim has been presented, and shall constitute a complete release of any claim against the United States and against any employee of the Government whose act or omission gave rise to the claim by reason of the same subject matter.

[45 FR 43720, June 30, 1980]

PART 916—[RESERVED]

Rules of Procedure Before the Mail Processing Department

PART 927—RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATING TO FINES, DEDUCTIONS, AND DAMAGES

Sec.

927.1 Noncontractual carriage of mail by vessel.
927.2 Noncontractual air service.
927.3 Other remedies.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 401, 2601, 5401–5403, 5603, 5604; 49 U.S.C. 1375, 1471.

SOURCE: 45 FR 12418, Feb. 26, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§927.1 Noncontractual carriage of mail by vessel.

(a) *Report of infraction.* Where evidence is found or reported that a carrier of mail by vessel which has transported or been required to transport mail pursuant to the provisions of section 19–504, Postal Contracting Manual or 39 U.S.C. 5603, has failed or refused to transport the mail when required to do so, has unreasonably or unnecessarily delayed the mails, has committed other delinquencies in the transportation of mail, has failed to carry the mail in a safe and secure manner, or has caused loss or damage to the mail, the facts will be reported to the General Manager, Logistics Division, of the region in which the mail was dispatched or received or was required to be dispatched or received.

(b) *Review, investigation, recommendation.* The General Manager, Logistics

Division, will investigate the matter. The Manager will record findings of fact and make a recommendation concerning the need for imposition of fine or penalty with the reasons for the recommendation. The Manager will then forward the file to the Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, and will advise the carrier of the recommendation.

(c) *Penalty action.* The Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, upon review of the record, may impose a fine or penalty against a carrier for any irregularity properly documented, whether or not penalty action has been recommended. A tentative decision of the Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, to take penalty action will set forth in detail the facts and reasons upon which the determination is based. The Director will send the tentative decision, including notice of the irregularities found and the amount of fine or penalty proposed, to the carrier. The carrier may present a written defense to the proposed action within 30 days after receipt of the tentative decision. The Director, after review of the record, will advise the carrier of the final decision.

(d) *Appeal.* If the final decision includes a penalty, the Director will advise the carrier that it may, within 30 days, appeal the action in writing to the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, U.S. Postal Service, and that its written appeal should include all facts and arguments upon which the carrier relies in support of the appeal. If an appeal is not received, the Director will close the record. When an appeal is taken, the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, will review the complete record and decide the appeal. He will advise the carrier of the decision in writing and will take action consistent with that decision. The Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, may sustain, rescind, or compromise a fine or penalty. The decision of the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, on appeal shall be the final decision of the Postal Service. The Postal Service may, in its discretion, deduct from pay otherwise due the carrier an amount necessary to satisfy the penalty action taken under this section.

(e) *Details of administration.* For further administrative details, see section 19–504, Postal Contracting Manual (Publication 41).

[45 FR 12418, Feb. 26, 1980, as amended at 51 FR 6914, Feb. 27, 1986]

§ 927.2 Noncontractual air service.

(a) *Report of infraction.* Each mail handling irregularity will be reported on a prescribed form by the cognizant postal official or designated representative. As soon as possible the reporting authority will ask the local representative of the air carrier to provide an explanation of the irregularity. A summary of the explanation, if any, will be entered on the form. A copy of the form will be provided to the local station manager of the carrier concerned at the close of each tour and not less frequently than each 24 hours.

(b) *Carrier conferences.* At least once per month, postal officials will schedule a meeting with the local representatives of the affected air carriers to discuss the reported irregularities. The carrier's representative will be advised of any irregularity for which the reporting authority will recommend penalty action. The carrier's representative will be offered the opportunity to comment on any irregularity, and any comments will be attached to the form. The form on which penalty action is recommended will then be forwarded to the General Manager, Logistics Division, of the appropriate postal region.

(c) *Review, investigation, recommendation.* The General Manager, Logistics Division, will review the matter. In those instances in which a monetary fine or penalty appears warranted but the carrier has disputed the facts alleged by the reporting authority, the General Manager, Logistics Division, will investigate the matter to resolve the differences. The Manager will record findings of fact and make a recommendation concerning the need for imposition of a fine or penalty, with the reasons for the recommendation. The Manager will then forward the file to the Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, U.S.

Postal Service, and will advise the carrier of the recommendation.

(d) *Penalty action.* The Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, upon review of the record, may impose a fine or penalty against an air carrier for any irregularity properly documented, whether or not penalty action has been recommended. A tentative decision of the Director, Office of Transportation and International Services, to take penalty action will set forth in detail the facts and reasons upon which the determination is based. The Director will send the tentative decision, including notice of the irregularities alleged and the amount of fine or penalty proposed, to the carrier. The carrier may present a written defense to the proposed action within 30 days after the receipt of the tentative decision. The Director, after review of the record, will advise the carrier of the final decision.

(e) *Appeal.* If the final decision includes a penalty, the Director will advise the carrier that it may, within 30 days, appeal the action in writing to the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, U.S. Postal Service, and that its written appeal should include all facts and arguments upon which the carrier relies in support of the appeal. If an appeal is not received, the Director will close the file. When an appeal is taken, the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, will review the complete record and decide the appeal. He will advise the carrier of the decision in writing and will take action consistent with that decision. The Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, may sustain, rescind, or compromise a fine or penalty. The decision of the Assistant Postmaster General, Mail Processing Department, on appeal shall be the final decision of the Postal Service. The Postal Service may, in its discretion, deduct from pay otherwise due the air carrier an amount necessary to satisfy the penalty action taken under the section.

(f) *Details of administration.* For further administrative details, forms, and other implementing materials adapted to the respective modes of transportation, see Transportation Handbook T–1, International Airmail, Exchange Office Procedures, Part 4, for foreign air transportation; and Transportation Handbook T–7, Handling, Dispatch, and Transportation of Military Mail, Part 10, for overseas air transportation.

[45 FR 12418, Feb. 26, 1980, as amended at 51 FR 6914, Feb. 27, 1986]

§927.3 Other remedies.

The procedures and other requirements of this part apply only where the Postal Service proposes to assess penalties, fines, deductions, or damages. This part does not limit other remedies available to the Postal Service, including such remedies as summary action to withhold tender of the mail to protect the public interest in the event of major irregularities such as theft, deliberate loss, damage, or abandonment of the mail.

PART 931—RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE COMPROMISE OF OBLIGATIONS

§931.1 Compromise of obligations.

Any proposition of compromise shall be submitted in writing, and the amount offered in compromise shall be deposited with the Manager, Accounting Division or the appropriate postal data center. If the offer in compromise is rejected the amount deposited will be returned. The amount of a compromise offer must be tendered unconditionally for deposit pending the consideration of acceptance. Checks and drafts cannot be accepted as offers in compromise when they bear endorsements or instructions to the effect that the acceptance of such checks or drafts constitutes settlement in full of the claim, fine, penalty, or liability in connection with which the offer is made, except that such checks or drafts may be accepted when they are accompanied with a written waiver of the endorsements or instructions printed thereon. Offers in compromise should be transmitted or delivered to the office or officer of the Postal Service from whom demand is received for payment of the amount due.

(39 U.S.C. 401)

[26 FR 11662, Dec. 6, 1961. Redesignated at 33 FR 6291, April 25, 1968]

Rules of Procedure Before the Postal Inspection Service

PART 946—RULES OF PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF STOLEN MAIL MATTER AND PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE FOR USE AS EVIDENCE

Sec.

946.1 Scope of part.
946.2 Disposition of property of apparent owners.
946.3 Contraband and property subject to court order.
946.4 Disposition of property of unknown owners.
946.5 Disposition of property having a value of less than $200.
946.6 Disposition of abandoned property; additional period for filing claims.
946.7 Submission of claims.
946.8 Determination of claims.
946.9 Reconsideration of claims.
946.10 Record retention.
946.11 Disposition of property declared abandoned.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401(2), (5), (8), 404(a)(7), 2003, 3001.

SOURCE: 53 FR 6986, Mar. 4, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 946.1 Scope of part.

This part prescribes procedures governing the disposition of recovered stolen mail matter and any other property (real, personal, tangible or intangible) obtained by the Postal Inspection Service for possible use as evidence after the need to retain such property no longer exists. Property obtained by Postal Inspectors which appears to have been loose in the mails but is not retained for use as evidence, except unlawful matter, must be treated in accordance with postal regulations concerning disposition of dead mail (see Domestic Manual (DMM) 159.4). Unlawful matter must be disposed of in accordance with § 946.3.

§ 946.2 Disposition of property of apparent owners.

Where an apparent owner of property subject to this part is known, the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate will mail, by certified mail to the apparent owner's last known address, written notice describing the property and the procedure for filing a claim for its return (see §§ 946.3 and 946.7). Such claims must be filed within 30 days from the date the notice is postmarked. If the apparent owner of the property fails to file a timely claim, the property is considered abandoned and must be disposed of as provided in § 946.6.

§ 946.3 Contraband and property subject to court order.

Claims submitted with respect to property subject to this part, possession of which is unlawful, must be denied, in writing, by certified mail and the person submitting the claim must be accorded 45 days from the postmarked date to institute judicial proceedings to challenge the denial. If judicial proceedings are not instituted within 45 days, or any extension of time for good cause shown, the contraband property must be destroyed unless the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate determines that it should be placed in official use by the Postal Inspection Service. Property subject to this part, the disposition of which is involved in litigation or is subject to an order of court, must be disposed of as determined by the court.

§ 946.4 Disposition of property of unknown owners.

(a) Where no apparent owner of property subject to this part is known, except property described in § 946.3, and the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate estimates that the fair market value of the property exceeds $200, and the property is not needed as evidence, the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate must publish notice providing the following information:

(1) A description of the property including model or serial numbers, if known;

(2) The name, address, and telephone number of the Postal Inspector in Charge who has custody of the property; and

(3) A statement inviting any person who believes that he or she is fully entitled to the property to submit a claim for its return with the Postal Inspector in Charge who is identified in the notice. Such claim must be submitted within 30 days from the date of

first publication of the notice (See §946.7).

(b) The notice under §946.4(a) must be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a publication of general circulation within the judicial district where the Postal Inspection Service took possession of the property.

§946.5 Disposition of property having a value of less than $200.

Where the owner of property subject to this part is unknown and the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate estimates that fair market value of such property is $200 or less, title to the property vests in the United States Postal Service, subject to the right of the owner to submit a valid claim as provided in §946.6.

§946.6 Disposition of abandoned property; additional period for filing claims.

(a) Upon expiration of the time provided in §§946.2 and 946.4(a)(3) for the filing of claims or any extension thereof, and without the receipt of a timely claim, the property described in the notice is considered abandoned and becomes the property of the United States Postal Service. However, if the owner satisfies the requirements of §946.6(b), except for property described in §946.3, such abandoned property must be returned to the owner if a valid claim is filed within 3 years from the date the property became abandoned, with the following qualifications:

(1) Where property has been placed in official use by the Postal Inspection Service, a person submitting a valid claim under this section must be reimbursed the fair market value of the property at the time title vested in the United States Postal Service, less costs incurred by the Postal Service in returning or attempting to return such property to the owner and;

(2) Where property has been sold, a person submitting a valid claim under this section must be reimbursed the amount of proceeds realized from the sale of such property less costs incurred by the Postal Service in selling the property and in returning or attempting to return such property to the owner.

(b) In order to present a valid claim under §946.6(a), the claimant must establish that he or she had no actual or constructive notice prior to the date the property became abandoned that he or she was entitled to file a claim pursuant to §946.2 or §946.4. Publication of notice pursuant to §946.4 provides constructive notice unless a claimant can demonstrate circumstances which reasonably precluded his access to the published notice.

§946.7 Submission of claims.

Claims submitted pursuant to this part must be submitted on Postal Service Form 1503 which may be obtained from the Inspector in Charge who has custody of the property.

§946.8 Determination of claims.

Upon receipt of a claim under this part, the Postal Inspection Service must conduct an investigation to determine the merits of the claim. The results of the investigation must be submitted to the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate who must approve or deny the claim by written decision, a copy of which must be forwarded to the claimant by certified mail. If the claim is approved, the procedures to be followd by the claimant to obtain return of the property, or its determined value, must be stated. If the claim is denied, the decision must state the reasons therefor.

§946.9 Reconsideration of claims.

A written request for reconsideration of denied claims may be submitted within 10 days of the postmarked date of the mailing denying the claim. Such requests must be addressed to the Chief Postal Inspector or delegate and must be based on evidence recently developed or not previously presented.

§946.10 Record retention.

Records regarding property subject to this part will be retained for a period of 3 years following return of the property to its owner or a determination that the property is abandoned.

§946.11 Disposition of property declared abandoned.

Property declared abandoned, including cash, and proceeds from the sale of property subject to this part may be

shared by the Postal Inspection Service with federal, state, or local law enforcement agencies. Unless the Chief Postal Inspector determines that cash or the proceeds of the sale of the abandoned property are to be shared with other law enforcement agencies, such cash or proceeds shall be deposited in the Postal Service Fund established by 39 U.S.C. 2003. The authority to make this determination may be delegated by the Chief Postal Inspector.

[59 FR 29372, June 7, 1994]

Rules of Procedure Before the Judicial Officer

PART 951—PROCEDURE GOVERNING THE ELIGIBILITY OF PERSONS TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE POSTAL SERVICE

Sec.
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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11562, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 951.1 Authority for rules.

The Judicial Officer promulgates these rules pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 951.2 Eligibility to practice.

(a) Any individual who is a party to any proceeding before the Judicial Officer, the Board of Contract Appeals or an Administrative Law Judge may appear for himself or by an attorney at law.

(b) The head of any department of the Postal Service may establish such special rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility to practice before such department as he may deem to be necessary or desirable.

(c) Generally, except as provided in § 951.3, any attorney at law who is a member in good standing of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States or of the highest court of any State, District, Territory, Protectorate or Possession of the United States, or of the District of Columbia, and is not under any order of any court or executive department of one of the foregoing governmental entities suspending, enjoining, restraining, disbarring, or otherwise restricting him in the practice of law may represent others before the U.S. Postal Service.

(d) When any person acting in a representative capacity appears in person or signs a paper in practice before the Postal Service his personal appearance or signature shall constitute a representation to the Postal Service that under the provisions of this part and the law he is authorized and qualified to represent the particular party in whose behalf he acts. The Postal Service does not generally take formal action or issue any certificate to show that an individual is eligible to practice before it. (See § 951.4.)

§ 951.3 Persons ineligible for admission to practice.

(a) No person disbarred from practice before the Postal Service or in any other executive department of any of the governmental entities mentioned in § 951.2(c) will be eligible to practice before the Postal Service until said order of disbarment shall have been revoked.

(b) Any person who, subsequently to being admitted to practice before the Postal Service, is disbarred by any governmental entity mentioned in § 951.2(c) shall be deemed suspended from practice before the Postal Service during the pendency of said order or disbarment.

(c) No person who has been an attorney, officer, clerk, or employee in the Postal Service will be recognized as attorney for prosecuting before it or any office thereof any case or matter which he was in anywise connected while he was such attorney, officer, clerk, or employee.

(d) No person coming within the prohibitions of 18 U.S.C. 203, 205, or 207, will be recognized as attorney before

the Postal Service or any office thereof.

§951.4 Authorization of appearance may be required.

The Judicial Officer, the head of any department of the Postal Service or any Administrative Law Judge may require any person to present satisfactory evidence of his authority to represent the person for whom he appears.

§951.5 Complaint of misconduct.

(a) If the head of any department of the Postal Service has reason to believe, or if complaint be made to him, that any person is guilty of conduct subjecting him to suspension or disbarment, the head of such office shall report the same to the Judicial Officer.

(b) Whenever any person submits to the Judicial Officer a complaint against any person who has practiced, is practicing or holding himself out as entitled to practice before the Postal Service, the Judicial Officer may refer such complaint to the Chief Inspector for a complete investigation and report.

(c) At any time, the Judicial Officer may refer the complaint to the General Counsel for the preparation of formal charges to be lodged against and served upon the person against whom the complaint has been made.

§951.6 Censure, suspension or disbarment; grounds.

(a) The Judicial Officer may censure, suspend or disbar any person against whom a complaint has been made and upon whom charges have been served as provided in §951.5 if he finds that such person:

(1) Does not possess the qualifications required by §951.2;

(2) Has failed to conform to standards of ethical conduct required of practitioners at the Bar of any court of which he is a member;

(3) Represents, as an associate, an attorney who, known to him, solicits practice by means of runners or other unethical methods;

(4) By use of his name, personal appearance, or any device, aids or abets an attorney to practice during the period of his suspension or disbarment, such suspension or disbarment being known to him;

(5) Displays toward the Judicial Officer, Board of Contract Appeals or any Administrative Law Judge assigned to the Postal Service, conduct which, if displayed toward any court of any State, the United States, any of its Territories or the District of Columbia, would be cause for censure, suspension or disbarment; or

(6) Is otherwise guilty of misconduct or lacking in character or professional integrity.

(b) Before any person shall be censured, suspended or disbarred, he shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard by the Judicial Officer on the charges made against him. The General Counsel or his designee shall prosecute such cases.

(c) In the event the Judicial Officer is unavailable for any reason, he may assign complaints of misconduct to the Associate Judicial Officer, an Administrative Law Judge appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, an Administrative Judge appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, or some other disinterested member of the headquarters staff of the Postal Service recommended by the Deputy Postmaster General, for the determinations required by §951.5, the conduct of the hearings, and the decision to censure, suspend, or debar persons as provided herein.

[36 FR 11562, June 16, 1971, as amended at 51 FR 16517, May 5, 1986]

§951.7 Notice of disbarment; exclusion from practice.

Upon the disbarment of any person, notice thereof will be given to the heads of the departments of the Postal Service and to the other Executive Departments, and thereafter, until otherwise ordered, such disbarred persons will not be entitled to practice before the Postal Service or any department thereof.

§951.8 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable

to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5357, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 952—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO FALSE REPRESENTATION AND LOTTERY ORDERS

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401, 3005.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

EDITORIAL NOTE: For nomenclature changes to this part, see 37 FR 23422, Nov. 3, 1972.

§ 952.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service (See § 952.26) pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 952.2 Scope of rules.

These rules of practice shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service, 39 U.S.C. 3005, including such cases instituted under prior rules of practice pertaining to these or predecessor statutes, unless timely shown to be prejudicial to the respondent.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987]

§ 952.3 Informal dispositions.

These rules do not preclude the disposition of any matter by agreement between the parties either before or after the filing of a complaint when time, the nature of the proceeding, and the public interest permit.

§ 952.4 Office business hours.

The offices of the officials mentioned in these rules are located at the Headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, West, SW., Washington, DC 20260, and are open Monday through Friday except holidays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

[38 FR 17216, June 29, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 7955, Feb. 8, 1977]

§ 952.5 Complaints.

When the General Counsel of the Postal Service or his designated representative believes that a person is using the mails in a manner requiring formal administrative action under 39 U.S.C. 3005, he shall prepare and file with the Recorder a complaint which names the person involved; states the name, address and telephone number of the attorney representing Complainant; states the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the proceeding is initiated; states the facts in a manner sufficient to enable the person named therein to make answer thereto; and requests the issuance of an appropriate order or orders. Complainant shall attach to the complaint a copy of the order or orders requested which may, at any time during the proceedings, be modified. The person named in the complaint shall be know as the ''Respondent'', and the General Counsel shall be known as the ''Complainant.''

The term ''person'' (1 U.S.C. 1) shall include any name, address, number or other designation under or by use of which the Respondent seeks remittances of money or property through the mail.

[48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.6 Interim impounding.

In preparation for or during the pendency of a proceeding initiated under 39 U.S.C. 3005, mail addressed to a respondent may be impounded upon obtaining an appropriate order from a U.S. District Court, as provided in 39 U.S.C. 3007.

§952.7 Notice of answer and hearing.

(a) When a complaint is filed against a Respondent whose mailing address is within the United States, the Recorder shall issue a notice of answer and hearing stating the date for filing an answer which shall not exceed 15 days from the service of the complaint, the time and place of the hearing and a reference to the effect of failure to file an answer or appear at the hearing. (*See* §§952.10 and 952.11.) Whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the notice.

(b) Where a complaint is filed against a Respondent whose mailing address is not within the United States, the Judicial Officer shall review the complaint and any supporting information and determine whether a prima facie showing has been made that Respondent is engaged in conduct warranting issuance of the orders authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3005(a). Where he concludes that a prima facie showing has not been made he shall dismiss the complaint. Where he concludes that a prima facie showing has been made, he shall issue a tentative decision and orders which: set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law; direct Respondent to cease and desist from engaging in conduct warranting the issuance of an order authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3005(a); direct that postal money orders drawn to the order of Respondent not be paid for 45 days from date of the tentative decision; direct that mail addressed to Respondent be forwarded to designated facilities and detained for 45 days from the date of the tentative decision subject to survey by Respondent and release of mail unrelated to the matter complained of; and provide that unless Respondent presents, within 45 days of the date of the tentative decision, good cause for dismissing the complaint, or modifying the tentative decision and orders, the tentative decision and orders shall become final. The Judicial Officer may, upon a showing of good cause made within 45 days of the date of the tentative decision, hold a hearing to determine whether the tentative decision and orders should be revoked, modified or allowed to become final. Should a hearing be granted, the Judicial Officer may modify the tentative decision and orders to extend the time during which the payment of postal money orders payable to Respondent is suspended and mail addressed to Respondent is detained.

[44 FR 61959, Oct. 29, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.8 Service.

(a) Where the Respondent's mailing address is within the United States, the Recorder shall cause a notice of answer and hearing and a copy of the complaint to be transmitted to the postmaster at any office of address of the Respondent or to the inspector in charge of any division in which the Respondent is doing business, which shall be delivered to the Respondent or his agent by said postmaster or a supervisory employee of his post office or a postal inspector. A receipt acknowledging delivery of the notice shall be secured from the Respondent or his agent and forwarded to the Recorder, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, to become a part of the official record.

(b) If, after 5 days, the postmaster or his agent can find no person to accept service of the notice of answer and hearing and complaint pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the notice may be delivered in the usual manner as other mail addressed to the respondent. A statement, showing the time and place of delivery, signed by the postal employee who delivered the notice of answer and hearing and complaint shall be forwarded to the Recorder and such statement shall constitute evidence of service.

(c) Where the only address against which Complainant seeks relief is outside the United States, a copy of the complaint, the tentative decision, and a copy of these rules of practice shall be sent by registered air mail, return receipt requested, by the Recorder to the address cited in the complaint. A written statement by the Recorder noting the time and place of mailing shall be accepted as evidence of service in the event a signed return receipt is not returned to the Recorder.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 7321, Apr. 13, 1972; 44 FR 61959, Oct. 29, 1979; 44 FR 65399, Nov. 13, 1979]

§ 952.9 Filing documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Recorder pleadings, motions, proposed orders and other documents for the record. The Recorder shall cause copies to be delivered promptly to other parties to the proceeding and to the presiding officer.

(b) The parties shall submit four copies of all documents unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer. One copy shall be signed as the original.

(c) Documents shall be dated and state the docket number and title of the proceeding. Any pleading or other document required by order of the presiding officer to be filed by a specified date shall be delivered to the Recorder on or before such date. The date of filing shall be entered thereon by the Recorder.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.10 Answer.

(a) The answer shall contain a concise statement admitting, denying, or explaining each of the allegations set forth in the complaint.

(b) Any facts alleged in the complaint which are not denied or are expressly admitted in the answer may be considered as proved, and no further evidence regarding these facts need be adduced at the hearing.

(c) The answer shall be signed personally by an individual respondent, or in the case of a partnership by one of the partners, or, in the case of a corporation or association, by an officer thereof.

(d) The answer shall set forth the Respondent's address and telephone number or the name, address and telephone number of its attorney.

(e) The answer shall affirmatively state whether the respondent will appear in person or by counsel at the hearing.

(f) If the respondent does not desire to appear at the hearing in person or by counsel he may request that the matter be submitted for determination pursuant to paragraph (b) of § 952.11.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.11 Default.

(a) If the Respondent fails to file an answer within the time specified in the notice of answer and hearing, he shall be deemed in default, and to have waived hearing and further procedural steps. The Judicial Officer shall thereafter issue orders without further notice to the Respondent.

(b) If the Respondent files an answer but fails to appear at the hearing, the Respondent may, unless timely indications to the contrary are received, be deemed to have abandoned the intention to present a defense to the charges of the complaint, and the Judicial Officer, without further notice to Respondent, may issue the orders sought in the complaint.

[48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983]

§ 952.12 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) Amendments proposed prior to the hearing shall be filed with the Recorder. Amendments proposed thereafter shall be filed with the presiding officer.

(b) By consent of the parties a pleading may be amended at any time. Also, a party may move to amend a pleading at any time prior to the close of the hearing and, provided that the amendment is reasonably within the scope of the proceeding initiated by the complaint, the presiding officer shall make such ruling on the motion as he deems to be fair and equitable to the parties.

(c) When issues not raised by the pleadings but reasonably within the scope of the proceedings initiated by the complaint are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, they

shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the pleadings. Such amendments as may be necessary to make the pleadings conform to the evidence and to raise such issues shall be allowed at any time upon the motion of any party.

(d) If a party objects to the introduction of evidence at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues made by the pleadings, but fails to satisfy the presiding officer that an amendment of the pleadings would prejudice him on the merits, the presiding officer may allow the pleadings to be amended and may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to rebut the evidence presented.

(e) The presiding officer may, upon reasonable notice and upon such terms as are just, permit service of a supplemental pleading setting forth transactions, occurrences, or events which have happened since the date of the pleading sought to be supplemented and which are relevant to any of the issues involved.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979]

§952.13 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will not be granted by the presiding officer except for good cause shown.

§952.14 Hearings.

Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the presiding officer.

§952.15 Change of place of hearings.

Not later than the date fixed for the filing of the answer, a party may file a request that a hearing be held to receive evidence in his behalf at a place other than that designated for hearing in the notice. He shall support his request with a statement outlining:

(a) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(b) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify;

(c) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, DC. The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

§952.16 Appearances.

(a) A respondent may appear and be heard in person or by attorney.

(b) An attorney may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with applicable rules issued by the Judicial Officer. See part 951 of this chapter.

(c) When a respondent is represented by an attorney, all pleadings and other papers subsequent to the complaint shall be mailed to the attorney.

(d) A respondent must promptly file a notice of change of attorney.

§952.17 Presiding officers.

(a) The presiding officer at any hearing shall be an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law or the Judicial Officer (39 U.S.C. 204). The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign cases to Administrative Law Judges upon rotation so far as practicable. The Judicial Officer may, for good cause shown, preside at the reception of evidence in proceedings where expedited hearings are requested by either party.

(b) The presiding officer shall have authority to:

(1) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) Examine witnesses;

(3) Rule upon offers of proof, admissibility of evidence and matters of procedure;

(4) Order any pleading amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(5) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(6) Require the filing of briefs or memoranda of law on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(7) Order prehearing conferences for the purpose of the settlement or simplification of issues by the parties;

(8) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence;

(9) Render an initial decision, which becomes the final Agency decision unless a timely appeal is taken: The Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision;

(10) Rule upon applications and requests filed under § 952.21.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17216, June 29, 1973; 38 FR 20263, July 30, 1973; 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.18 Evidence.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Federal Rules of Evidence shall govern. However, such rules may be relaxed to the extent that the presiding officer deems proper to insure a fair hearing. The presiding officer shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious evidence.

(b) Testimony shall be under oath or affirmation and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements of fact may be received in evidence.

(d) Official notice or knowledge may be taken of the types of matters of which judicial notice or knowledge may be taken.

(e) Authoritative writings of the medical or other sciences, may be admitted in evidence but only through the testimony of expert witnesses or by stipulation.

(f) Lay testimonials will not be received in evidence as proof of the efficacy or quality of any product or thing sold through the mails.

(g) The written statement of a competent witness may be received in evidence provided that such statement is relevant to the issues, that the witness shall testify under oath at the hearing that the statement is in all respects true, and, in the case of expert witnesses, that the statement correctly states his opinion or knowledge concerning the matters in question.

(h) A party who objects to the admission of evidence shall make a brief statement of the grounds for the objection. Formal exceptions to the rulings of the presiding officer are unnecessary.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.19 Subpoenas.

The Postal Service is not authorized by law to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance or testimony of witnesses.

§ 952.20 Witness fees.

The Postal Service does not pay fees and expenses for respondent's witnesses or for depositions requested by respondent.

§ 952.21 Depositions, interrogatories, requests for admission of fact and production of documents.

(a) Not later than 5 days after the filing of Respondent's answer, any party may file application with the Recorder for the taking of testimony by deposition. In support of such application the applicant shall submit under oath or affirmation a statement setting out the reasons why such testimony should be taken by deposition, the time and the place, and the name and address of the witness whose deposition is desired, the subject matter of the testimony of each witness and its relevancy.

(b) If the application is granted, the order for the taking of the deposition will specify the time and place thereof, the name of the witness, and require that the deposition be taken before a person authorized to administer oaths as required by paragraph (f) of this section.

(c) Each witness testifying upon deposition shall be duly sworn, and the adverse party shall have the right to cross-examine. The questions and answers together with all objections, shall be reduced to writing and, unless waived by stipulation of the parties, shall be read to and subscribed by the witness in the presence of the deposition officer who shall certify it in the usual form. The deposition officer shall file the testimony taken by deposition as directed in the order. The deposition officer shall put the witness on oath. All objections made at the time of examination shall be noted by the deposition officer and the evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, a party may transmit written interrogatories to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim. Objections to relevancy or materiality of testimony, or to errors and irregularities occurring at the oral examination in the manner of taking the deposition, in the form of the questions or answers, in the oath or affirmation,

or in the conduct of the parties and errors of any kind which might be obviated, cured or removed if promptly presented, are waived unless timely objection is made at the taking of the deposition.

(d) At the hearing any part or all of the deposition may be offered in evidence by any party who was present or represented at the taking of the deposition or who had notice thereof. If the deposition is not offered and received in evidence, it shall not be considered as a part of the record in the proceeding. The admissibility of depositions or parts thereof shall be governed by the rules of evidence.

(e) The party requesting the deposition shall pay all fees required to be paid to witnesses and the deposition officer, and shall provide an original and one copy of the deposition for the official record, and shall serve one copy upon the opposing party.

(f) Within the United States or within a territory or insular possession, subject to the dominion of the United States, depositions or interrogatories may be taken or certified before an officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the examination is held; within a foreign country, depositions or interrogatories may be taken or certified before a secretary of an embassy or legation, consul general, vice consul or consular agent of the United States, or any other person designated in the order for the taking of a deposition.

(g) Depositions may also be taken and submitted on written interrogatories in substantially the same manner as depositions taken by oral examination. When a deposition is taken upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, none of the parties except a witness who is a party shall be present or represented, and no person, other than the witness, a stenographic reporter, and the officer shall be present at the examination of the witness, which fact shall be certified by the officer, who shall propound the interrogatories and cross-interrogatories to the witness in their order and reduce the testimony to writing in the witness' own words. For good cause shown or by stipulation of the parties, written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories propounding questions of fact may be answered by the witness in writing, without the presence of an officer and without being recorded by a stenographic reporter, provided the answers are sworn to by the witness before a person authorized to administer an oath prescribed by paragraph (f).

(h) Not later than 5 days after the filing of Respondent's answer, any party may serve on the other party a request for the admission of specified facts. In the event the party served refuses timely to respond to the request for admissions, the presiding officer for good cause shown may require the party served to admit or deny each requested fact. The factual propositions set out in the request shall be deemed admitted upon the failure of a party to respond to the presiding officer's order for admission or denial.

(i) Not later than 5 days after the filing of Respondent's answer, either party may file an application for the production of documents or objects. The application shall state the cause therefor and specifically identify the documents or objects and their relevance and materiality to the cause or causes in issue. The presiding officer may order the other party to produce and permit the inspection and photographing of any designated documents or objects not privileged which are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. If the parties cannot themselves agree thereon, the presiding officer shall specify such terms and conditions in making the inspection and taking the copies and photographs.

(j) Failure of a party to comply with an order pursuant to this rule may result in the presiding officer's ruling that the disobedient party may not support or oppose designated charges or defenses or may not introduce designated matters in evidence. The presiding officer may also infer from the disobedient party's failure to comply with the order that the facts to which the order related would, if produced or

admitted, be adverse to such party's interests. The admissibility of matter adduced by operation of § 952.21 shall be governed by § 952.18.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61960, Oct. 29, 1979; 44 FR 65399, Nov. 13, 1979]

§ 952.22 Transcript.

(a) Hearings shall be stenographically reported by a contract reporter of the Postal Service under the supervision of the assigned presiding officer. Argument upon any matter may be excluded from the transcript by order of the presiding officer. A copy of the transcript shall be a part of the record and the sole official transcript of the proceeding. Copies of the transcript shall be supplied to the parties to the proceeding by the reporter at rates not to exceed the maximum rates fixed by contract between the Postal Service and the reporter. Copies of parts of the official record including exhibits admitted into evidence, other than the transcript, may be obtained by the Respondent from the Recorder upon the payment of reasonable copying charges. Items that cannot reasonably be photocopied may be photographed and furnished in that form to Respondent.

(b) Changes in the official transcript may be made only when they involve errors affecting substance and then only in the manner herein provided. No physical changes shall be made in or upon the official transcript, or copies thereof, which have been filed with the record. Within 10 days after the receipt by any party of a copy of the official transcript, or any part thereof, he may file a motion requesting correction of the transcript. Opposing counsel shall, within such time as may be specified by the presiding officer, notify the presiding officer in writing of his concurrence or disagreement with the requested corrections. Failure to interpose timely objection to a proposed correction shall be considered to be concurrence. Thereafter, the presiding officer shall by order specify the corrections to be made in the transcript. The presiding officer on his own initiative may order corrections to be made in the transcript with prompt notice to the parties of the proceeding. Any changes ordered by the presiding officer other than by agreement of the parties shall be subject to objection and exception.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 44 FR 61961, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.23 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Each party to a proceeding, except one who fails to answer the complaint or, having answered, either fails to appear at the hearing or indicates in the answer that he does not desire to appear, may, unless at the discretion of the presiding officer such is not appropriate, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons either in oral or written form in the discretion of the presiding officer. The presiding officer may also require parties to any proceeding to submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons. Unless given orally, the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Recorder who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, or unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

(c) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed orders shall state the statutory basis of the order and, with respect to orders proposed to be issued pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005(a)(3), shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs stating with particularity the representations Respondent and its representatives shall cease and desist from using for

the purpose of obtaining money or property through the mail.

[48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.24 Decisions.

(a) *Initial decision by Administrative Law Judge.* A written initial decision shall be rendered by an Administrative Law Judge with all due speed. The initial decision shall include findings and conclusions with the reasons therefor upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and the appropriate orders or denial thereof. The initial decision shall become the final Agency decision unless an appeal is taken in accordance with §952.25.

(b) *Tentative or final decision by the Judicial Officer.* When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing he shall issue a final or a tentative decision. Such decision shall include findings and conclusions with the reasons therefor upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and the appropriate orders or denial thereof. The tentative decision shall become the final Agency decision unless exceptions are filed in accordance with §952.25.

(c) *Oral decisions.* The presiding Officer may render an oral decision (an initial decision by an Administrative Law Judge, or a tentative or final decision by the Judicial Officer) at the close of the hearing when the nature of the case and the public interest warrant. A party who desires an oral decision shall notify the presiding officer and the opposing party at least 5 days prior to the date set for the hearing. Either party may submit proposed findings, conclusions, and proposed orders either orally or in writing at the conclusion of the hearing.

[48 FR 55126, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.25 Exceptions to initial decision or tentative decision.

(a) A party in a proceeding presided over by an Administrative Law Judge, except a party who failed to file an answer, may appeal to the Judicial Officer by filing exceptions in a brief on appeal within 15 days from the receipt of the Administrative Law Judge's initial decision.

(b) A party in a proceeding presided over by the Judicial Officer, except one who has failed to file an answer, may file exceptions within 15 days from the receipt of the Judicial Officer's tentative decision.

(c) If an initial or tentative decision is rendered orally by the presiding officer at the close of the hearing, he may then orally give notice to the parties participating in the hearing of the time limit within which an appeal must be filed.

(d) The date for filing the reply to an appeal brief or to a brief in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer is 10 days after the receipt thereof. No additional briefs shall be received unless requested by the Judicial Officer.

(e) Briefs upon appeal or in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer and replies thereto shall be filed in triplicate with the Recorder and contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented, with page references; a table of cases alphabetically arranged; a list of statutes and texts cited with page references.

(2) A concise abstract or statement of the case in briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions.

(3) Numbered exceptions to specific findings and conclusions of fact, conclusions of law, or recommended orders of the presiding officer in briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of or in opposition to each exception taken, together with specific references to the parts of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

(f) Unless permission is granted by the Judicial Officer no brief shall exceed 50 printed or 100 typewritten pages double spaced.

(g) The Judicial Officer will extend the time to file briefs only upon written application for good cause shown. The Recorder shall promptly notify the applicant of the decision of the Judicial Officer on the application. If the appeal brief or brief in support of exceptions is not filed within the time prescribed, the defaulting party will be

deemed to have abandoned the appeal or waived the exceptions, and the initial or tentative decision shall become the final Agency decision.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17216, June 29, 1973; 44 FR 61961, Oct. 29, 1979; 48 FR 55127, Dec. 9, 1983]

§ 952.26 Judicial Officer.

The Judicial Officer is authorized: (a) To act as presiding officer at hearings, (b) to render tentative decisions, (c) to render final Agency decisions, (d) to issue Postal Service orders for the Postmaster General, (e) to refer the record in any proceeding to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General for final Agency decision, (f) to remand a case to the presiding officer for consideration, (g) to revise or amend these rules of practice. In determining appeals from initial decisions or exceptions to tentative decisions (*see* § 952.24 (a) and (b) *supra*), the entire official record will be considered before a final Agency decision is rendered. Before rendering a final Agency decision, the Judicial Officer may order the hearing reopened for the presentation of additional evidence by the parties.

[44 FR 61961, Oct. 29, 1979]

§ 952.27 Motion for reconsideration.

A party may file a motion for reconsideration of a final agency decision within 10 days after receiving it or within such longer period as the Judicial Officer may fix. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17216, June 29, 1973]

§ 952.28 Orders.

(a) If an order is issued which prohibits delivery of mail to a respondent it shall be incorporated in the record of the proceeding. The Recorder shall cause notice of the order to be published in the *Postal Bulletin* and cause the order to be transmitted to such postmasters and other officers and employees of the Postal Service as may be required to place the order into effect.

(b) If an order is issued which requires the Respondent to cease and desist from using certain representations for the purpose of obtaining money or property through the mail, it shall be incorporated in the record of the proceeding and a copy thereof shall be served upon the Respondent or his agent by certified mail or by personal service, or if no person can be found to accept service, service shall be accomplished by ordinary mail to the last known address of Respondent or his agent. If service is not accomplished by certified mail, a statement, showing the time and place of delivery, signed by the postal employee who delivered the order, shall be forwarded to the Recorder.

[36 FR 11563, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17216, June 29, 1973; 44 FR 61961, Oct. 29, 1979; 48 FR 55127, Dec. 9, 1983]

§ 952.29 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order or orders have been issued may file an application for modification or revocation thereof. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the General Counsel, who shall file a written reply within 10 days after filing or such other period as the Judicial Officer may fix. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

[48 FR 55127, Dec. 9, 1983]

§ 952.30 Supplemental orders.

When the General Counsel or his designated representative shall have reason to believe that a person is evading or attempting to evade the provisions of any such orders by conducting the same or a similar enterprise under a different name or at a different address he may file a petition with accompanying evidence setting forth the alleged evasion or attempted evasion and requesting the issuance of a supplemental order or orders against the name or names allegedly used. Notice shall then be given by the Recorder to the person that the order has been requested and that an answer may be filed within 10 days of the notice. The

Judicial Officer, for good cause shown, may hold a hearing to consider the issues in controversy, and shall, in any event, render a final decision granting or denying the supplemental order or orders.

[48 FR 55127, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.31 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under these rules excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§952.32 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs and other documents filed in the proceeding shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§952.33 Public Information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial, tentative and final Agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

[48 FR 55127, Dec. 9, 1983]

§952.34 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5357, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 953—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO MAILABILITY

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 59 FR 31538, June 20, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§953.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§953.2 Initiation.

Mailability proceedings are initiated upon the filing of a written appeal with the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

§953.3 Appeal.

The appeal shall:

(a) Identify the appellant;

(b) Describe or be accompanied by a copy of the determination or ruling being appealed;

(c) Describe the character or content of the matter the appellant wishes to have carried and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service;

(d) Request review of the determination or ruling, specifying each and every reason why the appellant believes the determination or ruling should be reversed;

(e) Indicate whether the appellant desires to have an oral hearing or, instead, to have the case decided solely on the basis of the written record (i.e., the appeal, the General Counsel's reply, and any documents submitted by the parties pursuant to an order of the presiding officer); and

(f) Bear the signature, typed or printed name, title, business address, and telephone number of any attorney at law representing the appellant in bringing the appeal, and of each individual appellant or, if the appellant is a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or unincorporated association, of the managing partner, chief executive officer, chief operating

officer, or other officer authorized to bind the organization.

§ 953.4 Service of notice; Reply; Motion for summary judgment.

(a) *Service of notice.* (1) Upon receiving the appeal, the Recorder shall issue a notice specifying that the Postal Service General Counsel's reply shall be filed within 15 days of receipt of the notice; and the time and place of the hearing (if one was requested).

(2) The Recorder shall promptly serve this notice on the parties as follows:

(i) The notice, with a copy of the appeal, shall be sent to the General Counsel at Postal Service headquarters.

(ii) When the appellant's address is within the United States, the notice, with a copy of the appeal, shall be sent to the postmaster at the office that delivers mail to the appellant's address. The postmaster shall be instructed that, acting personally or through a supervisory employee or a postal inspector, he or she is to serve these documents on the appellant. If the appellant cannot be found within 3 days, the postmaster shall send these documents to the appellant by ordinary mail and forward a statement to the Recorder that is signed by the delivering employee and that specifies the time and place of delivery.

(iii) When the appellant's address is outside the United States, the notice, with a copy of the appeal, shall be sent to the appellant by registered airmail, return receipt requested. A written statement by the Recorder, noting the time and place of mailing, shall be accepted as proof of service in the event a signed and dated return receipt is not received.

(b) *Reply.* The General Counsel shall file a written reply, in triplicate, with the Recorder, within the aforementioned 15-day period or any extension granted by the presiding officer for good cause shown. If the General Counsel's reply fails to address any allegation in the appeal, that allegation shall be deemed admitted.

(c) *Motion for summary judgment.* Upon motion of either the General Counsel or the appellant, or on the presiding officer's own initiative, the presiding officer may find that the appeal and answer present no genuine and material issues of fact requiring an evidentiary hearing, and thereupon may render an initial decision upholding or reversing the determination or ruling. The initial decision shall become the final Agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

§ 953.5 Hearings.

(a) In general, admissibility of evidence at hearings conducted under this part hinges on relevancy and materiality. However, relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, or by considerations of undue delay, or by needless presentation of cumulative evidence. Testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation, and witnesses are subject to cross-examination. Stipulations of fact are encouraged and may be received in evidence.

(b) Objections to the admission or exclusion of evidence shall be in short form, stating the grounds of objections relied upon. The transcript shall not include argument or debate thereon except as ordered by the presiding officer. Rulings on such objections shall be a part of the transcript.

(c) Formal exceptions to the rulings of the presiding officer made during the course of the hearing are unnecessary. For all purposes for which an exception otherwise would be taken, it is sufficient that a party, when the ruling of the presiding officer is made or sought, makes known the action he desires the presiding officer to take or his objection to an action taken, and his grounds therefor.

§ 953.6 Compromise and informal dispositions.

Either party may request the other to consider informal disposition of any question of mailability, and the scheduled hearing date may be postponed by the presiding officer for such period of time as may be necessary to accommodate settlement discussions between the parties.

§ 953.7 Default; Appearances.

If a timely reply to the appeal is not filed, the presiding officer shall refer the appeal to the Judicial Officer, who may find that the General Counsel is in

default. Whenever the General Counsel has been deemed to be in default, the Judicial Officer shall take whatever action on the appeal he deems appropriate. If an oral evidentiary hearing is to be held, the appellant may appear at the hearing in person or by counsel. If either party fails to appear at the hearing, the presiding officer shall receive the evidence of the party appearing and render a decision.

§953.8 Location of hearing.

Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, the hearing shall be held at Postal Service headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC, on the date set in the notice.

§953.9 Change of place of hearing.

(a) Not later than the date fixed for the filing of the reply, a party may file a motion that the scheduled hearing be held at a place other than that designated in the notice. The motion shall include a supporting statement outlining:

(1) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(2) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify; and

(3) The reasons why such evidence cannot be presented in Washington, DC.

(b) In ruling on the motion, the presiding officer shall consider the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

§953.10 Presiding officers.

The presiding officer at any hearing shall be an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law (5 U.S.C. 3105) and assigned by the Judicial Officer (39 U.S.C. 204), or the Judicial Officer, may at his discretion, elect to preside at the reception of evidence. The Judicial Officer shall assign cases to Administrative Law Judges upon rotation if practicable.

§953.11 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be submitted orally or in writing at the conclusion of the hearing, or otherwise, as ordered by the presiding officer.

§953.12 Initial decision.

Unless given orally at the conclusion of the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge shall render an initial decision as expeditiously as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing and the receipt of the proposed findings and conclusions, if any. The initial decision shall become the decision of the Postal Service if an appeal is not perfected. When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing, his powers shall include those of an Administrative Law Judge, but the Judicial Officer may render either an initial or final decision. Exceptions may be filed to an initial decision rendered by the Judicial Officer in accordance with §953.13.

§953.13 Appeal from initial decision.

Either party may file exceptions in a brief on appeal to the Judicial Officer within 5 days after receipt of the initial decision unless additional time is granted. A reply brief may be filed within 5 days after the receipt of the appeal brief by the opposing party.

§953.14 Final Agency decision.

The Judicial Officer shall render a final Agency decision. The decision shall be served upon the parties and the postal official having custody of any mail detained pursuant to the determination or ruling.

§953.15 Expedition.

For the purpose of further expedition, either party may move to have the hearing held at an earlier date than that specified in the notice. Either party may also move to have the initial decision (if an Administrative Law Judge or the Judicial Officer is presiding) or the final Agency decision (if the Judicial Officer is presiding) rendered orally at the conclusion of the hearing. The presiding officer may grant or deny any such motion. The parties may, with the concurrence of the Judicial Officer, agree to waive any of the procedures established in these rules.

§953.16 Disposition.

Mail matter found to be nonmailable shall be held at the post office where detained for a period of 15 days from the date of the Postal Service decision,

unless that period is extended by the Judicial Officer. During this holding period, the appellant may apply for the withdrawal of the matter. If any such application is made, the General Counsel shall be given notice and the opportunity to oppose the application. Upon the expiration of the holding period with no application having been made, the Judicial Officer shall order that the matter be disposed of in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3001(b). If a timely application is made, the Judicial Officer shall consider the application and any reasons advanced by the General Counsel for denying the application. The Judicial Officer shall thereafter order either that the matter be returned to the applicant or that it be disposed of in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3001(b).

§ 953.17 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d), and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

PART 954—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE DENIAL, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF SECOND-CLASS MAIL PRIVILEGES

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 954.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 954.2 Scope of rules.

The rules of practice shall apply to all Postal Service proceedings concerning applications, denials, suspensions and revocations of second-class mailing privileges arising under former title 39 U.S.C. 4351, 4352, 4353, 4354, 4355, 4356, and 4369 as continued by sec. 3 of the Postal Reorganization Act (Pub. L. 91–375).

§ 954.3 Informal dispositions.

These rules do not preclude the informal dispositions of second-class mailing privilege matters before or after institution of proceedings.

§ 954.4 Office business hours.

The offices of the officials mentioned in these rules are located at the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260, and are open Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

[38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 7955, Feb. 8, 1977]

§ 954.5 Application.

A publisher may file an application for second-class mailing privileges. (See Part 132 of this chapter.) An authorized administrative official of the Postal Service (hereinafter called ''the authorized official'') rules upon all applications. If he denies the application he shall notify the publisher specifying the reasons for his denial and attaching a copy of these rules. Before taking action on an application, the authorized official may call upon the publisher for additional information or evidence to support or clarify the application. Failure of the publisher to furnish such information or evidence

may be cause for the authorized official to deny the application as incomplete or, on its face, not fulfilling the requirements for entry.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973; 42 FR 30504, June 15, 1977]

§954.6 Revocation or suspension.

When the authorized official determines that a publication is no longer entitled to second-class mailing privileges, he shall issue a ruling of suspension or revocation to the publisher at the last known address of the office of publication stating the reasons and attaching a copy of these rules.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973]

§954.7 Failure to appeal proposed action.

A ruling of the authorized official shall become final upon failure of the publisher to file a petition in accordance with the requirements of §954.8(b).

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973]

§954.8 Pleading.

(a) *Place of filing.* Parties shall file an original and three copies of all documents of record, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer with the Docket Clerk of the Postal Service, who shall cause copies to be delivered to the other parties and to the presiding officer. Service is ordinarily made on the private parties by certified mail and delivery is deemed complete when a document or notice of its arrival is left at the designated address. The Docket Clerk shall maintain a docket and the files in all proceedings.

(b) *Petition.* A publisher may appeal from a ruling of the authorized official by filing a petition within 15 days of the receipt of the ruling unless the time is extended by the authorized official. The petition shall state the reasons why the publisher (designated ''Petitioner'' in the proceeding) believes the ruling of the authorized official is erroneous and shall provide the address at which documents may be served on the Petitioner. The petition shall also allege facts showing compliance with each provision of law or regulation on which the publisher's claim to second-class mail privileges is based. The publisher shall attach to his petition a copy of the letter of the authorized official denying, suspending or revoking second class mail privileges.

(c) *Notice of hearing.* Upon receipt of the petition the Docket Clerk shall set a date for the hearing and issue a notice of hearing to the parties stating the time and place of the hearing, the date for filing an answer, and the name of the presiding officer.

(d) *Answer.* The authorized official (designated the ''Respondent'' in the proceeding) shall answer the petition within 15 days after filing and admit or deny each allegation of the petition.

(e) *Amendment.* An amendment of a pleading may be offered by any party at any time prior to the close of the hearing. If the presiding officer deems it appropriate to permit the amendment of a pleading, he may impose such conditions, by way of continuance of the hearing date or otherwise, as he considers necessary to assure a fair hearing.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973]

§954.9 Default.

If a publisher fails to appear at the hearing, the presiding officer may: (a) Dismiss the petition; (b) order the petitioner to show cause within 30 days from the date of the order why an order of dismissal should not be entered, and thereafter enter such order as the presiding officer deems to be appropriate. If the petition is dismissed by order of an Administrative Law Judge, the dismissal may be appealed to the Judicial Officer within 15 days from the date of the order.

§954.10 Intervention or other participation.

To intervene or otherwise participate in a proceeding, any person may file a timely application in accordance with §954.8(a). A timely application is one which will not unduly delay the proceeding. The application shall state whom the potential intervenor represents, his interest, the extent to which he desires to participate, and the evidence he seeks to introduce. The presiding officer shall fix the time

within which the parties shall answer the application. The presiding officer shall grant or deny the application on such terms and conditions as he deems appropriate. In so doing the presiding officer will consider, among other things, whether intervention or other participation is consistent with the timely and proper adjudication of the rights of the original parties.

[31 FR 5198, Mar. 31, 1966. Redesignated at 31 FR 16270, Dec. 20, 1966]

§ 954.11 Hearings.

Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the presiding officer.

§ 954.12 Change of place of hearing.

Not later than the date fixed for the filing of the answer, a party may file a request that a hearing be held to receive evidence in his behalf at a place other than that designated for hearing in the notice. He shall support his request with a statement setting forth:

(a) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(b) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify;

(c) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, DC.

The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

§ 954.13 Appearances.

(a) The General Counsel of the Postal Service or a member of his staff designated by him shall represent the Director.

(b) A publisher or intervenor may appear and be heard in person or by attorney. Attorneys may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with applicable rules issued by the Judicial Officer. See part 951 of this chapter.

(c) An attorney representing a publisher or intervenor shall file a written authorization from the publisher or intervenor before he may participate in the proceeding. The publisher or intervenor must promptly file a notice of change of attorneys.

(d) When a publisher or intervenor is represented by an authorized attorney all subsequent pleadings shall be served upon the attorney.

§ 954.14 Presiding officers.

(a) The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign each case to an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law to preside over the hearing. Such assignments shall be made, so far as practical, in rotation.

(b) The presiding officer shall have authority to:

(1) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) Examine witnesses;

(3) Rule upon matters of evidence and procedure;

(4) Order any pleading amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(5) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(6) Require the filing of briefs on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(7) Order prehearing conferences for the settlement or simplification of issues by consent of the parties;

(8) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence;

(9) Render an initial decision.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973; 38 FR 20263, July 30, 1973]

§ 954.15 Judicial Officer.

The Judicial Officer is authorized (a) to act as presiding officer at hearings and (b) to render a final Postal Service Decision for the Postmaster General. On appeal from an Initial Decision of an Administrative Law Judge, the Judicial Officer will consider the entire record including the initial decision and the exceptions to that decision. Before any final agency decision has been rendered, the Judicial Officer may order the hearing reopened for the presiding officer to take additional evidence.

§ 954.16 Procedure.

(a) *Evidence.* The general rules of evidence governing civil proceedings in matters not involving trial by jury in the courts of the United States apply. The rules may be relaxed to the extent

that the presiding officer may deem proper to insure an adequate and fair hearing. The presiding officer may exclude irrelevant or repetitious evidence.

(b) *Subpoenas.* The Postal Service is not authorized to issue subpoenas.

(c) *Fees.* The Postal Service does not pay fees and expenses for witnesses of, or depositions requested by, the publisher or intervenor.

(d) *Depositions.* Depositions may be taken as follows:

(1) Not later than 5 days after the filing of Director's answer, any party may file application with the presiding officer for the taking of testimony by deposition. In support of such application the applicant shall submit under oath or affirmation a statement setting out the reasons why such testimony should be taken by deposition, the time and the place, and the name and address of the witness whose deposition is desired, the subject matter of the testimony of each witness, its relevancy, and the name and address of the person before whom the deposition is to be taken.

(2) If the application is granted, the order for the taking of the deposition will specify the time and place thereof, the name of the witness, the person before whom the deposition is to be taken and any other necessary information.

(3) Each witness testifying upon deposition shall be duly sworn by the deposition officer and the adverse party shall have the right to cross-examine. The questions and answers together with all objections, shall be reduced to writing and, unless waived by stipulation of the parties, shall be read to and subscribed by the witness in the presence of the deposition officer who shall certify it in the usual form. The deposition officer shall file the testimony taken by deposition as directed in the order. All objections made at the time of examination shall be noted by the deposition officer and the evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, a party may transmit written interrogatories to the deposition officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim. Objections to relevancy or materiality of testimony, or to errors and irregularities occurring at the oral examination in the manner of taking the deposition, in the form of the questions or answers, in the oath or affirmation, or in the conduct of the parties and errors of any kind which might be obviated, cured or removed if promptly presented, are waived unless timely objection is made at the taking of the deposition.

(4) At the hearing any part or all of the deposition may be offered in evidence by any party who was present or represented at the taking of the deposition or who had notice thereof. If the deposition is not offered and received in evidence, it shall not be considered as a part of the record in the proceeding. The admissibility of depositions or parts thereof shall be governed by the rules of evidence.

(5) The party requesting the deposition shall pay all fees required to be paid to witnesses and the deposition officer, and shall provide an original and one copy of the deposition for the official record, and shall serve one copy upon the opposing party.

(6) Within the United States or within a territory or insular possession subject to the dominion of the United States, depositions may be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the examination is held; within a foreign country, depositions may be taken before a secretary of an embassy or legation, consul general, vice consul or consular agent of the United States, or any other person designated in the order for the taking of a deposition.

(7) Depositions may also be taken and submitted on written interrogatories in substantially the same manner as depositions taken by oral examination. When a deposition is taken upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, none of the parties shall be present or represented, and no person, other than the witness, a stenographic reporter, and the deposition officer shall be present at the examination of the witness, which fact shall be certified by the officer, who shall propound the interrogatories and cross-interrogatories to the witness in their order and reduce the testimony to writing in the witness' own words.

§ 954.17 Transcript.

(a) A contract reporter of the Postal Service under the supervision of the presiding officer shall report hearings. The reporter shall supply the parties with copies of the transcript at rates not to exceed those fixed by contract between the Postal Service and the reporter.

(b) Changes in the official transcript may be made only when they involve substantial errors. A party may file a motion for correction of the official transcript within 10 days after his receipt of the transcript or any part thereof. Other parties shall, within such time as may be specified by the presiding officer, notify the presiding officer in writing if they object to the requested corrections. Failure of a party to interpose timely objection to a proposed correction may be considered by the presiding officer to be concurrence. The presiding officer shall then specify the corrections to be made in the transcript. He may on his own initiative order corrections in the transcript after notice to the parties subject to their objection.

§ 954.18 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) A party to a proceeding may submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the presiding officer. The presiding officer shall determine whether they shall be oral or written. The presiding officer may require parties to a proceeding to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with supporting reasons. When the proposed findings and conclusions are not submitted orally they shall be filed within 15 days after delivery of the official transcript to the Docket Clerk. The Docket Clerk shall notify the parties of the filing date which shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by that date, the findings and conclusions will not be considered or included in the record.

(b) Except when presented orally, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be set forth in numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits relied upon to support the conclusions proposed. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

§ 954.19 Initial decision.

(a) Upon request of either party the presiding officer may render an oral initial decision at the close of the hearing when the nature of the case and the public interest warrant. If a party desires an oral initial decision he shall notify the presiding officer and the opposing party at least 5 days prior to the date set for hearing. Parties may then submit proposed findings and conclusions orally or in writing at the conclusion of the hearing.

(b) If an oral initial decision is not rendered, the presiding officer shall render a written initial decision with all due speed after the parties have submitted all posthearing material. The initial decision shall become the final agency decision unless it is appealed.

(c) The initial decision shall include findings upon all material issues of fact and law presented on the record and the reasons for those findings.

§ 954.20 Appeals.

(a) A party may appeal to the Judicial Officer from an initial decision by filing exceptions in a brief on appeal within 15 days from the receipt of a written or oral initial decision.

(b) The time for the filing of the reply brief is 10 days after receipt of the appeal brief. No additional briefs shall be received unless requested by the Judicial Officer.

(c) Appeal briefs shall contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented with page references;

(2) A table of cases alphabetically arranged;

(3) A list of statutes and texts cited with page references;

(4) A concise abstract or statement of the case;

(5) Numbered exceptions to the findings and conclusions of the presiding officer and the reasons for the exceptions.

(d) Reply briefs shall contain paragraphs (c) (1), (2), and (3) of this section

and the reasons for opposing the exceptions.

[36 FR 11567, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973]

§ 954.21 Motion for reconsideration.

Within 10 days from the date thereof, or such longer period as may be fixed by the Judicial Officer, either party may file a motion for reconsideration of a final Agency decision.

§ 954.22 Continuances.

For good cause shown, continuances or extensions may be granted by the presiding officer. Similar action may be taken by the Judicial Officer when the proceeding is on appeal.

§ 954.23 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under these rules excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next working day.

§ 954.24 Official record.

The pleadings, orders, exhibits, transcript of testimony, briefs, decisions and other documents filed in the proceeding constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§ 954.25 Public information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial and final Agency decisions. The Docket Clerk of the Postal Service maintains a complete official record of every proceeding. A person may examine a record upon authorization by the Judicial Officer.

§ 954.26 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5358, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 955—RULES OF PRACTICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF CONTRACT APPEALS

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401; 41 U.S.C. 607, 608.

SOURCE: 41 FR 7408, Feb. 18, 1976, unless otherwise noted.

§ 955.1 Jurisdiction, procedure, representation of parties.

(a) *Jurisdiction for considering appeals.* The U.S. Postal Service Board of Contract Appeals (Board) shall consider and determine appeals from decisions of contracting officers arising under contracts which contain provisions requiring the determination of appeals by the Postmaster General or his duly authorized representative or board. In addition the Board shall have jurisdiction over other matters assigned to it by the Postmaster General. The Board has authority to determine appeals falling within the scope of its jurisdiction as fully and finally as might the Postmaster General himself.

(b) *Organization and location of the Board.* (1) The Board is located in Washington, DC, and its mailing address is 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

(2) The Board consists of the Judicial Officer as Chairman, the Associate Judicial Officer as Vice Chairman, and the Administrative Judges of the Postal Service. All members of the Board shall be attorneys at law duly licensed by any state, commonwealth, territory, or the District of Columbia. In general, the appeals are assigned to a panel of at least three members of the Board. The decision of a majority of the panel constitutes the decision of the Board.

(c) *Decisions on questions of law.* When an appeal is taken pursuant to a Disputes Clause in a contract which limits appeals to disputes concerning questions of fact, the Board may, in its discretion, hear, consider, and decide all questions of law necessary for the complete adjudication of the issue. In the consideration of an appeal, should it appear that a claim is involved which is not cognizable under the terms of the contract, the Board may make findings of fact with respect to such a claim without expressing an opinion on the question of liability.

(d) *Board of contract appeals procedure*—(1) *Rules.* Appeals referred to the Board are handled in accordance with the rules of the Board.

(2) *Administration and interpretation of rules.* Emphasis is placed upon the sound administration of these rules in specific cases, because it is impracticable to articulate a rule to fit every possible circumstance which may be encountered. These rules will be interpreted so as to secure a just and inexpensive determination of appeals without unnecessary delay.

(3) *Preliminary procedures.* Preliminary procedures are available to encourage full disclosure of relevant and material facts, and to discourage unwarranted surprise.

(4) *Time, computation, and extensions.* (i) All time limitations specified for various procedural actions are computed as maximums, and are not to be fully exhausted if the action described can be accomplished in a lesser period. These time limitations are similarly eligible for extension in appropriate circumstances, on good cause shown.

(ii) Except as otherwise provided by law, in computing any period of time prescribed by these rules or by any order of the Board, the day of the event from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included, but the last day of the period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday in which event the period shall run to the end of the next business day.

(iii) Requests for extensions of time from either party shall be made in writing stating good cause therefor.

(5) *Place of filings.* Unless the Board otherwise directs, all notices of appeal, pleadings and other communications shall be filed with the Recorder of the Board at its offices in the United States Postal Service Headquarters Building, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

(e) *Representation of parties.* Whenever reference is made to contractor, appellant, contracting officer, respondent and parties, this shall include respective counsel for the parties, as soon as

appropriate notices of appearance have been filed with the Board.

[41 FR 7408, Feb. 18, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 60275, Dec. 27, 1978; 60 FR 57938, Nov. 24, 1995]

PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

§955.2 Appeals, how taken.

Notice of an appeal must be in writing, and the original, together with two copies, may be filed with the contracting officer from whose decision the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal must be mailed or otherwise filed within the time specified therefor in the contract or allowed by applicable provision of directive or law.

§955.3 Notice of appeal, contents of.

A notice of appeal should indicate that an appeal is thereby intended, and should identify the contract (by number), the department and agency or bureau cognizant of the dispute, and the decision from which the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal should be signed personally by the appellant (the contractor making the appeal), or by an officer of the appellant corporation or member of the appellant firm, or by the contractor's duly authorized representative or attorney. The complaint referred to in §955.7 may be filed with the notice of appeal, or the appellant may designate the notice of appeal as a complaint, if it otherwise fulfills the requirements of a complaint.

§955.4 Forwarding of appeals.

When a notice of appeal in any form has been received by the contracting officer, he shall endorse thereon the date of mailing (or date of receipt, if otherwise conveyed) and within 10 days shall forward said notice of appeal to the Board. Following receipt by the Board of the original notice of an appeal (whether through the contracting officer or otherwise), the contractor and contracting officer will be promptly advised of its receipt and the contractor will be furnished a copy of these rules.

§955.5 Preparation, contents, organization, forwarding, and status of appeal file.

(a) *Duties of contracting officer.* Within 30 days of receipt of an appeal, or advice that an appeal has been filed, the contracting officer shall assemble and transmit to the Board through Postal Service counsel an appeal file consisting of all documents pertinent to the appeal, including:

(1) The decision and findings of fact from which appeal is taken;

(2) The contract including specifications and pertinent amendments, plans and drawings;

(3) All correspondence between the parties pertinent to the appeal, including the letter or letters of claim in response to which decision was issued;

(4) Transcripts of any testimony taken during the course of proceedings, and affidavits or statements of any witnesses on the matter in dispute made prior to the filing of the notice of appeal with the Board; and

(5) Any additional information considered pertinent.

Within the same time above specified Postal Service counsel shall furnish the appellant a copy of each document he transmits to the Board, except those stated in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, as to which a list furnished appellant indicating specific contractual documents transmitted will suffice, and those stated in paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Duties of the appellant.* Within 30 days after receipt of a copy of the appeal file assembled by the contracting officer, the appellant shall supplement the same by transmitting to the Board any documents not contained therein which he considers pertinent to the appeal, furnishing two copies of such documents to the Government trial attorney.

(c) *Organization of appeal file.* Documents in the appeal file may be originals or legible facsimile or authenticated copies thereof, and shall be arranged in chronological order where practicable, numbered sequentially, tabbed, and indexed to identify the contents of the file.

(d) *Lengthy documents.* The Board may waive the requirement of furnishing to the other party copies of bulky, lengthy, or out-of-size documents in the appeal file when a party has shown that doing so would impose an undue burden. At the time a party files with the Board a document as to which such a waiver has been granted, he shall notify the other party that the same or a copy is available for inspection at the offices of the Board or of the party filing same.

(e) *Status of documents in appeal file.* Documents contained in the appeal file are considered, without further action by the parties, as part of the record upon which the Board will render its decision, unless a party objects to the consideration of a particular document in advance of hearing or of settling the record in the event there is no hearing on the appeal. If objection to a document is made, the Board will rule upon its admissibility into the record as evidence in accordance with §§955.14 and 955.21.

§ 955.6 Dismissal for lack of jurisdiction.

Any motion addressed to the jurisdiction of the Board shall be promptly filed. Hearing on the motion shall be afforded on application of either party, unless the Board determines that its decision on the motion will be deferred pending hearing on both the merits and the motion. The Board shall have the right at any time and on its own motion to raise the issue of its jurisdiction to proceed with a particular case, and shall do so by an appropriate order, affording the parties an opportunity to be heard thereon.

§ 955.7 Pleadings.

(a) *Appellant.* Within 30 days after receipt of notice of docketing of the appeal, the appellant shall file with the Board an original and one copy of a complaint setting forth simple, concise and direct statements of each of his claims, alleging the basis, with appropriate reference to contract provisions, for each claim, and the dollar amount claimed. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of a complaint although no particular form or formality is required. Upon receipt thereof, the Board shall serve a copy upon the respondent. Should the complaint not be received within 30 days, appellant's claim and appeal may, if in the opinion of the Board the issues before the Board are sufficiently defined, be deemed to set forth his complaint and the respondent shall be so notified.

(b) *Respondent.* Within 30 days from receipt of said complaint, or the aforesaid notice from the Board, respondent shall prepare and file with the Board an original and one copy of an answer thereto, setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of respondent's defenses to each claim asserted by appellant. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of an answer, and shall set forth any affirmative defenses or counter-claims as appropriate. Upon receipt thereof, the Board shall serve a copy upon appellant. Should the answer not be received within 30 days, the Board may, in its discretion, enter a general denial on behalf of the Government, and the appellant shall be so notified.

§ 955.8 Amendments of pleadings or record.

(a) The Board upon its own initiative or upon application by a party may, in its discretion, order a party to make a more definite statement of the complaint or answer, or to reply to an answer.

(b) The Board may, in its discretion, and within the proper scope of the appeal, permit either party to amend his pleading upon conditions just to both parties. When issues within the proper scope of the appeal, but not raised by the pleadings or the documentation described in §955.5, are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, or by permission of the Board, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised therein. In such instances, motions to amend the pleadings to conform to the proof may be entered, but are not required. If evidence is objected to at a hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues raised by the pleadings or the documentation required pursuant to §955.5 (which shall be deemed part of the pleadings for this purpose), it may be admitted within the proper scope of the appeal, provided, however, that the objecting

party may be granted a continuance if necessary to enable him to meet such evidence.

§955.9 Hearing election.

Upon receipt of respondent's answer or the notice referred to in the last sentence of §955.7(b), appellant shall advise whether he desires a hearing as prescribed in §§955.18 through 955.26, or whether, in the alternative, he elects to submit his case on the record without a hearing, as prescribed in §955.12. In appropriate cases, the appellant shall also elect whether he desires the optional small claims (expedited) procedure or accelerated procedure prescribed in §955.13.

[41 FR 7408, Feb. 18, 1976, as amended at 60 FR 57938, Nov. 24, 1995]

§955.10 Prehearing briefs.

Based on an examination of the documentation described in §955.5, the pleadings, and a determination of whether the arguments and authorities addressed to the issues are adequately set forth therein, the Board may, in its discretion, require the parties to submit prehearing briefs in any case in which a hearing has been elected pursuant to §955.9. In the absence of a Board requirement therefor, either party may, in its discretion and upon appropriate and sufficient notice to the other party, furnish a prehearing brief to the Board. In any case where a prehearing brief is submitted, it shall be furnished so as to be received by the Board at least 15 days prior to the date set for hearing, and a copy shall simultaneously be furnished to the other party as previously arranged.

§955.11 Prehearing or presubmission conference.

Whether the case is to be submitted pursuant to §955.12, or heard pursuant to §§955.18 through 955.26, the Board may upon its own initiative or upon the application of either party, call upon the parties to appear before a Board Member for a conference to consider:

(a) The simplification or clarification of the issues;

(b) The possibility of obtaining stipulations, admissions, agreements on documents, understandings on matters already of record, or similar agreements which will avoid unnecessary proof;

(c) The limitation of the number of expert witnesses, or avoidance of similar cumulative evidence, if the case is to be heard;

(d) The possibility of agreement disposing of all or any of the issues in dispute; and

(e) Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal.

The results of the conference shall be reduced to writing by the Board Member and this writing shall thereafter constitute part of the record.

§955.12 Submission without a hearing.

Either party may elect to waive a hearing and to submit his case upon the record before the Board, as settled pursuant to §955.14. Submission of the case without hearing does not relieve the parties from the necessity of proving the facts supporting their allegations or defenses. Affidavits, depositions, admissions, answers to interrogatories, and stipulations may be employed to supplement other documentary evidence in the Board record. The Board may permit such submission to be supplemented by oral argument (transcribed if requested), and by briefs arranged in accordance with §955.24.

§955.13 Optional small claims (expedited) and accelerated procedures.

(a) These procedures are available solely at the election of the appellant.

(b) Elections to Utilize SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) and ACCELERATED Procedure.

(1) In appeals where the amount in dispute is $50,000 or less, the appellant may elect to have the appeal processed under a small claims (expedited) procedure requiring decision of the appeal, whenever possible, within 120 days after the Board receives written notice of the appellant's election to utilize this procedure. The details of this procedure appear in paragraph (c) of this section. An appellant may elect the ACCELERATED procedure rather than the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure for any appeal eligible for the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure.

(2) In appeals where the amount in dispute is $100,000 or less, the appellant may elect to have the appeal processed under an accelerated procedure requiring the decision of the appeal, whenever possible, within 180 days after the Board receives written notice of the appellant's election to utilize this procedure. The details of this procedure appear in paragraph (d) of this section.

(3) The appellant's election of either the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure or the ACCELERATED procedure may be made either in his notice of appeal or by other written notice at any time thereafter.

(4) In deciding whether the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure or the ACCELERATED procedure is applicable to a given appeal the Board shall determine the amount in dispute by adding the amount claimed by the appellant against the respondent to the amount claimed by respondent against the appellant. If either party making a claim against the other party does not otherwise state in writing the amount of its claim, the amount claimed by such party shall be the maximum amount which such party represents in writing to the Board that it can reasonably expect to recover against the other.

(c) The SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) Procedure.

(1) This procedure shall apply only to appeals where the amount in dispute is $50,000 or less as to which the appellant has elected the small claims (expedited) procedure.

(2) In cases proceeding under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure, the following time periods shall apply (i) within ten days from the respondent's first receipt from either the appellant or the Board of a copy of the appellant's notice of election of the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure, the respondent shall send the Board a copy of the contract, the contracting officer's final decision, and the appellant's claim letter or letters, if any; (ii) within 5 days after the Board has acknowledged receipt of the notice of election, either party desiring an oral hearing shall so inform the Board. If either party requests an oral hearing, the Board shall promptly schedule such a hearing for a mutually convenient time consistent with administrative due process and the 120-day limit for a decision, at a place determined under § 955.18. If a hearing is not requested by either party within the time prescribed by this Rule, the appeal shall be deemed to have been submitted under § 955.12 without a hearing.

(3) In cases proceeding under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure, pleadings, discovery, and other prehearing activity will be allowed only as consistent with the requirement to conduct the hearing on the date scheduled or, if no hearing is scheduled, to close the record on a date that will allow decision within the 120-day limit. The Board, in its discretion, may shorten time periods prescribed elsewhere in these Rules as necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within 120 days after the Board has received the appellant's notice of election of the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure. In so doing the Board may reserve whatever time up to 30 days it considers necessary for preparation of the decision.

(4) Written decision by the Board in cases processed under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure will be short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions. Decisions will be rendered for the Board by a single Administrative Judge. If there has been a hearing, the Administrative Judge presiding at the hearing may, in his discretion, at the conclusion of the hearing and after entertaining such oral arguments as he deems appropriate, render on the record oral summary findings of fact, conclusions, and a decision of the Appeal. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered, the Board will subsequently furnish the parties a typed copy of such oral decision for the record and payment purposes and for the establishment of the commencement date of the period for filing a motion for reconsideration under § 955.30.

(5) Decisions of the Board under the SMALL CLAIMS (EXPEDITED) procedure will not be published, will have no value as precedents, and in the absence of fraud, cannot be appealed.

(d) The ACCELERATED Procedure

(1) This procedure shall apply only to appeals where the amount in dispute is $100,000 or less as to which the appellant has made the requisite election.

(2) In cases proceeding under the ACCELERATED procedure, the parties are encouraged, to the extent possible consistent with adequate presentation of their factual and legal positions, to waive pleadings, discovery, and briefs. The Board, in its discretion, may shorten time periods prescribed elsewhere in these Rules as necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within 180 days after the Board has received the appellant's notice of election of the ACCELERATED procedure, and may reserve 30 days for preparation of the decision.

(3) Written decisions by the Board in cases processed under the ACCELERATED procedure will normally be short and contain only summary findings of fact and conclusions. Decisions will be rendered for the Board by a single Administrative Judge with the concurrence of the Chairman or Vice Chairman or other designated Administrative Judge, or by a majority among these two and an additional designated member in case of disagreement. Alternatively, in cases where the amount in dispute is $50,000 or less as to which the accelerated procedure has been elected and in which there has been a hearing, the single Administrative Judge presiding at the hearing may, with the concurrence of both parties, at the conclusion of the hearing and after entertaining such oral arguments as he deems appropriate, render on the record oral summary findings of fact, conclusions, and a decision of the appeal. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered, the Board will subsequently furnish the parties a typed copy of such oral decision for record and payment purposes and to establish the date of commencement of the period for filing a motion for reconsideration under §955.30.

(e) Motions for Reconsideration in Cases Arising Under §955.13. Motions for Reconsideration of cases decided under either the small claims (expedited) procedure or the accelerated procedure need not be decided within the time periods prescribed by this §955.13 for the initial decision of the appeal, but all such motions shall be processed and decided rapidly so as to fulfill the intent of this section.

(f) Except as herein modified, the rules of this part 955 otherwise apply in all aspects.

[44 FR 13014, Mar. 9, 1979; 44 FR 23828, Apr. 23, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 57939, Nov. 24, 1995]

§955.14 Settling the record.

(a) The record upon which the Board's decision will be rendered consists of the appeal file described in §955.5, and to the extent the following items have been filed, pleadings, prehearing conference memoranda or orders, prehearing briefs, depositions or interrogatories received in evidence, admissions, stipulations, transcripts of conferences and hearings, hearing exhibits, posthearing briefs, and documents which the Board has specifically designated be made a part of the record. The record will at all reasonable times be available for inspection by the parties at the office of the Board.

(b) Except as the Board may otherwise order in its discretion, no proof shall be received in evidence after completion of an oral hearing or, in cases submitted on the record, after notification by the Board that the case is ready for decision.

(c) The weight to be attached to any evidence of record will rest within the sound discretion of the Board. The Board may in any case require either party, with appropriate notice to the other party, to submit additional evidence on any matter relevant to the appeal.

§955.15 Discovery—depositions.

(a) *General policy and protective orders.* The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. In connection with any deposition or other discovery procedure, the Board may make any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense, and those orders may include limitations on the scope, method, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting the secrecy of confidential information or documents.

(b) *When depositions permitted.* After an appeal has been docketed and complaint filed, the parties may mutually agree to, or the Board may, upon application of either party and for good cause shown, order the taking of testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories before any officer authorized to administer oaths at the place of examination, for use as evidence or for purpose of discovery. The application for order shall specify whether the purpose of the deposition is discovery or for use as evidence.

(c) *Orders on depositions.* The time, place, and manner of taking depositions shall be as mutually agreed by the parties, or failing such agreement, governed by order of the Board.

(d) *Use as evidence.* No testimony taken by depositions shall be considered as part of the evidence in the hearing of an appeal unless and until such testimony is offered and received in evidence at such hearing. It will not ordinarily be received in evidence if the deponent is present and can testify personally at the hearing. In such instances, however, the deposition may be used to contradict or impeach the testimony of the witness given at the hearing. In cases submitted on the record, the Board may, in its discretion, receive depositions as evidence in supplementation of that record.

(e) *Expenses.* Each party shall bear its own expenses associated with the taking of any deposition.

§ 955.16 Interrogatories to parties, admission of facts, and production and inspection of documents.

(a) *Interrogatories to parties.* After an appeal has been filed with the Board, a party may serve on the other party written interrogatories to be answered separately in writing, signed under oath and returned within 30 days. Upon timely objection by the party, the Board will determine the extent to which the interrogatories will be permitted. The scope and use of interrogatories will be controlled by § 955.15.

(b) *Admission of facts.* After an appeal has been filed with the Board, a party may serve upon the other party a request for the admission of specified facts. Within 30 days after service, the party served shall answer each requested fact or file objections thereto. The factual propositions set out in the request shall be deemed admitted upon the failure of a party to respond to the request for admission.

(c) *Production and inspection of documents.* Upon motion of any party showing good cause therefor, and upon notice, the Board may order the other party to produce and permit the inspection and copying or photographing of any designated documents or objects, not privileged, specifically identified, and their relevance and materiality to the cause or causes in issue explained, which are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. If the parties cannot themselves agree thereon, the Board shall specify just terms and conditions in making the inspection and taking the copies and photographs.

§ 955.17 Service of papers.

Papers shall be served personally or by mailing the same, addressed to the party upon whom service is to be made. Copies of complaints, answers and simultaneous briefs shall be filed directly with the Board. The party filing any other paper with the Board shall send a copy thereof to the opposing party, noting on the paper filed with the Board, or on the letter transmitting the same, that a copy has been so furnished.

HEARINGS

§ 955.18 Where and when held.

Hearings will ordinarily be held in the Washington, DC, area, except that upon request seasonably made and upon good cause shown, the Board may set the hearing at another location. Hearings will be scheduled at the discretion of the Board with due consideration to the regular order of appeals and other pertinent factors. On request or motion by either party and upon good cause shown, the Board may, in its discretion, advance a hearing.

[41 FR 7408, Feb. 18, 1976, as amended at 60 FR 57938, Nov. 24, 1995]

§ 955.19 Notice of hearings.

The parties shall be given at least 15 days notice of the time and place set

for hearings. In scheduling hearings, the Board will give due regard to the desires of the parties and to the requirement for just and inexpensive determination of appeals without unnecessary delay. Notices of hearing shall be promptly acknowledged by the parties.

§955.20 Unexcused absence of a party.

The unexcused absence of a party at the time and place set for hearing will not be occasion for delay. In the event of such absence, the hearing will proceed and the case will be regarded as submitted by the absent party as provided in §955.12.

§955.21 Nature of hearings.

Hearings shall be as informal as may be reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. Appellant and respondent may offer at a hearing on the merits such relevant evidence as they deem appropriate and as would be admissible under the generally accepted rules of evidence applied in the courts of the United States in nonjury trials, subject, however, to the sound discretion of the presiding officer in supervising the extent and manner of presentation of such evidence. In general, admissibility will hinge on relevancy and materiality. Letters or copies thereof, affidavits, or other evidence not ordinarily admissible under the generally accepted rules of evidence, may be admitted in the discretion of the presiding officer. The weight to be attached to evidence presented in any particular form will be within the discretion of the Board, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the particular case. Stipulations of fact agreed upon by the parties may be regarded and used as evidence at the hearing. The parties may stipulate the testimony that would be given by a witness if the witness were present. The Board may in any case require evidence in addition to that offered by the parties.

§955.22 Examination of witnesses.

Witnesses before the Board will be examined orally under oath or affirmation, unless the facts are stipulated, or the presiding officer shall otherwise order. If the testimony of a witness is not given under oath, the Board may warn the witness that his statements may be subject to the provisions of Title 18, U.S.C., sections 287 and 1001, and any other provisions of law imposing penalties for knowingly making false representations in connection with claims against the United States or in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency thereof.

§955.23 Copies of papers.

When books, records, papers, or documents have been received in evidence, a true copy thereof or of such part thereof as may be material or relevant may be substituted therefor, during the hearing or at the conclusion thereof.

§955.24 Posthearing briefs.

Posthearing briefs may be submitted upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the parties and the presiding officer at the conclusion of the hearing. Ordinarily, they will be simultaneous briefs, exchanged within 30 days after receipt of transcript.

§955.25 Transcript of proceedings.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the Board otherwise orders. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings shall be supplied to the parties at such rates as may be fixed by contract between the Reporter and the U.S. Postal Service.

§955.26 Withdrawal of exhibits.

After a decision has become final the Board may, upon request and after notice to the other party, in its discretion, permit the withdrawal of original exhibits, or any part thereof, by the party entitled thereto. The substitution of true copies of exhibits or any part thereof may be required by the Board in its discretion as a condition of granting permission for such withdrawal.

REPRESENTATION

§955.27 The appellant.

An individual appellant may appear before the Board in person, a corporation by an officer thereof, a partnership or joint venture by a member thereof, or any of these by an attorney

at law duly licensed in any State, commonwealth, territory, or in the District of Columbia. An attorney representing an appellant shall file a written notice of appearance with the Board.

§ 955.28 The respondent.

Postal Service counsel, designated by the General Counsel, will represent the interest of the Government before the Board. Counsel shall file a notice of appearance with the Board, and notice thereof will be given appellant or his attorney in the form specified by the Board from time to time. Whenever at any time it appears that appellant and Postal Service Counsel are in agreement as to disposition of the controversy, the Board may suspend further processing of the appeal: *Provided, however,* That if the Board is advised thereafter by either party that the controversy has not been disposed of by agreement, the case shall be restored to the Board's calendar without loss of position.

DECISIONS

§ 955.29 Decisions.

Decisions of the Board will be made in writing and authenticated copies thereof will be forwarded simultaneously to both parties. The rules of the Board and all final orders and decisions shall be open for public inspection at the offices of the Board in Washington, DC. Decisions of the Board will be made solely upon the record, as described in § 955.14.

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

§ 955.30 Motion for reconsideration.

A motion for reconsideration, if filed by either party, shall set forth specifically the ground or grounds relied upon to sustain the motion, and shall be filed within 30 days from the date of the receipt of a copy of the decision of the Board by the party filing the motion.

DISMISSALS

§ 955.31 Dismissal without prejudice.

In certain cases, appeals docketed before the Board are required to be placed in a suspense status and the Board is unable to proceed with disposition thereof for reasons not within the control of the Board. In any such case where the suspension has continued, or it appears that it will continue, for an inordinate length of time, the Board may, in its discretion, dismiss such appeals from its docket without prejudice to their restoration when the cause of suspension has been removed. Unless either party or the Board acts within three years to reinstate any appeal dismissed without prejudice, the dismissal shall be deemed with prejudice.

§ 955.32 Dismissal for failure to prosecute.

Whenever a record discloses the failure of either party to file documents required by these rules, respond to notices or correspondence from the Board, comply with orders of the Board, or otherwise indicates an intention not to continue the prosecution or defense of an appeal, the Board may issue an order requiring the offending party to show cause why the appeal should not be either dismissed or granted, as appropriate. If the offending party shall fail to show such cause, the Board may take such action as it deems reasonable and proper under the circumstances.

EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

§ 955.33 Ex parte communications.

No member of the Board or of the Board's staff shall entertain, nor shall any person directly or indirectly involved in an appeal submit to the Board or the Board's staff, off the record, any evidence, explanation, analysis, or advice, whether written or oral, regarding any matter at issue in an appeal. This provision does not apply to consultation among Board members nor to ex parte communications concerning the Board's administrative functions or procedures.

SANCTIONS

§ 955.34 Sanctions.

If any party fails or refuses to obey an order issued by the Board, the Board may make such order in regard to the failure as it considers necessary to the

just and expeditious conduct of the appeal.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY

§ 955.35 Subpoenas.

(a) *General.* Upon written request of either party filed with the Recorder or on his own initiative, the Administrative Judge to whom a case is assigned or who is otherwise designated by the Chairman may issue a subpoena requiring:

(1) *Testimony at a deposition.* The deposing of a witness in the city or county where he resides or is employed or transacts his business in person, or at another location convenient for him that is specifically determined by the Board;

(2) *Testimony at a hearing.* The attendance of a witness for the purpose of taking testimony at a hearing; and

(3) *Production of books and papers.* In addition to (1) and (2), the production by the witness at the deposition or hearing of books and papers designated in the subpoena.

(b) *Voluntary cooperation.* Each party is expected (1) To cooperate and make available witnesses and evidence under its control as requested by the other party, without issuance of a subpoena, and (2) To secure voluntary attendance of desired third-party books, papers, documents, or tangible things whenever possible.

(c) *Requests for subpoenas.* (1) A request for a subpoena shall normally be filed at least:

(i) 15 days before a scheduled deposition where the attendance of a witness at a deposition is sought;

(ii) 30 days before a scheduled hearing where the attendance of a witness at a hearing is sought.

In its discretion the Board may honor requests for subpoenas not made within these time limitations.

(2) A request for a subpoena shall state the reasonable scope and general relevance to the case of the testimony and of any books and papers sought.

(d) *Requests to quash or modify.* Upon written request by the person subpoenaed or by a party, made within 10 days after service but in any event not later than the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, the Board may (1) quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable and oppressive or for other good cause shown, or (2) require the person in whose behalf the subpoena was issued to advance the reasonable cost of producing subpoenaed books and papers. Where circumstances require, the Board may act upon such a request at any time after a copy has been served upon the opposing party.

(e) *Form; issuance.* (1) Every subpoena shall state the name of the Board and the title of the appeal and shall command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony, and if appropriate, to produce specified books and papers at a time and place therein specified. In issuing a subpoena to a requesting party, the Administrative Judge shall sign the subpoena and may in his discretion, enter the name of the witness and otherwise leave it blank. The party to whom the subpoena is issued shall complete the subpoena before service.

(2) Where the witness is located in a foreign country, a letter rogatory or subpoena may be issued and served under the circumstances and in the manner provided in 28 U.S.C. 1781–1784.

(f) *Service.* (1) The party requesting issuance of a subpoena shall arrange for service.

(2) A subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness at a deposition or hearing may be served at any place. A subpoena may be served by a United States marshal or deputy marshal, or by any other person who is not a party and not less than 18 years of age. Service of a subpoena upon a person named therein shall be made by personally delivering a copy to that person and tendering the fees for one day's attendance and the mileage provided by 28 U.S.C. 1821 or other applicable law.

(3) The party at whose instance a subpoena is issued shall be responsible for the payment of fees and mileage of the witness and of the officer who serves the subpoena. The failure to make payment of such charges on demand may be deemed by the Board as a sufficient ground for striking the testimony of the witness and the evidence the witness has produced.

(g) *Contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena.* In case of contumacy or refusal

to obey a subpoena by a person who resides, if found, or transacts business within the jurisdiction of a U.S. District Court, the Board will apply to the Court through the Attorney General of the United States for an order requiring the person to appear before the Board or a member thereof to give testimony or produce evidence or both. Any failure of any such person to obey the order of the Court may be punished by the Court as a contempt thereof.

[44 FR 13015, Mar. 9, 1979. Redesignated and amended at 60 FR 57939, Nov. 24, 1995]

§ 955.36 Effective Dates and Applicability.

The provisions of §§ 955.9 and 955.13 took effect on October 1, 1995. Pursuant to the Contract Disputes Acts of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601–613), §§ 955.13 and 955.35 apply to appeals relating to contracts entered into on or after March 1, 1979. All other provisions of this part 955 took effect February 18, 1976. Except as otherwise directed by the Board, these rules shall not apply to appeals docketed prior to their effective dates.

[60 FR 57939, Nov. 24, 1995]

PART 956—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON POST-EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITY

Sec.

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956.28 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 18 U.S.C. 207(j), 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 49 FR 40771, Oct. 17, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

§ 956.1 Authority for rules.

The rules in this part are issued by the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 U.S.C. 204, 401).

§ 956.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service pertaining to proposed disciplinary action initiated under § 447.34(e) of this title.

§ 956.3 Definitions.

(a) The term *Ethical Conduct Officer* has the same meaning as in § 447.31 of this title and includes his authorized representative.

(b) *Respondent* means any individual who has been served a written notice of proposed disciplinary action pursuant to § 447.34 of this title.

(c) The *Recorder* means the Recorder of the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260.

§ 956.4 Initiation of proceedings.

(a) The Ethical Conduct Officer shall initiate a proceeding by serving upon the proposed respondent a written notice of proposed disciplinary action in the manner hereinafter (§ 956.9(d)) provided for the service of all other papers.

(b) The notice shall:

(1) State that disciplinary action is being proposed;

(2) Inform the respondent of the subsection of section 207 (18 U.S.C. 207) that he is alleged to have violated and of the basis of the allegation;

(3) Inform the respondent of the disciplinary action which is proposed;

(4) Advise the respondent that he may oppose the proposed disciplinary

action by filing an answer within 20 days following receipt of the notice;

(5) State that the disciplinary action will not become effective until after a final agency decision is issued;

(6) Inform the respondent of the rules in this part, a copy of which shall be enclosed with the notice.

(c) If no answer is filed within 20 days following the receipt of the notice, the proposed disciplinary action set forth in the notice shall become the final agency decision without further notice to the respondent.

§956.5 Answer.

Within 20 days from receipt of the notice of proposed disciplinary action, the respondent may file an answer setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements admitting, denying or explaining each of the allegations set forth in the notice.

§956.6 Hearing election.

Either party may, within, 10 days following the filing of the respondent's answer, request a hearing. If a timely request is not made, the case shall be submitted on the record without a hearing. Submission of the case without a hearing does not relieve the parties of the necessity of proving the facts supporting their allegations or defenses. Affidavits, depositions, admissions, answers to interrogatories and stipulations may be employed to supplement the pleadings which consitute the record. The presiding officer may permit such submission to be supplemented by oral argument (transcribed if requested) and by proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

§956.7 Notice of hearing.

(a) When a request for a hearing is filed, a notice of hearing, stating the time and place thereof and advising the respondent of the consequences of a failure to appear at the hearing, will be issued (see §956.10). In setting a hearing date, due regard shall be given to the respondent's need for:

(1) Adequate time to prepare a defense properly; and

(2) An expeditious resolution of allegations that may be damaging to his or her reputation. Subject to those considerations, whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the notice of hearing.

(b) The notice of proposed disciplinary action and the answer together with the reply, if any, shall become the pleadings in any proceeding in which a hearing is held.

§956.8 Reply.

Not more than 15 days from the service of the answer, the Ethical Conduct Officer may submit a reply.

§956.9 Service and filing of documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Recorder pleadings, motions, orders and other documents for the record. The Recorder shall cause copies to be served promptly on other parties to the proceeding and on the presiding officer.

(b) The parties shall submit four copies of all documents unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer. One copy shall be signed as the original.

(c) Documents shall be dated and shall state the docket number and title of the proceeding. Any pleading or other document required by these rules or by order of the presiding officer to be filed by a specified date shall be filed with the Recorder on or before such date. The filing date shall be entered thereon by the Recorder.

(d) Service of all papers shall be effected by mailing the same, postage prepaid registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by causing said notice to be personally served on the proposed respondent by an authorized representative of the Postal Service. In the case of personal service, the person making service shall, if possible, secure from the proposed respondent or his agent, a written acknowledgment of receipt of said notice, showing the date and time of such receipt. If the person upon whom service is made will not acknowledge receipt, the person effecting service shall execute a statement, showing the time, place and manner of service, which shall constitute evidence of service. The acknowledgment, statement, or return receipt, when service is effected by mail, shall be made a part of the record by the Ethical Conduct Officer. The date of delivery, as shown by the

acknowledgment or statement of personal service or the return receipt, shall be the date of service.

§ 956.10 Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing.

If the respondent shall fail to appear at the hearing, the presiding officer shall receive the Ethical Conduct Officer's evidence and render a decision without requirement of further notice to the respondent.

§ 956.11 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) By consent of the parties, a pleading may be amended at any time. Also, a party may move to amend a pleading at any time prior to the close of the hearing, provided that the proposed amendment is reasonably within the scope of the proceeding.

(b) When issues not raised by the pleadings but reasonably within the scope of the proceedings initiated by the notice of proposed disciplinary action are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the pleadings. Such amendments, as may be necessary to make the pleadings conform to the evidence and to raise such issues, shall be allowed at any time upon the motion of any party.

(c) If a party objects to the introduction of evidence at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues framed by the pleadings, but fails to satisfy the presiding officer that an amendment of the pleadings would prejudice him on the merits, the presiding officer may allow the pleadings to be amended and may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to rebut the evidence presented.

(d) The presiding officer may, upon reasonable notice and upon such terms as are just, permit service of a supplemental pleading setting forth transactions, occurrences, or events which have transpired since the date of the pleading sought to be supplemented and which are relevant to any of the issues involved.

§ 956.12 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will not be granted by the presiding officer except for good cause shown.

§ 956.13 Hearings.

(a) Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the presiding officer.

(b) A party may, not later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date of a hearing, file a request that such hearing be held at a place other than that designated in the notice of hearing. He shall support his request with a statement outlining:

(1) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(2) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify;

(3) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at the place designated in the notice of hearing.

The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevance of the evidence to be offered.

§ 956.14 Appearances.

(a) A respondent may appear and be heard in person or by attorney.

(b) An attorney may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with applicable rules issued by the Judicial Officer (see part 951 of this chapter).

(c) When a respondent is represented by an attorney, all pleadings and other papers subsequent to the notice of proposed disciplinary action shall be mailed to the attorney.

(d) All counsel shall promptly file notices of appearance. Changes of the respondent's counsel shall be recorded by notices from retiring and succeeding counsel and from the respondent.

(e) After an answer has been filed pursuant to the rules in this part, the Law Department shall represent the Ethical Conduct Officer in further proceedings relative to the hearing and shall in its notice of appearance identify the individual member of such department who has been assigned to handle the case on its behalf.

§ 956.15 Presiding officer.

(a) The presiding officer shall be an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign cases under this part upon rotation so far as practicable. The Judicial Officer may,

for good cause found, preside at the reception of evidence upon request of either party.

(b) The presiding officer shall have authority to:

(1) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) Examine witnesses;

(3) Rule upon offers of proof, admissibility of evidence, and matters of procedure;

(4) Order any pleading amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(5) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(6) Require the filing of briefs or memoranda of law on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(7) Order prehearing conferences for the purposes of the settlement or simplification of issues by the parties;

(8) Permit oral argument by any party;

(9) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence;

(10) Render an initial decision, if the presiding officer is not the Judicial Officer, which becomes the final agency decision unless a timely appeal is taken; the Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision;

(11) Take such other and further action as may be necessary properly to preside over the proceeding and render decision therein.

§ 956.16 Burden of proof and evidence.

(a) Each party may introduce and examine witnesses and submit physical evidence. The Ethical Conduct Officer has the burden of proof in any proceeding under this part and must establish a violation by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the Federal Rules of Evidence shall be applicable to the hearings conducted under this part. Such rules may be relaxed, however, to the extent that the presiding officer deems proper to insure a fair hearing.

(c) Testimony shall be under oath or affirmation, and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination.

(d) Agreed statements of fact may be received in evidence.

(e) Official notice or knowledge may be taken of the types of matters of which judicial notice or knowledge may be taken.

(f) Each party may present oral argument.

§ 956.17 Discovery—depositions.

(a) The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. In connection with any deposition or other discovery procedure, the presiding officer may make any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense; and those orders may include limitations on the scope, method, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting the secrecy of confidential information or documents.

(b) After an answer has been filed, the parties may mutually agree to, or the presiding officer may, upon application of either party and for good cause shown, order the taking of the testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories before any officer authorized to administer oaths at the place of examination, for use as evidence or for purposes of discovery. The application for order shall specify whether the purpose of the deposition is discovery or for use as evidence.

(c) The time, place, and manner of taking depositions shall be mutually agreed by the parties or, failing such agreement, governed by order of the presiding officer.

(d) No testimony taken by depositions shall be considered as part of the evidence in a hearing unless and until such testimony is offered and received in evidence at such hearing. It will not ordinarily be received in evidence if the deponent is present and can testify personally at the hearing. In such instances, however, the deposition may be used to contradict or impeach the testimony of the witness given at the hearing. In cases submitted on the record, the presiding officer may, in his discretion, receive depositions as evidence in supplementation of that record.

(e) Each party shall bear its own expenses associated with the taking of any deposition.

§ 956.18 Interrogatories to parties, admission of facts, and production of documents.

(a) After an answer has been filed, a party may serve on the other party written interrogatories to be answered separately in writing, signed under oath and returned within 30 days. Upon timely objection by the party, the presiding officer will determine the extent to which the interrogatories will be permitted. The scope and use of interrogatories will be controlled by § 956.17.

(b) After an answer has been filed, a party may serve upon the other party a request for the admission of specified facts. Within 30 days after service, the party served shall answer each requested fact or file objections thereto. The factual propositions set out in the request shall be deemed admitted upon the failure of a party to respond to the request for admission.

(c) Upon motion of any party showing good cause therefore, and upon notice, the presiding officer may order the other party to produce and permit the inspection and copying or photocopying of any designated documents or objects, not privileged, specifically identified, and their relevance and materiality to the cause or causes in issue explained, which are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. If the parties cannot themselves agree thereon, the presiding officer shall specify just terms and conditions in making the inspection and making the copies and photographs.

§ 956.19 Transcript.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the presiding officer otherwise orders. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings shall be supplied to the parties at such rates as may be fixed by contract between the reporter and the Postal Service.

§ 956.20 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Each party to a proceeding, except one who fails to appear at the hearing may, unless the presiding officer orders otherwise, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons, either in oral or written form at the discretion of the presiding officer. The presiding officer may also require parties to any proceeding to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with supporting reasons. Unless ordered otherwise by the presiding officer, the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Recorder who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, or unless an extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

§ 956.21 Decisions.

(a) A written initial decision by an Administrative Law Judge shall be rendered with all due speed. The initial decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and an appropriate order. A tentative decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service unless exceptions are filed in accordance with § 956.22.

(b) When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing, he shall issue a final or a tentative decision. Such decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and an appropriate order. A tentative decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service unless exceptions are filed in accordance with § 956.22.

§ 956.22 Exceptions to initial decision or tentative decision.

(a) A party in a proceeding presided over by an Administrative Law Judge, except a party who failed to file an answer, may appeal to the Judicial Officer by filing exceptions in a brief on

appeal within 15 days from the receipt of the Administrative Law Judge's written initial decision.

(b) A party in a proceeding presided over by the Judicial Officer, except one who has failed to file an answer, may file exceptions within 15 days from the receipt of the Judicial Officer's written tentative decision.

(c) Upon receipt of the brief on appeal from an initial decision of an Administrative Law Judge, the Recorder shall promptly transmit the record to the Judicial Officer. The date for filing the reply to a brief on appeal or to a brief in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer is 10 days after the receipt thereof. No additional briefs shall be received unless requested by the Judicial Officer.

(d) Briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions and replies thereto shall be filed in quadruplicate with the Recorder and contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented, with page references; a table of cases alphabetically arranged; a list of statutes and texts cited, with page references.

(2) A concise abstract or statement of the case.

(3) Numbered exceptions to specific findings of fact or conclusions of law of the presiding officer.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of, or in opposition to, each exception taken, together with specific references to the pertinent part of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

(e) Unless permission is granted by the Judicial Officer, no brief on appeal or in support of exceptions shall exceed 50 printed or 100 typewritten pages double spaced.

(f) The Judicial Officer will extend the time to file briefs only upon motion for good cause found. The movant shall be promptly notified of the Judicial Officer's decision on the motion.

§956.23 Judicial Officer.

The Judicial Office is authorized:

(a) To act as presiding officer at hearings;

(b) To render tentative decisions;

(c) To render final decisions of the Postal Service;

(d) To refer the record in any proceedings to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General who will make the final decision of the Postal Service; and

(e) To revise or amend these rules of practice. In determining appeals from initial decisions or exceptions to tentative decisions, the entire official record will be considered before a final decision of the Postal Service is rendered. Before rendering a final decision of the Postal Service, the Judicial Officer may order the hearing reopened for the presentation of additional evidence by the parties.

§956.24 Motion for reconsideration.

Within 10 days from the date thereof, or such longer period as may be fixed by the Judicial Officer, either party may file a motion for reconsideration of the final agency decision. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion. The Judicial Officer, in his discretion, may hold a hearing on the issues raised by the motion.

§956.25 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order has been issued may file an application setting forth reasons which he believes warrant the modification or revocation of the order. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the Ethical Conduct Officer who shall file a written reply. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder. The Judicial Officer, in his discretion, may hold a hearing on the issues raised by the application. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§956.26 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under the rules of this part excludes the day the period begins and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday or Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until

the close of business on the next business day.

§ 956.27 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§ 956.28 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

PART 957—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION FROM CONTRACTING

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 957.1 Authority for rules.

The rules in this part are issued by the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 U.S.C. secs. 204, 401; sec. 1, part 6 of the Postal Contracting Manual).

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976]

§ 957.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable in all formal proceedings before the Postal Service pertaining to hearings initiated under sec. 1, part 6 of the Postal Contracting Manual.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976]

§ 957.3 Definitions.

(a) The term *Department Head* means the head of any Department of the Postal Service or his representative for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of sec. 1, part 6 of the Postal Contracting Manual.

(b) The term *General Counsel* includes his authorized representative.

(c) The term *Judicial Officer* includes the Acting Judicial Officer.

(d) *Debarment* means, in general, an exclusion from Government contracting and subcontracting for a reasonable, specified period of time commensurate with the seriousness of the offense or failure, or the inadequacy of performance.

(e) *Suspension* means a disqualification from Government contracting and subcontracting for a temporary period of time because a concern or individual is suspected upon adequate evidence of engaging in criminal, fraudulent, or seriously improper conduct.

(f) *Respondent* means any individual, firm or other entity which has been served a written notice of proposed debarment pursuant to Section 1, part 6 of the Postal Contracting Manual.

(g) The *Docket Clerk* means the Docket Clerk of the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973; 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976]

§ 957.4 Initiation of debarment proceedings.

(a) A Department Head shall initiate a debarment proceeding by serving

upon the proposed Respondent a written notice of proposed debarment in the manner hereinafter (§957.8(d)) provided for the service of all other papers.

(b) The notice shall state:

(1) That debarment is being considered;

(2) The reasons for the proposed debarment;

(3) The period of debarment and the proposed effective date thereof;

(4) That the debarment will not become effective until after a hearing if such hearing is requested within 20 days following the receipt of the notice; and

(5) That the request for a hearing is to be submitted in the manner prescribed by the rules in this part, a copy of which shall be enclosed with the notice.

(c) If no hearing is requested within 20 days following the receipt of the notice, the action of the Department Head set forth in the notice shall become the final agency determination without further notice to the Respondent.

(d) The party against which a final agency determination has been entered pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section shall, however, at any time have the privilege of reopening a case for the limited purpose of contesting the issue of service. Such party's contentions on that issue shall be addressed to the Judicial Officer in the same manner as a request for a hearing (see §957.5). The Judicial Officer may require such additional showings or proof as he may deem necessary on the issue of service and shall reopen any debarment proceeding previously closed pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section if he shall find that service was incomplete or otherwise failed to adequately advise of the pendency of the proposed debarment.

§957.5 The request for a hearing.

A respondent may, within 20 days following the receipt of a written notice of proposed debarment, file a request for a hearing before the Judicial Officer. The request shall be addressed to the presiding officer through the Department Head who initiated the debarment proceeding and shall be accompanied by a concise statement admitting, denying or explaining each of the allegations set forth in the notice of proposed debarment and stating the relief desired.

§957.6 Order relative to hearing.

(a) The Judicial Officer shall issue an order granting the Respondent's request for a hearing, establishing the time and place thereof and advising the Respondent of the consequences of a failure to appear at the hearing (see §957.9). Whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the Judicial Officer's order relative to hearing.

(b) The notice of proposed debarment and the request for a hearing together with the reply, if any, shall become the pleadings in any proceeding in which the Judicial Officer orders a hearing to be held.

§957.7 Reply.

Not more than 15 days from the service of the request for a hearing, the General Counsel may submit a reply on behalf of the Department Head who initiated the debarment proceeding.

§957.8 Service and filing documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Docket Clerk pleadings, motions, orders and other documents for the record. The Docket Clerk shall cause copies to be served promptly on other parties to the proceeding and on the Judicial Officer.

(b) The parties shall submit four copies of all documents unless otherwise ordered by the Judicial Officer. One copy shall be signed as the original.

(c) Documents shall be dated and shall state the docket number and title of the proceeding. Any pleading or other document required by order of the Judicial Officer to be filed by a specified date shall be served upon the Docket Clerk on or before such date. The date of such service shall be the filing date and shall be entered thereon by the Docket Clerk.

(d) Service of all papers shall be effected by mailing the same, postage prepaid registered, or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by causing said notice to be personally served on

the proposed Respondent by an authorized representative of the Department. In the case of personal service the person making service shall secure from the proposed Respondent or his agent, a written acknowledgment of receipt of said notice, showing the date and time of such receipt. Said acknowledgment (or the return receipt where service is effectuated by mail) shall be made a part of the record by the Department Head initiating the debarment proceeding. The date of delivery, as shown by the acknowledgment of personal service or the return receipt, shall be the date of service.

§ 957.9 Respondent's failure to appear at the hearing.

If the Respondent shall fail to appear at the hearing, the Judicial Officer shall receive the Department Head's evidence and render a Postal Service Decision without requirement of further notice to the Respondent.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 23422, Nov. 3, 1972]

§ 957.10 Respondent already debarred by another Government agency.

(a) When a Department Head proposes to debar a firm or individual already debarred by another Government agency for a term concurrent with such debarment, the debarment proceedings before the Postal Service may be based entirely upon the record of facts obtained from such other agency or upon such facts and additional other facts. In such cases the facts obtained from the other agency shall be considered as established, but the party to be debarred shall have opportunity to present information to the Judicial Officer and to explain why the debarment by the Postal Service should not be imposed.

(b) Where the Department Head initiating the debarment proceeding relies:

(1) Upon the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, or

(2) Upon all or part of the record of the proposed Respondent's previous debarment by another Government agency, in initiating such proceeding, the notice of proposed debarment shall contain a statement so stating in sufficient detail to apprise the Respondent of the extent of such reliance.

(c) The Department Head's reliance upon provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, stated in conformity with the directions set forth in paragraph (b) of this section does not deprive the Respondent of the right to request the Judicial Officer to grant a hearing pursuant to these rules, nor the Judicial Officer the full discretion to grant or deny such request.

§ 957.11 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) By consent of the parties a pleading may be amended at any time. Also, a party may move to amend a pleading at any time prior to the close of the hearing: *Provided*, That the proposed amendment is reasonably within the scope of the proceeding.

(b) When issues not raised by the pleadings but reasonably within the scope of the proceedings initiated by the notice of proposed debarment are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the pleadings. Such amendments as may be necessary to make the pleadings conform to the evidence and to raise such issues shall be allowed at any time upon the motion of any party.

(c) If a party objects to the introduction of evidence at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues framed by the pleadings, but fails to satisfy the Judicial Officer that an amendment of the pleadings would prejudice him on the merits, the Judicial Officer may allow the pleadings to be amended and may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to rebut the evidence presented.

(d) The Judicial Officer may, upon reasonable notice and upon such terms as are just, permit service of a supplemental pleading setting forth transactions, occurrences, or events which have transpired since the date of the pleading sought to be supplemented and which are relevant to any of the issues involved.

§ 957.12 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will not be granted by the Judicial Officer except for good cause shown.

§ 957.13 Hearings.

(a) Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the Judicial Officer.

(b) A party may, not later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date of a hearing, file a request that such hearing be held at a place other than that designated in the Judicial Officer's order relative to hearing. He shall support his request with a statement outlining:

(1) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(2) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify;

(3) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, DC. The Judicial Officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

§ 957.14 Appearances.

(a) A Respondent may appear and be heard in person or by attorney.

(b) An attorney may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with applicable rules issued by the Judicial Officer (see part 951 of this chapter).

(c) When a Respondent is represented by an attorney, all pleadings and other papers subsequent to the notice of proposed debarment shall be mailed to the attorney.

(d) All counsel shall promptly file notices of appearance. Changes of Respondent's counsel shall be recorded by notices from retiring and succeeding counsel and from the Respondent.

(e) After a request for a hearing has been filed pursuant to the rules in this part, the Law Department shall represent the Department Head in further proceedings relative to the hearing and shall in its notice of appearance identify the individual member of such office who has been assigned to handle the case on its behalf.

§ 957.15 Conduct of the hearing.

The Judicial Officer shall have authority to:

(a) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(b) Examine witnesses;

(c) Rule upon offers of proof, admissibility of evidence, and matters of procedure;

(d) Order any pleading amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(e) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(f) Require the filing of briefs or memoranda of law on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(g) Order prehearing conferences for the purpose of the settlement or simplification of issues by the parties;

(h) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence;

(i) Render a final agency decision;

(j) Take such other further action as may be necessary to properly preside over the debarment proceeding and render decision therein.

§ 957.16 Evidence.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the rules in this part, the rules of evidence governing civil proceedings in matters not involving trial by jury in the courts of the United States shall govern. However, such rules may be relaxed to the extent that the Judicial Officer deems proper to insure a fair hearing.

(b) Testimony shall be under oath or affirmation and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements of fact may be received in evidence.

(d) Official notice or knowledge may be taken of the types of matters of which judicial notice or knowledge may be taken.

(e) The written statement of a competent witness may be received in evidence: *Provided,* That such statement is relevant to the issues, that the witness shall testify under oath at the hearing that the statement is in all respects true, and, in the case of expert witnesses, that the statement correctly states his opinion or knowledge concerning the matters in question.

§ 957.17 Witness fees.

The Postal Service does not pay fees and expenses for Respondent's witnesses or for depositions requested by Respondent.

§ 957.18 Depositions.

(a) Not later than 7 days prior to the scheduled date of the hearing any party may file application with the Docket Clerk for the taking of testimony by deposition. In support of such application the applicant shall submit under oath or affirmation a statement setting out the reasons why such testimony should be taken by deposition, the time and the place, and the name and address of the witness whose deposition is desired, the subject matter of the testimony of each witness, its relevancy, and the name and address of the person before whom the deposition is to be taken.

(b) If the application be granted, the order for the taking of the deposition will specify the time and place thereof, the name of the witness, the person before whom the deposition is to be taken and any other necessary information.

(c) Each witness testifying upon deposition shall be duly sworn, and the adverse party shall have the right to cross-examine. The questions and answers together with all objections, shall be reduced to writing and, unless waived by stipulation of the parties, shall be read to and subscribed by the witness in the presence of the deposition officer who shall certify it in the usual form. The deposition officer shall file the testimony taken by deposition as directed in the order. The deposition officer shall put the witness on oath. All objections made at the time of examination shall be noted by the deposition officer and the evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, a party may transmit written interrogatories to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim. Objections to relevancy or materiality of testimony, or to errors and irregularities occurring at the oral examination in the manner of taking the deposition, in the form of the questions or answers, in the oath or affirmation, or in the conduct of the parties and errors of any kind which might be obviated, cured or removed if promptly presented, are waived unless timely objection is made at the taking of the deposition.

(d) At the hearing any part or all of the deposition may be offered in evidence by any party who was present or represented at the taking of the deposition or who had notice thereof. If the deposition is not offered and received in evidence, it shall not be considered as a part of the record in the proceeding. The admissibility of depositions or parts thereof shall be governed by the rules of evidence.

(e) The party requesting the deposition shall pay all fees required to be paid to witnesses and the deposition officer, and shall provide an original and one copy of the deposition for the official record, and shall serve one copy upon the opposing party.

(f) Within the United States or within a territory or insular possession, subject to the dominion of the United States, depositions may be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the examination is held; within a foreign country, depositions may be taken before a secretary of an embassy or legation, consul general, vice consul or consular agent of the United States, or any other person designated in the order for the taking of a deposition.

(g) Depositions may also be taken and submitted on written interrogatories in substantially the same manner as depositions taken by oral examination. When a deposition is taken upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, none of the parties shall be present or represented, and no person, other than the witness, a stenographic reporter, and the officer shall be present at the examination of the witness, which fact shall be certified by the officer, who shall propound the interrogatories and cross-interrogatories to the witness in their order and reduce the testimony to writing in the witness' own words.

§ 957.19 Transcript.

(a) Hearings shall be stenographically reported by a contract reporter of the Postal Service under the supervision of the Judicial Officer. Argument upon any matter may be excluded from the transcript by order of the Judicial Officer. A copy of the transcript shall be a part of the record and the

sole official transcript of the proceeding. Copies of the transcript may be obtained by the Respondent from the reporter upon the payment to him of a reasonable price therefor. Copies of parts of the official record other than the transcript may be obtained from the librarian of the Postal Service or the Docket Clerk.

(b) Changes in the official transcript may be made only when they involve errors affecting substance and then only in the manner herein provided. No physical changes shall be made in or upon the official transcript, or copies thereof, which have been filed with the record. Within 10 days after the receipt by any party of a copy of the official transcript, or any part thereof, he may file a motion requesting correction of the transcript. Opposing counsel shall, within such time as may be specified by the Judicial Officer, notify the Judicial Officer in writing of his concurrence or disagreement with the requested corrections. Failure to interpose timely objection to a proposed correction shall be considered to be concurrence. Thereafter, the Judicial Officer shall by order specify the corrections to be made in the transcript. The Judicial Officer on his own initiative may order corrections to be made in the transcript with prompt notice to the parties of the proceeding. Any changes ordered by the Judicial Officer other than the agreement of the parties shall be subject to objection and exception.

§957.20 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Each party to a proceeding, except one who fails to appear at the hearing may, unless at the discretion of the Judicial Officer such is not appropriate, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons either in oral or written form in the discretion of the Judicial Officer. The Judicial Officer may also require parties to any proceeding to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law with supporting reasons. Unless given orally the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Docket Clerk who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, or unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

§957.21 Decision.

The Judicial Officer shall issue a final agency decision. Such decision shall include findings and conclusions, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and the appropriate order.

§957.22 Motion for reconsideration.

Within 10 days from the date thereof, or such longer period as may be fixed by the Judicial Officer, either party may file a motion for reconsideration of the final agency decision. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion.

§957.23 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order of debarment has been issued may file an application for modification or revocation thereof. The Docket Clerk shall transmit a copy of the application to the General Counsel, who shall file a written reply. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Docket Clerk. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§957.24 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under the rules in this part excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in

which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§ 957.25 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§ 957.26 Public information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service shall maintain for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all final decisions. The Docket Clerk maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

§ 957.27 Suspension.

(a) Any firm or individual suspended under section 1, part 6 of the Postal Contracting Manual who believes that his suspension has not been in accordance with the provisions thereof, or with applicable laws or regulations, may appeal to the Judicial Officer for a review of the suspension.

(b) Any such appeal shall be addressed to the Judicial Officer through the Department Head who ordered the suspension within 20 days of the date upon which the respondent has been notified of his suspension. Such appeal shall concisely and in the manner of a pleading set forth the grounds upon which the suspension is contested and may be supported by a brief and such evidence as the respondent may desire to submit.

(c) Should the respondent desire oral argument or a hearing before the Judicial Officer in connection with his appeal, application therefor shall be included in the appeal. In the event that the Judicial Officer grants the respondent's application for a hearing the notice of suspension and the appeal shall constitute the pleadings defining the issues therein and the hearing shall be regulated in accordance with the rules in this part concerning debarment proceedings.

(d) The decision of the Judicial Officer in any appeal shall constitute the final agency determination of the issues presented thereby. Either party thereto may, however, file a motion for reconsideration thereof, in accordance with the provisions of § 957.22.

[36 FR 11574, June 16, 1971, as amended at 41 FR 19309, May 12, 1976]

§ 957.28 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5358, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 958—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE REFUSAL TO PROVIDE POST OFFICE BOX OR CALLER SERVICE AND THE TERMINATION OF POST OFFICE BOX OR CALLER SERVICE

Sec.

958.1 Authority for rules.
958.2 Scope of rules.
958.3 Petition; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.
958.4 Hearings.
958.5 Election as to hearing.
958.6 Default.
958.7 Presiding officers.
958.8 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.
958.9 Initial decision.
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958.12 Compromise and informal disposition.
958.13 Petition to revoke, amend, or modify.
958.14 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 36 FR 11578, June 16, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

§ 958.1 Authority for rules.

The Judicial Officer promulgates the rules in this part pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 958.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable to cases in which a postmaster has issued a Determination denying an application for post office box or caller service, or terminating the box or caller service being provided to a customer, and in which a Petition in opposition to that Determination has been filed.

[46 FR 62847, Dec. 29, 1981]

§958.3 Petition; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.

(a) *Petition.* Any applicant or customer who receives a postmaster's Determination may oppose it by filing, in triplicate, a written Petition stating his reasons for opposing the Determination. The Petition, signed by the Petitioner or his attorney, shall be filed by sending the Petition via certified mail to the postmaster who issued the Determination, or by otherwise delivering it to the postmaster's office. The Petition must be filed within twenty days (Sundays and holidays included) after the date on which the Petitioner received the Determination. The postmaster shall immediately forward two copies of the Petition to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–6100.

(b) *Notice of hearing.* On receipt of the Petition, the Recorder shall schedule a hearing on a date not later than 30 days after the date of receipt. A Notice of Hearing shall be sent to the Petitioner. A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Petition shall be sent to the General Counsel of the U.S. Postal Service.

(c) *Answer.* The General Counsel of the Postal Service shall file an Answer to the Petition within fifteen days after the date the General Counsel received a copy of the Petition from the Recorder.

(d) *Summary judgment.* Upon motion of either the General Counsel or the Petitioner, or on his or her own initiative, the presiding officer may find that the Petition and Answer present no genuine or material issues of fact requiring an evidentiary hearing and may thereupon render an initial decision granting or dismissing the Petition. The initial decision shall become the final asgency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

[46 FR 62847, Dec. 29, 1981]

§958.4 Hearings.

Hearings are held at the Headquarters Office of the U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC, or such other location as may be designated by the presiding officer. Not later than 5 days prior to the date fixed for the hearing, a party may file a request that a hearing be held to receive evidence in his behalf at a place other than that designated for hearing in the notice. He shall support his request with a statement outlining: (a) The evidence to be offered in such place; (b) the names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify; (c) the reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, D.C. The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

[36 FR 11578, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 17217, June 29, 1973]

§958.5 Election as to hearing.

If both parties so elect, they may waive an oral hearing and submit the matter for decision on the basis of the appeal and answer, with the approval of the presiding officer and subject to the right of the presiding officer to require the parties to furnish such further evidence or such briefs as the presiding officer may deem necessary. The request to waive oral hearing shall be mailed to the presiding officer not later than 10 days prior to the date set for the hearing.

§958.6 Default.

If a person who has not waived oral hearing fails, without notice or without adequate cause, satisfactory to the presiding officer, to appear at the hearing, the presiding officer shall issue an order dismissing the appeal. If no protest to such order of dismissal is received within 10 days from the date of issuance of the order, such order shall become final. Any protest to the order of dismissal received within 10 days from the date of its issuance shall be given such consideration as the presiding officer deems to be warranted by the facts and circumstances alleged in the protest. An order of dismissal issued under this section by an Administrative Law Judge may be appealed to the Judicial Officer within 10 days from the date of the order.

[36 FR 11578, June 16, 1971, as amended by 42 FR 30504, June 15, 1977]

§ 958.7 Presiding officers.

The presiding officer at any hearing shall be an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law, or the Judicial Officer (39 U.S.C. 204). The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign cases to Administrative Law Judges by rotation so far as practicable. The Judicial Officer may, for good cause shown, preside at the reception of evidence in proceedings where expedited hearings are requested by either party. When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing, he shall, in his sole discretion, render a tentative or final decision after the conclusion of the hearing. Exceptions may be filed to a tentative decision in accordance with § 958.10.

[36 FR 11578, June 16, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 20263, July 30, 1973; 42 FR 30504, June 15, 1977]

§ 958.8 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and supporting arguments shall be submitted orally or in writing at the conclusion of the hearing.

§ 958.9 Initial decision.

Unless given orally at the conclusion of the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge shall render an initial decision as expeditiously as practicable following the conclusion of the hearing, and the receipt of the proposed findings, if any. The initial decision shall become the final agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

§ 958.10 Appeal.

Either party may file exceptions in a brief on appeal to the Judicial Officer within 5 days after receipt of the initial or tentative decision unless additional time is granted. A reply brief may be filed within 5 days after the receipt of the appeal brief by the opposing party.

§ 958.11 Final agency decision.

The Judicial Officer shall render a final agency decision or he shall refer the matter to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General for such final decision. The decision shall be served upon the parties and upon the postmaster at the office where the box is located.

§ 958.12 Compromise and informal disposition.

Nothing in these rules precludes the compromise, settlement, and informal disposition of proceedings initiated under these rules at any time prior to the issuance of the final agency decision.

§ 958.13 Petition to revoke, amend, or modify.

A party against whom an order has been issued may file a petition for the revocation, amendment or modification thereof. The Docket Clerk shall transmit a copy of the petition to the General Counsel, who may file a written reply. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the petitioner by the Docket Clerk. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§ 958.14 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5358, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 959—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE PRIVATE EXPRESS STATUTES

Sec.

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959.2 Scope of rules.
959.3 Office, business hours.
959.4 Demands for payment of postage.
959.5 Appeals from demands.
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959.7 Notice of hearing.
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959.25 Judicial Officer.
959.26 Motion for reconsideration.
959.27 Modification or revocation of orders.
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959.31 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401; 39 CFR 224.1(c)(6)(ii)(D).

SOURCE: 39 FR 33213, Sept. 16, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

§959.1 Authority for rules.

These rules are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§959.2 Scope of rules.

These rules apply to all Postal Service proceedings in which part 310 of this title authorizes appeals to the Judicial Officer from demands for postage for matter carried in violation of the Private Express Statutes, and in proceedings to revoke, as to any person, the suspension of provisions of the Private Express Statutes in accordance with part 320 of this title.

§959.3 Office, business hours.

The offices of the officials mentioned in these rules are located at the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW., Washington, DC 20260, and are open, Monday through Friday except holidays, during the normal business hours of the Postal Service.

§959.4 Demands for payment of postage.

Final demands for payment of postage will be accompanied by a copy of these rules and will:

(a) State that the demand is final unless appealed under these rules within 15 days after receipt of the demand;

(b) Describe the transaction on which the demand is based and the provisions of law or regulation alleged to have been violated; and

(c) State the manner in which the amount of the demand is computed.

§959.5 Appeals from demands.

(a) A party upon whom a demand for postage has been made may appeal from the demand by filing a petition, in triplicate, with the Docket Clerk, Judicial Officer Department, within 15 days after receipt of the demand.

(b) The petition shall:

(1) Be signed personally by an individual petitioner, by one of the partners of a partnership, or by an officer of a corporation or association;

(2) State the reasons why the person filing the petition (designated the ''Petitioner'' in these rules) believes the demand is not justified;

(3) Admit or deny each fact alleged in the demand and allege any facts upon which the Petitioner relies to show compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and,

(4) Be accompanied by a copy of the demand.

(c) Factual allegations that are not denied by the petition may be deemed to have been admitted. The demand and the petition (together with other documents authorized in this part) shall become the pleadings in appeals from demands.

§959.6 Revocations of suspension.

(a) The General Counsel, or a member of his staff as he may designate, may initiate a revocation of the suspension of the Private Express Statutes as provided in part 320 of this title as to any person, by filing, in triplicate, a petition with the Docket Clerk which

(1) Names the person involved;

(2) States the legal authority under which the proceeding is initiated;

(3) States the facts in a manner sufficient to enable the person named to make answer thereto; and,

(4) Recommends the issuance of an appropriate order.

(b) *Answer.* (1) The person named in the petition (designated the ''Respondent'' in these rules) shall file an answer with the Docket Clerk within 15 days after he is served with a copy of the petition in accordance with §959.8.

(2) The answer shall contain a concise statement admitting, denying, or explaining each of the allegations set forth in the petition.

(3) Any facts alleged in the petition which are not denied, or which are expressly admitted in the answer, may be considered as proved, and no further evidence regarding these facts need be adduced at the hearing.

(4) The answer shall be signed personally by an individual respondent, or in the case of a partnership, by one of the partners, or, in the case of a corporation or association, by an officer thereof.

(5) The answer shall set forth the respondent's address and the name and address of his attorney, if respondent is represented by counsel.

(6) The answer shall affirmatively state whether the respondent will appear in person or by counsel at the hearing.

(7) If the respondent does not desire to appear at the hearing in person or by counsel, the matter shall be deemed submitted for determination pursuant to paragraph (b) of § 959.10.

§ 959.7 Notice of hearing.

When a petition is filed, the Docket Clerk shall issue a notice of hearing, stating the time and place of the hearing and the date for filing an answer which shall not exceed 15 days from the date of service of the petition, and a reference to the effect of failure to file an answer or appear at the hearing. (See §§ 959.5(c), 959.6(b), and 959.10.) Whenever practicable, the hearing date shall be within 30 days of the date of the notice.

§ 959.8 Service of petition filed under § 959.6.

(a) The Docket Clerk shall cause a notice of hearing and a copy of the petition to be transmitted to the postmaster at any office of address of the respondent in which the respondent is doing business, which shall be delivered to the respondent or his agent by said postmaster or his designee. A receipt acknowledging delivery of the notice shall be secured from the respondent or his agent and forwarded to the Docket Clerk, to become a part of the official record.

(b) If, after 5 days, the postmaster or his designee, can find no person to accept service of the notice of hearing and petition pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the notice and copy of the petition may be delivered in the usual manner as other mail addressed to the respondent. A statement, showing the time and place of delivery, signed by the postal employee who delivered the notice of hearing and petition shall be forwarded to the Docket Clerk and such statement shall constitute evidence of service.

§ 959.9 Filing documents for the record.

(a) Each party shall file with the Docket Clerk pleadings, motions, orders and other documents for the record. The Docket Clerk shall cause copies to be delivered promptly to other party(ies) to the proceeding and to the presiding officer.

(b) The parties shall submit three copies of all documents unless otherwise ordered by the presiding officer. One copy shall be signed as the original.

(c) Documents shall be dated and state the title of the proceeding and, except initial petitions, the docket number. Any pleading or other document required by order of the presiding officer to be filed by a specified date, shall be delivered to the Docket Clerk on or before such date. The date of filing shall be entered thereon by the Docket Clerk.

§ 959.10 Default.

(a) If the respondent fails to file an answer within the time specified in the notice of hearing, he shall be deemed in default and to have waived hearing and further procedural steps. The Judicial Officer shall thereafter issue an order without further notice to the respondent.

(b) If the respondent files an answer but fails to appear at the hearing, the presiding officer shall receive petitioner's evidence and render an initial decision.

§ 959.11 Amendment of pleadings.

(a) Amendments proposed prior to the hearing shall be filed with the Docket Clerk. Amendments proposed thereafter shall be filed with the presiding officer.

(b) By consent of the parties, a pleading may be amended at any time. Also,

a party may move to amend a pleading at any time prior to the close of the hearing and, provided that the amendment is reasonably within the scope of the proceeding initiated by the petition, the presiding officer shall make such ruling on the motion as he deems fair and equitable to the parties.

(c) When issues not raised by the pleadings, but reasonably within the scope of the proceedings initiated by the petition, are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the pleadings. Such amendments as may be necessary to make the pleadings conform to the evidence, and to raise such issues, shall be allowed at any time upon the motion of any party.

(d) If a party objects to the introduction of evidence at the hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues made by the pleadings, but fails to satisfy the presiding officer that an amendment of the pleadings would prejudice him on the merits, the presiding officer may allow the amendment and may grant a continuance to enable the objecting party to rebut the evidence presented.

(e) The presiding officer may, upon reasonable notice and upon such terms as are just, permit service of supplemental pleadings setting forth transactions, occurrences, or events which have happened since the date of the pleading sought to be supplemented and which are relevant to any of the issues involved.

§959.12 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will not be granted by the presiding officer except for good cause found.

§959.13 Hearings.

Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the presiding officer.

§959.14 Change of place of hearings.

Not later than the date fixed for the filing of the answer, a party may file a written request that a hearing be held at a place other than that designated in the notice. He shall support his request with a statement outlining:

(a) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(b) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify; and,

(c) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, D.C. The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevancy of the evidence to be offered.

§959.15 Appearances.

(a) A respondent may appear and be heard in person or by attorney.

(b) An attorney may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with the rules in part 951 of this title.

(c) When a respondent is represented by an attorney, all pleadings and other papers subsequent to the initial petition shall be mailed to the attorney.

(d) A respondent must promptly file a notice of change of attorney.

§959.16 Presiding officers.

(a) The presiding officer shall be either an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law, or the Judicial Officer. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign cases to Administrative Law Judges upon rotation so far as practicable. The Judicial Officer may, for good cause found, preside at the reception of evidence in proceedings upon request of either party.

(b) The presiding officer shall have authority to:

(1) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) Examine witnesses;

(3) Rule upon offers of proof, admissibility of evidence and matters of procedure;

(4) Order any pleading amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(5) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(6) Require the filing of briefs or memoranda of law on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(7) Order prehearing conferences for the purpose of settlement or simplification of issues by the parties;

(8) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence; and,

(9) Render an initial decision if the presiding officer is an Administrative Law Judge, which becomes the final decision of the Postal Service unless a timely appeal is taken; the Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision.

§ 959.17 Evidence.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in these rules, the rules of evidence governing civil proceedings in matters not involving trial by jury in the District courts of the United States shall govern. However, such rules may be relaxed to the extent that the presiding officer deems proper to insure a fair hearing. The presiding officer shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious evidence.

(b) Testimony shall be under oath or affirmation and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements of fact may be received into evidence.

(d) Official notice or knowledge may be taken of the types of matters of which judicial notice or knowledge may be taken.

(e) The written statement of a competent witness may be received into evidence provided that such statement is relevant to the issues, that the witness shall testify under oath at the hearing that the statement is in all respects true, and, in the case of expert witnesses, that the statement correctly states his opinion or knowledge concerning the matters in question.

(f) A party who objects to the admission of evidence shall make a brief statement of the grounds for the objection. Formal exceptions to the rulings of the presiding officer are unnecessary.

§ 959.18 Subpoenas.

The Postal Service is not authorized by law to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance or testimony of witnesses or the production of documents. This does not affect the authority of the Chief Postal Inspector to issue subpoenas for the production of documents or information pursuant to § 233.1(c) of this chapter.

[39 FR 33213, Sept. 16, 1974, as amended at 56 FR 55825, Oct. 30, 1991]

§ 959.19 Witness fees.

The Postal Service does not pay fees and expenses for a respondent's witnesses or for depositions requested by a respondent.

§ 959.20 Depositions.

(a) Not later than 5 days after the filing of respondent's answer, any party may file an application with the Docket Clerk for the taking of testimony by deposition. In support of such application, the applicant shall submit under oath or affirmation, a statement containing the reasons why such testimony should be taken by deposition, the time and place, and the name and address of the witness whose deposition is desired, the subject matter of the testimony of each witness, its relevancy, and the name and address of the person before whom the deposition is to be taken.

(b) If the application be granted, the order shall specify the time and place thereof, the name of the witness, the person before whom the deposition is to be taken, and any other necessary information.

(c) Each deponent shall first be duly sworn, and the adverse party shall have the right to cross-examine. The questions and answers, together with all objections, shall be reduced to writing and, unless waived by stipulation of the parties, shall be read to and subscribed by the witness in the presence of the deposition officer who shall certify it in the usual form. The deposition officer shall file the testimony taken by deposition as directed in the order. All objections made at the time of examination shall be noted by the deposition officer and the evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, a party may transmit written interrogatories to the deposition officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim. Objections to relevancy or materiality of testimony, or to errors and irregularities occurring at the oral examination in the manner of taking the deposition, in the form or relevancy or materiality of the questions or answers, in the oath or affirmation, or in the conduct of the parties, and errors of any kind which

might be obviated, cured or removed if promptly presented, are waived unless timely objection is made at the taking of the deposition.

(d) At the hearing, any part or all of the deposition may be offered into evidence by any party who was present or represented at the taking of the deposition or who had notice thereof. If the deposition is not offered and received into evidence, it shall not be considered as a part of the record. The admissibility of depositions or parts thereof shall be governed by the rules of evidence.

(e) The party requesting the deposition shall pay all fees required to be paid to witnesses and the deposition officer, and shall provide an original and one copy thereof for the official record, and shall serve one copy upon the opposing party.

(f) Within the United States, or within a territory or possession subject to the dominion of the United States, depositions may be taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the examination is held; within a foreign country, depositions may be taken before a secretary of an embassy or legation, consul general, vice consul or consular agent of the United States, or any other person designated in the order for the taking of the deposition.

(g) Depositions may also be taken and submitted on written interrogatories in substantially the same manner as depositions taken by oral examination. When a deposition is taken upon written interrogatories and cross-interrogatories, none of the parties shall be present or represented, and no person, other than the witness, a stenographic reporter, and the deposition officer, shall be present at the examination of the witness, which fact shall be certified by the deposition officer, who shall propound the interrogatories and cross-interrogatories to the witness in their order and cause the testimony to be reduced to writing in the witness' own words.

§959.21 Transcript.

(a) Hearings shall be stenographically reported by a contract reporter of the Postal Service under the supervision of the assigned presiding officer. Argument upon any matter may be excluded from the transcript by order of the presiding officer. A copy of the transcript shall be a part of the record and the sole official transcript of the proceeding. Copies of the transcript shall be supplied to the parties by the reporter at rates not to exceed the maximum rates fixed by the contract between the Postal Service and the reporter. Copies of parts of the official record, other than the transcript, may be obtained by the respondent from the reporter upon the payment to him of a reasonable price therefor.

(b) Changes in the official transcript may be made only when they involve errors affecting substance, and then only in the manner herein provided. No physical changes shall be made in or upon the official transcript, or copies thereof, which have been filed with the record. Within 10 days after the receipt by any party of a copy of the official transcript, or any part thereof, a party may file a motion requesting correction of the transcript. The opposing party shall, within such time as may be specified by the presiding officer, notify the presiding officer in writing of his concurrence or disagreement with the requested corrections. Failure to interpose timely objection to a proposed correction shall be considered to be concurrence. Thereafter, the presiding officer shall by order specify the corrections to be made in the transcript. The presiding officer on his own initiative may order corrections to be made in the transcript with prompt notice to the parties of the proceeding. Any changes ordered by the presiding officer other than by agreement of the parties shall be subject to objection and exception.

§959.22 Proposed findings and conclusions.

(a) Each party, except one who fails to answer the complaint or, having answered, either fails to appear at the hearing or indicates in the answer that he does not desire to appear, may submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons either in oral or written form. The presiding officer may also require the parties to submit proposed findings of fact

and conclusions of law with supporting reasons.

(b) Proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons not presented orally before the close of the hearing, shall, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer, be filed within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Docket Clerk, who shall notify the parties of the date of its receipt. The proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and supporting reasons shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs, and shall state with particularity, all pertinent evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion of law shall be separately stated.

§ 959.23 Decisions.

(a) *Oral decisions.* The presiding officer may, in his discretion, render an oral decision (an initial decision by an Administrative Law Judge, or a tentative or final decision by the Judicial Officer) at the close of the hearing. A party who desires an oral decision shall notify the presiding officer and the opposing party at least 5 days prior to the date set for the hearing. Either party may submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law either orally or in writing at the conclusion of the hearing.

(b) *Written initial decision by Administrative Law Judge.* A written initial decision shall be rendered with all due speed. The initial decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and an appropriate order. The initial decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service unless an appeal is taken in accordance with § 959.24.

(c) *Written tentative or final decision by the Judicial Officer.* When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing, he shall issue a final or a tentative decision. Such decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law, with the reasons therefor, upon all the material issues of fact or law presented on the record, and appropriate order. The tentative decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service unless exceptions are filed in accordance with § 959.24.

§ 959.24 Exceptions to initial decision or tentative decision.

(a) A part in a proceeding presided over by an Administrative Law Judge, except a party who failed to file an answer, may appeal to the Judicial Officer by filing exceptions in a brief on appeal within 15 days from the receipt of the Administrative Law Judge's written initial decision.

(b) A party in a proceeding presided over by the Judicial Officer, except one who has failed to file an answer, may file exceptions within 15 days from the receipt of the Judicial Officer's written tentative decision.

(c) When an initial or tentative decision is rendered orally at the close of the hearing, the presiding officer may then establish and orally give notice to the parties participating in the hearing of the time limit within which exceptions must be filed.

(d) Upon receipt of the brief on appeal from an initial decision of an Administrative Law Judge, the Docket Clerk shall promptly transmit the record to the Judicial Officer. The date for filing the reply to a brief on appeal or to a brief in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer is 10 days after the receipt thereof. No additional briefs shall be received unless requested by the Judicial Officer.

(e) Briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions and replies thereto shall be filed in triplicate with the Docket Clerk, and contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented, with page references; a table of cases alphabetically arranged; a list of statutes and texts cited, with page references.

(2) A concise abstract or statement of the case.

(3) Numbered exceptions to specific findings of fact or conclusions of law of the presiding officer.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of, or in opposition to, each exception taken, together with specific references to the pertinent

parts of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

(f) Unless permission is granted by the Judicial Officer, no brief on appeal or in support of exceptions shall exceed 50 printed or 100 typewritten pages double spaced.

(g) The Judicial Officer will extend the time to file briefs only upon written motion for good cause found. The Docket Clerk shall promptly notify the movant of the Judicial Officer's decision on the motion. If a brief is not filed within the time prescribed, the defaulting party will be deemed to have abandoned the appeal or waived the exceptions, and the initial or tentative decision shall become the final decision of the Postal Service.

§959.25 Judicial Officer.

The Judicial Officer is authorized (a) to act as presiding officer at hearings, (b) to render tentative decisions, (c) to render final decisions of the Postal Service, (d) to refer the record in any proceedings to the Postmaster General or the Deputy Postmaster General who will make the final decision of the Postal Service, and (e) to revise or amend these rules of practice. The entire official record will be considered before a final decision of the Postal Service is rendered. Before rendering a final decision of the Postal Service, the Judicial Officer may order the hearing reopened for the presentation of additional evidence by the parties.

§959.26 Motion for reconsideration.

A party may file a motion for reconsideration of a final decision of the Postal Service within 10 days after receiving it, or within such longer period as the Judicial Officer may fix. Each motion for reconsideration shall be accompanied by a brief clearly setting forth the points of fact and of law relied upon in support of said motion.

§959.27 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order has been issued may file with the Docket Clerk an application for modification or revocation, addressed to the Judicial Officer. The Docket Clerk shall transmit a copy of the application to the General Counsel, who shall file a written reply within 10 days after filing, or such other period as the Judicial Officer may fix. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Docket Clerk. Thereafter an order granting or denying such application in whole or in part will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§959.28 Computation of time.

A designated period of time excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§959.29 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs and other documents filed in the proceedings shall constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§959.30 Public information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial, tentative and final decisions of the Postal Service. The Docket Clerk maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

§959.31 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d) and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

[42 FR 5358, Jan. 28, 1977]

PART 960—RULES RELATIVE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT IN POSTAL SERVICE PROCEEDINGS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 504 (c)(1); 39 U.S.C. 204, 401 (2).

SOURCE: 46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 960.1 Purpose of these rules.

The Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. 504 (called ''the Act'' in this part), provides for the award of attorney fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and entities who are parties to certain administrative proceedings (called ''adversary adjudications'') before the Postal Service. An eligible party may receive an award when it prevails over the Postal Service, unless the Postal Service's position was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. The rules in this part describe the parties eligible for awards and the proceedings that are covered. They also explain how to apply for awards, and the procedures and standards that the Postal Service will use to make them.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6797, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.2 When the Act applies.

The Act applies to any adversary adjudication pending or commenced before the Postal Service on or after August 5, 1985. It also applies to any adversary adjudication commenced on or after October 1, 1984, and finally disposed of before August 5, 1985, provided that an application for fees and expenses, as described in subpart B of these rules, has been filed with the Postal Service within 30 days after August 5, 1985, and to any adversary adjudication pending on or commenced on or after October 1, 1981, in which an application for fees and other expenses was timely filed and was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

[52 FR 6797, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.3 Proceedings covered.

(a) The Act applies to adversary adjudications conducted by the Postal Service. These are:

(1) Adjudications under 5 U.S.C. 554 in which the position of the Postal Service is presented by an attorney or other representative who enters an appearance and participates in the proceeding (for the Postal Service, the types of proceedings generally covered are proceedings relative to false representation and cease and desist orders and mailability under chapter 30 of title 39, U.S.C., with the exception of proceedings under 39 U.S.C. 3008); and

(2) Appeals of decisions of contracting officers made pursuant to section 6 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 605) before the Postal Service Board of Contract Appeals as provided in section 8 of that Act. (41 U.S.C. 607).

(b) The Postal Service may also designate a proceeding not listed in paragraph (a) of this section as an adversary adjudication for purposes of the Act by so stating in an order initiating the proceeding or designating the matter for hearing. The failure to designate a proceeding as an adversary adjudication shall not preclued the filing of an application by a party who believes the proceeding is covered by the Act; whether the proceeding is covered will then be an issue for resolution in proceedings on the application.

(c) If a proceeding includes both matters covered by the Act and matters specifically excluded from coverage, any award made will include only fees and expenses related to covered issues.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§960.4 Eligibility of applicants.

(a) To be eligible for an award of attorney fees and other expenses under the Act, the applicant must be a party to the adversary adjudication for which it seeks an award. The term ''party'' is defined in 5 U.S.C. 551(3). The applicant must show by clear and convincing evidence that it meets all conditions of eligibility set out in this subpart and in subpart B and must submit additional information to verify its eligibility upon order by the adjudicative officer.

(b) The types of eligible applicants are as follows:

(1) An individual with a net worth of not more than $2 million;

(2) The sole owner of an unincorporated business who has a net worth of not more than $7 million, including both personal and business interests, and not more than 500 employees;

(3) A charitable or other tax-exempt organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) with not more than 500 employees;

(4) A cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a)) with not more than 500 employees; and

(5) Any other partnerships, corporation, association, unit of local government, or organization with a net worth of not more than $7 million and not more than 500 employees.

(c) For the purposes of eligibility, the net worth and number of employees of an applicant shall be determined as of the date the proceeding was initiated, which in proceedings before the Board of Contract Appeals is the date the applicant files its appeal to the Board.

(d) An applicant who owns an unincorporated business will be considered as an ''individual'' rather than a ''sole owner of an unincorporated business'' if the issues on which the applicant prevails are related primarily to personal interests rather than to business interests.

(e) The employees of an applicant include all persons who regularly perform services for remuneration for the applicant, under the applicant's direction and control. Part-time employees shall be included on a proportional basis.

(f) The net worth and number of employees of the applicant and all of its affiliates shall be aggregated to determine eligibility. Any individual, corporation or other entity that directly or indirectly controls or owns a majority of the voting shares or other interest of the applicant, or any corporation or other entity of which the applicant directly or indirectly owns or controls a majority of the voting shares or other interest, will be considered an affiliate for purposes of this part, unless the adjudicative officer determines that such treatment would be unjust and contrary to the purposes of the Act in light of the actual relationship between the affiliated entities. In addition, the adjudicative officer may determine that financial relationships of the applicant other than those described in this paragraph constitute special circumstances that would make an award unjust.

(g) An applicant that participates in a proceeding primarily on behalf of one or more other persons or entities that would be ineligible is not itself eligible for an award.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§960.5 Standards for awards.

(a) A prevailing applicant may receive an award for fees and expenses incurred in connection with a proceeding, including expenses and fees incurred in filing for an award under the Act, or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the proceeding, unless the position of the agency over which the applicant has prevailed was substantially justified. The position of the agency includes in addition to the position taken by the agency in the adversary adjudication, the action or failure to act by the agency upon which the adversary adjudication is based. The burden of proof that an award should not be made to an eligible prevailing applicant is on Postal Service counsel.

(b) An award will be reduced or denied if the applicant has unduly or unreasonably protracted the proceeding or if special circumstances make the award sought unjust.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.6 Allowable fees and expenses.

(a) Awards will be based on rates customarily charged by persons engaged in the business of acting as attorneys, agents and expert witnesses, even if the services were made available without charge or at a reduced rate to the applicant. Attorney fees may not be recovered by parties appearing *pro se* in postal proceedings.

(b) No award for the fee of an attorney or agent under these rules may exceed $75.00 per hour. No award to compensate an expert witness may exceed the highest rate at which the Postal Service pays expert witnesses, which is generally $50.00 per hour. However, an award may also include the reasonable expenses of the attorney, agent, or witness as a separate item, if the attorney, agent or witness ordinarily charges clients separately for such expenses.

(c) In determining the reasonableness of the fee sought for an attorney, agent or expert witness, the adjudicative officer shall consider the following:

(1) If the attorney, agent or witness is in private practice, his or her customary fee for similar services, or, if an employee of the applicant, the fully allocated cost of the services;

(2) The prevailing rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney, agent or witness ordinarily performs services;

(3) The time actually spent in the representation of the applicant;

(4) The time reasonably spent in light of the difficulty or complexity of the issues in the proceeding; and

(5) Such other factors as may bear on the value of the services provided.

(d) The reasonable cost of any study, analysis, engineering report, test, project or similar matter prepared on behalf of a party may be awarded, to the extent that the charge for the service does not exceed the prevailing rate for similar services, and the study or other matter was necessary for preparation of the applicant's case.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.7 Rulemaking on maximum rates for attorney fees.

(a) If warranted by an increase in the cost of living or by special circumstances (such as limited availability of attorneys qualified to handle certain types of proceedings), the Postal Service may adopt regulations providing that attorney fees may be awarded at a rate higher than $75 per hour in some or all of the types of proceedings covered by this part. The Postal Service will conduct any rulemaking proceedings for this purpose under the informal rulemaking procedures of the Administrative Procedure Act.

(b) Any person may request the Postal Service to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to increase the maximum rate for attorney fees. The request should identify the rate the person believes the Postal Service should establish and the types of proceedings in which the rate should be used. It should also explain fully the reasons why the higher rate is warranted. The Postal Service will respond to the request within 60 days after it is filed, by determining to initiate a rulemaking proceeding, denying the request, or taking other appropriate action.

§ 960.8 Official authorized to take final action under the Act.

The Postal Service official who renders the final agency decision in a proceeding under § 952.26 or § 953.15, or the panel that renders the decision in an appeal before the Board of Contract Appeals under part 955 procedures, as the case may be, is authorized to take final action on matters pertaining to the Equal Access to Justice Act as applied to the proceeding.

[52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

Subpart B—Information Required From Applicants

§ 960.9 Contents of application.

(a) An application for an award of fees and expenses under the Act shall identify the applicant and the proceeding for which an award is sought. The

application shall show that the applicant has prevailed and identify the position of the Postal Service in the proceeding that the applicant alleges was not substantially justified. Unless the applicant is an individual, the application shall also state the number of employees of the applicant and describe briefly the type and purpose of its organization or business.

(b) The application shall also include a statement that the applicant's net worth does not exceed $2 million (if an individual) or $7 million (for all other applicants, including their affiliates.) However, an applicant may omit this statement if:

(1) It attaches a copy of a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service that it qualifies as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3)) or, in the case of a tax-exempt organization not required to obtain a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service on its exempt status, a statement that describes the basis for the applicant's belief that it qualifies under such section; or

(2) It states on the application that it is a cooperative association as defined in section 15(a) of the Agricultural Marketing Act (12 U.S.C. 1141j(a)).

(c) The application shall state the amount of fees and expenses for which an award is sought.

(d) The application may also include any other matters that the applicant wishes the Postal Service to consider in determining whether and in what amount an award should be made.

(e) The application shall be signed by the applicant or an authorized officer or attorney of the applicant. It shall also contain or be accompanied by a written verification under oath or under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application is true and correct.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§960.10 Net worth exhibit.

(a) Each applicant except a qualified tax-exempt organization or cooperative association must provide with its application a detailed exhibit showing the net worth of the applicant and any affiliates (as defined in §960.4(f)) when the proceeding was initiated. The exhibit may be in any form convenient to the applicant that provides full disclosure of the applicant's and its affiliates' assets and liabilities and is sufficient to determine whether the applicant qualifies under the standards in this part. The adjudicative officer may require an applicant to file additional information to determine its eligibility for an award.

(b) Ordinarily, the net worth exhibit will be included in the public record of the proceeding. However, an applicant that objects to public disclosure of information in any portion of the exhibit and believes there are legal grounds for withholding it from disclosure may submit that portion of the exhibit directly to the adjudicative officer in a sealed envelope labeled ''Confidential Financial Information'', accompanied by a motion to withhold the information from public disclosure. The motion shall describe the information sought to be withheld and explain, in detail, why it falls within one or more of the specific exemptions from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552(b) (1) through (9), why public disclosure of the information would adversely affect the applicant, and why disclosure is not required in the public interest. The material in question shall be served on counsel representing the agency against which the applicant seeks an award, but need not be served on any other party to the proceeding. If the adjudicative officer finds that the information should not be withheld from disclosure, it shall be placed in the public record of the proceeding. Otherwise, any request to inspect or copy the exhibit shall be disposed of in accordance with the Postal Service's established procedures under the Freedom of Information Act, part 265 of this title.

§960.11 Documentation of fees and expenses.

(a) The application shall be accompanied by full documentation of the fees and expenses, including the cost of any study, analysis, engineering report, test, project or similar matter,

for which an award is sought. A separate itemized statement shall be submitted for each professional firm or individual whose services are covered by the application, showing the hours spent in connection with the proceeding by each individual, a description of the specific services performed, the rate at which each fee has been computed, any expenses for which reimbursement is sought, the total amount claimed, and the total amount paid or payable by the applicant or by any other person or entity for the services provided. The adjudicative officer may require the applicant to provide vouchers, receipts, or other substantiation for any expenses claimed. In addition, the Board of Contract Appeals may require an applicant to submit to an audit by the Postal Service of its claimed fees and expenses.

(b) Where the case has been sustained in part and denied in part or where the applicant has prevailed in only a significant and discrete substantive portion of the case, the application must be limited to fees and expenses allocable to the portion of the case as to which the applicant was the prevailing party.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.12 When an application may be filed.

(a) An application may be filed whenever the applicant has prevailed in the proceeding or in a significant and discrete substantive portion of the proceeding, but in no case later than 30 days after the Postal Service's final disposition of the proceeding.

(b) If review or reconsideration is sought or taken of a decision as to which an applicant believes it has prevailed, proceedings for the award of fees shall be stayed pending final disposition of the underlying controversy.

(c) For purposes of this rule, final disposition means the later of (1) the date on which an initial decision or other recommended disposition of the merits of the proceeding by an adjudicative officer or intermediate review board becomes administratively final;

(2) Issuance of an order disposing of any petitions for reconsideration of the Postal Service's final order in the proceeding;

(3) If no petition for reconsideration is filed, the last date on which such a petition could have been filed;

(4) Issuance of a final order or any other final resolution of a proceeding, such as a settlement or voluntary dismissal, which is not subject to a petition for reconsideration;

(5) In proceedings under 39 U.S.C. 3005, on the date that an Administrative Law Judge enters an order indefinitely suspending further proceedings on the basis of a compromise agreement entered into between the parties; or

(6) In proceedings before the Board of Contract Appeals, the Board of Contract Appeals decision on quantum. When the Board decides only entitlement and remands the issue of quantum to the parties, the final disposition occurs when the parties execute an agreement on quantum, or if the parties cannot agree on quantum and resubmit the quantum dispute to the Board, when the Board issues a decision on quantum.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

Subpart C—Procedures for Considering Applications

§ 960.13 Filing and service of documents.

Any application for an award or other pleading or document related to an application shall be filed and served on all parties to the proceeding in the same manner as other pleadings in the proceeding, except as provided in § 960.11(b) for confidential financial information.

§ 960.14 Answer to application.

(a) Within 30 days after service of an application, counsel representing the Postal Service may file an answer to the application. Unless the Postal Service counsel requests an extension of time for filing or files a statement of intent to negotiate under paragraph (b) of this section, failure to file an answer within the 30-day period may be treated as a consent to the award requested.

(b) If the Postal Service counsel and the applicant believe that the issues in the fee application can be settled, they may jointly file a statement of their intent to negotiate a settlement. The filing of this statement shall extend the time for filing an answer for an additional 30 days, and further extensions may be granted by the adjudicative officer upon request by Postal Service counsel and the applicant.

(c) The answer shall explain in detail any objections to the award requested and identify the facts relied on in support of the Postal Service's position. If the answer is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the proceeding, the Postal Service shall include with the answer either supporting affidavits or a request for further proceedings under §960.19.

§960.15 Reply.

Within 15 days after service of an answer, the applicant may file a reply. If the reply is based on any alleged facts not already in the record of the proceeding, the applicant shall include with the reply either supporting affidavits or a request for further proceedings under §960.19.

§960.16 Comments by other parties.

Any party to a proceeding other than the applicant and Postal Service may file comments on an application within 30 days after it is served or on an answer within 15 days after it is served. A commenting party may not participate further in proceedings on the application unless the adjudicative officer determines that the public interest requires such participation in order to permit full exploration of matters raised in the comments.

§960.17 Settlement.

The applicant and the Postal Service may agree on a proposed settlement of the award before final action on the application, either in connection with a settlement of the underlying proceeding, or after the underlying proceeding has been concluded. If a prevailing party and Postal Service counsel agree on a proposed settlement of an award before an application has been filed, the application shall be filed with the proposed settlement.

§960.18 Further proceedings.

(a) Ordinarily, the determination of an award will be made on the basis of the written record. However, on request of either the applicant or Postal Service counsel, or on his or her own initiative, the adjudicative officer may order further proceedings, such as an informal conference, oral argument, additional written submissions, or an evidentiary hearing. Such further proceedings shall be held only when necessary for full and fair resolution of the issues arising from the application, and shall be conducted as promptly as possible. Whether or not the position of the agency was substantially justified shall be determined on the basis of the entire administrative record that is made in the adversary adjudication for which fees and other expenses are sought.

(b) A request that the adjudicative officer order further proceedings under this section shall specifically identify the information sought or the disputed issues and shall explain why the additional proceedings are necessary to resolve the issues.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§960.19 Decision.

(a) The adjudicative officer shall issue an initial decision on the application as promptly as possible after completion of proceedings on the application. The decision shall include written findings and conclusions on the applicant's eligibility and status as a prevailing party, and an explanation of the reasons for any difference between the amount requested and the amount awarded. The decision shall also include, if at issue, findings on whether the Postal Service's position was substantially justified, whether the applicant unduly protracted the proceedings, or whether special circumstances make an award unjust. If the applicant has sought an award against the Postal Service and another agency, the decision shall allocate responsibility for payment of any award made between the Postal Service and the other agency, and shall explain the reasons for the allocation made.

(b) The Board of Contract Appeals shall issue its decision on the application as promptly as possible after completion of proceedings on the application. Whenever possible, the decision shall be made by the same Administrative Judge or panel that decided the contract appeal for which fees are sought. The decision shall be in the format described in paragraph (a) of this section.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.20 Further Postal Service review.

(a) Either the applicant or Postal Service counsel may seek review of the initial decision on the fee application, in accordance with § 952.25 or § 953.14. If neither the applicant nor the Postal Service counsel seeks review, the initial decision on the application shall become a final decison of the Postal Service 30 days after it is issued. If review is taken, the Judicial Officer will issue a final decision on the application or remand the application to the adjudicative officer for further proceedings.

(b) In Board of Contract Appeals proceedings, either party may seek reconsideration of the decision on the fee application in accordance with 39 CFR 955.30.

[46 FR 45945, Sept. 16, 1981, as amended at 52 FR 6798, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.21 Judicial review.

A party other than the Postal Service may, within 30 days after a determination on the award is made, appeal the determination to the court of the United States having jurisdiction to review the merits of the underlying decision of the agency adversary adjudication in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 504(c)(2).

[52 FR 6799, Mar. 5, 1987]

§ 960.22 Payment of award.

An applicant seeking payment of an award shall submit to the Judicial Officer a copy of the Postal Service's final decision granting the award, accompanied by a statement that the applicant will not seek review of the decision in the United States courts. Requests for payment should be sent to: Judicial Officer, Room 10803, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260. The Judicial Officer shall submit certification for payment to the Postal Data Center. The Postal Service will pay the amount awarded to the applicant within 60 days, unless judicial review of the award or of the underlying decision of the adversary adjudication has been sought by the applicant or any other party to the proceeding.

PART 961—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO EMPLOYEE HEARING PETITIONS UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE DEBT COLLECTION ACT

Sec.

961.1 Authority for rules.
961.2 Scope of rules.
961.3 Definitions.
961.4 Employee petition for a hearing and supplement to petition.
961.5 Effect of Petition filing.
961.6 Filing, docketing and serving documents; computation of time; representation of parties.
961.7 Answer to Petition and Supplement to Petition.
961.8 Hearing Official authority and responsibilities.
961.9 Effect of Hearing Official's decision; motion for reconsideration.
961.10 Waiver of employee rights.
961.11 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401; 5 U.S.C. 5514(a).

SOURCE: 51 FR 1251, Jan. 10, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 961.1 Authority for rules.

These rules are issued by the Judicial Officer pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 961.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part apply to the hearing provided by section 5 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 5514(a), on the Postal Service's determination of the existence or amount of an employee debt to the Postal Service, or of the terms of the employee's debt repayment schedule. In addition, these rules, as appropriate, apply to a hearing under section 5 of

the Debt Collection Act when an Administrative Law Judge or an Administrative Judge in the Judicial Officer Department is designated as the Hearing Official for a creditor Federal agency other than the Postal Service pursuant to an agreement between the Postal Service and that agency.

§961.3 Definitions.

(a) *Employee* refers to a current employee of the Postal Service or another Federal agency who is alleged to be indebted to the Postal Service or another creditor Federal agency and whose hearing under section 5 of the Debt Collection Act is being conducted under these rules.

(b) *General Counsel* refers to the General Counsel of the Postal Service, and includes a designated representative.

(c) *Hearing Official* refers to an Administrative Law Judge qualified to hear cases under the Administrative Procedure Act, an Administrative Judge appointed under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, or any other qualified person not under the control or supervision of the Postmaster General, who is designated by the Judicial Officer to conduct the hearing under section 5 of the Debt Collection Act of 1982, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 5514(a).

(d) *Judicial Officer* refers to the Judicial Officer or Acting Judicial Officer of the United States Postal Service.

(e) *Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act* refers to the formal written notice required by section 5 of the Debt Collection Act before involuntary collection deductions can be taken from an employee's salary.

(f) *Postmaster/Installation Head* refers to the Postal Service official who is authorized under the Postal Service Employee and Labor Relations Manual to make the initial determination of employee indebtedness and to issue the ''Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act.''

(g) *Recorder* refers to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

§961.4 Employee petition for a hearing and supplement to petition.

(a) If an employee desires a hearing, prescribed by section 5 of the Debt Collection Act, on the Postal Service's determination of the existence or amount of a debt, or on the involuntary repayment terms proposed by the Postal Service, the employee must file a written, signed petition with the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100, on or before the fifteenth (15th) calendar day following the employee's receipt of the Postal Service's ''Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act.''

(b) The hearing petition is to include the following:

(1) The words, ''Petition for Hearing Under the Debt Collection Act,'' prominently captioned at the top of the first page:

(2) The name of the employee petitioner and the employee's work and home addresses, and work and home telephone numbers; or other address and telephone number where the employee may be contacted about the hearing proceedings;

(3) A statement of the date the employee received the ''Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act,'' *and* a copy of the Notice;

(4) A statement indicating whether the employee requests an oral hearing or a hearing based solely on written submissions;

(5) If the employee requests an oral hearing, a statement of the evidence he or she will produce which makes an oral hearing necessary, including a list of witnesses, with their addresses, whom the employee expects to call; the proposed city for the hearing site, with justification for holding the hearing in that city; and recommended alternative dates for the hearing; which should be within 40 days from filing the Petition;

(6) A statement of the grounds upon which the employee objects to the Postal Service's determination of the existence or amount of the debt, or to the proposed offset schedule. This statement should identify and explain with reasonable specificity and brevity

the facts, evidence, and legal arguments, if any, which the employee believes support his or her position;

(7) Copies of all records in the employee's possession which relate to the debt; and

(8) If an employee contends that the Postal Service's proposed offset schedule would result in a severe financial hardship on the employee and his or her spouse and dependents, an alternative offset schedule, and a statement and supporting documents indicating for the employee and his or her spouse and dependents for the one year preceding the Postal Service's notice and for the repayment period proposed by the employee in his or her altenative offset schedule, their total income from all sources; assets; liabilities; number of dependents; and expenses for food, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, and exceptional expenses, if any.

(c) The employee may, if necessary, file with the Recorder, additional information as a Supplement to the Petition on or before the thirtieth (30th) calendar day following the employee's receipt of the Postal Service's ''Notice of Involuntary Administrative Salary Offsets Under the Debt Collection Act.''

§ 961.5 Effect of Petition filing.

Upon receipt and docketing of the employee's Petition for a hearing, the Recorder will notify the Postmaster/Installation Head and the General Counsel that the Petition has been filed and that pursuant to section 5 of the Debt Collection Act, a timely-filed Petition for a hearing stays further collection action.

§ 961.6 Filing, docketing and serving documents; computation of time; representation of parties.

(a) *Filing.* All documents relating to the Debt Collection Act hearing proceedings must be filed by the employee or the General Counsel with the Recorder. (Normal Recorder office business hours are between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., eastern standard or day-light saving time as appropriate during the year.) The Recorder will transmit a copy of each document filed to the other party, and the original to the Hearing Official.

(b) *Docketing.* The Recorder will maintain a docket record of Debt Collection Act hearing petition proceedings and will assign each employee Petition a docket number. After notification of the docket number, the employee and General Counsel should refer to it on any further filings regarding the Petition.

(c) *Time computation.* A filing period under the rules in this part excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

(d) *Representation of parties.* After the filing of the Petition, further document transmittals for, or communications with, the Postmaster/Installation Head or Postal Service shall be through their representative, the General Counsel, or, if an appropriate notice of appearance is filed, the General Counsel's designee. If a notice of appearance by an attorney authorized to practice law in any of the United States or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States is filed in behalf of an employee, further transmissions of documents and other communications with the employee shall be made through his or her attorney rather than directly with the employee.

§ 961.7 Answer to Petition and Supplement to Petition.

If the employee's Petition states reasons to support the employee's position, within 15 days from notice of the Petition, the General Counsel shall file an Answer to the Petition, and attach all available relevant records and documents in support of the Postal Service's claim, and a list of witnesses the Postal Service intends to call if an oral hearing is granted. If the employee files a Supplement to the Petition, the General Counsel, within ten (10) calendar days from the filing of the Supplement with the Recorder must file any Supplemental Answer and records to support the position of the Postal Service.

§961.8 Hearing Official authority and responsibilities.

The Hearing Official shall provide a full and fair hearing. The proceedings must be expedited to ensure issuance of the final decision no later than 60 days after the filing of the employee's hearing Petition. The Hearing Official's authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Ruling on all offers, motions or requests by the parties;

(b) Issuing any notices, orders or memoranda to the parties concerning the hearing proceedings;

(c) Using telephone conferences with the parties to expedite the proceedings. A memorandum of a telephone conference will be transmitted to both parties;

(d) Determining if an oral hearing should be held; and setting the place, date and time for the hearing or the taking of testimony by telephone conference;

(e) Administering oaths or affirmations to witnesses, and conducting the hearing in a manner to maintain discipline and decorum while assuring that relevant, reliable and probative evidence is elicited on the issues in dispute, but irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious evidence is excluded;

(f) Establishing the record in the case;

(g) Issuing the final decision orally or in writing no later than sixty (60) days after the filing of the employee's hearing Petition. When an oral decision is rendered, a written confirmation will thereafter be sent to the parties. The decision must include the determination of the amount and validity of the alleged debt and, where applicable, the repayment schedule. It should also include findings and reasons.

§961.9 Effect of Hearing Official's decision; motion for reconsideration.

The Hearing Official's decision shall be the final administrative determination on the employee's debt or repayment schedule. No reconsideration of the decision will be allowed unless a motion for reconsideration is filed by either party within 10 days from receipt of the decision and shows good reasons for reconsideration. Reconsideration will be allowed only in the discretion of the Hearing Official. A motion for reconsideration by the employee will not operate to stay the collection action authorized by the Hearing Official's decision.

§961.10 Waiver of employee rights.

The Hearing Official may determine the employee has waived his or her right to a hearing and the employee's pay shall be offset in accordance with the Postal Service's offset schedule, if the employee:

(a) Files a Petition for hearing after the end of the 15-day period allowed by the Act for filing the Petition, and fails to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Hearing Official good cause for the delay;

(b) Has received notice to appear at an oral hearing but fails to do so without showing circumstances beyond the employee's control;

(c) Fails to file required submissions or to comply with orders of the Hearing Official, and the failure makes it difficult or impossible to hold the hearing or to issue the decision within the statutory time;

(d) Files a withdrawal of his or her Petition for a hearing with the Recorder.

§961.11 Ex parte communications.

Ex parte communications between a Hearing Official or his staff and a party shall not be made. This prohibition does not apply to procedural matters. A memorandum of any communication between the Hearing Official and a party will be transmitted to both parties.

PART 962—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE PROGRAM FRAUD CIVIL REMEDIES ACT

Sec.

962.1 Purpose.
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962.5 Scope of hearing; evidentiary standard.
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962.27 Limitations.

AUTHORITY: 31 U.S.C. Chapter 38; 39 U.S.C. 401.

SOURCE: 52 FR 12904, Apr. 20, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 962.1 Purpose.

This part establishes the procedures governing the hearing and appeal rights of any person alleged to be liable for civil penalties and assessments under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (codified at 31 U.S.C. 3801–3812).

§ 962.2 Definitions.

(a) *Attorney* refers to an individual authorized to practice law in any of the United States or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States.

(b) *Complaint* refers to the administrative Complaint served by the Reviewing Official on a Respondent pursuant to § 273.8 of this title.

(c) *Initial Decision* refers to the written decision which the Presiding Officer is required by § 962.20 to render, and includes a revised initial decision issued following a remand.

(d) *Investigating Official* refers to the Chief Postal Inspector of the Postal Service or any designee within the United States Postal Inspection Service who serves in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS–16 under the General Schedule.

(e) *Judicial Officer* refers to the Judicial Officer or Acting Judicial Officer of the United States Postal Service or for purposes other than specified in § 962.21 any designee within the Judicial Officer Department.

(f) *Party* refers to the Postal Service or the Respondent.

(g) *Person* refers to any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or private organization.

(h) *Postmaster General* refers to the Postmaster General of the United States or his designee.

(i) *Presiding Officer* refers to an Administrative Law Judge designated by the Judicial Officer to conduct a hearing authorized by 31 U.S.C. 3803.

(j) *Recorder* refers to the Recorder of the United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

(k) *Representative* refers to an attorney or other advocate.

(l) *Respondent* refers to any person alleged to be liable for a civil penalty or assessment under 31 U.S.C. 3802.

(m) *Reviewing Official* refers to the General Counsel of the Postal Service or any designee within the Law Department who serves in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS–16 under the General Schedule.

§ 962.3 Petition for hearing.

Within 30 days of receiving the Postal Service's Complaint, issued pursuant to § 273.8 of this title, alleging liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802, the Respondent may request a hearing under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act by filing a written Hearing Petition with the Recorder in accordance with § 962.22(b). The Respondent's Petition must include the following:

(a) The words ''Petition for Hearing Under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act,'' or other words reasonably identifying it as such;

(b) The name of the Respondent as well as his or her work and home addresses, and work and home telephone numbers; or other address and telephone number where the Respondent may be contacted about the hearing proceedings;

(c) A statement of the date the Respondent received the Complaint issued by the Reviewing Official;

(d) A statement indicating whether the Respondent requests an oral hearing or a decision on the record;

(e) If the Respondent requests an oral hearing, a statement proposing a city for the hearing site, with justification for holding the hearing in that city, as well as recommended dates for the hearing; and

(f) A statement admitting or denying each of the allegations of liability made in the Complaint, and stating any defense on which the Respondent intends to rely.

§962.4 Referral of complaint.

(a) If the Respondent fails to request a hearing within the specified period, the Reviewing Official shall transmit the Complaint to the Judicial Officer for referral to a Presiding Officer, who shall issue an initial decision based upon the information contained in the Complaint.

(b) If the Respondent files a Hearing Petition, the Reviewing Official, upon receiving a copy of the Petition, shall promptly transmit to the Presiding Officer a copy of the Postal Service's Complaint.

§962.5 Scope of hearing; evidentiary standard.

(a) A hearing under this part shall be conducted by the Presiding Officer on the record (1) to determine whether the Respondent is liable under 31 U.S.C. 3802, and (2) if so, to determine the amount of any civil penalty or assessment to be imposed.

(b) The Postal Service must prove its case against a Respondent by a preponderance of the evidence.

(c) The parties may offer at a hearing on the merits such relevant evidence as they deem appropriate and as would be admissible under the generally accepted rules of evidence applied in the courts of the United States in nonjury trials, subject, however, to the sound discretion of the Presiding Officer in supervising the extent and manner of presentation of such evidence. In general, admissibility will hinge on relevancy and materiality. However, relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

§962.6 Notice of hearing.

(a) Within a reasonable time after receiving the Respondent's Hearing Petition and the Complaint, the Presiding Officer shall serve, in accordance with §962.23, upon the Respondent and the Reviewing Official, a Notice of Hearing containing the information set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) The Notice of Hearing required by paragraph (a) of this section must include:

(1) The tentative hearing site, date, and time;

(2) The legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;

(3) The nature of the hearing;

(4) The matters of fact and law to be decided;

(5) A description of the procedures governing the conduct of the hearing; and

(6) Such other information as the Presiding Officer deems appropriate.

§962.7 Hearing location.

An oral hearing under this part shall be held

(a) In the judicial district of the United States in which the Respondent resides or transacts business; or

(b) In the judicial district of the United States in which the claim or statement upon which the allegation of liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 was made, presented, or submitted; or

(c) In such other place as may be agreed upon by the Respondent and the Presiding Officer.

§962.8 Rights of parties.

Any party to a hearing under this part shall have the right

(a) To be accompanied, represented, and advised, by a representative of his own choosing;

(b) To participate in any prehearing or post-hearing conference held by the Presiding Officer;

(c) To agree to stipulations of fact or law, which shall be made part of the record;

(d) To make opening and closing statements at the hearing;

(e) To present oral and documentary evidence relevant to the issues at the hearing;

(f) To submit rebuttal evidence;

(g) To conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts; and

(h) To submit written briefs, proposed findings of fact, and proposed conclusions of law.

§ 962.9 Responsibilities and authority of presiding officer.

(a) The Presiding Officer shall conduct a fair and impartial hearing, avoid delay, maintain order, and assure that a record of the proceeding is made.

(b) The Presiding Officer's authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Establishing, upon adequate notice to all parties, the date and time of the hearing, as well as, in accordance with § 962.7, selecting the hearing site;

(2) Holding conferences, by telephone or in person, to identify or simplify the issues, or to consider other matters that may aid in the expeditious disposition of the proceeding;

(3) Continuing or recessing the hearing in whole or in part for a reasonable period of time;

(4) Administering oaths and affirmations to witnesses;

(5) Issuing subpoenas, requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data and documentary evidence which the Presiding Officer considers relevant and material to the hearing;

(6) Ruling on all offers, motions, requests by the parties, and other procedural matters;

(7) Issuing any notices, orders, or memoranda to the parties concerning the proceedings;

(8) Regulating the scope and timing of discovery;

(9) Regulating the course of the hearing and the conduct of the parties and their representatives;

(10) Examining witnesses;

(11) Receiving, ruling on, excluding, or limiting evidence in order to assure that relevant, reliable and probative evidence is elicited on the issues in dispute, but irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious evidence is excluded;

(12) Deciding cases, upon motion of a party, in whole or in part by summary judgment where there is no disputed issue of material fact;

(13) Establishing the record in the case; and

(14) Issuing a written initial decision containing findings of fact, conclusions of law, and determinations with respect to whether a penalty or assessment should be imposed, and if so, the amount of such penalty or assessment.

§ 962.10 Prehearing conferences.

(a) At a reasonable time in advance of the hearing, and with adequate notice to all parties, the Presiding Officer may conduct, in person or by telephone, one or more prehearing conference to discuss the following:

(1) Simplification of the issues;

(2) The necessity or desirability of amendments to the pleadings, including the need for a more definite statement;

(3) Stipulations or admissions of fact or as to the contents and authenticity of documents;

(4) Limitation of the number of witnesses;

(5) Exchange of witness lists, copies of prior statements of witnesses, and copies of hearing exhibits;

(6) Scheduling dates for the exchange of witness lists and of proposed exhibits;

(7) Discovery;

(8) Possible changes in the scheduled hearing date, time or site; and

(9) Any other matters related to the proceeding.

(b) Within a reasonable time after the completion of a prehearing conference, the Presiding Officer shall issue an order detailing all matters agreed upon by the parties, or ordered by the Presiding Officer, at such conference.

§ 962.11 Respondent access to information.

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the Respondent, at any time after receiving the Notice of Hearing required by § 962.6, may review, and upon payment

of a duplication fee established under §265.8(c) of this title, may obtain a copy of, all relevant and material documents, transcripts, records, and other materials, which relate to the allegations of liability, and upon which the findings and conclusions of the Investigating Official under §273.5 of this title are based.

(2) The Respondent is not entitled to review or obtain a copy of any document, transcript, record, or other material which is privileged under Federal law.

(b) At any time after receiving the Notice of Hearing required by §962.6, the Respondent shall be entitled to obtain all exculpatory information in the possession of the Investigating Official or the Reviewing Official relating to the allegations or liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802. Paragraph (a)(2) of this section does not apply to any document, transcript, record, or other material, or any portion thereof, in which such exculpatory information is contained.

(c) Requests to review or copy material under this section must be directed to the Reviewing Official who must respond within a reasonable time.

§962.12 Depositions; interrogatories; admission of facts; production and inspection of documents.

(a) *General Policy and protective orders.* The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. In connection with any discovery procedure permitted under this part, the Presiding Officer may issue any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense. Such orders may include limitations on the scope, method, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting the secrecy of confidential information or documents. Each party shall bear its own expenses relating to discovery.

(b) *Depositions.* (1) After the issuance of a Notice of Hearing described in §962.6, the parties may mutually agree to, or the Presiding Officer may, upon application of either party and for good cause shown, order the taking of testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories before any officer authorized to administer oaths at the place of examination, for use as evidence or for purposes of discovery. The application for order shall specify whether the purpose of the deposition is discovery or for use as evidence.

(2) The time, place, and manner of taking depositions shall be as mutually agreed by the parties, or failing such agreement, governed by order of the Presiding Officer.

(3) No testimony taken by depositions shall be considered as part of the evidence in the hearing unless and until such testimony is offered and received in evidence at such hearing. Depositions will not ordinarily be received in evidence if the deponent is present and can testify personally at the hearing. In such instances, however, the deposition may be used to contradict or impeach the testimony of the witness given at the hearing. In cases submitted for a decision on the record, the Presiding Officer may, in his discretion, receive depositions as evidence in supplementation of that record.

(c) *Interrogatories to parties.* After the issuance of a Notice of Hearing described in §962.6, a party may serve on the other party written interrogatories to be answered separately in writing, signed under oath and returned within 30 days. Upon timely objection by the party, the Presiding Officer will determine the extent to which the interrogatories will be permitted.

(d) *Admission of facts.* After the issuance of a Notice of Hearing described in §962.6, a party may serve upon the other party a request for the admission of specified facts. Within 30 days after service, the party served shall answer each requested fact or file objections thereto. The factual propositions set out in the request shall be deemed admitted upon the failure of a party to respond to the request for admission.

(e) *Production and inspection of documents.* Upon motion of any party showing good cause therefor, and upon notice, the Presiding Officer may order the other party to produce and permit the inspection and copying or photographing of any designated documents or objects, not privileged, specifically identified, and their relevance and materiality to the cause or causes

in issue explained, which are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery or admissible evidence. If the parties cannot themselves agree thereon, the Presiding Officer shall specify just terms and conditions in making the inspection and taking the copies and photographs.

(f) *Limitations.* Under no circumstances may a discovery procedure be used to reach

(1) Documents, transcripts, records, or other material which a person is entitled to review pursuant to § 962.11;

(2) The notice sent to the Attorney General from the Reviewing Official under § 273.6 of this title; or

(3) Other documents which are privileged under Federal law.

§ 962.13 Subpoenas.

(a) *General.* Upon written request of either party filed with the Recorder or on his own initiative, the Presiding Officer may issue a subpoena requiring:

(1) *Testimony at a deposition.* The deposing of a witness in the city or county where he resides or is employed or transacts his business in person, or at another location convenient for him that is specifically determined by the Presiding Officer;

(2) *Testimony at a hearing.* The attendance of a witness for the purpose of taking testimony at a hearing; and

(3) *Production of books and papers.* In addition to paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, the production by the witness at the deposition or hearing of books and papers designated in the subpoena.

(b) *Voluntary cooperation.* Each party is expected (1) to cooperate and make available witnesses and evidence under its control as requested by the other party, without issuance of a subpoena, and (2) to secure voluntary attendance of desired third-party books, papers, documents, or other tangible things whenever possible.

(c) *Requests for subpoenas.* (1) A request for a subpoena shall normally be filed at least:

(i) 15 days before a scheduled deposition where the attendance of a witness at a deposition is sought;

(ii) 30 days before a scheduled hearing where the attendance of a witness at a hearing is sought.

(2) A request for a subpoena shall state the reasonable scope and general relevance to the case of the testimony and of any books, papers, documents, or other tangible things sought.

(3) The Presiding Officer, in his discretion, may honor requests for subpoenas not made within the time limitations specified in this paragraph.

(d) *Requests to quash or modify.* Upon written request by the person subpoenaed or by a party, made within 10 days after service but in any event not later than the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, the Presiding Officer may (1) quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable and oppressive or for other good cause shown, or (2) require the person in whose behalf the subpoena was issued to advance the reasonable cost of producing subpoenaed books and papers. Where circumstances require, the Presiding Officer may act upon such a request at any time after a copy has been served upon the opposing party.

(e) *Form; issuance.* (1) Every subpoena shall state the title of the proceeding, shall cite 31 U.S.C. 3804(b) as the authority under which it is issued, and shall command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony, and if appropriate, to produce specified books and papers at a time and place therein specified. In issuing a subpoena to a requesting party, the Presiding Officer shall sign the subpoena and may, in his discretion, enter the name of the witness and otherwise leave it blank. The party to whom the subpoena is issued shall complete the subpoena before service.

(2) Where the witness is located in a foreign country, a letter rogatory or subpoena may be issued and served under the circumstances and in the manner provided in 28 U.S.C. 1781–1784.

(f) *Service.* (1) The party requesting issuance of a subpoena shall arrange for service.

(2) A subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness at a deposition or hearing may be served at any place. A subpoena may be served by a United States marshall or deputy marshall, or by any other person who is not a party and not less than 18 years of age. Service of a subpoena upon a person named

therein shall be made by personally delivering a copy to that person and tendering the fees for one day's attendance and the mileage provided by 28 U.S.C. 1821 or other applicable law.

(3) The party at whose instance a subpoena is issued shall be responsible for the payment of fees and mileage of the witness and of the officer who serves the subpoena. The failure to make payment of such charges on demand may be deemed by the Presiding Officer as sufficient ground for striking the testimony of the witness and the evidence the witness has produced.

§962.14 Enforcement of subpoenas.

In the case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena issued pursuant to §§962.9(b)(5) and 962.13, the district courts of the United States have jurisdiction to issue an appropriate order for the enforcement of such subpoena. Any failure to obey such order of the court may be punishable as contempt. In any case in which the Postal Service seeks the enforcement of a subpoena under this section, the Postal Service shall request the Attorney General to petition the district court for the district in which a hearing under this part is being conducted or in which the person receiving the subpoena resides or conducts business to issue such an order.

§962.15 Sanctions.

(a) The Presiding Officer may sanction a person, including any party or representative, for

(1) Failing to comply with a lawful order or prescribed procedure;

(2) Failing to prosecute or defend an action; or

(3) Engaging in other misconduct that interferes with the speedy, orderly, or fair conduct of the hearing.

(b) Any such sanction, including but not limited to those listed in paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this section, shall reasonably relate to the severity and nature of the failure or misconduct.

(c) Failure to comply with an order. When a party fails to comply with an order, including an order for taking a deposition, the production of evidence within the party's control, or a request for admission, the Presiding Officer may:

(1) Draw an inference in favor of the requesting party with regard to the information sought;

(2) Prohibit such party from introducing evidence concerning, or otherwise relying upon, testimony relating to the information sought;

(3) Permit the requesting party to introduce secondary evidence concerning the information sought; and

(4) Strike any part of the pleadings or other submissions of the party failing to comply with such request.

(d) Failure to prosecute or defend. If a party fails to prosecute or defend an action under this part commenced by service of a Complaint, the Presiding Officer may dismiss the action or enter an order of default.

(e) Failure to make timely filing. The Presiding Officer may refuse to consider any motion or other pleading, report, or response which is not filed in a timely fashion.

§962.16 Disqualification of reviewing official or presiding official.

If a Respondent believes, in good faith, that the Reviewing Official or Presiding Officer should be disqualified because of personal bias, or other reason, the Respondent may file a timely and sufficient affidavit alleging such belief with supporting evidence. If the Presiding Officer finds that such allegations concerning the Reviewing Official are meritorious, he may direct the Reviewing Official to disqualify himself and request the appointment of a new Reviewing Official. Where a Respondent seeks the disqualification of a Presiding Officer, such Presiding Officer, may, in his discretion, disqualify himself at any time during the proceeding. In the event a Reviewing Official or Presiding Officer withdraws from a hearing, the proceeding shall be stayed until the assignment of a new Reviewing Official or Presiding Officer.

§962.17 Ex parte communications.

Communications between a Presiding Officer and a party shall not be made on any matter in issue unless on notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. This prohibition does not

apply to procedural matters. A memorandum of any communication between the Presiding Officer and a party shall be transmitted by the Presiding Officer to all parties.

§ 962.18 Post-hearing briefs.

Post-hearing briefs and reply briefs may be submitted upon such terms as established by the Presiding Officer at the conclusion of the hearing.

§ 962.19 Transcript of proceedings.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the Presiding Officer orders otherwise. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings may be obtained by the parties at such rates as may be fixed by contract between the reporter and the Postal Service.

§ 962.20 Initial decision.

(a) After the conclusion of the hearing, and the receipt of briefs, if any, from the parties, the Presiding Officer shall issue a written initial decision, including his or her findings and determinations. Such decision shall include the findings of fact and conclusions of law which the Presiding Officer relied upon in determining whether the Respondent is liable under 31 U.S.C. 3802, and, if liability is found, shall set forth the amount of any penalties and assessments imposed.

(b) The Presiding Officer shall promptly send to each party a copy of his or her initial decision, and a statement describing the right of any person determined to be liable under 31 U.S.C. 3802, to appeal, in accordance with § 962.21, the decision of the Presiding Officer to the Judicial Officer.

(c) Unless the Respondent appeals the Presiding Officer's initial decision, such decision, including the findings and determinations, is final.

§ 962.21 Appeal of initial decision to judicial officer.

(a) *Notice of appeal and supporting brief.* (1) A Respondent may appeal an adverse initial decision by filing, within 30 days after the Presiding Officer issues an initial decision, a Notice of Appeal with the Recorder. The Judicial Officer may extend the filing period if the Respondent files a request for an extension within the initial 30-day period and demonstrates good cause for such extension.

(2) The Respondent's Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a written brief specifying the Respondent's exceptions, and any reasons for such exceptions, to the Presiding Officer's initial decision.

(3) Within 30 days of receiving the Respondent's brief, the Reviewing Official may file with the Judicial Officer a response to the Respondent's specified exceptions to the Presiding Officer's initial decision.

(b) *Form of review.* (1) Review by the Judicial Officer will be based entirely on the record and written submissions.

(2) The Judicial Officer may affirm, reduce, reverse, or remand any penalty or assessment determined by the Presiding Officer.

(3) The Judicial Officer shall not consider any objection that was not raised in the hearing unless the interested party demonstrates that the failure to raise the objection before the Presiding Officer was caused by extraordinary circumstances.

(4) If any party demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Judicial Officer .hat additional evidence not presented at the hearing is material and that there were reasonable grounds for the failure to present such evidence, the Judicial Officer shall remand the matter to the Presiding Officer for consideration of such additional evidence.

(c) *Decision of judicial officer.* (1) The Judicial Officer shall promptly serve each party to the appeal with a copy of his decision and a statement describing the right to judicial review under 31 U.S.C. 3805 of any Respondent determined to be liable under 31 U.S.C. 3802.

(2) The decision of the Judicial Officer constitutes final agency action and becomes final and binding on the parties 60 days after it is issued unless a petition for judicial review is filed.

§ 962.22 Form and filing of documents.

(a) Every pleading filed in a proceeding under this part must

(1) Contain a caption setting forth the title of the action, the docket number (after assignment by the Recorder), and a designation of the document (e.g., ''Motion to Quash Subpoena'');

(2) Contain the name, address, and telephone number of the party or other person on whose behalf the paper was filed, or the name, address and telephone number of the representative who prepared such paper; and

(3) Be signed by the party or other person submitting the document, or by such party's or person's representative.

(b) The original and three copies of all pleadings and documents in a proceeding conducted under this part shall be filed with the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100. Normal Recorder business hours are between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., eastern standard or daylight saving time. The Recorder will transmit a copy of each document filed to the other party, and the original to the Presiding Officer.

(c) Pleadings or document transmittals to, or communications with, the Postal Service, other than to the Recorder under paragraph (b) of this section, shall be made through the Reviewing Official or designated Postal Service attorney. If a notice of appearance by a representative is filed on behalf of a Respondent, pleadings or document transmittals to, or communications with, the Respondent shall be made through his representative.

§962.23 Service of notice of hearing, other documents.

Unless otherwise specified, service of a Notice of Hearing or any other document under this part must be effected by registered or certified mail, return-receipt requested, or by personal delivery. In the case of personal service, the person making service shall, if possible, secure from the party or other person sought to be served, or his or her agent, a written acknowledgement of receipt, showing the date and time of such receipt. If the person upon whom service is made declines to acknowledge receipt, the person effecting service shall execute a statement, indicating the time, place and manner of service, which shall constitute evidence of service.

§962.24 Computation of time.

(a) In computing any period of time provided for by this part, or any order issued pursuant to this part, the time begins with the day following the act, event, or default, and includes the last day of the period, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday observed by the Federal Government, in which event it includes the next business day.

(b) When the applicable period of time is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays observed by the Federal Government shall be excluded from the computation.

§962.25 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions may be granted under these rules for good cause shown.

§962.26 Settlement.

(a) Either party may make offers of settlement or proposals of adjustment at any time.

(b) The Reviewing Official has the exclusive authority to compromise or settle any allegations or determinations of liability under 31 U.S.C. 3802 without the consent of the Presiding Officer, except during the pendency of an appeal to the appropriate United States district court pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3805 or during the pendency of an action to collect any penalties or assessments pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3806.

(c) The Attorney General has the exclusive authority to compromise or settle any penalty or assessment the determination of which is the subject of a pending petition for judicial review, or a pending action to recover such penalty or assessment.

(d) The Reviewing Official may recommend settlement terms to the Attorney General, as appropriate.

[59 FR 51860, Oct. 13, 1994]

§962.27 Limitations.

A hearing under this part concerning a claim or statement allegedly made, presented, or submitted in violation of 31 U.S.C. 3802 shall be commenced within six years after the date on which such claim or statement is made, presented, or submitted.

PART 963—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO VIOLATIONS UNDER 39 U.S.C. 3008

Sec.
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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401, 3008.

SOURCE: 52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 963.1 Authority for the rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 CFR 226.2(e)(1)).

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 10751, Mar. 8, 1994]

§ 963.2 Scope of the rules.

These rules of practice are applicable to cases in which the Prohibitory Order Processing Center Manager (hereinafter, ''Manager'') has issued a complaint, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3008(d), alleging violation of a prohibitory order, and in which the alleged violator has petitioned for a hearing in the matter. As provided in 39 U.S.C. 3008(h), subchapter II of chapter 5 (relating to administrative procedure) and chapter 7 (relating to judicial review) of part I of title 5, U.S.C., do not apply to the hearings authorized by 39 U.S.C. 3008(d).

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 10751, Mar. 8, 1994, 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 963.3 Petition; notice of hearing; answer; filing and copies of documents; summary judgment.

(a) *Petition.* Anyone against whom a complaint has been issued pursuant to 39 U.S.C 3008(d) may submit to the Manager a petition for hearing on the alleged violation. The petition must be in writing, signed by the petitioner or his or her attorney, and filed with the Manager on or before the 15th day after receipt of the complaint. The petition shall state the reasons why the petitioner believes the complaint to be erroneous. No petition received after the 15th day will be considered to have been filed on time, unless it was duly sent to the Manager via certified mail, deposited in the U.S. mail on or before the 15th day. The Manager will forward each timely petition to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–6100.

(b) *Notice of hearing.* Upon receiving a petition, the Recorder shall schedule a hearing for a date not later than 30 days after the date of receipt, issue and send a notice of hearing to the parties, and send a copy of the petition to the General Counsel of the U.S. Postal Service.

(c) *Answer.* The General Counsel shall file with the Recorder an answer to the petition within 15 days after the date of receiving a copy thereof. A certified copy of the material documents from the Manager's case file (i.e., of the PS Forms 1500, *Application for Listing and/or Prohibitory Order*, 2152, *Prohibitory Order*, and 2153, *Complaint*, underlying mail pieces, and pertinent return receipts) shall be appended to the answer.

(d) *Filing and copies of documents.* With the exception of the initial petition, all documents shall be filed with the Recorder in triplicate at the address set forth above. The Recorder shall promptly provide copies to the other party to the proceeding and to the presiding officer.

(e) *Summary Judgment.* Upon motion of either the General Counsel or the petitioner, or on his or her own initiative, the presiding officer may find that the petition and answer present no genuine and material issues of fact requiring an evidentiary hearing, and thereupon may render an initial decision upholding or dismissing the complaint. The initial decision shall become the final agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987; 52 FR 20599, June 2, 1987, as amended at 59 FR 10752, Mar. 8, 1994; 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§963.4 Presiding Officer.

(a) The presiding officer shall be an Administrative Law Judge or an Administrative Judge qualified in accordance with law. The Judicial Officer assigns cases under this part. Judicial Officer includes Associate Judicial Officer upon delegation thereto. The Judicial Officer may, on his or her own initiative or for good cause found, preside at the reception of evidence.

(b) The presiding officer has authority to:

(1) Take such action as may be necessary properly to preside over the proceeding and render decision therein;

(2) Render an initial decision, if the presiding officer is not the Judicial Officer, which becomes the final agency decision unless a timely appeal is taken; the Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§963.5 Appearances.

(a) *Petitioner.* A petitioner may appear and be heard in person or by attorney. An attorney may practice before the Postal Service in accordance with applicable rules issued by the Judicial Officer (see Part 951 of this chapter). When a petitioner is represented by an attorney, all pleadings and other papers to be served on petitioner after entry of the attorney's appearance shall be mailed to the attorney. A petitioner must promptly file notice of any change of attorney.

(b) *Postal Service.* The Postal Service will be represented by its General Counsel or any attorney designated by the General Counsel.

§963.6 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under these rules means calendar days, excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which case the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§963.7 Location of hearing.

Hearings are held at the headquarters of the Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260, or other locations designated by the presiding officer.

§963.8 Change of place of hearing.

Not later than the date fixed for the filing of the answer, a party may file a request that a hearing be held to receive evidence in his or her behalf at a place other than that designated for hearing in the notice. The party shall support his or her request with a statement outlining:

(a) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(b) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify;

(c) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, DC. The presiding officer shall consider the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevance of the evidence to be offered.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§963.9 Election as to hearing.

If both parties elect, an oral hearing may be waived and the matter submitted for decision on the basis of the petition and answer, and of any documentary evidence or briefs requested by the presiding officer. The written election to waive oral hearing must be received by the Recorder no later than 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date.

§963.10 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will be granted by the presiding officer for good cause shown.

§ 963.11 Default.

If a petitioner, without notice or cause satisfactory to the presiding officer, fails to appear at the hearing or comply with any of the provisions of these rules or an order issued by the presiding officer, the petitioner may be deemed to have abandoned his or her petition and to have acquiesced in the allegations of the complaint. The presiding officer thereupon may find the petitioner to be in default and refer the matter to the Judicial Officer for dismissal of the petition.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 963.12 Settlement agreements.

These rules do not preclude the disposition of any matter by agreement between the parties at any stage of the proceeding.

§ 963.13 Subpoenas and witness fees not authorized.

The Postal Service is not authorized to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance or testimony of witnesses, nor to pay fees and expenses for a petitioner's witnesses or for depositions requested by a petitioner.

§ 963.14 Discovery.

Discovery is to be conducted on a voluntary basis to the extent possible. The presiding officer may, upon application of either party, order such discovery as he or she deems reasonable and necessary. Discovery may include one or more of the following: production of documents, requests for admissions, interrogatories, depositions, and witness lists. The presiding officer will establish the terms upon which requested discovery will be allowed.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987, as amended at 62 FR 4459, Jan. 30, 1997]

§ 963.15 Evidence.

(a) In general, admissibility will hinge on relevancy and materiality. However, relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

(b) Testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation and witnesses are subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements of fact are encouraged and may be received in evidence.

§ 963.16 Transcript.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the presiding officer otherwise orders. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings are supplied to the parties at such rate as may be fixed by contract between the reporter and Postal Service. Any party desiring a copy of the transcript shall order it from the contract reporter in a timely manner to avoid delay in filing briefs.

§ 963.17 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(a) Each party who participates in the hearing may, unless the presiding officer orders otherwise, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons, either in writing or orally at the discretion of the presiding officer. Unless given orally, the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Recorder, who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed findings. Each proposed conclusion shall be stated separately.

[52 FR 18912, May 20, 1987; 52 FR 20599, June 2, 1987]

§963.18 Initial decision.

Unless given orally at the conclusion of the hearing, the presiding officer shall render an initial decision as expeditiously as practicable following the conclusion of the hearing and the receipt of the proposed findings and conclusions, if any. The initial decision becomes the final agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken.

§963.19 Appeal.

Either party may file exceptions in a brief on appeal to the Judicial Officer within 15 days after receipt of the initial or tentative decision unless additional time is granted. A reply brief may be filed within 15 days after the receipt of the appeal brief by the opposing party. The Judicial Officer has all powers of a presiding officer and is authorized to decide all issues de novo.

§963.20 Final agency decision.

The Judicial Officer, or by delegation the Associate Judicial Officer, renders the final agency decision which will be served upon the parties. If the decision is that the Postal Service's prohibitory order was violated, the Recorder shall provide a certified copy of the record to the General Counsel for use in seeking court enforcement of the order.

§963.21 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§963.22 Public information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initital, tentative, and final agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

PART 964—RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING DISPOSITION OF MAIL WITHHELD FROM DELIVERY PURSUANT TO 39 U.S.C. 3003, 3004

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401, 3003, 3004.

SOURCE: 52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§964.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the United Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General (39 CFR 224.1(c)(4)).

§964.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part provide for administrative review of cases in which the Chief Postal Inspector or his delegate, acting pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3003(a), has withheld from delivery mail which he believes is involved in a scheme described in section 3003(a), and cases in which the Chief Postal Service Inspector or his delegate, acting pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3004, determines that letters or parcels sent in the mail are addressed to places not the residence or regular business address of the person for whom they are intended to enable the person to escape identification.

§964.3 Customer petitions; notice of hearing; answer; summary judgment.

(a) *Petition*. Any addressee who receives notice from the Chief Postal Inspector or his delegate that his mail has been withheld pursuant to 39 U.S.C.

3003(a) or 3004 may oppose such action by filing with the Judicial Officer a written Petition stating the reasons for his or her opposition. The Petition, signed by the Petitioner or his attorney, shall be filed by sending the Petition via certified mail to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–6100. The Petition must be postmarked within 14 days of the date upon which the Petitioner received the notice. The failure of an addressee who has received notice of withheld mail to file a Petition opposing such action with the Judicial Officer shall constitute a waiver of hearing and further procedural steps by the addressee. The General Counsel of the Postal Service shall thereupon file the matter with the Judicial Officer for issuance of a final order pursuant to § 964.19. Such referral shall contain a statement of the basis for the detention, evidence that the notice of the detention and the addressee's right to petition for review under this part were served on the addressee in person or by mailing a copy to the address to which the detained mail is directed, the date of such service, and a copy of the proposed order sought by the General Counsel.

(b) *Notice of hearing.* On receipt of the Petition, the Recorder shall schedule a hearing on a date not later than 28 days after the date of receipt. A Notice of Hearing shall be sent to the Petitioner. A copy of the Notice of Hearing and the Petition shall be sent to the General Counsel of the U.S. Postal Service.

(c) *Answer.* The General Counsel of the Postal Service shall file an Answer to the Petition within 10 days of receipt of the Petition from the Recorder.

(d) *Summary judgment.* Upon motion of either the General Counsel or the Petitioner, or upon his own initiative, the presiding officer may find that the Petition and Answer present no material issues of fact requiring an evidentiary hearing and thereupon may render an initial decision granting or dismissing the Petition. The initial decision shall become the final agency decision if a timely appeal is not taken pursuant to § 964.16 of this part.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 4849, Feb. 18, 1988]

§ 964.4 Hearings.

Hearings are held at the Headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC, or such other location as may be designated by the presiding officer. Not later than 10 days prior to the date fixed for the hearing, a party may file a request that a hearing be held to receive evidence in his behalf at a place other than that designated for hearing in the notice. He shall support his request with a statement outlining:

(a) The evidence to be offered in such place;

(b) The names and addresses of the witnesses who will testify; and

(c) The reasons why such evidence cannot be produced at Washington, DC.

The presiding officer shall give consideration to the convenience and necessity of the parties and the relevance of the evidence to be offered

§ 964.5 Election as to hearing.

If both parties elect, they may waive an oral hearing and submit the matter for decision on the basis of the Petition and Answer, subject to the authority of the presiding officer to require the parties to furnish such further evidence or such briefs as necessary. The request to waive oral hearing should be filed not later than 10 days prior to the date set for hearing.

§ 964.6 Default.

If a Petitioner fails to appear at the hearing without notice or without adequate cause the presiding officer may issue an order dismissing the Petition and refer the matter to the Judicial Officer for issuance of the order provided for under § 964.19. If a Petitioner fails to appear at the hearing without notice or without adequate cause the presiding officer may issue an order dismissing the Petition. An order of dismissal issued under this section may be appealed to the Judicial Officer within 10 days from the date of the order.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 4849, Feb. 18, 1988]

§964.7 Presiding officers.

(a) The presiding officer shall be an Administrative Law Judge qualified in accordance with law. The Judicial Officer shall assign cases upon rotation as far as practicable. The Judicial Officer may on his own initiative or for good cause shown, preside at the reception of evidence.

(b) The presiding officer has authority to:

(1) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(2) Examine witnesses;

(3) Rule upon offers of proof, admissibility of evidence and matters of procedure;

(4) Order any pleadings amended upon motion of a party at any time prior to the close of the hearing;

(5) Maintain discipline and decorum and exclude from the hearing any person acting in an indecorous manner;

(6) Require the filing of briefs or memoranda of law on any matter upon which he is required to rule;

(7) Order prehearing conferences for the purpose of the settlement or simplification of issues by the parties or for any other purpose he believes will facilitate the processing of the proceeding;

(8) Order the proceeding reopened at any time prior to his decision for the receipt of additional evidence;

(9) Render an initial decision, which becomes the final agency decision unless a timely appeal is taken: The Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision;

(10) Rule upon applications and requests filed under §964.9 of this part.

§964.8 Subpoenas and witness fees not authorized.

The Postal Service is not authorized to issue subpoenas requiring the attendance or testimony of witnesses, nor to pay fees and expenses for a Petitioner's witnesses or for depositions requested by a Petitioner.

§964.9 Discovery; interrogatories; admission of facts; production and inspection of documents.

(a) *General policy and protective orders.* The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. In connection with any discovery procedure permitted under this part, the presiding officer may issue any order which justice requires to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense. Such orders may include limitations on the scope, method, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting confidential information or documents from unwarranted public disclosure. Each party shall bear its own expenses relating to discovery.

(b) *Depositions.* (1) After the issuance of a notice of hearing described in §964.3 of this part, the parties may mutually agree to, or the presiding officer may, upon application of either party and for good cause shown, order the taking of testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories before any officer authorized to administer oaths at the place of examination, for use as evidence or for purposes of discovery. The application for order shall specify whether the purpose of the deposition is discovery or for use as evidence, or both.

(2) The time, place, and manner of taking depositions shall be as mutually agreed by the parties, or failing such agreement, governed by order of the presiding officer.

(3) No testimony taken by depositions shall be considered as part of the evidence in the hearing unless and until such testimony is offered and received in evidence at such hearing. Depositions will not ordinarily be received in evidence if the deponent is present and can testify personally at the hearing. In such instances, however, the deposition may be used to contradict or impeach the testimony of the witness given at the hearing. In cases submitted on the record, the presiding officer may, in his discretion, receive depositions as evidence in supplementation of the record.

(c) *Interrogatories to parties.* Not later than 5 days after the filing of the Answer described in §964.3, a party may serve on the other party written interrogatories to be answered separately in

writing, signed under oath and returned within 10 days. Upon timely objection by the party, the presiding officer will determine the extent to which the interrogatories will be permitted.

(d) *Admission of facts.* Not later than 5 days after the filing of the Answer described in §964.3, a party may serve upon the other party a request for the admission of specified facts. Within 10 days after receipt of the request for admissions, the party served shall admit or answer each specified fact or file objections thereto. Any factual propositions set out in the request to which a party fails to respond shall be deemed admitted.

(e) *Production and inspection of documents.* Upon motion of any party showing good cause therefor, and upon notice, the presiding officer may order the other party to produce and permit the inspection and copying or photographing of any designated documents and or objects, provided that such documents and objects are not privileged, their relevance to the cause or causes in issue is explained, and they are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. If the parties cannot themselves agree thereon, the presiding officer shall specify the terms and conditions for making the inspection and taking the copies and photographs.

§ 964.10 Evidence.

(a) In general, admissibility will hinge on relevancy and materiality. However, relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

(b) Testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements of fact are encouraged and may be received in evidence.

§ 964.11 Transcript.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the presiding officer orders otherwise. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings are supplied to the parties at such rate as may be fixed by contract between the reporter and Postal Service. Any party desiring a copy of the transcript shall order it from the contract reporter in a timely manner to avoid delay in filing briefs.

§ 964.12 Computation of time.

A designated period of time under these rules means calendar days, excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which case the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

§ 964.13 Continuances and extensions.

Continuances and extensions will be granted by the presiding officer for good cause shown.

§ 964.14 Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

(a) Each party to a proceeding, except one who fails to answer the Petition or, having answered, either fails to appear at the hearing or indicates in the answer that he does not desire to appear, may, unless at the discretion of the presiding officer such is not appropriate, submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons either in oral or written form in the discretion of the presiding officer. The presiding officer may also require parties to submit proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders, and supporting reasons. Unless given orally, the date set for filing of proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons shall be within 15 days after the delivery of the official transcript to the Recorder who shall notify both parties of the date of its receipt. The filing date for proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, orders and supporting reasons shall be the same for both parties. If not submitted by such date, unless extension of time for the filing thereof is granted, they will not be included in the record or given consideration.

(b) Except when presented orally before the close of the hearing, proposed findings of fact shall be set forth in serially numbered paragraphs and shall state with particularity all evidentiary

facts in the record with appropriate citations to the transcript or exhibits supporting the proposed finding. Each proposed conclusion shall be separately stated.

§964.15 Decisions.

(a) *Initial decision by Administrative Law Judge.* A written initial decision shall be rendered by an Administrative Law Judge with all due speed. The initial decision shall include findings and conclusions with the reasons therefor upon all the material issues of fact or law presented in the record, and the appropriate orders or denial thereof. The initial decision shall become the final agency decision unless an appeal is taken in accordance with §964.16.

(b) *Tentative or final decision by the Judicial Officer.*When the Judicial Officer presides at the hearing he shall issue a final or a tentative decision. Such decision shall include findings and conclusions with the reasons therefor upon all the material issues of fact or law presented in the record, and the appropriate orders or denial thereof. The tentative decision shall become the final agency decision unless exceptions are filed in accordance with §964.16.

§964.16 Appeal.

(a) Either party may file exceptions in a brief on appeal to the Judicial Officer within 15 days after receipt of the initial or tentative decision unless additional time is granted. A reply brief may be filed within 15 days after receipt of the appeal brief by the opposing party. The Judicial Officer has all powers of a presiding officer and is authorized to decide all issues *de novo.*

(b) Briefs upon appeal or in support of exceptions to a tentative decision by the Judicial Officer and replies thereto shall be filed in triplicate with the Recorder and contain the following matter in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index of the matters presented, with page references; a table of cases alphabetically arranged; a list of statutes and texts cited with page references.

(2) A concise abstract or statement of the case in briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions.

(3) Numbered exceptions to specific findings and conclusions of fact, conclusions of law, or recommended orders of the presiding officer in briefs on appeal or in support of exceptions.

(4) A concise argument clearly setting forth points of fact and of law relied upon in support of or in opposition to each exception taken, together with specific references to the parts of the record and the legal or other authorities relied upon.

§964.17 Final agency decision.

The Judicial Officer renders the final agency decision and order which will be served upon the parties and upon the postmaster at the office where the mail at issue is being held.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 4849, Feb. 18, 1988]

§964.18 Compromise and informal disposition.

Nothing in these rules precludes the compromise, settlement, and informal disposition of proceedings initiated under these rules at any time prior to the issuance of the final agency decision.

§964.19 Orders.

If an order is issued by the Judicial Officer which prohibits delivery of mail to a Petitioner it shall be incorporated in the record of the proceeding. The Recorder shall cause notice of the order to be published in the *Postal Bulletin* and cause the order to be transmitted to such postmasters and other officers and employees of the Postal Service as may be required to place the order into effect.

[52 FR 36763, Oct. 1, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 4849, Feb. 18, 1988]

§964.20 Modification or revocation of orders.

A party against whom an order or orders have been issued may file an application for modification or revocation thereof. The Recorder shall transmit a copy of the application to the General Counsel, who shall file a written reply within 10 days after receipt or such other period as the Judicial Officer may fix. A copy of the reply shall be sent to the applicant by the Recorder.

Thereafter an order granting or denying such application will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§ 964.21 Official record.

The transcript of testimony together with all pleadings, orders, exhibits, briefs, and other documents filed in the proceeding constitute the official record of the proceeding.

§ 964.22 Public information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial, tentative, and final agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

§ 964.23 Ex parte communications.

The provisions of 5 U.S.C. 551(14), 556(d), and 557(d) prohibiting ex parte communications are made applicable to proceedings under these rules of practice.

PART 965—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO MAIL DISPUTES

Sec.

965.1 Authority for rules.
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965.14 Public information.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401.

SOURCE: 52 FR 29012, Aug. 5, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 965.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General. (39 CFR 224.1(c)(4)).

§ 965.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part shall be applicable to mail dispute cases forwarded to the Judicial Officer Department by Regional Counsel pursuant to Domestic Mail Manual 153.72.

§ 965.3 Notice to parties.

Upon receipt of a mail dispute case from Regional Counsel, the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100, will send a notice of docketing and submittal due date to the parties together with a copy of these rules.

§ 965.4 Presiding officers.

(a) The presiding officer shall be an Administrative Law Judge or an Administrative Judge qualified in accordance with law. The Judicial Officer assigns cases under this part. Judicial Officer includes Associate Judicial Officer upon delegation thereto. The Judicial Officer may, on his own initiative or for good cause found, preside at the reception of evidence.

(b) The presiding officer has authority to:

(1) Take such action as may be necessary to preside properly over the proceeding and render decision therein;

(2) Render an initial decision, if the presiding officer is not the Judicial Officer, which becomes the final agency decision unless a timely appeal is taken; the Judicial Officer may issue a tentative or a final decision.

§ 965.5 Submittals by parties.

Within 15 days after receipt of the Recorder's notice, each party shall file with the Recorder a sworn statement of the facts supporting its claim to receipt of the mail together with a copy of each document on which it relies in making such claim. All such submittals shall be in duplicate. Upon receipt of such evidence, the Recorder shall send a copy of each submittal to the opposing party.

§ 965.6 Comments by parties.

Within 10 days of receipt of the other party's evidence, each party may file with the Recorder a statement setting

forth in detail its disagreements, if any, with its opponent's statement and documents. The Recorder will send to each party a copy of the other party's comments.

§965.7 Default.

A party who fails to file the submittal required by §965.5 may be held in default and the presiding officer may issue an initial decision that mail be delivered to the other party.

§965.8 Hearings.

(a) In the discretion of the presiding officer an oral hearing may be granted at the request of either, or both, parties or on the presiding officer's own initiative if there is a dispute as to a material issue of fact which can only be resolved by examination of witnesses.

(b) Hearings are held at the headquarters of the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza West, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100, or at such other place as may be designated by the presiding officer.

§965.9 Evidence.

(a) In general, admissibility will hinge on relevancy and materiality. However, relevant evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, or by considerations of undue delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence.

(b) Testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation and witnesses are subject to cross-examination.

(c) Agreed statements to fact are encouraged and may be received in evidence.

§965.10 Transcript.

Testimony and argument at hearings shall be reported verbatim, unless the presiding officer otherwise orders. Transcripts or copies of the proceedings are supplied to the parties at such rate as may be fixed by contract between the reporter and Postal Service.

§965.11 Initial decision.

The presiding officer shall render an initial decision in writing, based on the record, as expeditiously as possible, but to the extent practicable within 10 working days of closing of the record. The decision will be brief, containing summary findings of fact, conclusions of law, and reasons therefor. If there has been a hearing the presiding officer may in his discretion render an oral decision. A typed copy of such oral decision will subsequently be furnished to the parties to establish the date for commencement of time for requesting review of the initial decision.

§965.12 Appeal.

The initial or tentative decision will become final 10 days after its issuance and receipt by the parties unless the Judicial Officer, or by delegation the Associate Judicial Officer, in his sole discretion, grants review upon appeal of either party filed within that period, or on his own motion within that period. If an appeal is denied, the initial or tentative decision becomes the final agency decision on the issuance of such denial. The judicial Officer's decision on appeal is the final agency decision with no further agency review or appeal rights.

§965.13 Compromise and informal disposition.

Nothing in these rules precludes the compromise, settlement, and informal disposition of proceedings initiated under these rules at any time prior to the issuance of the final agency decision.

§965.14 Public Information.

The Law Librarian of the Postal Service maintains for public inspection in the Law Library copies of all initial, tenatative, and final agency decisions and orders. The Recorder maintains the complete official record of every proceeding.

PART 966—RULES OF PRACTICE IN PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFSETS INITIATED BY THE POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

Sec.
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966.2 Scope of rules.
966.3 Definitions.
966.4 Petition for a hearing and supplement to petition.

966.5 Effect of petition filing.
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966.7 Answer to petition.
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966.11 Appeal of initial or tentative decision to Judicial Officer.
966.12 Waiver of rights.
966.13 Ex parte communications.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 204, 401, 2601.

SOURCE: 54 FR 15754, Apr. 19, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

§ 966.1 Authority for rules.

These rules of practice are issued by the Judicial Officer pursuant to authority delegated by the Postmaster General.

§ 966.2 Scope of rules.

The rules in this part apply to any petition filed by a former postal employee:

(a) To challenge the Postal Service's determination that he or she is liable for a debt based on a loss from the mails or from Postal Service revenues; and/or

(b) To challenge the administrative offset schedule proposed by the Postal Service for collecting any such debt.

§ 966.3 Definitions.

(a) *Administrative Offset* refers to the withholding of money payable by the Postal Service or the United States to, or held by the Postal Service or the United States for, a former employee in order to satisfy a debt determined to be owed by the former employee to the Postal Service.

(b) *Chief Postal Inspector* refers to the Chief Postal Inspector of the Inspection Service Department or his or her representative.

(c) *Debt* refers to any amount determined by the Postal Service to be owed to the Postal Service by a former employee as a result of a loss from the mails or from Postal Service revenues.

(d) *Former Employee* refers to an individual whose employment with the Postal Service has ceased. An employee is considered formally separated from the Postal Service rolls as of close of business on the effective date of his or her separation Postal Service Form 50.

(e) *Hearing Official* refers to an Administrative Law Judge qualified to hear cases under the Administrative Procedure Act, an Administrative Judge appointed under the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, or any other qualified person licensed to practice law designated by the Judicial Officer to preside over a hearing conducted pursuant to these regulations.

(f) *Inspection Service* refers to the Inspection Service Department of the Postal Service.

(g) *Judicial Officer* refers to the Judicial Officer, Associate Judicial Officer, or Acting Judicial Officer of the Postal Service.

(h) *Reconsideration* refers to the review of a debt conducted by the Inspection Service at the request of the former employee alleged to be responsible for such debt following the former employee's receipt of a written request for payment.

(i) *Recorder* refers to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

§ 966.4 Petition for a hearing and supplement to petition.

(a) A former employee, who is alleged to be responsible for a debt and who has previously requested and received reconsideration of the debt by the Inspection Service, may obtain review of:

(1) The Inspection Service's final determination of the existence or amount of the debt, or

(2) The administrative offset schedule proposed by the Inspection Service for collecting any such debt, by mailing, within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving written notice of the Inspection Service's determination upon reconsideration, a written, signed petition, requesting a written or oral hearing, to the Recorder, Judicial Officer Department, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260–6100.

A former employee must have previously requested the Inspection Service to reconsider the Postal Service's debt determination to be entitled to a hearing under this part.

(b) The petition must include the following:

(1) The words, ''Petition for Review Under 39 CFR part 966'';

(2) The former employee's name and social security number;

(3) The former employee's home address and telephone number, and any other address and telephone number at which the former employee may be contacted about these proceedings;

(4) A statement of the date the former employee received the Inspection Service's final notice of debt determination and a copy of the notice;

(5) A statement indicating whether the former employee elects an oral hearing or a decision based solely on written submissions;

(6) If the former employee requests an oral hearing, a statement describing the evidence he or she will produce which makes an oral hearing necessary, including a list of witnesses, with their addresses, whom the former employee expects to call; a summary of the testimony the witnesses are expected to present; the city requested for the hearing site, with justification for holding the hearing in that city; and at least three proposed dates for the hearing at least forty-five (45) days after the filing of the petition for review;

(7) A statement of the grounds upon which the former employee objects to the Postal Service's determination of the debt or to the administrative offset schedule proposed by the Postal Service for collecting any such debt. This statement should identify with reasonable specificity and brevity the facts, evidence, and legal arguments, if any, which support the former employee's position; and

(8) Copies of all records in the former employee's possession which relate to the debt and which the former employee may enter into the record of the hearing.

(c) The former employee may, if necessary, file with the Recorder additional information as a supplement to the petition at any time prior to the filing of the answer to the petition under §966.7, or at such later time as permitted by the Hearing Official upon a showing of good cause.

§966.5 Effect of petition filing.

Upon receipt and docketing of the former employee's petition, the Recorder will notify the Chief Postal Inspector that the petition has been filed and that a timely filed petition stays further collection action.

§966.6 Filing, docketing and serving documents; computation of time; representation of parties.

(a) *Filing.* All documents required under this part must be filed by the former employee or the Chief Postal Inspector in triplicate with the Recorder. (Normal Recorder office business hours are between 8:15 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., eastern standard or daylight saving time as appropriate during the year.) The Recorder will transmit a copy of each document filed to the other party, and the original to the Hearing Official.

(b) *Docketing.* The Recorder will maintain a docket record of proceedings under this part and will assign each petition a docket number. After notification of the docket number, the former employee and Chief Postal Inspector should refer to it on any further filings regarding the petition.

(c) *Time computation.* A filing period under the rules in this part excludes the day the period begins, and includes the last day of the period unless the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, in which event the period runs until the close of business on the next business day.

(d) *Representation of parties.* After the filing of the petition, further document transmittals for, or communications with, the Postal Service shall be through its representative, the Chief Postal Inspector. If a former employee is represented by an attorney authorized to practice law in any of the United States or the District of Columbia or a territory of the United States, further transmissions of documents and other communications with the former employee shall be made through his or her attorney rather than directly with the former employee.

§966.7 Answer to petition.

Within thirty (30) days from notice of the petition, the Chief Postal Inspector shall file an answer to the petition, and

attach all available relevant records and documents in support of the Postal Service's claim, or the administrative offset schedule proposed by the Postal Service for collecting any such claim; a list of witnesses the Postal Service intends to call if an oral hearing is requested and the request is granted; a synopsis of the testimony of each witness; a statement of concurrence or objection to the proposed location and dates for the oral hearing; and a statement of the basis for the determination of debt or offset schedule if not contained in the relevant records or documents. If the former employee files a supplement to the petition, the Chief Postal Inspector may file any supplemental answer and records to support the position of the Postal Service within twenty (20) calendar days from the date of receipt of the supplement filed with the Recorder.

§ 966.8 Hearing Official authority and responsibilities.

In conducting a hearing under this part, the Hearing Official's authority includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(a) Ruling on all offers, motions, or requests by the parties;

(b) Issuing any notices, orders, or memoranda to the parties concerning the hearing procedures;

(c) Conducting telephone conferences with the parties to expedite the proceedings (a memorandum of a telephone conference will be transmitted to both parties);

(d) Determining if an oral hearing is necessary and setting the place, date, and time for such hearing;

(e) Administering oaths or affirmations to witnesses;

(f) Conducting the hearing in a manner to maintain discipline and decorum while assuring that relevant, reliable and probative evidence is elicited on the issues in dispute, and that irrelevant, immaterial or repetitious evidence is excluded;

(g) Establishing the record in the case;

(h) Issuing an initial decision or one on remand; and

(i) Granting, at the request of either party, reasonable time extensions.

§ 966.9 Opportunity for oral hearing.

An oral hearing generally will be held only in those cases which, in the opinion of the Hearing Official, cannot be resolved by a review of the documentary evidence, such as when the existence, or amount, of a debt turns on issues of credibility or veracity. When the Hearing Official determines that an oral hearing is not necessary, the decision shall be based solely on written submissions.

§ 966.10 Initial decision.

(a) After the receipt of written submissions or after the conclusion of the hearing and the receipt of any post-hearing briefs, the Hearing Official shall issue a written initial decision, including findings of fact and conclusions of law, which the Hearing Official relied upon in determining whether the former employee is indebted to the Postal Service, or in upholding or revising the administrative offset schedule proposed by the Postal Service for collecting a former employee's debt. When the Judicial Officer presides at a hearing he or she shall issue a final or a tentative decision. The initial or tentative decision shall become the final agency decision unless appeal is taken pursuant to § 966.11.

(b) The Hearing Official shall promptly send to each party a copy of the initial or tentative decision, and a statement describing the right of appeal to the Judicial Officer in accordance with § 966.11.

(c) Unless the former employee or Chief Postal Inspector appeals the Hearing Official's initial or tentative decision within thirty (30) days from receipt of the decision, such decision shall become the final agency decision, and an order to that effect will be issued by the Judicial Officer.

§ 966.11 Appeal of initial or tentative decision to Judicial Officer.

(a) *Notice of appeal and supporting brief.* (1) A former employee or the Chief Postal Inspector may appeal an adverse decision by a Hearing Official by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Recorder within thirty (30) days after receipt of the decision. The Judicial Officer may extend the filing period upon

written application of either party for good cause shown.

(2) The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a written brief specifying exceptions to findings of fact and conclusions of law, and any reasons for such exceptions, to the Hearing Official's decision.

(3) No later than thirty (30) days after receiving the Notice of Appeal and accompanying brief, the opposing party may file a response with the Recorder.

(b) *Form of review*. (1) Review by the Judicial Officer will be based on the entire record and written submissions.

(2) Objections or new issues not raised in the hearing will not be considered unless the interested party demonstrates that the failure to raise the objection or issue before the Hearing Official was caused by extraordinary circumstances.

(3) The Judicial Officer shall have all powers of a Hearing Official and on appeal may order the hearing reopened for the presentation of additional evidence or, in his or her discretion, remand the case to the Hearing Official for further action.

(c) *Decision of Judicial Officer*. The Judicial Officer shall affirm, reverse, or modify any decision appealed under this section and shall promptly serve each party to the appeal with a copy of this or her decision and a statement that such decision constitutes the final agency decision.

§966.12 Waiver of rights.

The Hearing Official may determine the former employee has waived his or her right to a hearing and administrative offset may be initiated if the former employee:

(a) Files a petition for hearing after the end of the prescribed thirty (30) day period, and fails to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Hearing Official good cause for the delay;

(b) Has received notice to appear at an oral hearing but fails to do so without showing circumstances beyond the former employee's control;

(c) Fails to file required submissions or to comply with orders of the Hearing Official; or

(d) Files a withdrawal of his or her petition for a hearing with the Recorder.

§966.13 Ex parte communications.

Ex parte communications between a Hearing Official or his or her staff and a party shall not be made. This prohibition does not apply to procedural matters. A memorandum of any such procedural communication will be transmitted to both parties.

CHAPTER III—POSTAL RATE COMMISSION

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SUBCHAPTER A—PERSONNEL

PART 3000—STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Subpart A—General Provisions

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APPENDIX A TO PART 3000—CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 3603; E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306; 5 CFR parts 2634 and 2635.

SOURCE: 36 FR 5412, Mar. 23, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Provisions

SOURCE: 58 FR 42874, Aug. 12, 1993, unless otherwise noted.

§ 3000.735–101 Cross-reference to employee ethical conduct standards and financial disclosure regulations.

Employees of the Postal Rate Commission (Commission) are subject and should refer to the executive branch-wide Standards of Ethical Conduct at 5 CFR part 2635, the Commission regulation at 5 CFR part 5601 which supplements the executive branch-wide standards, and the executive branch-wide financial disclosure regulation at 5 CFR part 2634.

§ 3000.735–102 Counseling and advisory services.

(a) The Chairman of the Commission shall appoint the Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO) for the Commission. The DAEO may appoint deputy ethics officials to assist in carrying out the responsibilities of the designated agency ethics official. The DAEO shall advise employees as to the applicability and interpretation of laws and regulations involving the standards of conduct for employees of the Commission. The DAEO shall furnish advice to employees for the purpose of aiding employees in avoiding conflicts of interest, situations, actions or conduct that may reflect adversely on the Commission.

(b) The DAEO shall develop and execute an ethics agency training plan providing for an initial orientation for new employees and annual ethics training.

§ 3000.735–103 Financial interests.

(a) An employee shall not, either directly or indirectly, have any financial interest (whether by ownership of any stock, bond, security, or otherwise) in any entity or person whose interests may be significantly affected by rates of postage, fees for postal services, the classification of mail, or the operation of the Postal Service. This paragraph does not proscribe interests in an entity or person whose use of the mail is merely an incidental or a minor factor in the general conduct of its business.

(b) The Chairman from time to time determines the appropriate maximum limit for an interest in stocks, bonds or other forms of securities in any one entity or person. If an employee has an interest above the maximum limit, the DAEO will so advise the Chairman. If the Chairman finds the interest so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the service which the Government may expect of him or her, the Chairman may direct, in writing, the employee to divest a portion of the financial interest to bring the investment below the maximum limit.

§ 3000.735–104 Outside employment.

(a) An employee shall not engage in outside employment or professional practice, either on a paid or unpaid basis, with or for a company or other person whose interests are significantly affected by rates of postage, fees for postal services, the classification of

mail or the operations of Postal Service.

(b) An employee who wishes to engage in outside employment either on a paid or unpaid basis shall obtain the prior written approval of the DAEO. A request for such approval shall be submitted in writing with sufficient description of the employment to enable the DAEO to make an informed determination that the outside employment is not prohibited by law or regulation, including 5 CFR part 2635 or 5 CFR part 5601.

(c) An employee who has been assigned to a particular matter which affects the financial interests of a prospective employer and who is required, in accordance with 5 CFR 2635.604(a), to disqualify himself from participation in that matter shall, notwithstanding the guidance in 5 CFR 2635.604 (b) and (c), provide notice of disqualification to his supervisor upon determining that he will not participate in the matter.

Subpart B—Ex Parte Communications

§3000.735–501 Ex parte communications prohibited.

Decision-making Commission personnel, as defined in §3001.7(a), shall not, either in an official or unofficial capacity, participate in any ex parte communication—either oral or written—with any person regarding (1) a particular matter (substantive or procedural) at issue in contested proceedings before the Commission or (2) the substantive merits of a matter that is likely to become a particular matter at issue in contested proceedings before the Comission. A particular matter is at issue in contested proceedings before the Commission when it is a subject of controversy in a hearing held under 39 U.S.C. 3624 or 3661(c). However, this section does not prohibit participation in off-the-record proceedings conducted under regulations adopted by the Commission for hearings held under 39 U.S.C. 3624 or 3661(c).

[45 FR 65581, Oct. 3, 1980]

§3000.735–502 Public record of ex parte communications.

As ex parte communications (either oral or written) may occur inadvertently notwithstanding §3000.735–501, the employee who receives such a communication, shall—within 2 workdays after the receipt of such a communication—prepare a written report concerning the communication. The report shall identify the employee and the person or persons who participated in the ex parte communication; the circumstances which resulted in the communication; the substance of the communication; and the relationship of the communication to a particular matter at issue or likely to become at issue in contested proceedings before the Commission. When the ex parte communication concerns a particular matter at issue in a proceeding before the Commission, a copy of the report shall be submitted to each party to the proceeding. The report is a public record of the Commission and a copy thereof shall be available to any member of the public on request. This section does not apply to ex parte communications under paragraph 3000.735–501(b).

[36 FR 5412, Mar. 23, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 24899, Sept. 11, 1973]

APPENDIX A TO PART 3000—CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the following Code of Ethics should be adhered to by all Government employees, including office-holders:

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Any person in Government service should:

1. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or Government department.
2. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
3. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay; giving to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
4. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
5. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept, for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which

might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.

6. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a Government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.

7. Engage in no business with the Government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.

8. Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making private profit.

9. Expose corruption wherever discovered.

10. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

Passed July 11, 1958.

PART 3001—RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

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AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 404(b), 3603, 3622–3624, 3661, 3662.

SOURCE: 36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Rules of General Applicability

§3001.1 Construction of rules.

The rules in this part shall be liberally construed to secure just and speedy determination of issues.

[38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973]

§3001.2 [Reserved]

§3001.3 Scope of rules.

The rules of practice in this part are applicable to proceedings before the Postal Rate Commission under the Act, including those which involve a hearing on the record before the Commission or its designated presiding officer. They do not preclude the informal disposition of any matters coming before

the Commission not required by statute to be determined upon notice and hearing.

§ 3001.4 Method of citing rules.

This part shall be referred to as the ''rules of practice.'' Each section, paragraph, or subparagraph shall include only the numbers and letters to the right of the decimal point. For example, ''3001.24 *Prehearing conferences*'' shall be referred to as ''section 24.''

§ 3001.5 Definitions.

(a) *Act* means the Postal Reorganization Act (84 Stat. 719, title 39, U.S.C.), as amended.

(b) *Postal Service* means the U.S. Postal Service established by the Act.

(c) *Commission* or *Commissioner* means, respectively, the Postal Rate Commission established by the Act or a member thereof.

(d) *Secretary* means the Secretary or the Acting Secretary of the Commission.

(e) *Presiding officer* means the Chairman of the Commission in proceedings conducted by the Commission en banc or the Commissioner or Administrative Law Judge of the Commission designated to preside at hearings or conferences.

(f) *Person* means an individual, a partnership, corporation, trust, unincorporated association, public or private organization, or governmental agency.

(g) *Party* means the Postal Service, a complainant, an appellant, or a person who has intervened in a proceeding before the Commission.

(h) *Participant* means any party and the officer of the Commission who is designated to represent the interests of the general public and, for purposes of §§ 3001.11(e), 3001.12, 3001.21, 3001.23, 3001.24, 3001.29, 3001.30, 3001.31, and 3001.32 only, it also means persons who are limited participators.

(i) *Complainant* means a person or interested party who as permitted by section 3662 of the Act files a complaint with the Commission in the form and manner hereinafter prescribed.

(j) *Hearing* means a hearing under sections 556 and 557 of title 5, U.S.C. (80 Stat. 386), as provided by sections 3624, 3661, and 3662 of the Act.

(k) *Record* means the transcript of testimony and exhibits, together with all papers and requests filed in the proceeding, which constitutes the exclusive record for decision.

(l) *Effective date* of an order or notice issued by the Commission or an officer thereof means the date of issuance unless otherwise specifically provided.

(m) *Appellant* means a person who as permitted by 39 U.S.C. 404(b) appeals to the Commission a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office.

(n) *Commission meeting* means the deliberations of at least three Commissioners where such deliberations determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official Commission business, but does not include deliberations required or permitted by § 3001.43(d) or § 3001.43(e).

(o) *Ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all participants and limited participators is not given, but it shall not include requests for status reports on any matter or proceeding covered by subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 or a proceeding conducted pursuant to subpart H of this part.

(p) *Domestic Mail Classification Schedule* means the classification schedule, including schedules of full and phased rates and fees, adopted by the Decision of the Governors of the U.S. Postal Service Re Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission Regarding the Proper Scope and Extent of the Mail Classification Schedule, issued April 3, 1979, and any amendments thereto adopted pursuant to the procedures of subchapter III, chapter 36, title 39 of the U.S.C.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973; 42 FR 8142, Feb. 2, 1977; 42 FR 10992, Feb. 25, 1977; 42 FR 13290, Mar. 10, 1977; 44 FR 26075, May 4, 1979; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.6 Appearances.

(a) *By whom.* An individual may appear in his/her own behalf; a member of a partnership may represent the partnership; and an officer may represent a corporation, trust, unincorporated association, or governmental agency. A

person may be represented in a proceeding by an attorney at law admitted to practice and in good standing before the Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court of any State or Territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, or the Court of Appeals or the District Court for the District of Columbia.

(b) *Authority to act.* When an officer of any party or an attorney acting in a representative capacity appears in person or signs a paper filed with the Commission, his/her personal appearance or signature shall constitute a representation to the Commission that he/she is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he/she acts. Any person appearing before or transacting business with the Commission in a representative capacity may be required by the Commission or the presiding officer to file evidence of his/her authority to act in such capacity.

(c) *Designation for service.* A person intending to appear before the Commission or its presiding officer in a representative capacity for a party in a proceeding shall file with the Commission a notice of appearance in the form prescribed by the Secretary unless the person is named in an initial filing of the party whom he/she represents as a person to whom communications from the Commission in regard to the filing are to be addressed. Failure to file a notice required by this paragraph shall constitute a waiver of the right to service of documents.

(d) *Standards of conduct.* Individuals practicing before the Commission shall conform to the standards of ethical conduct required of practitioners in the courts of the United States.

(e) *Disqualification and suspension.* After hearing, the Com ission may disqualify and deny, temporarily or permanently, the privilege of appearing and practicing before it in any way to any individual who is found not to possess the requisite qualifications, or to have engaged in unethical or improper professional conduct. Contumacious conduct at any hearing before the Commission or its presiding officer shall be ground for exclusion of any individual from such hearing and for summary suspension for the duration of the hearing by the Commission or the presiding officer.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.7 Ex parte communications.

(a) *Definitions*—(1) *Decision-making Commission personnel.* Subject to the exception stated in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section, the following categories of persons are designated ''decision-making Commission personnel'':

(i) The Commissioners and their personal office staffs;

(ii) The General Counsel and his/her staff;

(iii) The Director of the Office of Technical Analysis and Planning and his/her staff.

(iv) Any other employee who may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process.

(2) *Non-decision-making Commission personnel.* The following categories of persons are designated ''non-decision-making Commission personnel'';

(i) All Commission personnel other than decision-making Commission personnel;

(ii) Decision-making Commission personnel not participating in the decisional process owing to the prohibitions of § 3001.8 or 39 CFR 3000.735, Subpart C.

(b) *Prohibition.* In any agency proceeding that is required to be conducted in accordance with section 556 of Title 5 or a proceeding conducted pursuant to Subpart H of this part, except to the extent required for the disposition of ex parte matters as authorized by law:

(1) Interested persons outside the Commission and non-decision-making Commission personnel shall not make or knowingly cause to be made to any Commission decision-making personnel ex parte communications relevant to the merits of the proceeding;

(2) Commission decision-making personnel shall not make or knowingly cause to be made to any interested person outside the Commission or to non-decision-making Commission personnel ex parte communications relevant to the merits of the proceeding;

(3) Commission decision-making personnel who receive ex parte communications relevant to the merits of the proceeding shall decline to listen to such communications and explain that the matter is pending for determination. Any recipient thereof shall advise the communicator that he/she will not consider the communication and shall promptly and fully inform the Commission in writing of the substance of and the circumstances attending the communication, so that the Commission will be able to take appropriate action.

(4) Commission decision-making personnel who receive, or who make or knowingly cause to be made, communications prohibited by this paragraph shall place on the public record of the proceeding:

(i) All such written communications;

(ii) Memoranda stating the substance of all such oral communications; and

(iii) All written responses, and memoranda stating the substance of all oral responses, to the materials described in paragraphs (b)(4)(i) and (b)(4)(ii) of this section.

(5) Requests for an opportunity to rebut, on the record, any facts or contentions contained in an ex parte communication which have been placed on the public record of the proceeding pursuant to paragraph (b)(4) of this section may be filed in writing with the Commission. The Commission will grant such requests only where it determines that the dictates of fairness so require. Generally, in lieu of actually receiving rebuttal material, the Commission will direct that the alleged factual assertion and the proposed rebuttal be disregarded in arriving at a decision.

(c) *Applicability*. (1) The prohibitions of paragraph (b) of this section shall apply beginning at the time at which a proceeding is noticed for hearing or appeal unless the person responsible for the communication has knowledge that it will be noticed, in which case the prohibitions shall apply beginning at the time of his/her acquisition of such knowledge.

(2) Paragraph (b) of this section does not constitute authority to withhold information from Congress.

(d) *Violations of ex parte rules.* (1) Upon notice of a communication knowingly made or knowingly caused to be made by a party in violation of paragraph (b) of this section, the Commission, administrative law judge, or other employee presiding at the hearing may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statutes, require the party to show cause why his/her claim or interest in the proceeding should not be dismissed, denied, disregarded, or otherwise adversely affected on account of such violation.

(2) The Commission may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statutes administered by the Commission, consider a violation of paragraph (b) of this section sufficient grounds for a decision adverse to a party who has knowingly committed such violation or knowingly caused such violation to occur.

[45 FR 65580, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.8 No participation by investigative or prosecuting officers.

In any proceeding noticed pursuant to § 3001.17, no officer, employee or agent of the Commission who appears in the hearing in a proceeding before the Commission as an attorney or witness or who actively participates in the preparation of evidence or argument presented by such persons, shall participate or advise as to the intermediate decision or Commission decision in that proceeding except as a witness or counsel in public proceedings.

§ 3001.9 Filing of documents.

(a) *Filing with the Commission.* The filing of any written document required by these rules or any applicable statute, rule, regulation or order of the Commission, or by direction of the presiding officer shall be made by filing with the Office of the Secretary, Postal Rate Commission, Washington, DC 20268–0001, during normal business hours on a date no later than that specified for such filing. Documents received after the close of normal business hours or on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, shall be deemed to be filed on the next regular business day.

(b) *Acceptance for filing.* Only such documents as conform to the requirements of this part and any other applicable rule, regulation or order of the Commission shall be accepted for filing. Unacceptable filings will be rejected by the Secretary and will not be included in the file in the proceeding involved. The Secretary shall notify the sender of any unacceptable document and all parties to the proceeding in which such document was tendered that such document was rejected. Acceptance for filing shall not waive any failure to comply with the rules, and such failure may be cause for subsequently striking all or any part of any document.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.10 Form and number of copies of documents.

(a) *Production.* If not printed, documents filed with the Commission shall be produced on paper of letter size, 8 to 8½ inches wide by 10½ to 11 inches long, with left- and right-hand margins not less than 1 inch and other margins not less than 0.75 inches, except tables, charts or special documents attached thereto may be larger if required, provided that they are folded to the size of the document to which they are attached. The impression shall be on only one side of the paper unless there are more than ten pages. The text shall be not less than one and one-half spaced except that footnotes and quotations may be single spaced. Any typeface not smaller than elite or a comparable size expressed in points or characters per inch may be used. If the document is bound, it shall be bound on the left side. Copies of documents for filing and service may be reproduced by any duplicating process that produces clear and legible copies.

(b) *Printed.* Printed documents filed with the Commission shall, insofar as practicable, not be less than 10-point type adequately leaded, on unglazed paper cut or folded to a size of 8 to 8½ inches wide and 10½ to 11 inches long, with inside margin not less than 1 inch wide, and with double-leaded text and single-leaded, indented quotations.

(c) *Number of copies.* Except for correspondence or as otherwise required by the Commission, the Secretary, or the presiding officer in any proceeding, all persons shall file with the Secretary, an original and 24 fully conformed copies of each document required or permitted to be filed under this part. The copies need not be signed but shall show the full name of the person signing the original document and the certificate of service attached thereto.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 19045, July 17, 1973; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12115, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.11 General contents of documents.

(a) *Caption and title.* The caption of a document filed with the Commission in any proceeding shall clearly show the docket designation and title of the proceeding before the Commission. The title of such document shall show the name of the person in whose behalf the filing is made and a brief description of the document or the nature of the relief sought therein (i.e., motion for extension, brief on exceptions, complaint, notice of intervention, answer to complaint). If the document is filed on behalf of more than one person, a single name only need be included in the title.

(b) *Designation of person to receive service.* The first page of the initial document filed by any person in any proceeding shall state the name and full post office address of the person or persons who may be served with any documents relating to the proceeding.

(c) *Contents.* In the event there is no rule, regulation or order of the Commission which specifically prescribes the contents of any document to be filed, such document shall contain a proper identification of the parties concerned and a concise but complete statement of the relief sought and of the facts and citations of authority and precedent relied upon.

(d) *Improper matter.* Defamatory, scurrilous, or unethical matter shall not be included in any document filed with the Commission.

(e) *Subscription.* The original of any document filed with the Commission shall be signed in ink by the participant filing the same or by an authorized officer, employee, attorney or

other representative, and all other copies of such document filed with the Commission and served on the participants in any proceeding shall be fully conformed thereto. The signature of any person subscribing any document filed with the Commission constitutes a certification that he/she has read the document being subscribed and filed; that he/she knows the contents thereof; that if executed in any representative capacity, the document has been subscribed and executed in the capacity specified in the document with full power and authority so to do; that to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief every statement contained in the document is true and no such statements are misleading; and that such document is not filed for purposes of delay.

(f) *Table of contents.* All documents other than briefs filed with the Commission consisting of 20 or more pages shall contain a subject-index of the matter in such document with page references.

(g) *Certificate of service.* There shall be attached to the original of each document filed with the Commission a certificate of service signed in ink showing service on all participants in a proceeding as prescribed by § 3001.12. All other copies filed and served shall be fully conformed thereto.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.12 Service of documents.

(a) *Service by the Commission.* Notices, orders, and other similar documents issued by the Commission or presiding officer shall be served by the Secretary upon the participants in the proceeding individually or by such groups as may be directed by the Commission or presiding officer.

(b) *Service by the parties.* Every document filed by any person with the Commission in a proceeding shall be served by the person filing such document upon the participants in the proceeding individually or by such groups as may be directed by the Commission or presiding officer except for discovery requests governed by §§ 3001.25 (a) and (c), 3001.26 (a) and (c), and 3001.27 (a) and (c). Special requests relating to discovery must be served individually upon the party conducting discovery and state the witness who is the subject of the special request.

(c) *Limitation on extent of service.* To avoid the imposition of an unreasonable burden upon participants, the Commission or the presiding officer may, by appropriate order, limit service to service upon participants intending to actively participate in the hearing, or upon a person or persons designated for properly representative groups, or by requiring the making of documents available for convenient public inspection, or by any combination of such methods.

(d) *Service list.* The Secretary shall maintain a current service list in each proceeding which shall include the participants in that proceeding and the person or persons designated for service of documents by each party with the address designated in the party's initial pleading in such proceeding or a notice of appearance as provided in § 3001.6(c); provided, however, the Secretary is not required to include on such list more than two designated representatives for any party to the proceeding. The service list shall show the participants actively participating in the hearing and representative groups established pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. Service on the persons, active participants or groups on the Secretary's service list in any proceeding, as directed by the Commission or hearing officer, shall be deemed service in compliance with the requirements of this section.

(e) *Method of service.* Service may be made by First–Class Mail or personal delivery to the address shown for the persons designated on the Secretary's service list. Service of any document upon the Postal Service shall be made by delivering or mailing six copies thereof to the Office of the Assistant General Counsel, Office of Rate and Classification Law, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260–1140.

(f) *Date of service.* Whenever service is made by mail, the date of mailing shall be the date of service. Whenever service is made by personal delivery, the date of such delivery shall be the date of service.

(g) *Form of certificate of service.* The certificate of service shall show the

name of the participant or his/her counsel making service, the date and place of service, and include the statement that ''I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the rules of practice.''

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12115, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.13 Docket and hearing calendar.

The Secretary shall maintain a docket of all proceedings, and each proceeding as initiated shall be assigned an appropriate designation. The Secretary shall maintain a hearing calendar of all proceedings which have been set for hearing. Proceedings shall be heard on the date set in the hearing order, except that the Commission may for cause, with or without motion, at any time with due notice to the parties advance or postpone the date of hearing. The docket and hearing calendar shall be available for public inspection during the office hours of the Commission, insofar as consistent with the proper discharge of the Commission's duties.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.14 Consolidation and separation of proceedings.

The Commission, with or without motion, may order proceedings involving related issues or facts to be consolidated for hearing of any or all matters in issue in such proceedings. The Commission may sever proceedings which have been consolidated, or order separate proceedings on any issue presented, if it appears that separate proceedings will be more convenient, expeditious, or otherwise appropriate.

§ 3001.15 Computation of time.

Except as otherwise provided by law, in computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by this part, or by any notice, order, rule or regulation of the Commission or a presiding officer, the day of the act, event, or default after which the designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period so computed is to be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday for the Commission, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is neither a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. A part-day holiday shall be considered as other days and not as a holiday. In computing a period of time which is 5 days or less, all Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays of the Commission are to be excluded.

[38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.16 Continuances and extensions of time.

Continuances of any proceeding or hearing and extensions of time for making any filing or performing any act required or allowed to be done within a specified time or by a specified date may be granted by the Commission or the presiding officer upon motion for good cause shown unless the time for performance or filing is limited by statute. Requests for extension of time shall be by written motion timely filed with the Commission stating the facts on which the application rests, except that after a hearing has convened, such requests shall be made by written or oral motion to the presiding officer. Requests for continuances or extensions of time may as a matter of discretion be acted upon without waiting for answers thereto.

§ 3001.17 Notice of proceeding.

(a) *When issued.* The Commission shall issue a notice of a proceeding to be determined on the record with an opportunity for any interested person to request a hearing whenever:

(1) The Postal Service files a formal request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on changes in postal rates or fees or establishing or changing the mail classification schedule;

(2) The Commission proposes on its own initiative to issue a recommended decision on changes in the mail classification schedule;

(3) The Postal Service files a request with the Commission to issue an advisory opinion on a proposed change in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis;

(4) The Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines that an opportunity for hearing should be provided with regard to a complaint filed pursuant to subpart E of this part; or

(5) The Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines to institute any other proceeding under the Act.

(a–1) *Appellate proceedings under 39 U.S.C. 404(b).* The Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding to be determined on a record compiled by the Postal Service whenever:

(1) An appeal of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office is taken to the Postal Rate Commission pursuant to subpart H of this part; or

(2) An application to suspend the effective date of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office pending appeal to the Postal Rate Commission is made pursuant to subpart H of this part.

(b) *Publication and service of notice.* Each notice of proceeding shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and served on the Postal Service, the complainant in a complaint proceeding, and the appellant in the appeal of a Postal Service determination to close or consolidate a post office.

(c) *Contents of notice.* The notice of a proceeding shall include the following:

(1) The general nature of the proceeding involved in terms of categories listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section;

(2) A reference to the legal authority under which the proceeding is to be conducted;

(3) A concise description of proposals for changes in rates or fees, proposals for the establishment of or changes in the mail classification schedule, proposals for changes in the nature of postal services; in the case of a complaint, an identification of the complainant and a concise description of the subject matter of the complaint or, in the case of an appeal, an identification of the appellant and a summarization of the Postal Service determination to close or consolidate under review;

(4) The date by which notices of intervention and requests for hearing must be filed; and

(5) Such other information as the Commission may desire to include.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 42 FR 10992, Feb. 25, 1977; 42 FR 13826, Mar. 14, 1977; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.18 Nature of proceedings.

(a) *Proceedings to be set for hearing.* In any case noticed for a proceeding to be determined on the record pursuant to § 3001.17, the Commission shall hold a public hearing if a hearing is requested by any party to the proceeding or if the Commission in the exercise of its discretion determines that a hearing is in the public interest. The Commission may give notice of its determination that a hearing shall be held in its original notice of the proceeding or in a subsequent notice issued pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section and § 3001.19.

(b) *Procedure in hearing cases.* In proceedings which are to be set for hearing, the Commission shall issue a notice of hearing or prehearing conference pursuant to § 3001.19. After the completion of the hearing, the Commission or the presiding officer shall receive such briefs and hear such oral argument as may be ordered by the Commission or the presiding officer pursuant to §§ 3001.34 to 3001.37, and the Commission shall then issue a recommended decision, advisory opinion, or public report, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of §§ 3001.38 to 3001.39.

(c) *Procedure in non-hearing cases.* In any case noticed for a proceeding to be determined on the record in which a hearing is not requested by any party or ordered by the Commission, the Commission or the presiding officer shall issue a notice of the procedure to be followed with regard to the filing of briefs and oral argument, and a recommended decision, advisory opinion, or public report, as appropriate, shall then be issued pursuant to the provisions of §§ 3001.34 to 3001.39. The Commission or presiding officer may, if necessary or desirable, call procedural conferences by issuance of a notice pursuant to § 3001.19.

§ 3001.19 Notice of prehearing conference or hearing.

In any proceeding noticed for a proceeding on the record pursuant to § 3001.17, the Commission shall give due notice of any prehearing conference or hearing by including the time and place of the conference or hearing in the notice of proceeding or by subsequently issuing a notice of prehearing conference or hearing. Such notice of prehearing conference or hearing shall give the title and docket designation of the proceeding, a reference to the original notice of proceeding and the date of such notice, the time and place of the conference or hearing and the designation of the presiding officer. Similar notice shall be issued of the time and place where a hearing will be reconvened unless announcement was made thereof by the presiding officer at the adjournment of an earlier session of the prehearing conference or hearing. Such notices shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and served on all participants in the proceeding involved.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.20 Formal intervention.

(a) *Who may intervene.* A notice of intervention will be entertained in those cases that are noticed for a proceeding pursuant to § 3001.17 from any person claiming an interest of such nature that intervention is allowed by the Act, or appropriate to its administration.

(b) *Contents.* A notice of intervention shall clearly and concisely set forth the nature and extent of the intervenor's interest in the issues to be decided, including the classifications of postal service utilized by the intervenor giving rise to his/her interest in the proceeding, and to the extent known, the position of the intervenor with regard to the proposed changes in postal rates, fees, classifications, or services, or the subject matter of the complaint, as described in the notice of the proceeding. Such notice shall state whether or not the intervenor requests a hearing or in lieu thereof, a conference, and whether or not the intervenor intends to actively participate in a hearing. Such notice shall also include on page one thereof the name and full mailing address of no more than two persons who are to receive service of any documents relating to such proceeding.

(c) *Form and time of filing.* Notices of intervention shall be filed no later than the date fixed for such filing in any notice or order with respect to the proceeding issued by the Commission or its Secretary, unless in extraordinary circumstances for good cause shown, the Commission authorizes a late filing. Notices of intervention shall conform to the requirements of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.11 and shall be served on the Postal Service and the complainant in a complaint proceeding pursuant to § 3001.12.

(d) *Oppositions.* Oppositions to notices of intervention may be filed by any participant in the proceeding no later than 10 days after the notice of intervention is filed. Pending Commission action, an opposition to intervention shall delay on a day-for-day basis, the date for responses to discovery requests filed by that intervenor.

(e) *Effect of intervention.* A person filing a notice of intervention shall be a party to the proceeding subject, however, to a determination by the Commission, either in response to an opposition, or sua sponte, that party status is not appropriate under the Act. Intervenors are also subject to the right of the Commission or the presiding officer as specified in § 3001.24 to require two or more intervenors having substantially like interests and positions to join together for purposes of service of documents, presenting evidence, making and arguing motions and objections, cross-examining witnesses, filing briefs, and presenting oral arguments to the Commission or presiding officer. No intervention shall be deemed to constitute a decision that the intervening party has such an interest in the proceeding that he/she would be aggrieved by an ultimate decision by order of the Commission.

[48 FR 15627, Apr. 12, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.20a Limited participation by persons not parties.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 3001.20, any person may appear as a limited participator in any case that is noticed for a proceeding pursuant to § 3001.17, in accordance with the following provisions;

(a) *Form of intervention.* Notices of intervention as a limited participator shall be in writing, shall set forth the nature and extent of the intervenor's interest in the proceeding, shall include the name and full mailing address of up to two persons who are to receive service of documents by the Secretary, and shall be served on the Postal Service (and on the complainant in a complaint proceeding) pursuant to § 3001.12. Except where good cause for late filing is shown, notices of intervention as a limited participator shall be filed not later than the date fixed for the filing of notices of intervention pursuant to § 3001.20(c).

(b) *Oppositions.* Oppositions to notices to intervene as a limited participator may be filed by any participant in the proceeding no later than 10 days after the notice of intervention as a limited participator is filed.

(c) *Scope of participation.* Subject to the provisions of § 3001.30(f), limited participators may present evidence which is relevant to the issues involved in the proceeding and their testimony shall be subject to cross-examination on the same terms applicable to that of formal participants. Limited participants may file briefs or proposed findings pursuant to §§ 3001.34 and 3001.35, and within 15 days after the release of an intermediate decision, or such other time as may be fixed by the Commission, they may file a written statement of their position on the issues. The Commission or the presiding officer may require limited participators having substantially like interests and positions to join together for any or all of the above purposes. Limited participators are not required to respond to discovery requests under § 3001.25 through § 3001.28 except to the extent that those requests are directed specifically to testimony which the limited participators provided in the proceeding; however, limited participators, particularly those making contentions under 39 U.S.C. 3622(b)(4), are advised that failure to provide relevant and material information in support of their claims will be taken into account in determining the weight to be placed on their evidence and arguments.

[48 FR 15627, Apr. 12, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12115, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.20b Informal expression of views by persons not parties or limited participators (commenters).

Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 3001.19a and 3001.20, any person may file with the Commission, in any case that is noticed for a hearing pursuant to § 3001.17, an informal statement of views in writing, in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) *Contents of statement.* A statement filed pursuant to this section shall set forth the name and full mailing address of the person by whom or on whose behalf it is filed, a concise statement of the issue or issues to which the comments contained therein apply, and a clear statement of any views, opinions, or suggestions which the person filing the statement wishes to lay before the Commission.

(b) *Disposition by the Commission or presiding officer.* Statements filed pursuant to this section shall be made a part of the Commission's files in the proceeding. The Secretary shall maintain a file of such statements which shall be segregated from the evidentiary record in the proceeding, and shall be open to public inspection during the Commission's office hours. A statement or exhibit thereto filed pursuant to this section shall not be accepted in the ''record,'' as defined by § 3001.5(k) except to the extent that it is (1) otherwise formally introduced in evidence, or (2) a proper subject of official notice, pursuant to § 3001.31(j).

(c) *Ex parte communications—exception.* A statement filed pursuant to this section shall not be considered an ex parte communication within the meaning of § 3001.7.

[42 FR 8142, Feb. 9, 1977. Redesignated at 48 FR 15627, Apr. 12, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.21 Motions.

(a) *Scope and contents.* An application for an order or ruling not otherwise specifically provided for in this part shall be by motion. Motions shall set forth with particularity the ruling or relief sought, the grounds and basis therefor, and the statutory or other authority relied upon, and shall be filed with the Secretary and served pursuant to the provisions of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.12. All motions to dismiss proceedings or other motions which involve a final determination of the proceeding shall be addressed to the Commission. After a presiding officer is designated in any proceeding, and before the issuance of an initial decision pursuant to § 3001.39 or certification of the record to the Commission pursuant to § 3001.38, all other motions in that proceeding shall be addressed to the presiding officer.

(b) *Answers.* Within 10 days after a motion is filed, or such other period as the Commission or presiding officer may fix, any participant to the proceeding may file and serve an answer in support of or in opposition to the motion pursuant to §§ 3001.9 to 3001.12. Such answers shall state with particularity the position of the participant with regard to the ruling or relief requested in the motion and the grounds and basis and statutory or other authority relied upon. Unless the Commission or presiding officer otherwise provide, no reply to an answer or any further responsive document shall be filed.

[38 FR 4327, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.22 Requests for waiver.

Upon request by motion, any requirement of any subpart of this Part 3001 may be waived in whole or in part to the extent permitted by law upon a showing that such waiver will not unduly prejudice the interests of other participants and is consistent with the public interest and the Commission's expeditious discharge of its responsibilities under the Act. A request for waiver shall not be entertained unless it is timely filed so as to permit Commission disposition of the request prior to the date specified for the requirement for which waiver is requested. The pendency of a request for waiver does not justify or excuse any person from timely meeting the requirements of this part.

§ 3001.23 Presiding officers.

(a) *Authority delegated.* Presiding officers shall have the authority, within the Commission's powers and subject to its published rules, as follows:

(1) To regulate the course of the hearing, including the recessing, reconvening, and adjournment thereof, unless otherwise directed by the Commission, as provided in § 3001.16;

(2) To administer oaths and affirmations;

(3) To issue subpoenas authorized by law;

(4) To rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;

(5) To take or authorize that depositions be taken as provided in § 3001.33;

(6) To hold appropriate conferences before or during hearings and to rule on matters raised at such conferences including those specified in paragraph (d) of § 3001.24;

(7) To dispose of procedural requests or similar matters but not, before their initial or recommended decision, to dispose of motions made during hearings to dismiss proceedings or other motions which involve a final determination of the proceeding;

(8) Within their discretion, or upon direction of the Commission, to certify any question to the Commission for its consideration and disposition;

(9) To submit an initial or recommended decision in accordance with §§ 3001.38 and 3001.39; and

(10) To take any other action necessary or appropriate to the discharge of the duties vested in them, consistent with the statutory or other authorities under which the Commission functions and with the rules, regulations, and policies of the Commission.

(b) *Conduct of hearings.* It is the duty of the presiding officer to conduct a fair and impartial hearing and to maintain order. Any disregard by participants or counsel of his/her rulings on matters of order and procedure shall be noted on the record, and where he/she deems it necessary shall be made the subject of a special written report to

the Commission. In the event that participants or counsel should be guilty of disrespectful, disorderly, or contumacious language or conduct in connection with any hearing, the presiding officer immediately may submit to the Commission his/her report thereon, together with his/her recommendations, and in his/her discretion, suspend the hearing.

(c) *Ex parte communication.* Except to the extent required for the disposition of ex parte matters as authorized by law and by the rules of the Commission, no presiding officer shall, in any proceeding in which the Commission may so direct, or in any proceeding required by statute to be determined on the record after opportunity for hearing, consult any person on any matter in issue unless upon notice and opportunity for all participants to be heard.

(d) *Disqualification.* A presiding officer may withdraw from a proceeding when he/she deems himself disqualified, or may be withdrawn by the Commission for good cause found after timely affidavits alleging personal bias or other disqualifications have been filed.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 49 FR 6490, Feb. 22, 1984; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.24 Prehearing conferences.

(a) *Initiation and purposes.* In any proceeding the Commission or the presiding officer may, with or without motion, upon due notice as to time and place, direct the participants in a proceeding to appear for a prehearing conference for the purposes of considering all possible ways of expediting the proceeding, including those in paragraph (d) of this section. It is the intent of the Commission to issue its recommended decision or advisory opinion on requests under sections 3622, 3623, and 3661 of the Act with the utmost practicable expedition. The Commission directs that these prehearing procedures shall be rigorously pursued by the presiding officer and all participants to that end.

(b) *Informal off-the-record procedures.* In order to make the prehearing conference as effective as possible, the presiding officer may, in his/her discretion, direct that conferences be held off the record at the beginning of a prehearing conference or at other appropriate times, without the presiding officer being present. Such informal off-the-record conferences shall be presided over by the Commission's officer designated to represent the interests of the general public or such other person as the participants may select. At such off-the-record conferences the participants shall be expected to reach agreement on those matters which will expedite the proceeding, including the matters specified in the notice of the prehearing conference, in the ruling of the presiding officer directing that the off-the-record conference be held and in paragraph (d) of this section. A report on the results of such off-the-record conference shall be made to the presiding officer on the record at a time specified by the presiding officer and he/she shall then determine the further prehearing procedures to be followed.

(c) *Required preparation and cooperation of all parties.* All participants in any proceeding before the Commission are required and expected to come to the prehearing conference fully prepared to discuss in detail and resolve all matters specified in paragraph (d) of this section, and notice of the prehearing conference, and such other notice or agenda as may have been issued by the Commission or the presiding officer. All participants are required and expected to cooperate fully at all stages of the proceeding to achieve these objectives, through thorough advance preparation for the prehearing conference, including informal communications between the participants, requests for discovery and appropriate discovery procedures at the earliest possible time and no later than at the prehearing conference, and the commencement of preparation of evidence and cross-examination. The failure of any participant to appear at the prehearing conference or to raise any matters that could reasonably be anticipated and resolved at the prehearing conference shall not be permitted to unduly delay the progress of the proceeding and shall constitute a waiver of the rights of the participant with regard thereto, including all objections to the agreements reached, actions taken, or rulings issued by the presiding officer with regard thereto.

(d) *Matters to be pursued.* At the prehearing conference in any proceeding, the presiding officer and the participants shall consider and resolve the following matters:

(1) The definition and simplification of the issues including any appropriate explanation, clarification, or amendment of any proposal, filing, evidence, complaint or other pleading filed by any participant;

(2) Arrangement for timely completion of discovery from the Postal Service or any other participant concerning information desired by any participant with regard to any issues in the proceeding or prior filings, evidence or pleadings of any participant;

(3) Agreement as to procedures for timely discovery with regard to any future evidentiary filings of any participant;

(4) Stipulations, admissions or concessions as to evidentiary facts, and agreements as to documentary matters, exhibits and matters of official notice, which will avoid unnecessary proof or dispute;

(5) Grouping parties with substantially like interests for purposes of presenting evidence, making and arguing motions and objections, cross-examining witnesses, filing briefs, and presenting oral argument to the Commission or presiding officer;

(6) Disclosure of the number, identity and qualifications of witnesses, and the nature of their testimony, particularly with respect to the policies of the Act and, as applicable according to the nature of the proceeding, each factor stated in section 3622 or 3623 of the Act;

(7) Limitation of the scope of the evidence and the number of witnesses to eliminate irrelevant, immaterial, or cumulative and repetitious evidence;

(8) Procedures to direct and control the use of discovery prior to the hearing and submission of written testimony and exhibits on matters in dispute so as to restrict to a bare minimum the amount of hearing time required for oral cross-examination of witnesses;

(9) Division of the proceeding where practicable into two or more phases for separate simultaneous hearings;

(10) Fixing dates for the submission and service of such written testimony and exhibits as may be appropriate in advance of the hearing;

(11) Order of presentation of the evidence and cross-examination of witnesses so that the hearing may proceed in the most expeditious and orderly manner possible; and

(12) All other matters which would aid in an expeditious disposition of the proceeding, including consent of the participants to the conduct of the entire proceedings off the record.

(e) *Rulings by presiding officer.* The presiding officer at such prehearing conference, irrespective of the consent of the participants, shall dispose of by ruling (1) any of the procedural matters itemized in paragraph (d) of this section and (2) such other procedural matters on which he/she is authorized to rule during the course of the hearing if ruling at this stage would expedite the proceeding. Either on the record at the conclusion of such prehearing conference, or by order issued shortly thereafter, the presiding officer shall state the agreements reached by the participants, the actions taken, and the rulings made by the presiding officer. Such rulings shall control the subsequent course of the proceedings unless modified at the hearing to prevent manifest injustice.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amened at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.25 Interrogatories for purpose of discovery.

(a) *Service and contents.* In the interest of expedition and limited to information which appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, any participant may serve upon any other participant in a proceeding written interrogatories requesting nonprivileged information relevant to the subject matter in such proceeding, to be answered by the participant served, who shall furnish such information as is available to the participant. A participant through interrogatories may require any other participant to identify each person whom the other participant expects to call as a witness at the hearing and to state the subject matter on which the witness is expected to testify. The participant serving the interrogatories shall file a copy thereof with the Secretary

pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve a copy upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* Each interrogatory shall be answered separately and fully in writing, unless it is objected to, in which event the reasons for objection shall be stated in the manner prescribed by paragraph (c) of this section. The party responding to the interrogatories shall serve the answers on the party who served the interrogatories within 20 days of the service of the interrogatories or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. The answers are to be signed by the person making them. If the person responding to the interrogatory is unavailable to sign the answer when filed, a signature page must be filed within ten days thereafter with the Commission, but need not be served on participants. Copies of the answers to interrogatories shall be filed with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall be served upon other participants pursuant to § 3001.12(b).

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an interrogatory, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the interrogatory, providing estimates of cost and work hours required, to the extent possible. An interrogatory otherwise proper is not necessarily objectionable because an answer would involve an opinion or contention that relates to fact or the application of law to fact, but the Commission or presiding officer may order that such an interrogatory need not be answered until a prehearing conference or other later time. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to interrogatories shall serve the objections on the party who served the interrogatories within 10 days of the service of the interrogatories. Copies of objections to interrogatories shall be filed with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall be served upon the proponent of the interrogatory and the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Compelled answers.* The Commission, or the presiding officer, upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, may compel answer to an interrogatory to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid, or may compel an additional answer if the initial answer is found to be inadequate. Such compelled answers shall be served on the party who moved to compel the answer within 10 days of the date of the order compelling an answer or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Copies of the answers shall be filed with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and on participants pursuant to § 3001.12(b).

(e) *Supplemental answers.* A participant who has answered interrogatories is under the duty to seasonably amend a prior answer if he/she obtains information upon the basis of which he/she knows that the answer was incorrect when made or is no longer true. (A participant filing a supplemental answer shall indicate whether the answer merely supplements the previous answer to make it current, or whether it is intended as a complete replacement for the answer previously given.)

(f) *Orders.* The Commission or the presiding officer may order that any participant or person shall answer on such terms and conditions as are just and may for good cause make any protective order, including an order limiting or conditioning interrogatories, as justice requires to protect a party or person from undue annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or expense.

[45 FR 65578, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12115, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.26 Requests for production of documents or things for purpose of discovery.

(a) *Service and contents.* In the interest of expedition and limited to information which appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, any participant may serve on any other participant to the

proceeding a request to produce and permit the participant making the request, or someone acting in his/her behalf, to inspect and copy any designated documents or things which constitute or contain matters, not privileged, which are relevant to the subject matter involved in the proceeding and which are in the custody or control of the participant upon whom the request is served. The request shall set forth the items to be inspected either by individual item or category, and describe each item and category with reasonable particularity, and shall specify a reasonable time, place and manner of making inspection. The participant requesting the production of documents or things shall file a copy of the request with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* The participant upon whom the request is served shall serve a written answer on the participant who filed the request within 20 days after the service of the request, or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer. The answer shall state, with respect to each item or category, that inspection will be permitted as requested unless the request is objected to pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. The participant answering the request shall sign and file a copy of the answer with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon other participants who request them.

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an item or category, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the request, providing estimates of cost and work hours required, to the extent possible. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to a request shall serve the objection on the party requesting production of documents or things, upon the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and upon the Postal Service, within 10 days of the request for production. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Orders.* The Commission or the presiding officer may, on such terms and conditions as are just and reasonable, order that any participant in a proceeding shall respond to a request for inspection, and may make any protective order of the nature provided in paragraph (f) of §3001.25 as may be appropriate. Upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, the Commission or the presiding officer may compel production of documents or things to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid. Such compelled documents or things shall be made available to the party making the motion within 10 days of the date of the order compelling production or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Documents or things ordered to be produced shall also be made available to the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and to the other participants who request them.

[45 FR 65579, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12116, Mar. 6, 1995]

§3001.27 Requests for admissions for purpose of discovery.

(a) *Service and content.* In the interest of expedition any participant may serve upon any other participant a written request for the admission, for purposes of the pending proceeding only, of any relevant, unprivileged facts, including the genuineness of any documents or exhibits to be presented in the hearing. The participant requesting the admission shall file a copy of the request with the Secretary pursuant to §3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon the Postal Service. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(b) *Answers.* Each matter of which an admission is requested shall be separately set forth and is admitted unless within 20 days after service of the request, or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, the participant to whom the request is

directed serves upon the participant requesting the admission a written answer or files an objection pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section. A participant who answers a request for admission shall file a copy of the answer with the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and shall serve copies thereof upon other participants who request them.

(c) *Objections.* In the interest of expedition, the bases for objection shall be clearly and fully stated. If objection is made to part of an item, the part shall be specified. A participant claiming privilege shall identify the specific evidentiary privilege asserted and state the reasons for its applicability. A participant claiming undue burden shall state with particularity the effort which would be required to answer the request, providing estimates of cost and work hours required to the extent possible. Objections are to be signed by the attorney making them. The party objecting to requests for admissions shall serve the objections on the party requesting admissions, upon the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and upon the Postal Service, within 10 days of the request. Special requests for service by other participants shall be honored.

(d) *Orders.* If the Commission or presiding officer determines that an answer does not comply with the requirements of this rule, it may order either that the matter is admitted or that an amended answer be served, or may determine that final disposition of the request be made at a pretrial conference or at a designated time prior to the hearing. Upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, the Commission or the presiding officer may compel answers to a request for admissions to which an objection has been raised if the objection is found not to be valid. Such compelled answers shall be served on the party who moved to compel the answers within 10 days of the date of the order compelling production or within such other period as may be fixed by the presiding officer, but before the conclusion of the hearing. Copies of the answers shall be filed upon the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.9 and served upon other participants who request them.

[45 FR 65579, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 60 FR 12116, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.28 Failure to comply with orders for discovery.

If a participant or an officer or agent of a participant fails to obey an order of the Commission or the presiding officer to provide or permit discovery, pursuant to §§ 3001.25 to 3001.27, the Commission or the presiding officer may make such orders in regard to the failure as are just, and among others, may direct that the matters regarding which the order was made or any other designated facts shall be taken to be established for the purposes of the proceeding in accordance with the claim of the participants obtaining the order, or prohibit the disobedient participant from introducing designated matters in evidence, or strike the evidence, complaint or pleadings or parts thereof.

§ 3001.29 Settlement conferences.

Any participant in a proceeding may submit offers of settlement or proposals of adjustment at any time and may request a conference between the participants to consider such offers or proposals. The Commission or the presiding officer shall afford the participants appropriate opportunity prior to or during the hearing for conferences for the purpose of considering such offers or proposals as time, the nature of the proceeding, and the public interest permit. Unaccepted offers of settlement or adjustment and proposed stipulations not agreed to shall be privileged and shall not be admissible in evidence against any participant claiming such privilege.

§ 3001.30 Hearings.

(a) *How initiated.* Hearings for the purpose of taking evidence shall be initiated by the issuance of a notice by the Commission as provided in § 3001.19.

(b) *Presiding officer.* All hearings shall be held before the Commission sitting en banc, or a duly designated presiding officer.

(c) *Entering of appearances.* The Commission or the presiding officer before whom the hearing is held will cause to be entered on the record all appearances together with a notation showing in whose behalf each such appearance has been made.

(d) *Order of procedure.* In public hearings before the Commission, the Postal

Service shall open and close in proceedings which it has initiated under sections 3622, 3623, or 3661 of the Act, and a complainant shall open and close in proceedings on complaints filed under section 3662 of the Act. With respect to the order of presentation of all other participants, and in all other proceedings, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the presiding officer shall direct the order of presentation of evidence and issue such other procedural orders as may be necessary to assure the orderly and expeditious conclusion of the hearing.

(e) *Presentation by parties.* Any participant shall have the right in public hearings of presentation of evidence, cross-examination, objection, motion, and argument. When objections to the admission or exclusion of evidence before the Commission or the presiding officer are made, the grounds relied upon shall be stated briefly. Formal exceptions to rulings are unnecessary.

(f) *Limitations on presentation of the evidence.* The taking of evidence shall proceed with all reasonable diligence and dispatch, and to that end, the Commission or the presiding officer may limit appropriately (1) the number of witnesses to be heard upon any issue, (2) the examination by any participant to specific issues, and (3) the cross-examination of a witness to that required for a full and true disclosure of the facts necessary for the disposition of the proceeding and to avoid irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious testimony.

(g) *Motions during hearing.* After a hearing has commenced in a proceeding, a request may be made by motion to the presiding officer for any procedural ruling or relief desired. Such motions shall set forth the ruling or relief sought, and state the grounds therefor and statutory or other supporting authority. Motions made during hearings may be stated orally upon the record, except that the presiding officer may require that such motions be reduced to writing and filed separately. Any participant shall have the opportunity to answer or object to such motions at the time and in the manner directed by the presiding officer.

(h) *Rulings on motions.* The presiding officer is authorized to rule upon any such motion not formally acted upon by the Commission prior to the commencement of a prehearing conference or hearing where immediate ruling is essential in order to proceed with the prehearing conference or hearing, and upon any motion to the presiding officer filed or made after the commencement thereof, except that no motion made to the presiding officer, a ruling upon which would involve or constitute a final determination of the proceeding, shall be ruled upon affirmatively by the presiding officer except as a part of his intermediate decision. This section shall not preclude a presiding officer, within his discretion, from referring any motion made in hearing to the Commission for ultimate determination.

(i) *Transcript corrections.* Corrections to the transcript of a hearing should not be requested except to correct a material substantive error in the transcription made at the hearing.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 60 FR 12116, Mar. 6, 1995]

§ 3001.31 Evidence.

(a) *Form and admissibility.* In any public hearing before the Commission, or a presiding officer, relevant and material evidence which is not unduly repetitious or cumulative shall be admissible. Witnesses whose testimony is to be taken shall be sworn, or shall affirm, before their testimony shall be deemed evidence in the proceeding or any questions are put to them.

(b) *Documentary.* Documents and detailed data and information shall be presented as exhibits. Where relevant and material matter offered in evidence is embraced in a document containing other matter not material or relevant or not intended to be put in evidence, the participant offering the same shall plainly designate the matter offered excluding the immaterial or irrelevant parts. If other matter in such document is in such bulk or extent as would unnecessarily encumber the record, such document may be marked for identification, and, if properly authenticated, the relevant and material parts thereof may be read into the record, or, if the Commission or the presiding officer so directs, a true copy of such matter in proper

form shall be received in evidence as an exhibit. Copies of documents shall be delivered by the participant offering the same to the other participants or their attorneys appearing at the hearing, who shall be afforded an opportunity to examine the entire document and to offer in evidence in like manner other material and relevant portions thereof. Designation of a document as a library reference is a procedure for facilitating reference to the document in Commission proceedings and does not, by itself, confer any particular evidentiary status upon the document. The evidentiary status of the document is governed by this section.

(c) *Commission's files.* In case any matter contained in a report or other document on file with the Commission is offered in evidence, such report or other document need not be produced or marked for identification, but may be offered in evidence by specifying the report, document, or other file containing the matter so offered.

(d) *Public document items.* Whenever there is offered in evidence (in whole or in part) a public document, such as an official report, decision, opinion or published scientific or economic statistical data issued by any of the Executive Departments (or their subdivisions), legislative agencies or committees, or administrative agencies of the Federal Government (including Government-owned corporations) and such document (or part thereof) has been shown by the offeror thereof to be reasonably available to the public, such document need not be produced or physically marked for identification, but may be offered in evidence as a public document item by clearly identifying the document and the relevant parts thereof.

(e) *Prepared testimony.* Unless the presiding officer otherwise directs, the direct testimony of witnesses shall be reduced to writing and offered either as such or as an exhibit.

(f) *Form of prepared testimony and exhibits.* All prepared testimony and exhibits of a documentary character shall, so far as practicable, conform to the requirements of § 3001.10 (a) and (b).

(g) *Copies to participants.* Except as otherwise provided in these rules, copies of prepared testimony and exhibits shall be furnished to the presiding officer and to the participants or counsel, unless the presiding officer otherwise directs. In addition, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer, eight copies of all prepared testimony and exhibits shall be furnished for the use of the Commission.

(h) *Reception and ruling.* The presiding officer shall rule on the admissibility of evidence and otherwise control the reception of evidence so as to confine it to the issues in the proceeding.

(i) *Offers of proof.* Any offer of proof made in connection with any ruling of the presiding officer rejecting or excluding proffered oral testimony shall consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence which counsel contends would be adduced by such testimony; and if the excluded evidence consists of evidence in documentary or written form, or of reference to documents or records, a copy of such evidence shall be marked for identification and shall constitute the offer of proof.

(j) *Official notice of facts.* Official notice may be taken of such matters as might be judicially noticed by the courts of the United States or of any other matter peculiarly within the general knowledge of the Commission as an expert body: *Provided,* That any participant shall, on timely request, be afforded an opportunity to show the contrary.

(k) *Introduction and reliance upon studies and analyses*—(1) *General.* In the case of all studies and analyses offered in evidence in hearing proceedings or relied upon as support for other evidence, other than the kinds described in paragraphs (k) (2) and (3) of this section, there shall be a clear statement of the study plan, all relevant assumptions and a description of the techniques of data collection, estimation and/or testing. In addition, there shall be a clear statement of the facts and judgments upon which conclusions are based, together with an indication of the alternative courses of action considered. Tabulations of input data shall be made available upon request at the offices of the Commission.

(2) *Statistical studies.* All statistical studies offered in evidence in hearing proceedings or relied upon as support

for other evidence shall include a comprehensive description of the assumptions made, the study plan utilized and the procedures undertaken. Where a computer analysis is employed to obtain the result of a statistical study, all of the submissions required by § 3001.31(k)(3) shall be furnished, upon request. In addition, for each of the following types of statistical studies, the indicated information should be furnished:

(i) *Sample surveys. (a)* A clear description of the survey design, including the definition of the universe under study, the sampling frame and units, and the validity and confidence limits than can be placed on major estimates; and

(*b)* An explanation of the method of selecting the sample and the characteristics measured or counted.

(ii) *Experimental analyses. (a)* A complete description of the experimental design, including a specification of the controlled conditions and how the controls were realized;

(b) A complete description of the methods of making observations and the adjustments, if any, to observed data.

(iii) *Econometric Studies. (a)* A presentation of the economic theory underlying the study;

(b) A complete description of the econometric model(s) and the reasons for each major assumption and specification;

(c) The definition of the variables selected and the justification for their selection;

(d) For any alternative model whose computed econometric results influenced the choice of the preferred model, a statement of the reasons for rejecting that alternative, an identification of any differences between that alternative and the preferred model with respect to variable definitions, equation forms, data, or estimation methods, and, upon request, the computed econometric results for that alternative;

(e) A reference to a detailed description in a text, manual, or technical journal for every econometric technique used in the estimation process and the reasons for selecting the technique, or, in the alternative, a description and analysis of the technique that is sufficient for a technical evaluation;

(f) Summary descriptions and source citations for all input data and, upon request, a complete listing of the data. Complete descriptions of any alterations or transformations made to the data as received from the original sources, and the reasons for making the alterations;

(*g*) A complete report of the econometric results including, where applicable:

(*1*) coefficient estimates

(*2*) standard errors and t-values,

(*3*) goodness-of-fit statistics,

(*4*) other appropriate test statistics,

(*5*) the variance/covariance matrix of the estimates,

(*6*) computed residuals for results computed from samples composed of fewer than 250 observations, and, upon request, other computed residuals;

(*h*) Descriptions of all statistical tests of hypotheses and the results of such tests;

(iv) *All other studies involving statistical methodology*. (*a*) The formula used for statistical estimates;

(*b*) The standard errors of each component estimated;

(*c*) Test statistics and the description of statistical tests and all related computations, and final results; and

(*d*) Summary descriptions of input data, and upon request the actual input data shall be made available at the offices of the Commission.

(3) *Computer analyses.* (i) In the case of computer studies or analyses which are being offered in evidence, or relied upon as support for other evidence, a foundation for the reception of such materials must be laid by furnishing a general description of the program that includes the objectives of the program, the processing tasks performed, the methods and procedures employed, and a listing of the input and output data and source codes (or a showing pursuant to paragraph (k)(3)(iii) of this section as to why such codes cannot be so furnished) and such description shall be furnished in all cases. For the purpose of completing such foundation, the following additional items shall be deemed presumptively necessary and shall be furnished upon request of a participant, the Commission, or the

presiding officer, unless the presumption is overcome by an affirmative showing.

(*a*) For all input data, designations of all sources of such data, and explanations of any modifications to such data made for use in the program;

(*b*) Definitions of all input and output variables or sets of variables;

(*c*) A description of input and output data file organization;

(*d*) A machine-readable copy of all data bases;

(*e*) For all source codes, documentation sufficiently comprehensive and detailed to satisfy generally accepted software documentation standards[1] appropriate to the type of program and to its intended use in the proceeding;

(*f*) The source program in machine-readable form;

(*g*) All pertinent operating system and programming language manuals; and

(*h*) If the requested program is user interactive, a representative sample run, together with any explanation necessary to illustrate the response sequence.

(*i*) An expert on the design and operation of the program shall be provided at a technical conference to respond to any oral or written questions concerning information that is reasonably necessary to enable independent replication of the program output.

Paragraphs (k)(3)(i) (*d*) and (*f*) of this section shall be provided either in the form of magnetic tape or through access to a time-sharing service, at the option of the provider. Any machine-readable data file or program file so provided must be identified and described in accompanying hard-copy documentation. In addition, files in text format must be accompanied by hard-copy instructions for printing them. Files in machine code must be accompanied by hard-copy instructions for executing them

[1] Examples of such standards include Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 38; ADP Operating Standards, Handbook ADP–2, United States Postal Service, Management Information Systems Department, 1978; Computer Model Documentation Guide, NBS Special Publication 500–73, Sections II and III.

(*j*) Computer simulation models offered in evidence or relied upon as support for other evidence, shall be bound by all applicable provisions of paragraph (k)(3) of this section and the separate requirements of paragraph (k)(2) of this section, to the extent that portions of the simulation model utilize or rely upon such studies. Information that compares the simulation model output results to the actual phenomena being modelled, using data other than those from which the model was developed, shall be separately identified and submitted as evidence supporting the test and validation of the simulation model. Separate statements concerning the model limitations, including limiting model design assumptions and range of data input utilized in model design, shall be provided. Where test and validation of the entire simulation model are not possible, test and validation information shall be provided for disaggregate portions of the model. If disaggregate testing and validation are not possible, separate statements to that effect and statements regarding operational experts' review of model validity shall be provided.

(ii) Upon timely and otherwise proper request of a participant, or sua sponte, the Commission or the Presiding Officer may rule that matters other than those listed in paragraphs (k)(3)(i) (*a*) through (*h*) of this section are necessary to establish the foundation for reception of the evidence concerned and must be furnished.

(iii) When the requestor is other than the Commission or the Presiding Officer, the cost of producing the material required in paragraph (k)(3)(i) (*d*), (*f*), and (*g*)of this section, shall be borne by the requesting party unless otherwise ordered, for good cause shown by the requestor. When the Commission or the Presiding Officer is the requestor, it may assume or equitably allocate such costs for good cause shown by the requestee.

(iv) If the recipient of a request for materials pursuant to this paragraph (k)(3) of this section asserts that compliance with the request would conflict with patent, copyright, trade secret or contract rights applicable to the requested material, the recipient shall

immediately notify the requestor and the Presiding Officer. If valid, the Presiding Officer shall devise means of accommodating such rights. Such means may include protective orders, including access under protective conditions to the computer facilities of the recipient of a request, making material available for inspection, compensation, or other procedures, according to the nature of the right affected by compliance with this paragraph (k)(3) of this section. If the Presiding Officer determines that compensation is necessary to accommodate the affected right, the cost of compensation shall be borne in the same manner that paragraph (k)(3)(iii) of this section prescribes for bearing the costs referenced there. If such right cannot be accommodated by reasonable compensation, or by protective orders or other procedures, and, as a result, materials required by this paragraph (k)(3) of this section cannot be provided, the Presiding Officer shall determine, in his/her discretion, whether evidence that relies upon the materials not provided shall be admissible or afforded limited weight.

(4) *Expedition*. The offeror shall expedite responses to requests made pursuant to this section. Responses shall be served on the requesting party, and notice thereof filed with the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of §3001.12, no later than 20 days after a request is made.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 45 FR 65580, Oct. 3, 1980; 47 FR 12796, Mar. 25, 1982; 50 FR 43392, Oct. 25, 1985; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 51 FR 14992, Apr. 22, 1986; 54 FR 35494, Aug. 28, 1989; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§3001.31a In camera orders.

(a) *Definition*. Except as hereinafter provided, documents and testimony made subject to *in camera* orders are not made a part of the public record, but are kept confidential, and only authorized parties, their counsel, authorized Commission personnel, and court personnel concerned with judicial review shall have access thereto. The right of the presiding officer, the Commission, and reviewing courts to disclose *in camera* data to the extent necessary for the proper disposition of the proceeding is specifically reserved.

(b) *In camera treatment of documents and testimony*. Presiding officers shall have authority, but only in those unusual and exceptional circumstances when good cause is found on the record, to order documents or oral testimony offered in evidence whether admitted or rejected, to be placed *in camera*. The order shall specify the date on which *in camera* treatment expires and shall include: (1) A description of the documents and testimony; (2) a full statement of the reasons for granting *in camera* treatment; and (3) a full statement of the reasons for the date on which *in camera* treatment expires. Any party desiring, for the preparation and presentation of the case, to disclose *in camera* documents or testimony to experts, consultants, prospective witnesses, or witnesses, shall make application to the presiding officer setting forth the justification therefor. The presiding officer, in granting such application for good cause found, shall enter an order protecting the rights of the affected parties and preventing unnecessary disclosure of information. *In camera* documents and the transcript of testimony subject to an *in camera* order shall be segregated from the public record and filed in a sealed envelope, bearing the title and docket number of the proceeding, the notation ''*In Camera* Record under §3001.31a,'' and the date on which *in camera* treatment expires.

(c) *Release of in camera information*. *In camera* documents and testimony shall constitute a part of the confidential records of the Commission and shall be subject to the provisions of §3001.42 of this chapter. However, the Commission, on its own motion or pursuant to a request, may make *in camera* documents and testimony available for inspection, copying, or use by any other governmental agency. The Commission shall, in such circumstances, give reasonable notice of the impending disclosure to the affected party. However, such notice may be waived in extraordinary circumstances for good cause.

(d) *Briefing of in camera information*. In the submittal of proposed findings, briefs, or other papers, counsel for all parties shall make a good faith attempt to refrain from disclosing the specific details of *in camera* documents

and testimony. This shall not preclude references in such proposed findings, briefs, or other papers to such documents or testimony including generalized statements based on their contents. To the extent that counsel consider it necessary to include specific details of *in camera* data in their presentations, such data shall be incorporated in separate proposed findings, briefs, or other papers marked ''confidential,'' which shall be placed *in camera* and become a part of the *in camera* record.

[44 FR 33880, June 13, 1979, as amended at 48 FR 15901, Apr. 13, 1983; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.32 Appeals from rulings of the presiding officer.

(a) *General policy*. The Commission will not review a ruling of the presiding officer prior to its consideration of the entire proceeding except in extraordinary circumstances. This section specifies the showing which participants must make in order to appeal interlocutory rulings.

(b) *Appeals certified by the presiding officer.* (1) Before the issuance of an initial decision pursuant to § 3001.39(a) or the certification of the record to the Commission pursuant to § 3001.38(a), rulings of the presiding officer may be appealed when the presiding officer certifies in writing that an interlocutory appeal is warranted. The presiding officer shall not certify an appeal unless the officer finds that (i) the ruling involves an important question of law or policy concerning which there is substantial ground for difference of opinion and (ii) an immediate appeal from the ruling will materially advance the ultimate termination of the proceeding or subsequent review will be an inadequate remedy.

(2) A request for the presiding officer to certify an appeal shall be made within 5 days after the presiding officer's ruling has been issued. The request shall set forth with specificity the reasons that a participant believes that an appeal meets the criteria of paragraphs (b)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section. Such requests shall also state in detail the legal, policy, and factual arguments supporting the participant's position that the ruling should be modified. If the appeal is from a ruling rejecting or excluding evidence, such request shall include a statement of the substance of the evidence which the participant contends would be adduced by the excluded evidence and the conclusions intended to be derived therefrom.

(3) The presiding officer may request responsive pleadings from other participants prior to ruling upon the request to certify an appeal.

(c) *Appeals not certified by the presiding officer.* If the presiding officer declines to certify an appeal, a participant who has requested certification may apply to the Commission for review within 10 days. Unless the Commission directs otherwise, its review of the application will be based on the record and pleadings filed before the presiding officer pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Action by the Commission.* (1) The Commission may dismiss an appeal certified by the presiding officer if it determines that (i) the objection to the ruling should be deferred until the Commission's consideration of the entire proceeding or (ii) interlocutory review is otherwise not warranted or appropriate under the circumstances.

(2) Where the presiding officer has declined to certify an appeal, the Commission will not allow an application for review unless it determines (i) that the presiding officer should have certified the matter, (ii) that extraordinary circumstances exist, and (iii) that prompt Commission decision is necessary to prevent grave detriment to the public interest.

(3) The Commission may issue an order accepting an interlocutory appeal within 15 days after the presiding officer certifies the appeal or a participant files an application for review. If the Commission fails to issue such an order, leave to appeal from the presiding officer's interlocutory ruling shall be deemed to be denied. If the Commission issues an order accepting an appeal, it may rule upon the merits of the appeal in that order or at a later time.

(e) *Effect of appeals.* Unless the presiding officer or the Commission so orders, the certification of an appeal or the filing of an application for review

shall not stay the proceeding or the effectiveness of any ruling.

(f) *Review at conclusion of proceeding.* If an interlocutory appeal is not allowed or requested, objection to the ruling may be raised on review of the presiding officer's initial decision, or, if the initial decision is omitted, at the conclusion of the proceeding.

(g) *Form, filing, and service of documents.* Requests for certification, applications for review, and any responses shall be in writing and shall be in conformity with §§ 3001.10 and 3001.11. They shall be filed and served pursuant to §§ 3001.9 and 3001.12.

[38 FR 4328, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 8143, Feb. 9, 1977; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.33 Depositions.

(a) *When permissible.* The testimony of a witness may be taken by deposition upon authorization by the Commission or the presiding officer on application of any participant before the hearing is closed. An authorization to take the deposition of a witness will be issued only if (1) the person whose deposition is to be taken would be unavailable at the hearing, or (2) the deposition is deemed necessary to perpetuate the testimony of the witness, or (3) the taking of the deposition is necessary to prevent undue and excessive expense to a participant and will not result in undue delay or an undue burden to other participants.

(b) *Application.* An application for authorization to take testimony by deposition shall be filed in duplicate with the Commission or the presiding officer and shall state (1) the name, identification, and post office address of the witness, (2) the subject matter of the testimony, (3) the time and place of taking the deposition, (4) the name, identification, and post office address of the officer before whom the deposition is to be taken, and (5) the reasons why the testimony of such witness should be taken by deposition.

(c) *Authorization.* If the application so warrants, the Commission or the presiding officer will issue and serve or cause to be served on the participants within a reasonable time in advance of the time fixed for taking testimony, an authorization for the taking of such testimony by deposition. Such authorization shall name the witness, and the time, place, and officer before whom the deposition shall be taken, and shall specify the number of copies of the deposition to be submitted to the Commission. The authorization may include such terms and conditions as the Commission or the presiding officer deems fair and reasonable.

(d) *Qualifications of officer before whom taken.* Such deposition may be taken before a presiding officer or other authorized representative of the Commission, or any officer, not being counsel or attorney for any participant or having an interest in the proceeding, authorized to administer oaths by the laws of the United States or of the place where the deposition is to be taken.

(e) *Oath and reduction to writing.* The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken shall put the witness on oath or affirmation and shall personally, or by some one acting under his/her direction and in his/her presence, record the examination of the witness. The examination shall be transcribed in the form specified in § 3001.10(a), signed by the witness, and certified in the usual form by the officer. The original of the deposition, together with the number of copies required by the authorization to be made by such officer, shall be forwarded by the officer to the Secretary by personal delivery or registered mail. Upon receipt the Secretary shall hold the original for use in the hearing upon request by any participant and shall make copies available for public inspection.

(f) *Scope and conduct of examination.* Unless otherwise directed in the authorization, the witness may be questioned regarding any matter which is relevant to the issues involved in the proceeding. Participants shall have the right of cross-examination and objection. In lieu of participation in the oral examination, participants may transmit written interrogatories to the officer who shall propound them to the witness.

(g) *Objections.* The officer before whom the deposition is taken shall not have the power to rule upon procedural

matters or the competency, materiality, or relevancy of questions. Procedural objections or objections to questions of evidence shall be stated briefly and recorded in the deposition without argument. Objections not stated before the officer shall be deemed waived.

(h) *When a part of the record.* No portion of a deposition shall constitute a part of the record in the proceeding unless received in evidence by the presiding officer. If only a portion of the deposition is offered in evidence by a participant, any other participant may require him/her to introduce all of it which is relevant to the part introduced, and any participant may offer in evidence any other portions.

(i) *Fees.* Witnesses whose depositions are taken and the officer taking the same shall be entitled to the same fees as are paid for like services in the District Courts of the United States to be paid directly by the participant or participants on whose application the deposition was taken.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.34 Briefs.

(a) *When filed.* At the close of the taking of testimony in any proceeding, the Commission or the presiding officer shall fix the time for the filing and service of briefs, giving due regard to the timely issuance of a recommended decision or advisory opinion to the Postal Service within the contemplation of sections 3641(a) and 3661 of the Act. In addition, subject to such consideration, due regard shall be given to the nature of the proceeding, the complexity and importance of the issues involved, and the magnitude of the record. In cases subject to a limitation on the time available to the Commission for decision, the Commission shall generally direct that each participant shall file a single brief at the same time. In cases where, because of the nature of the issues and the record or the limited number of participants involved, the filing of initial and reply briefs, or the filing of initial, answering, and reply briefs, will not unduly delay the conclusion of the proceeding and will aid in the proper disposition of the proceeding, the participants may be directed to file more than one brief and at different times rather than a single brief at the same time. The presiding officer or the Commission may also order the filing of briefs during the course of the proceeding.

(b) *Contents.* Each brief filed with the Commission shall be as concise as possible, within any page limitation specified by the Commission or the presiding officer, and shall include the following in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index with page references, and a list of all cases and authorities relied upon, arranged alphabetically, with references to the pages where the citation appears;

(2) A concise statement of the case from the viewpoint of the filing participant;

(3) A clear, concise and definitive statement of the position of the filing participant as to the proposals of the Postal Service, the subject matter of the complaint, or recommended decision, advisory opinion, or public report to be issued;

(4) A discussion of the evidence, reasons, and authorities relied upon with exact references to the record and the authorities; and

(5) Proposed findings and conclusions with appropriate references to the record or the prior discussion of the evidence and authorities relied upon.

(c) *Incorporation by references.* Briefs before the Commission or a presiding officer shall be completely self-contained and shall not incorporate by reference any portion of any other brief, pleading or document.

(d) *Excerpts from the record.* Testimony and exhibits shall not be quoted or included in briefs except for short excerpts pertinent to the argument presented.

(e) *Filing and service.* Briefs shall be filed in the form and manner and served as required by §§ 3001.9 to 3001.12.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4328, Feb. 13, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.35 Proposed findings and conclusions.

The Commission or the presiding officer may direct the filing of proposed findings and conclusions with a brief

statement of the supporting reasons for each proposed finding and conclusion.

[38 FR 4329, Feb. 13, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.36 Oral argument before the presiding or other designated officer.

In any case in which the presiding officer is to issue an initial or recommended decision, or another designated officer of the Commission is to issue a recommended decision, such officer may permit the presentation of oral argument when, in his/her opinion, time permits, and the nature of the proceedings, the complexity or importance of the issues of fact or law involved, and the public interest warrants hearing such argument. Such officer shall determine the time and place for oral argument. He may specify the issue or issues on which oral argument is to be presented, the order in which the presentations shall be made, and the amount of time allowed each participant. A request for oral argument before the issuance of an intermediate decision shall be made during the course of the hearing on the record.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.37 Oral argument before the Commission.

(a) *When ordered.* In any proceeding before the Commission for decision, the Commission, upon the request of any participant or on its own initiative, may order oral argument when, in the Commission's discretion, time permits, and the nature of the proceedings, the complexity or importance of the issues of fact or law involved, and public interest warrants such argument.

(b) *How requested.* Any participant in a proceeding before the Commission for decision may request oral argument before the Commission by filing a timely motion pursuant to § 3001.21. In a proceeding before the Commission on exceptions to an intermediate decision, such motion shall be filed no later than the date for the filing of briefs on exceptions. Motions requesting oral argument may be included in briefs or briefs on exceptions or in a separate document.

(c) *Notice of oral argument.* The Commission shall rule on requests for oral argument, and if argument is allowed, the Commission shall notify the participants of the time and place set for argument, the amount of time allowed each participant, and the issue or issues on which oral argument is to be heard. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, oral argument shall be limited to matters properly raised on the record and in the briefs before the Commission.

(d) *Use of documents at oral argument.* Charts, graphs, maps, tables and other written material may be presented to the Commission at oral argument only if limited to facts in the record of the case being argued and if copies of such documents are filed with the Secretary and served on all parties at least 7 days in advance of the argument. Enlargements of such charts, graphs, maps and tables may be used at the argument provided copies are filed and served as required by this paragraph.

§ 3001.38 Omission of intermediate decisions.

(a) *Basis of omission.* In any proceeding noticed pursuant to § 3001.17, the Commission, on the motion of any participant or on its own initiative, may direct the certification of the record to the Commission and omit any intermediate decision upon a finding on the record that due and timely execution of its functions imperatively and unavoidably so requires. In proceedings in which all participants concur in a request by any participant that any intermediate decision be omitted, the Commission shall direct the certification of the record to the Commission and forthwith render a final decision unless the Commission denies such request within 10 days next following its filing or referral by the presiding officer.

(b) *Requests for omission.* Requests for omission of the intermediate decision in any proceeding shall be made by motion pursuant to § 3001.21 or made orally on the record before the presiding officer who shall promptly refer the same to the Commission. Such requests shall specify (1) the concurrence of other parties and (2) whether opportunity for

filing briefs or presenting oral argument to the Commission is desired or waived. Failure of any party to object to such request shall constitute a waiver of any objections.

§ 3001.39 Intermediate decisions.

(a) *Initial decision by presiding officer.* In any proceedings in which a Commissioner or hearing officer has presided at the reception of evidence, such presiding officer, as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing and the filing of briefs, shall certify and file with the Secretary, a copy of the record of the hearing and his/her initial decision on the matters and issues presented for decision in such proceeding.

(b) *Tentative decision.* Prior to the issuance of an initial decision by the presiding officer, the Commission, with notice to the participants or by order in specific cases or by general rule for a class of cases, may direct the certification of the record to the Commission for the purpose of the issuance of a tentative decision. In such cases, the Commission may issue a tentative decision or require that the presiding officer or any designated responsible officer of the Commission recommend a decision.

(c) *Contents.* All intermediate decisions (initial, recommended or tentative) shall include (1) findings and conclusions, and the reasons or basis therefor, on all the material issues of fact, law, or discretion presented on the record, and (2) the appropriate recommended decision, advisory opinion or public report pursuant to the Act. An intermediate decision in a proceeding under section 3622 or 3623 of the Act shall include a statement specifically responsive to the criteria established under section 3622 or 3623 of the Act, as the case may be; and an intermediate decision in a proceeding under section 3661 of the Act shall include a determination of the question of whether or not the proposed change in the nature of postal service conforms to the policies established under the Act.

(d) *Service and Commission review.* All intermediate decisions shall be part of the record, shall be served on the participants to the proceeding by the Secretary pursuant to § 3001.12 and shall be subject to review by the Commission on its own initiative, or the filing of exceptions by the participants pursuant to § 3001.40.

(e) *Unavailability of presiding officer.* In any proceeding in which the intermediate decision is not omitted pursuant to § 3001.38, if a presiding officer becomes unavailable to issue an intermediate decision on a timely basis, the Commission shall, by a notice served on the participants require the record to be certified to it and it shall either designate a qualified responsible officer of the Commission to issue a recommended decision or will itself issued a tentative decision, as the Commission may deem appropriate.

(f) *Effect of intermediate decision.* Unless briefs on exceptions are filed to an intermediate decision pursuant to § 3001.40 or unless the Commission issues an order to review an intermediate decision on its own initiative, the intermediate decision shall become the final action of the Commission after 30 days from the date of issuance thereof. If briefs on exceptions are timely filed or the Commission initiates review on its own motion, the intermediate decision is stayed until further order of the Commission.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.40 Exceptions to intermediate decisions.

(a) *Briefs on exceptions and opposing exceptions.* Any participant in a proceeding may file exceptions to any intermediate decision by filing a brief on exceptions with the Commission within 30 days after the date of issuance of the intermediate decision or such other time as may be fixed by the Commission. Any participant to a proceeding may file a response to briefs on exceptions within 20 days after the time limited for the filing of briefs on exceptions or such other time as may be fixed by the Commission. No further response will be entertained unless the Commission, upon motion for good cause shown or on its own initiative, so orders.

(b) *Filing and contents.* Briefs on exceptions and briefs opposing exceptions shall be filed in accordance with § 3001.34. In briefs on exceptions, the discussion of evidence, reasons and authorities shall be specifically directed

to the findings, conclusions and recommendations in the intermediate decision to which exception is taken. Briefs on exceptions should not include a discussion of evidence and authorities on matters and issues to which no exception to the intermediate decision is taken. Briefs on exceptions and briefs opposing exceptions need not contain a statement of the case to the extent that it was correctly stated in either the intermediate decision or the brief on exceptions of another participant to which reference is made.

(c) *Failure to except results in waiver.* Any participant who fails to except or object to any part of an intermediate decision in its brief on exceptions may not thereafter raise such exceptions or objections which shall be deemed to have been waived.

(84 Stat. 759–761, 764; 39 U.S.C. 3603, 3622–3624, 3661, 3662)

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4329, Feb. 13, 1973]

§ 3001.41 Rulemaking proceedings.

(a) *General notice.* Before the adoption of any rule of general applicability, or the commencement of any hearing on any such proposed rulemaking, the Commission will cause general notice to be given by publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER, such notice to be published therein not less than 30 days prior to the date fixed for the consideration of the adoption of a proposed rule or rules or for the commencement of the hearing, if any, on the proposed rulemaking, except where a shorter period is reasonable and good cause exists therefor. However, where the Commission, for good cause, finds it impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest to give such notice, it may proceed with the adoption of rules without notice by incorporating therein a finding to such effect and a concise statement of the reasons therefor. Advance notice shall not be required for rules subject to 5 U.S.C. 553(d).

(b) *Contents of notice.* The notice shall include (1) a statement of the time, place and nature of the public rulemaking proceedings; (2) reference to the legal authority under which the rule is proposed; and (3) either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved.

(c) *Participation.* After notice given as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, the Commission shall give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking through submission of written data, views, or arguments with or without opportunity for oral presentation.

(d) *General statement as to basis and purpose.* After consideration of the relevant matter presented, the Commission shall incorporate in the rules adopted a concise general statement of their basis and purpose.

(e) *Exceptions.* Except when notice or hearing is required by statute, the Commission may issue at any time rules of organization, procedure or practice, or interpretive rules, or statements of policy, without notice or public procedure, and this section is not to be construed as applicable to the extent that there may be involved any military, naval or foreign affairs function of the United States, or any matter relating to the Commission's management or personnel, or to U.S. property, loans, grants, benefits, or contracts.

(84 Stat. 759–761, 764; 39 U.S.C. 3603, 3622–3624, 3661, 3662)

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 38 FR 4329, Feb. 13, 1973]

§ 3001.42 Public information and requests.

This section prescribes the rules governing: Publication of recommended decisions, advisory opinions, and public reports; and records of the Commission.

(a) *Notice and publication.* Service of intermediate and recommended decisions, advisory opinions and public reports upon parties to the proceedings is provided in §§ 3001.12(a) and 3001.39(d). Descriptions of the Commission's organization, its methods of operation, statements of policy and interpretations, procedural and substantive rules, and amendments thereto will be filed with and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Commission recommended decisions, advisory opinions and public reports, Commission orders, and intermediate decisions will be released to

the press and made available to the public promptly.

(b) *Public records.* Except as provided in § 3001.31a of this chapter, the public records of the Commission include:

(1) All submittals and filings as follows:

(i) Requests of the Postal Service for recommended decisions or advisory opinions, public reports, complaints (both formal and informal), and other papers seeking Commission action;

(ii) Financial, statistical and other reports to the Commission, and other filings and submittals to the Commission in compliance with the requirements of any statute, Executive order, or Commission rule, regulation, or order;

(iii) All answers, replies, responses, objections, protests, motions, stipulations, exceptions, other pleadings, notices, depositions, certificates, proofs of service, transcripts, and briefs in any matter or proceeding;

(iv) All exhibits, attachments and appendices to, amendments and corrections of, supplements to, or transmittals or withdrawals of, any of the foregoing;

(v) Any Commission correspondence relating to any of the foregoing.

(2) All other parts of the formal record in any matter or proceeding set for formal or statutory hearing and any Commission correspondence related thereto. ''Formal record'' includes in addition to all the filings and submittals, any notice or Commission order initiating the matter or proceeding, and, if a hearing is held, the following: the designation of the presiding officer, transcript of hearings, all exhibits received in evidence, offers of proof, motions, stipulations, proofs of service, referrals to the Commission, and determination made by the Commission thereon, certifications to the Commission, and anything else upon which action of the presiding officer or the Commission may be based; it does not include any unaccepted offer of settlement made by a party in the course of a proceeding and not formally submitted to the Commission.

(3) Any proposed testimony or exhibit filed with the Commission but not yet offered or received in evidence.

(4) All presiding officer actions and all presiding officer correspondence and memoranda to or from others except within his own office.

(5) All Commission orders, notices, findings, determinations, and other actions in any matter or proceeding and all Commission minutes which have been approved.

(6) All Commission correspondence relating to any furnishing of data or information by the Postal Service.

(7) Commission correspondence with respect to the furnishing of data, information, comments, or recommendations to or by another branch, department, or agency of the Government where furnished to satisfy a specific requirement of a statute or where made public by that branch, department or agency.

(8) Commission correspondence and reports on legislative matters under consideration by the Office of Management and Budget or Congress but only if and after made public or released for publication by that Office or the Commission or Member of Congress involved.

(9) Commission correspondence on the interpretation or applicability of any statute, rule, regulation, recommended decision, advisory opinion, or public report issued or administered by the Commission and letters of opinion on that subject signed by the General Counsel and sent to others than the Commission, a Commissioner, or any of the staff.

(10) Copies of all filings by the Commission, and all orders, judgments, decrees, and mandates directed to the Commission in Court proceedings involving Commission action and all correspondence with the courts or clerks of court.

(11) The Commission's administrative and operating manuals as issued.

(12) All other records of the Commission except for those that are:

(i)(*a*) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (*b*) are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(ii) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Commission;

(iii) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;

(iv) Trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(v) Interagency or intra-agency memoranda or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the Commission;

(vi) Personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(vii) Investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent specified in 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(7).

(13) The following are examples of information which is not part of the public records of the Commission:

(i) Written communications between or among the Commission, members of the Commission, the Secretary, and expressly designated members of the staff while particularly assigned, in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, to aid the Commission in the drafting of any recommended decision, advisory opinion or public report and findings, with or without opinion, or report in any matter or proceeding;

(ii) Unaccepted offers of settlement in any matter or proceeding unless or until made public by act of the offeror.

(c) *Requests for Records.* Requests for records shall be in writing and shall reasonably describe the records sought. Requests shall be addressed to the Secretary at the offices of the Commission. Requests which rely upon the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, shall bear the caption ''Freedom of Information Act Request.'' Within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after receipt of a request for a Commission record, the Secretary shall:

(1) *General.* Inform the requestor where and when the records may be inspected and, if ascertainable, of the charge for furnishing copies; or

(2) *Deny the request.* A denial shall be in writing; it shall cite the specific exemption or exemptions under these rules authorizing the withholding of the records sought and shall inform the requestor that he/she may, within 20 days, appeal the denial to the Commission. Appeals to the Commission shall be in writing. The Commission may also review any decision of the Secretary on its own initiative. The Commission will consider all appeals and either grant or deny them in writing, within 20 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal public holidays) of the date the appeal is received. If on appeal the denial of the request for records is upheld, the Commission shall notify the person making such request of the provisions for judicial review of that determination pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(c).

(3) *Extensions of time.* The time period for decision on application pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section may be extended up to 10 working days by the Secretary and the time period for decisions on appeals may be extended up to 10 working days by the Commission, provided, however, that the total period of extensions may not exceed 10 working days. Such extensions shall be by written notice determining that an extension is warranted by unusual circumstances as specified in 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(B).

(4) *Fees—general information.* Documents furnished pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, as amended, are subject to fees governed by the following provisions. As used herein,

(i) *Direct costs* means expenditures the Commission actually incurs in searching for, duplicating, and, where applicable, reviewing documents to respond to a request. They include (without limitation) the salary of the employee performing work (the basic pay rate of such employee plus 16 percent to cover benefits) and the cost of operating required machinery.

(ii) *Search* means all time spent looking for material responsive to a request, including identification of pages or lines within documents. The term covers both manual and computerized searching.

(iii) *Duplication* means making copies of documents necessary to respond to a request. Such copies may be paper, microform, audiovisual, or machine-readable.

(iv) *Review* means examining documents located in response to a commercial-use request to determine whether any porton is exempt from mandatory disclosure, and processing

or preparing documents for release, but not determination of general legal or policy issues regarding application of exemptions.

(v) A *commercial use* request is a request from or on behalf of one seeking information for a use or purpose that furthers the commercial, trade, or profit interests of the requester or person on whose behalf the request is made. In determining the applicability of this term, the use to which a requester will put the document is considered first; where reasonable doubt exists as to the use, the Commission may seek clarification before assigning the request to a category.

(vi) An *educational institution* is a preschool, a public or private elementary or secondary school, an institution of graduate or undergraduate higher education, an institution of professional education, and an institution of vocational education, which operates a program or programs of scholarly research.

(vii) A *noncommercial scientific institution* is an institution, not operated on a ''commercial'' basis (as defined above), which is operated solely for the purpose of conducting scientific research whose results are not intended to promote any particular product or industry.

(viii) A *representative of the news media* is any person actively gathering news for an entity organized and operated to publish or broadcast news to the public. ''News'' means information that concerns current events or would be of current interest to the public. Freelance journalists may be regarded as working for a news medium if they demonstrate (for example, by a publication contract or a past record of publication) a solid basis for expecting publication through such organization even though not actually employed by it.

Except in the case of commercial-use requesters, the first 100 pages of duplication and the first two hours of search time will be provided without charge. A ''page'' for these purposes is a letter- or legal-size sheet, or the equivalent amount of information in a medium other than paper copy. ''Search time'' for these purposes refers to manual searching; if the search is performed by computer, the amount not charged for will be the search cost equivalent to two hours' salary of the person performing the search. No requester will be charged a fee when the cost of collecting the fee would equal or exceed the fee itself. In determining whether cost of collection would equal or exceed the fee, the allowance for two hours' search or 100 pages of duplication will be made before comparing the remaining fee and the cost of collection. Documents will be provided without charge when disclosure of the information would be in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(5) *Fees—schedule; administrative provisions.* Fees will be charged in accordance with the following provisions:

(i) The level of fee charged depends on the category of requester:

(*a*) A request appearing to be for commercial use will be charged the full direct costs of searching for, reviewing, and duplicating the records sought.

(*b*) A request from an educational or noncommercial scientific institution will be charged for the cost of duplication only (excluding charges for the first 100 pages). To be eligible for this category, a requester must show that the request is made under the auspices of a qualifying institution and that the records are not sought for commercial use but are in furtherance of scholarly (in the case of educational institutions) or scientific (in the case of noncommercial scientific institutions) research.

(*c*) A request from a representative of the news media will be charged the cost of duplication only (excluding charges for the first 100 pages).

(*d*) A request from any other requester will be charged the full direct cost of searching for and duplicating records responsive to the request, except that the first 100 pages of duplication and the first two hours of search will be furnished without charge.

(*e*) A request from a record subject for records about himself or herself filed in a Commission system of records will be charged fees under the

Privacy Act of 1974 (which permits charges only for duplication).

(ii) Fees shall be calculated as follows:

(*a*) *Manual search:* At the salary rate (basic pay plus 16 percent) of the employee(s) making the search. Search time will be charged for even if the Commission fails to locate records or if records located are found exempt from disclosure.

(*b*) *Computer search:* At the actual direct cost of providing the search, including computer search time directly attributable to searching for records responsive to the request, runs, and operator salary apportionable to the search.

(*c*) *Review (commercial-use requests):* At the salary rate (basic pay plus 16 percent) of the employee(s) conducting the review. Only the review necessary at the initial administrative level to determine the applicability of any exemption, and not review at the administrative appeal level of an exemption already applied, will be charged for.

(*d*) *Duplication:* At 15 cents per page for paper copy, which the Commission has found to be the reasonable direct cost thereof. For copies of records prepared by computer (such as tapes or printouts), the actual cost of production, including operator time, will be charged.

(*e*) *Additional services:* Postage, insurance, and other additional services that may be arranged for by the requester will be charged at actual cost.

(iii) (*a*) Should it reasonably appear that a requester, or a group of requesters, have attempted to evade fees by breaking down a request into a series of requests, the Commission will aggregate the separate requests. The period of time within which such multiple requests are filed will be a major consideration in making such a determination. However, multiple requests from one requester covering unrelated subjects will not be aggregated.

(*b*) Interest at the rate prescribed in 31 U.S.C. 3717 will be charged on unpaid fee bills, starting on the 31st day after the bill was sent. Receipt of a fee by the Commission, whether processed or not, will stay the accrual of interest.

(*c*) Advance payment may be required only when the allowable fees are likely to exceed $250, in which case advance payment in part or in full may be required of requesters with no history of prompt payment, and satisfactory assurance of payment from requesters with such history; or when the requester has previously failed to pay a fee timely (within 30 days of the billing date), in which case the Commission may require full payment of the amount owed, plus applicable interest, or a demonstration that the fee has in fact been paid, together with full advance payment of the estimated fee. When advance payment is required, the administrative time limits prescribed in subsection (a)(6) of the Freedom of Information Act (10 working days from receipt of initial requests, 20 working days from receipt of appeals of initial denials, and any permissible extensions of these limits) begin only after such payment has been received.

(d) *Procedure in event of subpoena.* If an officer or employee of the Commission is served with a subpoena duces tecum, material which is not part of the public files and records of the Commission shall be produced only as authorized by the Commission. Service of such a subpoena shall immediately be reported to the Commission with a statement of all relevant facts. The Commission will thereupon enter such order or give such instructions as it deems advisable.

(84 Stat. 759–761, 764; 39 U.S.C. 3603, 3622–3624, 3661, 3662)

[38 FR 4329, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 40 FR 6972, Feb. 18, 1975; 42 FR 25729, May 19, 1977; 44 FR 33881, June 13, 1979; 52 FR 13443, 13444, Apr. 23, 1987; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.42a Protection of trade secrets and commercial or financial information.

This section describes the procedures for evaluating Freedom of Information Act requests for information provided to the Commission by a submitter who believes it to be exempted from disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4). Protection of information made available pursuant to proceedings subject to these rules, 39 CFR part 3001, including information provided pursuant to that subpart requiring the filing of periodic reports, is provided upon request to the Commission as described in rule 3001.31(a).

Other information submitted to the Commission which the submitter believes to be a trade secret or commercial or financial information privileged or confidential and thereby exempt from Freedom of Information Act disclosure under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4), should be accompanied by a brief written statement of why that material is exempt. When a request pursuant to rule 3001.42(c) is made for information so designated, the Secretary promptly will notify the submitter, and provide an opportunity for filing an additional explanation of why the material should not be disclosed prior to decision on that request.

[47 FR 55393, Dec. 9, 1982, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.43 Public attendance at Commission meetings.

(a) *Open Commission meetings.* (1) Commissioners shall not jointly conduct or dispose of agency business other than in accordance with this section. Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, every portion of every meeting of the Commission shall be open to public observation. Access to documents being considered at Commission meetings shall be obtained in the manner set forth in § 3001.42.

(2) Members of the public may not participate in open meetings. They may record the proceedings, provided they use battery-operated recording devices at their seats. Cameras may be used by observers to photograph proceedings, provided it is done from their seats and no flash or lighting equipment is used. Persons may electronically record or photograph a meeting, as long as such activity does not impede or disturb the members of the Commission in the performance of their duties, or members of the public attempting to observe, or to record or photograph, the Commission meeting.

(b) *Physical arrangements for open meetings.* The Secretary shall be responsible for seeing that ample space, sufficient visibility, and adequate acoustics are provided for public observation of the Commission meetings.

(c) *Closed Commission meetings.* Except in a case where the Commission finds that the public interest requires otherwise, the second sentence of paragraph (a) shall not apply to any portion of a Commission meeting, and the requirements of paragraphs (d) and (e) shall not apply to any information pertaining to such meeting otherwise required by this section to be disclosed to the public, where the Commission properly determines that such portion or portions of its meetings or the disclosure of such information is likely to

(1) Disclose matters that are (i) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy and (ii) in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(2) Relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Commission;

(3) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552 of title 5), provided that such statute (i) requires that the matter be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or (ii) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(4) Disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(5) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;

(6) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Disclose investigatory records compiled for law enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records or information would (i) interfere with enforcement proceedings, (ii) deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (iii) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (iv) disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal

investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source, (v) disclose investigative techniques and procedures, or (vi) endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;

(8) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions;

(9) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed Commission action, except that paragraph (c)(9) shall not apply in any instance where the Commission has already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or where the Commission is required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final Commission action on such proposal; or

(10) Specifically concern the Commission's issuance of a subpoena or the Commission's participation in a civil action or proceeding, an action in a foreign court or international tribunal, or an arbitration, or the initiation, conduct or disposition by the Commission of a particular case of formal Commission adjudication pursuant to the procedures in section 554 of title 5 or otherwise involving a determination on the record after opportunity for a hearing as provided by section 3624(a) of title 39.

(d) *Procedures for closing meetings.* (1) Action under paragraph (c) of this section shall be taken only when three Commissioners vote to take such action. A separate vote of the Commissioners shall be taken with respect to each agency meeting a portion or portions of which are proposed to be closed to the public pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section, or with respect to any information which is proposed to be withheld under paragraph (c) of this section. A single vote may be taken with respect to a series of meetings, a portion or portions of which are proposed to be closed to the public, or with respect to any information concerning such series of meetings, so long as each meeting in such series involves the same particular matters and is scheduled to be held no more than 30 days after the initial meeting in such series. The vote of each Commissioner participating in such vote shall be recorded and no proxies shall be allowed.

(2) Whenever any person whose interests may be directly affected by a portion of a meeting requests that the Commission close such portion to the public for any of the reasons referred to in paragraph (c) (5), (6), or (7) of this section, the Commission upon request of any one of its members, shall vote by recorded vote whether to close such meeting.

(3) Within 1 day of any vote taken pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) or (2) of this section, the Commission shall make publicly available a written copy of such vote reflecting the vote of each member on the question. If a portion of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the Commission shall, within 1 day of the vote taken pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) or (2) of this section, make publicly available a full written explanation of its action closing the portion together with a list of all persons expected to attend the meeting and their affiliation.

(4) Any person may protest a Commission decision to hold a closed meeting under paragraph (d)(1) or (2) of this section by filing a motion to open the meeting. Such motion shall be addressed to the Commission and shall set forth with particularity the statutory or other authority relied upon, the reasons for which the movant believes the meeting should not be closed, and the reasons for which the movant believes that the public interest requires the meeting to be open. Such motion shall be filed with the Secretary no later than 24 hours prior to the time for which the closed meeting is scheduled.

(5) The Commission has determined that a majority of its meetings may be closed to the public pursuant to paragraph (c)(4), (8) or (10) of this section or any combination thereof. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(d)(4), Commission meetings shall be closed to the public pursuant to paragraph (c)(4), (8) or (10) of this section or any combination thereof when three Commissioners

vote by recorded vote at the beginning of such meeting, or portion thereof, to close the exempt portion or portions of the meeting, and a copy of such vote, reflecting the vote of each Commissioner on the question, is made available to the public. The provisions of paragraphs (d) (1), (2), (3), and (e) of this section shall not apply to any portion of a meeting to which paragraph (d)(5) of this section applies: Provided, that the Commission shall, except to the extent that such information is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of paragraph (c) of this section, provide the public with public announcement of the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting and of each portion thereof at the earliest practicable time.

(e) *Scheduling and public announcement.* (1) In the case of each meeting, the Commission shall make public announcement, at least 1 week before the meeting, of the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, whether it is to be open or closed to the public, and the name and phone number of the official designated by the Commission to respond to requests for information about the meeting. Such announcement shall be made unless three Commissioners determine by a recorded vote that Commission business requires that such meeting be called at an earlier date, in which case the Commission shall make public announcement of the time, place, and subject matter of such meeting, and whether open or closed to the public, at the earliest practicable time.

(2) The time or place of a meeting may be changed following the public announcement required by paragraph (e)(1) of this section only if the Commission publicly announces such change at the earliest practicable time. The subject matter of a meeting, or the determination of the Commission to open or close a meeting, or a portion of a meeting, to the public, may be changed following the public announcement required by paragraph (e)(1) only if (i) three Commissioners determine by a recorded vote that Commission business so requires and that no earlier announcement of the change was possible, and (ii) the Commission publicly announces such change and the vote of each Commissioner upon such change at the earliest practicable time.

(3) Immediately following each public announcement required by paragraph (e) of this section, notice of the time, place, and subject matter of a meeting, whether the meeting is open or closed, any change in one of the preceding, and the name and phone number of the official designated by the Commission to respond to requests for information about the meeting, shall also be submitted for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(4) The public announcement required by this section may consist of the Secretary:

(i) Publicly posting a copy of the document in the Office of Public Information of the Commission at 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001;

(ii) Mailing a copy to all persons whose names are on a mailing list maintained for this purpose;

(iii) Operating a recorded telephone announcement, giving the announcement; and

(iv) Any other means which the Secretary believes will serve to further inform any persons who might be interested.

(f) *Certification of closed meetings; transcripts, electronic recordings, and minutes.* (1) Before any meeting to be closed pursuant to paragraphs (c) (1) through (10) of this section, the General Counsel of the Commission, or in the General Counsel's absence, the senior advisory Assistant General Counsel available, should publicly certify that, in his/her opinion, the meeting may be closed to the public and shall state each relevant exemptive provision. A copy of such certification, together with a statement from the presiding officer of the meeting setting forth the time and place of the meeting, and the persons present, shall be retained by the Commission. The Commission shall maintain a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to record fully the proceedings of each meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed to the public, except that in the case of a meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed to the public pursuant to paragraph (c)(8) or (10) of this section, the Commission shall maintain either such

a transcript or recording, or a set of minutes. Such minutes shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed on any item and the record of any rollcall vote (reflecting the vote of each Commissioner on the question). All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in such minutes.

(2) The Commission shall make promptly available to the public, in a place easily accessible to the public, the transcript, electronic recording, or minutes (as required by paragraph (f)(1) of this section) of the discussion of any item on the agenda, or of any item of the testimony of any witness received at the meeting, except for such item or items of such discussion or testimony as the Commission determines by a majority vote of all its members (i) contains information which may be withheld under paragraph (c) of this section, and (ii) is not required by the public interest to be made available. Copies of such transcript, or minutes, or a transcription of such recording disclosing the identity of each speaker, shall be furnished to any person at the actual cost of duplication or transcription. The Commission shall maintain a complete verbatim copy of the transcript, a complete copy of the minutes, or a complete electronic recording of each meeting, or portion of a meeting, closed to the public, for a period of at least 2 years after such meeting, or until 1 year after the conclusion of any Commission proceeding with respect to which the meeting or portion was held, whichever occurs later.

(g) *Requests to open or close Commission meetings.* (1)(i) Any person may request in writing that the Commission open to public observation discussion of a matter which it has earlier decided to close.

(ii) Such requests shall be captioned ''Request to open ———— (date) Commission meeting on item ———— (number or description).'' The request shall state the reason(s) therefor, the name and address of the person making the request and, if desired, a telephone number.

(iii) Ten copies of such requests must be received by the Office of the Secretary no later than three working days after the issuance of the Notice of Meeting to which the request pertains. Requests received after that time will be returned to the requester with a statement that the request was untimely received and that copies of any nonexempt portions of the transcript or minutes for the meeting in question will ordinarily be available in the Office of Public Information ten working days after the meeting.

(2)(i) Any person whose interests may be directly affected may request in writing that the Commission close to public observation discussion of a matter which it has earlier decided to open as provided for in paragraph (d)(2) of this section.

(ii) Such requests shall be captioned ''Request to Close ———— (date) Commission meeting on item ———— (number or description),'' shall state the reason(s) therefor, the name and address of the person making the request and, if desired, a telephone number.

(iii) Ten copies of such requests should be filed with the Office of the Secretary as soon as possible after the issuance of the Notice of Meeting to which the request pertains. A single copy of the request will be accepted. Requests to close meetings must be received by the Office of the Secretary no later than the time scheduled for the meeting to which such request pertains.

(3) The Secretary shall retain one copy of timely requests and forward one copy to each Commissioner, one copy to the interested Office, and two copies to the Docket Section, one for entry in the appropriate docket file, if any, and one to be posted on the Public Notice Board located in that section as an attachment to the Notice of Meeting to which it pertains.

(4) Pleadings replying to requests to open or close shall not be accepted.

(5) Any Commissioner may require that the Commission vote upon the request to open or close. If the request is supported by the votes of a majority of the agency membership, notice of change in meeting shall be issued and the Secretary shall immediately notify

the requester and, before the close of business the next working day, have posted such vote and other material required by paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section on the Commission's Public Notice Board.

(6) If no Commissioner requests that a vote be taken on a request to open or close a Commission meeting, the Secretary shall by the close of the next working day after the meeting to which such request pertains certify that no vote was taken. The Secretary shall forward one copy of that certification to the requester and two copies of that certification to the Docket Section, one to be placed in the appropriate docket file, if any, and one to be posted on the Public Notice Board, where it will be displayed for one week.

[42 FR 13290, Mar. 10, 1977, as amended at 42 FR 25729, May 19, 1977; 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993]

Subpart B—Rules Applicable to Requests for Changes in Rates or Fees

§ 3001.51 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart govern the procedure with regard to requests of the Postal Service pursuant to section 3622 of the Act that the Commission submit a recommended decision on changes in a rate or rates of postage or in a fee or fees for postal service if the Postal Service determines that such changes would be in the public interest and in accordance with the policies of the Act. The Rules of General Applicability in subpart A of this part are also applicable to proceedings on requests subject to this subpart.

§ 3001.52 Filing of formal requests.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on changes in rates or fees subject to this subpart, the Postal Service shall file with the Commission a formal request for a recommended decision. Such request shall be filed in accordance with the requirements of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.11 and 3001.54. Within 5 days after the Postal Service has filed a formal request for a recommended decision in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall lodge a notice thereof with the Director of the Federal Register for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[38 FR 4330, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.53 Filing of prepared direct evidence.

Simultaneously with the filing of the formal request for a recommended decision under this subpart, the Postal Service shall file all of the prepared direct evidence upon which it proposes to rely in the proceeding on the record before the Commission to establish that the proposed changes or adjustments in rates or fees are in the public interest and are in accordance with the policies and the applicable criteria of the Act. Such prepared direct evidence shall be in the form of prepared written testimony and documentary exhibits which shall be filed in accordance with § 3001.31.

§ 3001.54 Contents of formal requests.

(a) *General requirements.* (1) Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and bases as are necessary and appropriate fully to inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance, and impact of the proposed changes or adjustments in rates or fees and to show that the changes or adjustments in rates or fees are in the public interest and in accordance with the policies of the Act and the applicable criteria of the Act. To the extent information is available or can be made available without undue burden, each formal request shall include the information specified in paragraphs (b) through (r) of this section. The request shall describe any changes that it proposes in the attribution procedures applied by the Commission in the most recent general rate proceeding in which its recommended rates or fees were adopted. If a request proposes to change the cost attribution principles applied by the Commission in the most recent general rate proceeding in which its recommended rates were adopted, the Postal Service's request shall include an alternate cost presentation satisfying paragraph (h) of this section

that shows what the effect on its request would be if it did not propose changes in attribution principles. If the required information is set forth in the Postal Service's prepared direct evidence, it shall be deemed to be part of the formal request without restatement.

(2) If any information required by paragraphs (b) through (r) of this section is not available and cannot be made available without undue burden, the request shall provide where reference is made to this paragraph, in lieu of such information, a statement explaining with particularity:

(i) The information which is not available or cannot be made available without undue burden;

(ii) The reason or reasons that each such item of information is not available and cannot be made available without undue burden;

(iii) The steps or actions which would be needed to make each such item of information available, together with an estimate of the time and expense required therefor;

(iv) Whether it is contemplated that each such item of information will be supplied in the future and, if so, at what time; and

(v) Whether reliable estimates are available where such information cannot be furnished and, if so, the specifics of such estimates.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section for the Postal Service to include in its formal request certain alternative information in lieu of that specified by paragraphs (b) through (r) of this section are not in derogation of the Commission's and the presiding officer's authority, pursuant to §§ 3001.23 through 3001.28, respecting the provision of information at a time following receipt of the formal request.

(4) The Commission may request information in addition to that required by paragraphs (b) through (r) of this section.

(b) *Rates and standards information.* (1) Every formal request shall include schedules of the then effective rate or rates of postage and fee or fees for all postal services, and, arranged in legislative format, schedules of the rate or rates of postage and fee or fees for all postal services proposed by the Postal Service, as they would appear in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule. The schedules shall show the full rate and where applicable the phased rate under section 3626 of the Act and any proposed adjustment to such phased rates under section 3627 of the Act indicated by circumstances known at the time of filing.

(2) The schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall, for all classes and subclasses of mail and service, be in summary fashion and tariff-like form. (E.g., there shall be a specification of those rules, regulations and practices which establish the conditions of mailability and the standards of service.) As a part thereof, the schedules shall specifically be addressed to such functions as mail pick-up and delivery, processing and other similar functions.

(3) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall also contain a statement identifying the degree of economic substitutability between the various classes and subclasses, e.g., a description of cross-elasticity of demand as between various classes of mail.

(4) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall be accompanied by an identification of all nonpostal services.

(c) *Mail characteristics.* Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall include an identification of the characteristics of the mailer and recipient, and a description of the contents of items mailed within the various classes and subclasses of mail and service.

(d) *Physical attributes of mail.* Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall include an identification of the physical attributes of the items mailed by class and subclass, including shape, weight, and distance.

(e) *Special service arrangements.* Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall contain, to the extent the following information is not expressly included under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a summary statement describing special service arrangements provided to, or requested

or required of, mailers by the Postal Service which bear upon the cost of service or the value of the mail service to both the sender and the recipient, e.g., services relating to mailer preparations in excess of requirements specified by the Postal Service Manual, pick-up and delivery, expedited or deferred processing, and other similar activities performed.

(f) *Total functionalized accrued costs.* (1) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall set forth the total actual accrued costs during the most recent fiscal year for which they are reasonably available. In the event final total actual accrued costs are not yet available for the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the filing is made, a preliminary or pro forma statement of such actual accrued costs shall be furnished. Any preliminary statement shall use, as appropriate, quarterly or accounting period reports for the preceding fiscal year. A final complete statement shall be substituted for any preliminary statement when the former becomes available.

(2) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall also set forth (i) the estimated total accrued costs of the Postal Service for the fiscal year in which the filing is made and (ii) the estimated total accrued costs of the Postal Service as specified in section 3621 of the Act which form the basis for proposed change in rates or fees. Estimated accrued costs referred to in paragraph (f)(2)(ii) of this section shall be for a fiscal year beginning not more than 24 months subsequent to the filing date of the formal request. These two estimates of accrued costs shall be calculated on two bases: First, assuming the prefiling rates and fees and, second, assuming the suggested rates and fees. Estimated accrued costs shall be accompanied by an explanation of the methods and procedures used for cost projections. The analyses of estimated costs shall include, but need not be limited to:

(*a*) An explanation of the projection of total volumes;

(*b*) An explanation of the effect of the projected volume levels on estimated total costs;

(*c*) The specification of the cost savings which will be realized from gains and improvements in total productivity, indicating such factors as operational and technological advances and innovations; and

(*d*) The identification of abnormal costs which are expected to be incurred in the forecasted test period.

(3) Each cost presentation required by paragraphs (f)(1) and (2) of this section shall, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section:

(i) Show operating costs in sufficient detail as to the accounting and functional classifications and with such reasonable explanation so that the actual or estimated amount for each item of expense may be readily understood;

(ii) State and fully explain the amounts included for:

(*a*) Depreciation on capital facilities and equipment;

(*b*) Debt service;

(*c*) Contingencies; and

(*d*) Extraordinary or nonrecurring expenses;

(iii) Assign and distribute costs to each of the functions comprising the mail process. Such presentations shall include:

(*a*) An itemization of costs by the major accounts as reflected by the Service's books of accounts for all cost segments, such as postmasters, supervisors, etc.;

(*b*) An itemization of costs by functions such as collection, acceptance, general overheads, etc.;

(*c*) An assignment and distribution of the costs by account, exemplified in paragraph (f)(3)(iii) (*a*) of this section, together with related mail volumes, to the functions exemplified in paragraph (f)(3)(iii) (*b*) of this section;

(*d*) An assignment and distribution of the costs by account, together with related mail volumes, to such subfunctions within each category for which information is available or can be developed; and

(*e*) An explanation of the method by which the costs by accounts are assigned and distributed to functions.

(g) *Costs of prior fiscal years.* Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall present the total actual accrued costs for each fiscal year since the last filing pursuant

to this section. Such submission should be in a form as nearly consistent as possible with the filing under paragraph (f) of this section, together with explanations of any departures from such form and the effect of such departures.

(h) *Separation, attribution, and assignment of certain costs.* (1) Every formal request shall separate the Service's actual and estimated total costs, for the fiscal years specified in paragraph (f) of this section, as between postal services (including international mail) and nonpostal services. The presentation shall show the methodology for separating postal costs as between postal services and nonpostal services, and shall be in sufficient detail to allow a determination that no nonpostal costs have been assigned or allocated to postal services.

(2) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the costs for postal services, as set forth by functions pursuant to paragraph (f), shall be separated as between:

(i) Those direct costs which can be attributed to each class of mail or type of mail service;

(ii) Those indirect costs which can be attributed to each class of mail or type of mail service;

(iii) Any other costs of the Service which can be reasonably assigned to each class of mail or type of mail service; and

(iv) Any costs which cannot be attributed or reasonably assigned.[a]

(3) The methodology used to derive the costs requested in paragraphs (h)(2)(i) through (iv) of this section shall be set forth in detail.

(4) The attributable and other costs reasonably assignable as provided in paragraphs (h)(2) (i) through (iii) of this section shall separately be attributed to mail classes, subclasses, special services, and, to the extent practical, rate categories of mail service. The submission shall identify the methodology used to attribute or assign each type of such costs and, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, shall also include an analysis of the effect on costs of:

(i) Volume;

(ii) Peaking patterns;

(iii) Priority of handling;

(iv) Mailer preparations;

(v) Quality of service;

(vi) The physical nature of the item mailed;

(vii) Expected gains in total productivity, indicating such factors as operational and technological advances and innovations; and

(viii) Any other factor affecting costs.

(5) The cost forecasting or ''roll-forward'' model shall be provided. It shall include the following items:

(i) For each cost segment component, a listing of all forecasting factors used in the cost level, mail volume, nonvolume workload, additional workday, productivity and other programs effects.

(ii) For each ''ripple-affected'' cost segment component, a listing of those segments and components that determine its level of attribution or its distribution to mail class, subclass, rate category and service.

(iii) For each longer-run cost segment component:

(*a*) A listing of all factors used in determining its overall level of attribution, and

(*b*) A listing of the specific cost segment components used in determining its level of attribution, and its distribution to mail class, subclass, rate category and service.

(iv) Workpapers showing the application of the forecasting factors and procedures to each cost segment component for each time period used in the forecasting process. Such workpapers shall include the quantification, and distribution to mail class, subclass, rate category, and service, of each cost segment component, separating the short-run from the longer-run portions.

[a] In his initial decision in Docket R71–1 the presiding officer noted two possible interpretations of 39 U.S.C. 3622(b)(3)—first, that all costs are either ''attributable'' or ''reasonably assignable'' and, second, that there are some ''remaining costs which cannot be attributed or reasonably assigned to classes of mail''. See Docket R71–1, Vol. I, 1–9. If the first interpretation is deemed to be correct, no costs would be reported in the category denominated by § 3001.54(h)(2)(iv). The Commission was cognizant in writing the rules of the presiding officer's belief that it was not necessary to adopt either reading as exclusive.

Such workpapers shall conform to the requirements of paragraph (o) of this section. Compliance with the citation requirements of paragraph (o)(4) of this section shall be achieved by providing citations in ''roll-forward'' workpapers in the following cases:

(*a*) Workpapers showing the application of the forecasting factors and computational procedures (i.e., computer subroutines described in paragraph (h)(5)(iv)(*b*) of this section) to representative short-run cost segment components and to representative longer run cost segment components for representative time periods used in the forecasting process.

(*b*) Workpapers showing the application of a computational procedure to a cost segment component, if the application of a forecasting factor or computational procedure to a particular cost segment component deviates from the application of that forecasting factor or computational procedure as presented in the workpapers required by paragraph (h)(5)(iv)(*a*) of this section.

(v) If the ''roll forward'' model is submitted in the form of a computer-generated model, it shall include:

(*a*) An annotated glossary of input data files, to include, for each time period:

(*1*) The name of each input data file,

(*2*) A general description of each file in relation to the ''roll forward'' process,

(*3*) The format for each kind of data record in the file,

(*4*) For each distinct format type used in the file, a brief description of each data item included in the format.

(*b*) A hard-copy description, in the form of a mathematical equation, of each subroutine in the program.

(*c*) A copy of the Base Year attibutable cost matrix on a 5-inch floppy diskette in MS–DOS format.

(6) Attributable cost final adjustments by mail class, subclass, rate category and service, details of the development of those adjustments, and an explanation of each adjustment shall be provided.

(7) ''Other services'' adjustments by mail class, subclass, rate category and service, details of the development of those adjustments, and an explanation of each adjustment shall be provided.

(8) An overall summary cost table shall be provided. It shall show by mail class, subclass, rate category and service, short-run attributable costs, longer-run attributable costs, assignable costs by category, and all adjustments made to each of the foregoing.

(9) For each cost segment, base-year amounts for each included account and subaccount shall be provided.

(10) The minimum level of disaggregation required for presenting evidence on a cost segment or component is that employed by the Commission in its most recently completed section 3624 proceeding establishing a methodological precedent for that segment or component. This requirement shall not apply:

(i) To presentations that propose to define, attribute, assign, or distribute to mail classes segment or component costs by a method not employed or recommended by the Commission in such proceeding, and the Postal Service has demonstrated that the proposed methodological departure makes the level of disaggregation most recently employed or recommended by the Commission inappropriate.

(ii) Where the Postal Service has demonstrated that changes in mail operations make the level of disaggregation most recently employed or recommended by the Commission inappropriate.

(11) Any nonattributed or unassigned costs specified in paragraph (h)(2)(iv) of this section shall be clearly and separately identified. An explanation shall be furnished as to why such costs cannot be attributed or assigned. To the extent possible, the presentation shall identify all such costs which benefit more than one class of mail or type of service (but not all classes or types), together with the mail classes or types of services so benefited.

(12) The Service shall furnish the data relevant to its analysis of the effect on costs of the factors specified in paragraphs (h)(4) (i) through (viii) of this section.

(i) *Criteria for rate schedule.* There shall be included in every formal request a statement of the criteria employed in constructing the proposed rate schedule. The submission shall include:

(1) The identification of the relationship between the revenues derived from the rates and fees for a particular class and subclass of mail or service and the costs attributed or assigned to that class and subclass or service;

(2) The identification of the procedures and methods used to apportion (to postal services) that part of the total revenue requirement, if any, which is in excess of costs attributed or assigned.[b]

(3) Such other studies, information and data relevant to the criteria established by section 3622 of the Act with appropriate explanations as will assist the Commission in determining whether or not the proposed rates or fees are in accordance with such criteria.

(j) *Revenues and volumes.* (1) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall set forth the actual and estimated revenues of the Postal Service from the then effective postal rates and fees for the fiscal years selected for the presentation of cost information submitted pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) of this section.

(2) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall set forth the estimated revenues based on the suggested rates and fees for the fiscal years selected for the presentation of cost information submitted pursuant to paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

(3) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the actual and estimated revenues referred to in paragraphs (j) (1) and (2) of this section shall be shown in total and separately for each class and subclass of mail and postal service and for all other sources of revenue. Revenues derived from classes and subclasses of mail shall be disaggregated to each unique rate element.

(4) Each revenue presentation required by paragraphs (j)(1), (j)(2), and (j)(3) of this section shall, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, be documented in sufficient detail to allow independent replication. Revenue estimates shall be supported by exhibits or workpapers that reference the source of all data used, including volume levels, billing determinants, and adjustment factors. References may be to published documents, library references, or companion testimony, and shall include document identity, page, and line, as appropriate. All assumptions used to estimate revenue for new or redesigned rate elements shall be identified and explained.

(5) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, there shall be furnished in every formal request, for each class and subclass of mail and postal service, the following:

(i) An econometric demand study relating postal volumes to their economic and noneconomic determinants including postal rates, discounts and fees, personal income, business conditions, competitive and complementary postal services, competitive and complementary nonpostal activities, population, trend, seasonal patterns and other factors.

(ii) The actual or estimated volume of mail at the prefiled rates for each postal quarter beginning with the first quarter of the most recent complete fiscal year and ending one year beyond the last quarter of the future fiscal year.

(iii) The estimated volume of mail assuming the effectiveness of the suggested rates for each postal quarter beginning with the quarter in which the rates are assumed to become effective and ending one year beyond the last quarter of the future fiscal year.

(6) The estimated volumes and revenues referred to in paragraphs (j)(2), (j)(3), and (j)(5) of this section shall be derived from the econometric demand study referred to in paragraph (j)(5)(i) of this section. Supporting rationale shall be provided for any departure from the assumptions and specifications in the demand study made in estimating volumes of any class, subclass, or rate category of mail. Supporting rationale shall be provided for using billing determinants to estimate revenues for any class, subclass, or rate category of mail that differ from the billing determinants implicit in the estimate of volumes for that class, subclass, or rate category.

(i) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, there shall be furnished in every formal request a detailed explanation of the methodology employed to forecast volumes for each class and subclass of mail and postal service.

[b] See footnote a, supra.

Representative derivations of these forecasts from the econometric demand study shall be presented in detail for two major mail classes, showing each intermediate value or factor employed. For remaining classes and subclasses of mail, such derivations may be summarized, except where their derivations depart from the representative methods presented.

(ii) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, there shall be furnished in every formal request a detailed explanation of the methodology employed to forecast changes in revenues for each class and subclass of mail and postal service resulting from changes in rates and fees.

(iii) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, there shall be furnished in every formal request a computer implementation of the methodology employed to forecast volumes and revenues for each class and subclass of mail and postal service.

(iv) The computer implementation described in paragraph (j)(6)(iii) of this section shall be able to compute forecasts of volumes and revenues compatible with those referred to in paragraphs (j)(2), (j)(3), and (j)(5) of this section for:

(*a*) Any set of rates and fees within a reasonable range of the prefiled and suggested rates,

(*b*) any date of implementation within the range spanned by the assumed date and the start of the future fiscal year,

(*c*) alternative forecasts of the economic determinants of postal volumes other than postal rates and fees, and

(*d*) alternative values of any parameters with assigned values that are based upon unverifiable judgments.

(v) The computer implementation described in paragraph (j)(6)(iii) of this section shall comply with § 3001.31(k)(3).

(7) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, there shall be made available at the offices of the Commission with every formal request, in a form that can be read directly by a standard digital computer, the following:

(i) All of the input files and programs needed to replicate the econometric demand study referred to in paragraph (j)(5)(i) of this section;

(ii) Any input files and programs employed to derive a price index for any class or subclass of mail or postal service from postal rates, discounts and fees;

(iii) Any input files and programs used to prepare data for use in the econometric demand study referred to in paragraph (j)(5)(i) of this section.

(k) *Financial statements and related information.* (1) Subject to paragraph (k)(3) of this section, every formal request shall include, for the 2 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the date of formal filing occurs, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Income and Expense, basic statistical information and the Statement of Income and Expense by budget categories of the Postal Service. This information shall include data with respect to:

(i) Balance Sheet and a supporting schedule for each item appearing thereon;

(ii) Statement of Income and Expense and a supporting schedule for each item appearing thereon;

(iii) As appropriate, statistical data with respect to revenue, pieces (by physical attributes, showing separately amounts of mail identified as stamped, metered, and imprinted, or other), weight, distance, postal employees (number, total payroll, productivity, etc.), postal space, post offices (number, classes, etc.), and any other pertinent factors which have been utilized in the development of the suggested rate schedule;

(iv) Statement of Income and Expense by cost segment.

(2) A reconciliation of the budgetary information with actual accrued costs shall be provided for the most recent fiscal year.

(3) If the fiscal information for the immediately preceding fiscal year is not fully available on the date of filing, a preliminary or pro forma submittal shall be made and upon final completion an updated report shall be filed in substitution therefor.

(l)(1) *Billing determinants.* A statement, which can be in workpaper form, indicating for each class and subclass of mail and postal service the relevant billing determinants (e.g., the volume of mail related to each rate element in

determining revenues) separately for the current rates and the proposed rates. Proposed changes in rate design and the related adjustments of billing determinants should be explained in detail.

(2) For third-class bulk mail, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall set forth separately for regular and preferred, by presort level, the base year volume by ounce increment for each shape (letter-size, flat, irregular parcels, parcels).

(m) *Continuing and phasing appropriations.* A statement, which can be in workpaper form, presenting detailed calculations of continuing appropriations according to 39 U.S.C. 2401(c) and phasing appropriations under 39 U.S.C. 3626 and any proposed adjustment to such phased rates under 39 U.S.C. 3627 indicated by circumstances known at the time of the filing. Calculation of all the phased rates for the entire applicable phasing period should be explained in detail.

(n) *Performance goals.* (1) Every formal request shall identify any performance goals which have been established for the classes and subclasses of mail.

(2) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, the request shall identify the achieved levels of service for those classes and subclasses of mail and mail services for which performance goals have been set. This information may be provided by reference to published documents or otherwise.

(o) *Workpapers.* (1) Whenever the Service files a formal request it shall accompany the request with seven sets of workpapers, five for use by the Commission staff and two which shall be available for use by the public at the Commission's offices.

(2) Workpapers shall contain:

(i) Detailed information underlying the data and submissions for paragraphs (b) through (n) of this section in such fashion and content so as to permit independent analysis of each cost component and an independent attribution or assignment of costs to classes and subclasses and the assignment of nonattributed or unassigned costs to classes and subclasses;

(ii) A description of the methods used in collecting, summarizing and expanding the data used in the various submissions;

(iii) Summaries of sample data, allocation factors and other data used for the various submissions;

(iv) The expansion ratios used (where applicable); and

(v) The results of any special studies used to modify, expand, project, or audit routinely collected data.

(3) Workpapers shall be neat and legible and shall indicate how they relate to the data and submissions supplied in response to paragraphs (b) through (n) of this section.

(4) Workpapers shall include citations sufficient to enable a reviewer to trace any number used but not derived in the associated testimony back to published documents or, if not obtained from published documents, to primary data sources. Citations shall be sufficiently detailed to enable a reviewer to identify and locate the specific data used, e.g., by reference to document, page, line, column, etc. With the exception of workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format, the required citations themselves, or a cross-reference to a specific page, line, and column of a table of citations, shall appear on each page of each workpaper. Workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format shall include the citations described in this paragraph for a sufficient number of representative examples to enable a reviewer to trace numbers directly or by analogy.

(p) *Certification by officials.* (1) Every formal request shall include one or more certifications stating that the cost statements and supporting data submitted as a part of the formal request, as well as the accompanying workpapers, which purport to reflect the books of the Postal Service, accurately set forth the results shown by such books.

(2) The certificates required by paragraph (p)(1) of this section shall be signed by one or more representatives of the Postal Service authorized to make such certification. The signature of the official signing the document constitutes a representation that the official has read the document and that, to the best of his/her knowledge,

information and belief, every statement contained in the instrument is proper.

(q) *Opinion of independent public accountant.* Every formal request shall include an opinion from an independent public accountant to the extent and as required by 39 U.S.C. 2008(e).

(r) *Special waiver provision for minor rate cases.* The Commission may, upon the filing of a proper motion by the Postal Service, together with a showing of good cause therefor, waive certain of the filing requirements of paragraphs (b) through (q) of this section if in the Commission's judgment it has been demonstrated that the proposed change in a rate or rates of postage and a fee or fees for postal service does not significantly change the then effective rates and fees or alter the cost-revenue relationships of the various classes and types of postal services.

(s) *Rejection of requests.* The Commission may reject any request under this subpart that patently fails to substantially comply with any requirements of this subpart.

[38 FR 7532, Mar. 22, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 8143, Feb. 9, 1977; 42 FR 18076, Apr. 5, 1977; 44 FR 26075, May 4, 1979; 45 FR 65575 and 65580, Oct. 3, 1980; 48 FR 3733, Jan. 27, 1983; 48 FR 50717, Nov. 3, 1983; 50 FR 43392, Oct. 25, 1985; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 51 FR 14993, Apr. 22, 1986; 54 FR 35495, Aug. 28, 1989; 58 FR 38976, 38977, July 21, 1993; 59 FR 8542, Feb. 23, 1994; 62 FR 30250, June 3, 1997]

§ 3001.55 Service by the Postal Service.

Immediately after the issuance of an order or orders by the Commission designating an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in a proceeding before the Commission under this subpart, the Postal Service shall serve copies of its formal request for a recommended decision and its prepared direct evidence upon such officer and the intervenors as provided in § 3001.12. Service shall also be made on persons who are limited participators.

[38 FR 3511, Feb. 7, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.56 Failure to comply.

If the Postal Service fails to provide any information specified by this subpart, or otherwise required by the presiding officer or the Commission, the Commission, upon its own motion, or upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, may stay the proceeding until satisfactory compliance is achieved. The Commission will stay proceedings only if it finds that failure to supply adequate information interferes with the Commission's ability promptly to consider the request and to conduct its proceedings with expedition in accordance with the Act.

[38 FR 7535, Mar. 22, 1973; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.57 Market response rate requests for express mail service—purpose and duration of rules.

(a) This section and §§ 3001.57a through 3001.57c only apply in cases in which the Postal Service requests an expedited recommended decision pursuant to section 3622 of the Postal Reorganization Act on changes in rates and fees for Express Mail service, where the proposed changes are intended to respond to a change in the market for expedited delivery services for the purpose of minimizing the loss of Express Mail contribution to institutional costs recommended in the most recent omnibus rate case. These rules set forth the requirements for filing data in support of such rate proposals and for providing notice of such requests, and establish an expedited procedural schedule for evaluating Market Response Rate Requests. These rules may not be used when the Postal Service is requesting changes in Express Mail rates as part of an omnibus rate case. Further explanation concerning these rules can be found at 54 FR 11394–11413 (March 20, 1989), 54 FR 25132–42 (June 13, 1989) and PRC Order No. 836.

(b) This section and §§ 3001.57a through 57c are to be effective for the limited period of five years from the date of their adoption by the Commission. During that period the Commission will continue to analyze the need for these rules to enable the Postal Service to respond to changes in the market for expedited delivery services, and the impact of these procedures on Postal Service proposals. These rules will cease to be effective at the end of this period unless they have been reissued by the Commission following a

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published in the FEDERAL REGISTER which provides an appropriate opportunity for public comments.

[60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995, §3001.57 was added, effective through March 6, 2000.

§3001.57a Market response rate requests—data filing requirements.

(a) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by such information and data as are necessary to inform the Commission and the parties of the nature and expected impact of the change in rates proposed. Except for good cause shown, the information specified in paragraphs (c) through (i) of this section shall also be provided with each request.

(b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this section, the information required by §3001.54 (b) through (r) must be filed only for those subclasses and services for which the Postal Service requests a change in rates or fees. Test period volume, cost, and revenue estimates presented in satisfaction of rule 57a shall be for four postal quarters beginning after the filing date of the request. The cost roll-forward may be developed by extending the cost forecasting model used in the last omnibus rate case (utilizing available actual data). Volume and revenue estimates required by these rules shall utilize, to the extend practicable, the factors identified in rule 54(j)(6), and must be fully explained, with all available supporting documentation supplied, but they need not be econometrically derived.

(c) Every formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall contain an explanation of why the change proposed by the Postal Service is a reasonable response to the change in the market for expedited delivery services to which it is intended to respond.

(d) Every formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by the then effective Domestic Mail Classification Schedule sections which would have to be altered in order to implement the changes proposed by the Postal Service, and, arranged in a legislative format, the text of the replacement Domestic Mail Classification Schedule sections the Postal Service proposes.

(e) In addition to the required test period cost estimates, every formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by a statement of the attributable costs by segment and component for Express Mail service determined in accordance with the attributable cost methodology adopted by the Commission in the most recent omnibus rate case, for the base year used in that case, and for each fiscal year thereafter for which cost data is available. If the Postal Service believes that an adjustment to that methodology is warranted it may also provide costs using alternative methodologies as long as a full rationale for the proposed changes is provided.

(f) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall include a description of all operational changes, occurring since the most recent omnibus rate case, having an important impact on the attributable cost of Express Mail. The Postal Service shall include an analysis and estimate of the cost impact of each such operational change.

(g) Every formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by a statement of the actual Express Mail revenues of the Postal Service from the then effective Express Mail rates and fees for the most recent four quarters for which information is available.

(h) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by a complete description of the change in the market for expedited delivery services to which the Postal Service proposal is in response, a statement of when that change took place, the Postal Service's analysis of the anticipated impact of that change on the market, and a description of characteristics and needs of customers and market segments affected by this change which the proposed Express Mail rates are designed to satisfy.

(i) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§3001.57 through

3001.57c shall include estimates, on a quarterly basis, of test period volumes, revenues, and attributable costs determined in accordance with the attributable cost methodology adopted by the Commission in the most recent omnibus rate case for each Express Mail service for which rate changes are proposed assuming:

(1) rates remain at their existing levels, and

(2) rates are changed after 90 days to the levels suggested in the request.

(j)(1) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by the following information, for each quarter following the base year in the most recent omnibus rate case:

(i) Estimated volume by rate cell, for each Express Mail service;

(ii) Total postage pounds of Express Mail rated at:

(A) up to ½ pound,

(B) ½ pound up to 2 pounds,

(C) 2 pounds up to 5 pounds; and

(iii) Total pounds of Express Mail and of each other subclass of mail carried on hub contracts.

(2) In each instance when rates change based on a proceeding under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c the Postal Service shall provide, one year after the conclusion of the test period, the data described in § 3001.57a(j)(1)(i)–(iii), for each of the four quarters of the test period.

(k) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c shall include analyses to demonstrate:

(1) that the proposed rates are consistent with the factors listed in 39 U.S.C. 3622(b),

(2) that the proposed rate changes are in the public interest and in accordance with the policies and applicable criteria of the Act, and

(3) that the proposed rates will preserve, or minimize erosion of, the Express Mail contribution to institutional costs recommended in the most recent omnibus rate case.

(l) Each formal request made under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c shall be accompanied by a certificate that service of the filing in accordance with § 3001.57b(c) has been made.

[60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995, § 3001.57a was added, effective through March 6, 2000.

§ 3001.57b Market response rate requests—expedition of public notice and procedural schedule.

(a) The purpose of this section is to provide a schedule for expediting proceedings when a trial-type hearing is required in a proceeding in which the Postal Service proposes to adjust rates for Express Mail service in order to respond to a change in the market for expedited delivery services.

(b) The Postal Service shall not propose for consideration under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c rates lower than:

(1) the average per piece attributable cost for Express Mail service determined in the most recent omnibus rate case, or

(2) the average per piece attributable cost for Express Mail service as determined by the Postal Service in accordance with § 3001.57a(e) for the most recent fiscal year for which information is available, whichever is higher. Neither shall the Postal Service propose a rate for any rate cell which is lower than the estimated test period attributable cost of providing that rate cell with service.

(c)(1) Persons who are interested in participating in Express Mail Market Response Rate Request cases may register at any time with the Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission, who shall maintain a publicly available list of the names and business addresses of all such Express Mail Market Response Registrants. Persons whose names appear on this list will automatically become parties to each Express Mail Market Response rate proceeding. Other interested persons may intervene pursuant to § 3001.20 within 28 days of the filing of a formal request made under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c. Parties may withdraw from the register or a case by filing a notice with the Commission.

(2) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c it shall on that same

day effect service by hand delivery of the complete filing to each Express Mail Market Response Registrant who maintains an address for service within the Washington metropolitan area and serve the complete filing by Express Mail service on all other Registrants. Each Registrant is responsible for insuring that his or her address remains current.

(3) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c, it shall on that same day send by Express Mail service to all participants in the most recent omnibus rate case a notice which briefly describes its proposal. Such notice shall indicate on its first page that it is a notice of an Express Mail Market Response Rate Request to be considered under §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c, and identify the last day for filing a notice of intervention with the Commission.

(d) In the absence of a compelling showing of good cause, the Postal Service and parties shall calculate Express Mail costs in accordance with the methodologies used by the Commission in the most recent omnibus rate case. In the analysis of customers' reactions to the change in the market for expedited delivery services which prompts the request, the Postal Service and parties may estimate the demand for segments of the expedited delivery market and for types of customers which were not separately considered when estimating volumes in the most recent omnibus rate case.

(e) (1) In the event that a party wishes to dispute as an issue of fact whether the Postal Service properly has calculated Express Mail costs or volumes (either before or after its proposed changes), or wishes to dispute whether the change in the market for expedited delivery services cited by the Postal Service has actually occurred, or wishes to dispute whether the rates proposed by the Postal Service are a reasonable response to the change in the market for expedited delivery services or are consistent with the policies of the Postal Reorganization Act, that party shall file with the Commission a request for a hearing within 28 days of the date that the Postal Service files its request. The request for hearing shall state with specificity the fact or facts set forth in the Postal Service's filing that the party disputes, and when possible, what the party believes to be the true fact or facts and the evidence it intends to provide in support of its position.

(2) The Commission will not hold hearings on a request made pursuant to §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c unless it determines that there is a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved, and that a hearing is needed to resolve this issue.

(3) Whether or not a hearing is held, the Commission may request briefs and/or argument on an expedited schedule, but in any circumstance it will issue its recommended decision as promptly as is consistent with its statutory responsibilities.

(4) In order to assist in the rapid development of an adequate evidentiary record, all participants may file appropriate discovery requests on other participants as soon as an Express Mail Market Response Rate Request is filed. Answers to such discovery requests will be due within 10 days. Objections to such discovery requests must be made within 10 days in the form of a Motion to Excuse from Answering, with service on the questioning participant made by hand, facsimile, or expedited delivery. Responses to Motions to Excuse from Answering must be submitted within seven days, and should such a motion be denied, the answers to the discovery in question are due within seven days of the denial thereof. It is the Commission's intention that parties resolve discovery disputes informally between themselves whenever possible. The Commission, therefore, encourages the party receiving discovery requests considered to be unclear or objectionable to contact counsel for the party filing the discovery requests whenever further explanation is needed, or a potential discovery dispute might be resolved by means of such communication.

(5) If, either on its own motion, or after having received a request for a hearing, the Commission concludes that there exist one or more genuine issues of material fact and that a hearing is needed, the Commission shall expedite the conduct of such record evidentiary hearings to meet both the

need to respond promptly to changed circumstances in the market and the standards of 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557. The procedural schedule, subject to change as described in paragraph (e)(6) of this section, is as follows: Hearings on the Postal Service case will begin 35 days after the filing of an Express Mail Market Response Rate Request; parties may file evidence either in support of or in opposition to the Postal Service proposal 49 days after the filing; hearings on the parties' evidence will begin 56 days after the filing; briefs will be due 70 days after the filing; and reply briefs will be due 77 days after the filing.

(6) The Presiding Officer may adjust any of the schedule dates prescribed in (e)(5) of this section in the interests of fairness, or to assist in the development of an adequate evidentiary record. Requests for the opportunity to present evidence to rebut a submission by a participant other than the Postal Service should be filed within three working days of the receipt of that material into the evidentiary record, and should include a description of the evidence to be offered and the amount of time needed to prepare and present it. Requests for additional time will be reviewed with consideration as to whether the requesting participant has exercised due diligence, and whether the requesting participant has been unreasonably delayed from fully understanding the proposal.

[60 FR 12120, Mar. 6, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995, § 3001.57b was added, effective through March 6, 2000.

§ 3001.57c Express mail market response—rule for decision.

The Commission will issue a recommended decision in accordance with the policies of 39 U.S.C., and which it determines would be a reasonable response to the change in the market for expedited delivery services. The purpose of §§ 3001.57 through 3001.57c is to allow for consideration of Express Mail Market Response Rate Requests within 90 days, consistent with the procedural due process rights of interested persons.

[60 FR 12121, Mar. 6, 1995]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 60 FR 12119, Mar. 6, 1995, § 3001.57c was added, effective through March 6, 2000.

Subpart C—Rules Applicable to Requests for Establishing or Changing the Mail Classification Schedule

§ 3001.61 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart govern the procedure with regard to requests of the Postal Service pursuant to section 3623 of the Act that the Commission submit a recommended decision on establishing or changing the mail classification schedule. The Rules of General Applicability in subpart A of this part are also applicable to proceedings on requests subject to this subpart.

§ 3001.62 Filing of formal requests.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on establishing or changing the mail classification schedule, the Postal Service shall file with the Commission a formal request for a recommended decision. Such request shall be filed in accordance with the requirements of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.11 and § 3001.64. Within 5 days after the Postal Service has filed a formal request for a recommended decision in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall lodge a notice thereof with the Director of the Federal Register for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[38 FR 4330, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.63 Filing of prepared direct evidence.

Simultaneously with the filing of the formal request for a recommended decision under this subpart, the Postal Service shall file all of the prepared direct evidence upon which it proposes to rely in the proceeding on the record before the Commission to establish that the mail classification schedule or changes therein proposed by the Postal Service are in accordance with the policies and the applicable criteria of the Act. Such prepared direct evidence shall be in the form of prepared written testimony and documentary exhibits

which shall be filed in accordance with § 3001.31.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.64 Contents of formal requests.

(a) *General requirements.* (1) Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and bases as are necessary and appropriate fully to inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance, and impact of the proposed new mail classification schedule or the proposed changes therein and to show that the mail classification schedule as proposed to be established or changed is in accordance with the policies and the applicable criteria of the Act. To the extent the information is available or can be made available without undue burden, each formal request shall include the information specified in paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section. If the required information is set forth in the Postal Service's prepared direct evidence, it shall be deemed to be part of the formal request without restatement.

(2) If any information required by paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section is not available and cannot be made available without undue burden, the request shall provide where reference is made to this paragraph, in lieu of such information, a statement explaining with particularity:

(i) The information which is not available or cannot be made available without undue burden;

(ii) The reason or reasons that each such item of information is not available and cannot be made available without undue burden;

(iii) The steps or actions which would be needed to make each such item of information available, together with an estimate of the time and expense required therefor;

(iv) Whether it is contemplated that each such item of information will be supplied in the future and, if so, at what time; and

(v) Whether reliable estimates are available where such information cannot be furnished and, if so, the specifics of such estimates.

(3) The provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this section for the Postal Service to include in its formal request certain alternative information in lieu of that specified by paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section are not in derogation of the Commission's and the presiding officer's authority, pursuant to §§ 3001.23 through 3001.28, respecting the provision of information at a time following receipt of the formal request.

(4) The Commission may request information in addition to that required by paragraphs (b) through (h) of this section.

(b) *Classification and standards information.* (1) Every formal request shall include copies of the then effective Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the proposed changes therein, including, in legislative format, all proposed changes in the schedules of rate or rates of postage and fee or fees for postal services that appear therein.

(2) The schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall, for all classes and subclasses of mail and service, be in summary fashion and tariff-like form. (E.g., there shall be a specification of those rules, regulations, and practices which establish the conditions of mailability and the standards of service.) As a part thereof, the schedules shall specifically be addressed to such functions as mail pick-up and delivery, processing, and other similar functions.

(3) The schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall also contain a statement identifying the degree of economic substitutability between the various classes and subclasses, e.g., a description of cross-elasticity of demand as between various classes of mail.

(4) The schedules required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall be accompanied by an identification of all nonpostal services.

(c) *Mail characteristics.* Every formal request shall include such studies, information and data on the characteristics of the users of the Postal Service, the nature of the items mailed and the nature of the methods of mailing, which will assist the Commission in determining whether or not the proposed

mail classification schedule or the proposed changes therein are in accordance with the policies and the applicable criteria of the Act. Included, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, shall be:

(1) An identification of the characteristics of the mailer and recipient, and a description of the contents of items mailed within the various classes and subclasses of mail and service;

(2) An identification of the physical attributes of the items mailed by class and subclass, including shape, weight, and distance;

(3) To the extent the following information is not expressly included under paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a summary statement describing special service arrangements provided to, or requested or required of, mailers by the Postal Service which bear upon the cost of service or the value of the mail service to both the sender and the recipient, e.g., services relating to mailer preparations in excess of requirements specified by the Postal Service Manual, pick-up and delivery, expedited or deferred processing, and other similar activities performed.

(d) *Effects of proposed changes.* (1) Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, every formal request shall include a statement showing the effects of the proposed changes in the then effective classification schedule upon:

(i) The costs attributed and assigned to each class and subclass of mail or service as developed pursuant to § 3001.54(h);

(ii) The total accrued costs of the Postal Service developed pursuant to § 3001.54(f); and

(iii) The total revenues of the Postal Service and the revenues of each class and subclass of mail or service developed pursuant to § 3001.54(j).

(e) *Interclass changes.* Subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, whenever it is proposed that a portion of one existing class or subclass of mail or service be reassigned to another existing class or subclass of mail or service, every formal request shall include a comparison of the before and after costs and revenues associated with handling the relevant classes or subclasses of mail or service, and the before and after costs and revenues of the portion which is to be reassigned.

(f) *Statement of reasons.* Every formal request shall include a complete statement of the reasons and bases for the Postal Service's proposed mail classification schedule or proposed changes therein.

(g) *Workpapers.* (1) Whenever the Service files a formal request it shall accompany the request with seven sets of workpapers, five for use by the Commission staff and two which shall be available for use by the public at the Commission's offices.

(2) Workpapers shall contain:

(i) Detailed information underlying the data and submissions for paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section;

(ii) A description of the methods used in collecting, summarizing and expanding the data used in the various submissions;

(iii) Summaries of sample data, allocation factors and other data used for the various submissions;

(iv) The expansion ratios used (where applicable); and

(v) The results of any special studies used to modify, expand, project, or audit routinely collected data.

(3) Workpapers shall be neat and legible and shall indicate how they relate to the data and submissions supplied in response to paragraphs (b) through (f) of this section.

(4) Workpapers shall include citations sufficient to enable a reviewer to trace any number used but not derived in the associated testimony back to published documents or, if not obtained from published documents, to primary data sources. Citations shall be sufficiently detailed to enable a reviewer to identify and locate the specific data used, e.g., by reference to document, page, line, column, etc. With the exception of workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format, the required citations themselves, or a cross-reference to a specific page, line, and column of a table of citations, shall appear on each page of each workpaper. Workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format shall include the citations described in this paragraph for a sufficient number of representative examples to enable a reviewer to trace numbers directly or by analogy.

(h) *Matters affecting rates and fees.* (1) This paragraph applies to any proposed change in the then effective classification schedule which would result:

(i) In a change in the rates or fees for any existing class or subclass of mail and service, or

(ii) In the establishment of a new class or subclass of mail or service for which rates or fees are to be established, or

(iii) In a change in the relationship of the costs attributed or assigned to any class or subclass of mail or service to the revenues of that class or subclass of mail or service, or

(iv) In a change in the relationship of the total costs of the Postal Service to the total revenues.

(2) In the case of any proposed change in the then effective classification schedule covered by paragraph (h)(1) of this section, every formal request shall include, subject to paragraph (a)(2) of this section:

(i) The information required by paragraphs (b) through (h), (j) through (l), and (o) through (p) of § 3001.54, together with the statement and opinion required by paragraphs (q) and (r) of § 3001.54; and

(ii) A statement explaining to what extent the Postal Service has considered the criteria of section 3622 of the Act as justifying the rate consequences of the proposed classifications. The submission shall also include the identification of the relationship between the rates and fees for a particular class and subclass or service, the identification of the procedures and methods used to relate the residual costs which have not been attributed to any class and subclass of mail or service or groups thereof, and such other studies, information, and data relevant to the criteria established by section 3622 of the Act with appropriate explanations.

(3) The Commission may, upon the filing of a proper motion by the Postal Service, together with a showing of good cause therefor, waive certain of the above requirements if in the Commission's judgment it has been demonstrated that the proposed change in the classification schedule does not significantly change the rates and fees or the cost-revenue relationships referred to in paragraphs (h)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section.

(i) *Rejection of requests.* The Commission may reject any request under this subpart that patently fails to substantially comply with the requirements of this subpart.

[38 FR 7535, Mar. 22, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 18076, Apr. 5, 1977; 44 FR 26075, May 4, 1979; 45 FR 65575, Oct. 3, 1980; 50 FR 43393, Oct. 25, 1985; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.65 Service by the Postal Service.

Immediately after the issuance of an order or orders by the Commission designating an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in a proceeding before the Commission under this subpart, the Postal Service shall serve copies of its formal request for a recommended decision and its prepared direct evidence upon such officer and the intervenors as provided in § 3001.12. Service shall also be made on persons who are limited participators.

[38 FR 3511, Feb. 7, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.66 Failure to comply.

If the Postal Service fails to provide any information specified by this subpart, or otherwise required by the presiding officer or the Commission, the Commission, upon its own motion, or upon motion of any participant to the proceeding, may stay the proceeding until satisfactory compliance is achieved. The Commission will stay proceedings only if it finds that failure to supply adequate information interferes with the Commission's ability promptly to consider the request and to conduct its proceedings with expedition in accordance with the Act.

[38 FR 7536, Mar. 22, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.67 Requests involving experimental changes.

(a) This section and §§ 3001.67a through 3001.67d apply in cases where the Postal Service requests a recommended decision pursuant to section 3623 of the Postal Reorganization Act and denominates the new service or

change in an existing service as experimental in character. These sections do not apply to the situation in which a request not denominated as experimental by the Postal Service, either at the time of its filing or subsequently, is found to be justified by the Commission only on an experimental basis, following analysis of the record made in the proceedings on such a request.

(b) This section and §§ 3001.67a through 3001.67d are not intended to substitute for the rules generally governing requests for changes in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule in cases where the treatment of the proposed changes as experimental is not justified by the character of those changes. The Commission reserves the right, in appropriate cases, to require that the normal procedures prescribed for nonexperimental cases under section 3623 be used. In determining whether the procedures for experimental cases may be used in a particular case, the Commission will consider:

(1) The novelty of the proposed change;

(2) The magnitude of the proposed change, including its effect on postal costs, postal revenues, mailing costs and practices of users of the mails, and persons or firms offering services competitive with or alternative to the service offerings of the Postal Service;

(3) The ease or difficulty of generating or gathering data with respect to the proposed change; and

(4) The desired duration of the experiment as indicated by the Postal Service in its request and, specifically, in its proposed Domestic Mail Classification Schedule language.

(c) In the case of a proposal denominated as an experiment by the Postal Service, the Commission will entertain representations by parties to the case that the proposal should not be considered as an experiment and should follow the normal mail classification change procedures. The Commission does not contemplate entertaining representations by parties to a case filed under the normal procedures that the matter should be treated as an experiment under this section and §§ 3001.67a through 3001.67d.

[45 FR 83226, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 3001.67a Requests involving experimental changes—procedures for limitation of issues.

(a) The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism for the limiting of issues on which a trial-type hearing is required. It recognizes that in a proceeding properly designated as experimental under § 3001.67, some issues will be appropriate for determination on the basis of a less formal type of presentation and counterpresentation. It is the policy of this section to identify these issues at the earliest possible time and to employ less formal procedures to resolve them where the interests of expedition will be served thereby.

(b) At the earliest possible time following the filing of a request designated as experimental, or following the determination of any question as to whether such designation is proper, holding that such designation is proper, the parties will be required to file statements of the issues they perceive in the case. Each such statement shall designate with particularity those issues the party believes to be or involve genuine issues of material fact. Any party designating an issue as a genuine issue of material fact wholly or in part because of the Postal Service's statement that data called for by § 3001.64 are unavailable shall comply with the requirements of § 3001.67b. Responsive statements will be permitted within 10 days of the filing of initial statements.

(c) Following the exchange of statements of issues called for by paragraph (b) of this section, the Commission will determine which issues constitute genuine issues of material fact and concomitantly order the limitation of trial-type hearing procedures to those issues. The order issued for this purpose will also set forth to the greatest extent feasible the procedures to be followed in disposing of issues not found to be genuine issues of material fact. According to the nature of the individual issue, these procedures may include.

(1) Filing of written comments and reply comments;

(2) Conference procedures, followed or accompanied by the filing of written comments and reply comments; and

(3) Briefing and argument.

In determining the procedures to be followed with respect to issues not requiring a trial-type hearing, the Commission will seek to accommodate the needs of expedition and procedural fairness in accordance with section 3624(b) of the Act.

[45 FR 83226, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 3001.67b Requests involving experimental changes—unavailability of data.

If the Postal Service believes that data required to be filed under § 3001.64 are unavailable, it shall explain their unavailability as required by § 3001.64(a)(2)(i), (ii), and (iv). In particular, if the experimental character of the request bears on the unavailability of the data in question, the Postal Service shall explain in detail the nexus between these circumstances. A satisfactory explanation of the unavailability of data will be grounds for excluding from the proceeding a contention that the absence of the data should form a basis for rejection of the request, unless the party desiring to make such contention (a) demonstrates that, having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case, it was clearly unreasonable for the Postal Service to propose the change in question without having first secured the data which are unavailable, or (b) demonstrates other compelling and exceptional circumstances requiring that the absence of the data in question be treated as bearing on the merits of the proposal.

[45 FR 83227, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 3001.67c Requests involving experimental changes—plans for data collection.

(a) In any instance in which the Postal Service designates as unavailable data called for by § 3001.64, it shall, as part of its initial filing under that rule, either

(1) Describe with particularity the means it proposes to employ to collect those data, or

(2) State with particularity the reasons it believes establish that such data are unnecessary.

The Commission may by order require data to be collected during the course of the experiment which the Postal Service has not planned to collect, if it finds that a statement under paragraph (a)(2) of this section does not justify the omission to collect the particular data in issue.

(b) In the case of data which are not required to be filed under § 3001.64, but which the Postal Service intends to collect during and for the purposes of the proposed experimental change, the Postal Service shall include in its initial filing a detailed description of the data involved, the uses to which they would be put, and the methods to be employed in collecting them.

[45 FR 83227, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 3001.67d Requests involving experimental changes—time limit.

The Commission will treat cases falling under §§ 3001.67 through 3001.67d as subject to the maximum expedition consistent with procedural fairness. The schedule for adoption of a recommended decision will therefore be established, in each such case, to allow for issuance of such decision not more than 150 days from the determination of any issue as to the propriety of experimental treatment under § 3001.67 (b) and (c) in a sense favorable to such treatment, or from the date of the filing of the request, whichever occurs later. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the rights of the Postal Service or of other parties with respect to the temporary implementation of changes pursuant to section 3641 of the Act.

[45 FR 83227, Dec. 18, 1980]

§ 3001.68 Text of the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule.

The Domestic Mail Classification Schedule established in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 39 of the United States Code appears (with blank rate schedules) as appendix A to this subpart.

[50 FR 28144, July 10, 1985]

§ 3001.69 Expedited minor classification cases—applicability.

(a) This section and §§ 3001.69a through 3001.69c apply in cases where the Postal Service requests a recommended decision pursuant to section

3623 and seeks expedited review on the ground that the requested change in mail classification is minor in character. The requirements and procedures specified in these sections apply exclusively to the Commission's consideration of requested mail classification changes which the Postal Service denominates as, and the Commission finds to be, minor in character. A requested classification change may be considered to be minor in character if it:

(1) Would not involve a change in any existing rate or fee;

(2) Would not impose any restriction in addition to pre-existing conditions of eligibility for the entry of mail in an existing subclass or category of service, or for an existing rate element or work sharing discount; and

(3) Would not significantly increase or decrease the estimated institutional cost contribution of the affected subclass or category of service.

(b) This section and §§ 3001.69a through 69c are effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

[61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996, § 3001.69 was added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§ 3001.69a Expedited minor classification cases—filing of formal request and prepared direct evidence.

(a) Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a decision recommending a mail classification change, and to seek expedited review on the ground that the requested change is minor in character, it shall file a request for a change in mail classification pursuant to section 3623 that comports with the requirements of this section and of subpart C of this part. Each such formal request shall include the following particular information:

(1) A description of the proposed classification change or changes, including proposed changes in the text of the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and any pertinent rate schedules;

(2) A thorough explanation of the grounds on which the Postal Service submits that the requested change in mail classification is minor in character; and

(3) An estimate, prepared in the greatest level of detail practicable, of the overall impact of the requested change in mail classification on postal costs and revenues, mail users, and competitors of the Postal Service.

(b) If the Postal Service believes that data required to be filed under § 3001.64 are unavailable, it shall explain their unavailability, as required by § 3001.64(a)(2) (i), (ii), and (iv). If the Postal Service believes that any of the data or other information required to be filed under § 3001.64 should not be required in light of the minor character of the requested change in mail classification, it shall move for a waiver of that requirement, stating with particularity the reasons why the character of the request and its circumstances justify a waiver of the requirement. A satisfactory explanation of the unavailability of information required under § 3001.64, or of why it should not be required to support a particular request, will be grounds for excluding from the proceeding a contention that the absence of the information should form a basis for rejection of the request, unless the party desiring to make such contention:

(1) Demonstrates that, having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case, it was clearly unreasonable for the Postal Service to propose the change in question without having first secured the information and submitted it in accordance with § 3001.64; or

(2) Demonstrates other compelling and exceptional circumstances requiring that the absence of the information in question be treated as bearing on the merits of the proposal.

[61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996, § 3001.69a was added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§ 3001.69b Expedited minor classification cases—expedition of procedural schedule.

(a) The purpose of this section is to provide a schedule for expediting proceedings in which the Postal Service requests that the Commission recommend a change in mail classification and expedite consideration of that request on the ground that the change is minor in character.

(b) Persons who are interested in participating in proceedings to consider Postal Service requests for minor changes in mail classification may register at any time with the Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission, who shall maintain a publicly available list of the names and business addresses of all such registrants. Persons whose names appear on this list will automatically become parties to each proceeding in which the Postal Service requests a minor mail classification change pursuant to §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c. Parties may withdraw from the register or a particular case by filing a notice with the Secretary of the Commission.

(c) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, it shall on that same day effect service by hand delivery of the complete filing to each person registered pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section who maintains an address for service within the Washington metropolitan area and serve the complete filing by Priority Mail service on all other registrants. Each registrant is responsible for insuring that his or her address remains current.

(d) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, it shall on that same day send by First-Class Mail to all participants in the most recent omnibus rate case a notice which briefly describes its proposal. This notice shall indicate on its first page that it is a notice of a request for a minor change in mail classification to be considered under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, and identify the last day for filing a notice of intervention with the Commission.

(e) Within 5 days after receipt of a Postal Service request invoking the operation of §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, the Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding and provide for intervention by interested parties pursuant to § 3001.20. The notice of proceeding shall state that the Postal Service has denominated the mail classification change it requests a minor change, and has requested expedited consideration pursuant to §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c. The notice shall further state the grounds on which the Postal Service submits that the requested change in mail classification is minor in character, and shall afford all interested parties 26 days after filing of the Postal Service's request within which to intervene, submit responses to the Postal Service's request for consideration of its proposed mail classification change under the terms of §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, and request a hearing.

(f) Within 28 days after publication of the notice of proceeding pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section, the Commission shall decide whether to consider the request of the Postal Service as a minor classification change request under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, and shall issue an order in the proceeding incorporating that ruling. The Commission shall order a request to be considered under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c if it finds that:

(1) The requested classification change is minor in character, and

(2) The effects of the requested change are likely to be appropriately limited in scope and overall impact.

(g) If the Commission determines that the request of the Postal Service is not appropriate for consideration as a minor classification change request, no further procedures under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c shall be ordered, and the request will be considered in accordance with other appropriate provisions of Subpart C of this part.

(h) If the Commission determines that the Postal Service request is appropriate for consideration under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c, those respondents who request a hearing shall be directed to state with specificity within 14 days after publication of the notice the issues of material fact that require a hearing for resolution. Respondents shall also identify the fact or facts set forth in the Postal Service's filing that the party disputes, and when possible, what the party believes to be the true fact or facts and the evidence it intends to provide in support of its position.

(i) The Commission will hold hearings on a Postal Service request which is considered under §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c when it determines that there are genuine issues of material fact to be resolved, and that a hearing is needed to resolve those issues. Hearings on

the Postal Service request will commence within 21 days after issuance of the Commission order pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. Testimony responsive to the Postal Service request will be due 14 days after the conclusion of hearings on the Postal Service request.

[61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24453, May 15, 1996, § 3001.69b was added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§ 3001.69c Expedited minor classification cases—time limits.

The Commission will treat cases to which §§ 3001.69 through 3001.69c apply as subject to the maximum expedition consistent with procedural fairness. The schedule for adoption of a recommended decision will therefore be established, in each such case, to allow for issuance of such decision not more than 90 days after the filing of the request of the Postal Service if no hearing is held, and not more than 120 days after the filing of the request if a hearing is scheduled.

[61 FR 24454, May 15, 1996]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24454, May 15, 1996, § 3001.69c was added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

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EXPEDITED MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

110 DEFINITION

Expedited Mail is mail matter entered as Express Mail in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule. Any matter eligible for mailing may, at the option of the mailer, be mailed as Express Mail. Insurance is either included in Express Mail postage or is available for an additional charge, depending on the value and nature of the item sent by Express Mail.

120 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

121 SAME DAY AIRPORT SERVICE

Same Day Airport service is available between designated airport mail facilities.

122 CUSTOM DESIGNED SERVICE

122.1 General. Custom Designed service is available between designated postal facilities or other designated locations for mailable matter tendered in accordance with a service agreement between the Postal Service and the mailer. Service under a service agreement shall be offered in a manner consistent with 39 U.S.C. 403(c).

122.2 Service Agreement. A service agreement shall set forth the following:

a. The scheduled place for each shipment tendered for service to each specific destination;

b. Scheduled place for claim, or delivery, at destination for each scheduled shipment;

c. Scheduled time of day for tender at origin and for claim or delivery at destination.

122.3 Pickup and Delivery. Pickup at the mailer's premises, and/or delivery at an address other than the destination postal facility is provided under terms and conditions as prescribed by the Postal Service.

122.4 Commencement of Service Agreement. Service provided pursuant to a service agreement shall commence not more than 10 days after the signed service agreement is tendered to the Postal Service.

122.5 Termination of Service Agreement

122.51 Termination by Postal Service. Express Mail service provided pursuant to a service agreement may be terminated by the Postal Service upon 10 days prior written notice to the mailer if:

a. Service cannot be provided for reasons beyond the control of the Postal Service or because of changes in Postal Service facilities or operations, or

b. The mailer fails to adhere to the terms of the service agreement or this schedule.

122.52. Termination by Mailers. The mailer may terminate a service agreement, for any reason, by notice to the Postal Service.

123 NEXT DAY SERVICE AND SECOND DAY SERVICE

123.1 Availability of Services. Next Day and Second Day Services are available at designated retail postal facilities to designated destination facilities or locations for items tendered by the time or times prescribed by the Postal Service. Next Day Service is available for overnight delivery. Second Day Service is available for second day delivery.

123.2 Pickup Service. Pickup service is available for Next Day and Second Day Services under terms and conditions as prescribed by the Postal Service. Service shall be offered in a manner consistent with 39 U.S.C. 403(c).

130 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

Express Mail may not exceed 70 pounds or 108 inches in length and girth combined.

140 POSTAGE AND PREPARATION

Except as provided in Rate Schedules 121, 122 and 123, postage on Express Mail is charged on each piece. For shipments tendered in Express Mail pouches under a service agreement, each pouch is a piece.

150 DEPOSIT AND DELIVERY

151 DEPOSIT

Express Mail must be deposited at places designated by the Postal Service.

152 RECEIPT

A receipt showing the time and date of mailing will be provided to the mailer upon acceptance of Express Mail by the Postal Service. This receipt serves as evidence of mailing.

153 SERVICE

Express Mail service provides a high speed, high reliability service. Same Day Airport Express Mail will be dispatched on the next available transportation to the destination airport mail facility. Custom Designed Express Mail will be available for claim or delivery as specified in the service agreement.

154 FORWARDING AND RETURN

When Express Mail is returned, or forwarded, as prescribed by the Postal Service, there will be no additional charge.

160 ANCILLARY SERVICES

The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of applicable fees:

Service	Schedule
a. Address correction	SS–1
b. Return receipts	SS–16
c. COD	SS–6
d. Express Mail Insurance	SS–9

170 RATES AND FEES

The rates for Express Mail are set forth in the following rate schedules:

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c. Next Day Post Office-to-Post Office	123
d. Second Day Post Office-to-Post Office	123
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180 REFUNDS

181 PROCEDURE

Claims for refunds of postage must be filed within the period of time and under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

182 AVAILABILITY

182.1 Same Day Airport. The Postal Service will refund the postage for Same Day Airport Express Mail not available for claim by the time specified, unless the delay is caused by:

a. Strikes or work stoppage;

b. Delay or cancellation of flights; or

c. Governmental action beyond the control of Postal Service or air carriers.

182.2 Custom Designed. Except where a service agreement provides for claim, or delivery, of Custom Designed Express Mail more than 24 hours after scheduled tender at point of origin, the Postal Service will refund postage for such mail not available for claim, or not delivered, within 24 hours of mailing, unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage.

182.3 Next Day. Unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage, the Postal Service will refund postage for Next Day Express Mail not available for claim or not delivered:

a. By 10:00 a.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the next delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Post Office service;

b. By 3:00 p.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the next delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Addressee service.

182.4 Second Day. Unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage, the Postal Service will refund postage for Second Day Express Mail not available for claim or not delivered:

a. By 10:00 a.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the second delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Post Office service;

b. By 3:00 p.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the second delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Addressee service.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL CLAFFIFICATION SCHEDULE

210 DEFINITION

Any matter eligible for mailing may, at the option of the mailer, be mailed as First-Class Mail. The following must be mailed as First-Class Mail, unless mailed as Express Mail or exempt under title 39, United States Code, or except as authorized under sections 344.12, 344.23 and 443:

a. Mail sealed against postal inspection as set forth in section 5000;

b. Matter wholly or partially in handwriting or typewriting except as specifically permitted by sections 312, 313, 323, 344.22, and 446;

c. Matter having the character of actual and personal correspondence except as specifically permitted by sections 312, 313, 323, 344.22, and 446; and

d. Bills and statements of account.

220 DESCRIPTION OF SUBCLASSES

221 LETTERS AND SEALED PARCELS SUBCLASS

221.1 General. The Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass consists of First-Class Mail weighing 11 ounces or less that is not mailed under section 222 or 223.

221.2 Regular Rate Categories. The regular rate categories consist of Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail not mailed under section 221.3.

221.21 Single Piece Rate Category. The single piece rate category applies to regular rate Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail not mailed under section 221.22.

221.22 Presort Rate Category. The Presort rate category applies to Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the addressing and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

221.23 [Reserved]

221.24 Nonstandard Size Surcharge. Regular rate category Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail is subject to a surcharge if it is nonstandard size mail, as defined in section 232.

221.25 Presort Discount for Pieces Weighing More Than Two Ounces. Presort rate category Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail is eligible for an additional presort discount on each piece weighing more than two ounces.

221.3 Automation Rate Categories—Letters and Flats

221.31 General. The automation rate categories consist of Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail weighing 11 ounces or less that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as specified by the Postal Service;

c. Bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including

''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

221.32 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 221.33, 221.34, or 221.35.

221.33 Three-Digit Rate Category. The three-digit rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

221.34 Five-Digit Rate Category. The five-digit rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

221.35 Carrier Route Rate Category. The carrier route rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to carrier routes. It is available only for those carrier routes prescribed by the Postal Service.

221.36 Basic Flats Rate Category. The basic flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 221.37.

221.37 Three- and Five-Digit Flats Rate Category. The three- and five-digit flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as specified by the Postal Service.

221.38 Nonstandard Size Surcharge. Flat-size automation rate category pieces are subject to a surcharge if they are nonstandard size mail, as defined in section 232.

221.39 Presort Discount for Pieces Weighing More Than Two Ounces. Presorted automation rate category mail is eligible for an additional presort discount on each piece weighing more than two ounces.

221.4 Automation Rate Category—Parcels

221.41 Prebarcoded Parcel Rate Category. The prebarcoded parcel rate category applies to Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass nonpresorted mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 50 pieces;

b. Bears a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is marked and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires April 28, 1998.

222 Stamped Cards and Post Cards Subclass

222.1 Definition

222.11 Stamped Card. A Stamped Card is a card with postage imprinted or impressed on it and supplied by the Postal Service for the transmission of messages.

222.12 Post Card. A post card is a privately printed mailing card for the transmission of messages. To be eligible to be mailed as a First-Class post card, a card must be of uniform thickness and must not exceed any of the following dimensions:

a. 6 inches in length;

b. 4 1/4 inches in width;

c. 0.016 inch in thickness.

222.13 Double Cards. Double Stamped Cards or post cards may be mailed as Stamped Cards or post cards. A double Stamped Card or post card consists of two attached cards, one of which may be detached by the receiver and returned by mail as a single postal or post card.

222.2 Restriction. A mailpiece with any of the following characteristics is not mailable as a Stamped Card or post card unless it is prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service:

a. Numbers or letters unrelated to postal purposes appearing in the address portion of the card;

b. Punched holes;

c. Vertical tearing guide;

d. An address portion which is smaller than the remainder of the card.

222.3 Regular Rate Categories

222.31 Single Piece Rate Category. The single piece rate category applies

to regular rate Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail not mailed under section 222.32.

222.32 Presort Rate Category. The presort rate category applies to Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the addressing and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

222.4 Automation Rate Categories

222.41 General. The automation rate categories consist of Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as specified by the Postal Service;

c. Bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

222.42 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to automation rate category cards not mailed under section 222.43, 222.44, or 222.45.

222.43 Three-Digit Rate Category. The three-digit rate category applies to automation rate category cards presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

222.44 Five-Digit Rate Category. The five-digit rate category applies to automation rate category cards presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

222.45 Carrier Route Rate Category. The carrier route rate category applies to automation rate category cards presorted to carrier routes. It is available only for those carrier routes prescribed by the Postal Service.

223 PRIORITY MAIL

223.1 General. The Priority Mail subclass consists of:

a. First-Class Mail weighing more than 11 ounces; and

b. Any mailable matter which, at the option of the mailer, is mailed for expeditious mailing and transportation.

223.2 Single Piece Priority Mail Rate Category. The single piece priority mail rate category applies to Priority Mail subclass mail not mailed under section 223.3.

223.3 Presorted Priority Mail Rate Category. The presorted priority mail rate category applies to Priority Mail subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 300 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

223.4 Prebarcoded Priority Mail Parcel Rate Category. The prebarcoded Priority Mail Parcel rate category applies to Priority Mail subclass nonpresorted mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 50 pieces;

b. Bears a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is marked and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires April 28, 1998.

223.5 Flat Rate Envelope. Priority Mail subclass mail sent in a ''flat rate'' envelope provided by the Postal Service is charged the two-pound rate.

223.6 Pickup Service. Pickup service is available for Priority Mail subclass mail under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

223.7 Bulky Parcels. Priority Mail subclass mail weighing less than 15 pounds, and measuring over 84 inches in length and girth combined, is charged a minimum rate equal to that for a 15-pound parcel for the zone to which the piece is addressed.

230 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

231 SIZE AND WEIGHT

First-Class Mail may not exceed 70 pounds or 108 inches in length and girth combined. Additional size and weight limitations apply to individual First-Class Mail subclasses.

232 NONSTANDARD SIZE MAIL

Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass mail weighing one ounce or less is nonstandard size if:

a. Its aspect ratio does not fall between 1 to 1.3 and 1 to 2.5 inclusive; or

b. It exceeds any of the following dimensions:

i. 11.5 inches in length;

ii. 6.125 inches in width; or

iii. 0.25 inch in thickness.

240 POSTAGE AND PREPARATION

Postage on First-Class Mail must be paid as set forth in section 3000. Postage is computed separately on each piece of mail. Pieces not within the same postage rate increment may be mailed at other than a single piece rate as part of the same mailing only when specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed. All mail mailed at other than a single piece rate must have postage paid in a manner not requiring cancellation.

250 DEPOSIT AND DELIVERY

251 DEPOSIT

First-Class Mail must be deposited at places and times designated by the Postal Service.

252 SERVICE

First-Class Mail receives expeditious handling and transportation, except that when First-Class Mail is attached to or enclosed with mail of another class, the service of that class applies.

253 FORWARDING AND RETURN

First-Class Mail that is undeliverable-as-addressed is forwarded or returned to the sender without additional charge.

260 ANCILLARY SERVICES

First-Class Mail, except as otherwise noted, will receive the following additional services upon payment of the fees prescribed in the corresponding schedule:

Service	Schedule
a. Address correction	SS–1
b. Business reply mail	SS–2
c. Certificates of mailing	SS–4
d. Certified mail	SS–5
e. COD	SS–6
f. Insured mail	SS–9
g. Registered mail	SS–14
h. Return receipt (limited to merchandise sent by Priority Mail).	SS–16
i. Merchandise return	SS–20

270 RATES AND FEES

The rates and fees for First-Class Mail are set forth in the following rate schedules:

	Schedule
a. Letters and Sealed Parcels	221
b. Stamped Cards and Post Cards	222
c. Priority Mail	223
d. Fees	1000

280 AUTHORIZATIONS AND LICENSES

The fee set forth in Rate Schedule 1000 must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by any person who mails other than single piece First-Class Mail or courtesy envelope mail. Payment of the fee allows the mailer to mail at any First-Class rate.

STANDARD MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

310 DEFINITION

311 GENERAL

Any mailable matter may be mailed as Standard Mail except:

a. Matter required to be mailed as First-Class Mail;

b. Copies of a publication that is entered as Periodicals class mail, except copies sent by a printer to a publisher, and except copies that would have traveled at the former second-class transient rate. (The transient rate applied to individual copies of second-class mail forwarded and mailed by the public, as well as to certain sample copies mailed by publishers.)

312 PRINTED MATTER

Printed matter, including printed letters which according to internal evidence are being sent in identical terms to several persons, but which do not have the character of actual or personal correspondence, may be mailed as Standard Mail. Printed matter does not lose its character as Standard Mail when the date and name of the addressee and of the sender are written thereon. For the purposes of the Standard Mail Classification Schedule, ''printed'' does not include reproduction by handwriting or typewriting.

313 WRITTEN ADDITIONS

Standard Mail may have the following written additions placed on the wrapper, on a tag or label attached to the outside of the parcel, or inside the parcel, either loose or attached to the article:

a. Marks, numbers, name, or letters descriptive of contents;

b. ''Please Do Not Open Until Christmas,'' or words of similar import;

c. Instructions and directions for the use of an article in the package;

d. Manuscript dedication or inscription not in the nature of personal correspondence;

e. Marks to call attention to any word or passage in text;

f. Corrections of typographical errors in printed matter;

g. Manuscripts accompanying related proof sheets, and corrections in proof sheets to include: corrections of typographical and other errors, alterations of text, insertion of new text, marginal instructions to the printer, and rewrites of parts if necessary for correction;

h. Handstamped imprints, except when the added matter is itself personal or converts the original matter to a personal communication;

i. An invoice.

320 DESCRIPTION OF SUBCLASSES

321 SUBCLASSES LIMITED TO MAIL WEIGHING LESS THAN 16 OUNCES

321.1 Single Piece Subclass

321.11 Definition. The Single Piece subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing less than 16 ounces that is not mailed under sections 321.2, 321.3, 321.4, 321.5 or 323.

321.12 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to Single Piece subclass mail not mailed under section 321.13.

321.13 Keys and Identification Devices Rate Category. The keys and identification devices rate category applies to keys, identification cards, identification tags, or similar identification devices mailed without cover, and which bear, contain, or have securely attached the name and complete address of a person, organization, or concern, with instructions to return to such address and a statement guaranteeing the payment of postage due on delivery.

321.14 Nonstandard Size Surcharge. Single Piece subclass mail, other than that mailed under section 321.13, is subject to a surcharge if it is nonstandard size mail, as defined in section 333.

321.2 Regular Subclass

321.21 General. The Regular subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing less than 16 ounces that is not mailed under sections 321.1, 321.3, 321.4, 321.5 or 323.

321.22 Presort Rate Categories

321.221 General. The presort rate categories apply to Regular subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.222 Basic Rate Categories. The basic rate categories apply to presort rate category mail not mailed under section 321.223.

321.223 Three- and Five-Digit Rate Categories. The three- and five-digit rate categories apply to presort rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.23 Automation Rate Categories

321.231 General. The automation rate categories apply to Regular subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service;

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.232 Basic Barcoded Rate Category. The basic barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 321.233 or 321.234.

321.233 Three- Digit Barcoded Rate Category. The three-digit barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.234 Five-Digit Barcoded Rate Category. The five-digit barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.235 Basic Barcoded Flats Rate Category. The basic barcoded flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 321.236.

321.236 Three- and Five-Digit Barcoded Flats Rate Category. The three- and five-digit barcoded flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.24 Destination Entry Discount. The destination entry discounts apply to Regular subclass mail prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service and addressed for delivery within the service area of the BMC (or auxiliary service facility), or sectional center facility (SCF), at which it is entered, as defined by the Postal Service.

321.3 Enhanced Carrier Route Subclass

321.31 Definition. The Enhanced Carrier Route subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing less than 16 ounces that is not mailed under section 321.1, 321.2, 321.4, 321.5 or 323, and that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is prepared, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is presorted to carrier routes as prescribed by the Postal Service;

d. Is sequenced as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

e. Meets the machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.32 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail not mailed under section 321.33, 321.34 or 321.35.

321.33 Basic Pre-Barcoded Rate Category. The basic pre-barcoded rate category applies to letter-size Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail which bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits), as prescribed by the Postal Service, and which meets the machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.34 High Density Rate Category. The high density rate category applies to Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail presented in walk-sequence order and meeting the high density requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.35 Saturation Rate Category. The saturation rate category applies to Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail presented in walk-sequence order and meeting the saturation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.36 Destination Entry Discounts. Destination entry discounts apply to Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service and addressed for delivery within the service area of the BMC (or auxiliary service facility), sectional center facility (SCF), or destination delivery unit (DDU) at which it is entered, as defined by the Postal Service.

321.4 Nonprofit Subclass

321.41 General. The Nonprofit subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing less than 16 ounces that is not mailed under section 321.1, 321.2, 321.3, 321.5 or 323, and that is mailed by authorized nonprofit organizations or associations of the following types:

a. Religious, as defined in section 1009,

b. Educational, as defined in section 1009,

c. Scientific, as defined in section 1009,

d. Philanthropic, as defined in section 1009,

e. Agricultural, as defined in section 1009,

f. Labor, as defined in section 1009,

g. Veterans', as defined in section 1009,

h. Fraternal, as defined in section 1009,

i. Qualified political committees,

j. State or local voting registration officials when making a mailing required or authorized by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

321.411 Qualified Political Committees. The term ''qualified political committee'' means a national or State committee of a political party, the Republican and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committees, the Democratic National Congressional Committee, and the National Republican Congressional Committee:

a. The term ''national committee'' means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the national level; and

b. The term ''State committee'' means the organization which, by virtue of the bylaws of a political party, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of such political party at the State level.

321.412 Limitation on Authorization. An organization authorized to mail at the nonprofit Standard rates for qualified nonprofit organizations may mail only its own matter at these rates. An organization may not delegate or lend the use of its permit to mail at special Standard rates to any other person, organization or association.

321.42 Presort Rate Categories

321.421 General. The presort rate categories apply to Nonprofit subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.422 Basic Rate Categories. The basic rate categories apply to presort rate category mail not mailed under section 321.423.

321.423 Three-and Five-Digit Rate Categories. The three-and five-digit rate categories apply to presort rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three-and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.43 Automation Rate Categories

321.431 General. The automation rate categories apply to Nonprofit subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service;

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.432 Basic Barcoded Rate Category. The basic barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 321.433 or 321.434.

321.433 Three-Digit Barcoded Rate Category. The three-digit barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.434 Five-Digit Barcoded Rate Category. The five-digit barcoded rate category applies to letter-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code

destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.435 Basic Barcoded Flats Rate Category. The basic barcoded flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail not mailed under section 321.436.

321.436 Three- and Five-Digit Barcoded Flats Rate Category. The three- and five-digit barcoded flats rate category applies to flat-size automation rate category mail presorted to single or multiple three-and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.44 Destination Entry Discounts. Destination entry discounts apply to Nonprofit subclass mail prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service and addressed for delivery within the service area of the BMC (or auxiliary service facility) or sectional center facility (SCF) at which it is entered, as defined by the Postal Service.

321.5 Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route Subclass

321.51 Definition. The Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing less than 16 ounces that is not mailed under section 321.1, 321.2, 321.3, 321.4 or 323, that is mailed by authorized nonprofit organizations or associations (as defined in section 321.41) under the terms and limitations stated in section 321.412, and that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 200 addressed pieces or 50 pounds of addressed pieces;

b. Is prepared, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is presorted to carrier routes as prescribed by the Postal Service;

d. Is sequenced as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

e. Meets the machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.52 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail not mailed under section 321.53, 321.54 or 321.55.

321.53 Basic Pre-Barcoded Rate Category. The basic pre-barcoded rate category applies to letter-size Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail which bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits), as prescribed by the Postal Service, and which meets the machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.54 High Density Rate Category. The high density rate category applies to Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail presented in walk-sequence order and meeting the high density requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.55 Saturation Rate Category. The saturation rate category applies to Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail presented in walk-sequence order and meeting the saturation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

321.56 Destination Entry Discounts. Destination entry discounts apply to Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service and addressed for delivery within the service area of the BMC (or auxiliary service facility), sectional center facility (SCF), or destination delivery unit (DDU) at which it is entered, as defined by the Postal Service.

322 Subclasses Limited to Mail Weighing 16 Ounces or More

322.1 Parcel Post Subclass

322.11 Definition. The Parcel Post subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing 16 ounces or more that is not mailed under sections 322.3, 323.1, or 323.2.

322.12 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to all Parcel Post subclass mail not mailed under sections 322.13 or 322.14.

322.13 [Reserved]**

**Revised language describing the bulk parcel post rate category was not accepted in Docket No. MC95–1. The following description, last amended in Docket No. R84–1, remains in effect.

400.0202 Bulk

Bulk parcel post mail is fourth-class parcel post mail consisting of properly prepared and separated single mailings of at least 300 pieces or 2000 pounds. Pieces weighing less than 15 pounds

and measuring over 84 inches in length and girth combined are not mailable as bulk parcel post. Provision for mailing nonidentical pieces is set forth in section 400.046.

322.14 Destination BMC Rate Category. Parcel Post subclass mail is eligible for destination BMC rates if it is included in a mailing of at least 50 pieces deposited at the destination BMC, auxiliary service facility, or other equivalent facility, as prescribed by the Postal Service.

322.15 Intra-BMC Discount. Basic rate category Parcel Post subclass mail is eligible for the intra-BMC discount if it originates and destinates within the same BMC or auxiliary service facility service area, Alaska, Hawaii or Puerto Rico.

322.16 Nonmachinable Surcharge. Basic rate category Parcel Post subclass mail that does not meet machinability criteria prescribed by the Postal Service is subject to a nonmachinable surcharge.

322.17 Pickup Service. Pickup service is available for Parcel Post subclass mail under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

322.2 [Reserved]

322.3 Bound Printed Matter Subclass

322.31 Definition. The Bound Printed Matter subclass consists of Standard Mail weighing at least 16 ounces, but not more than 10 pounds, which:

a. Consists of advertising, promotional, directory, or editorial material, or any combination thereof;

b. Is securely bound by permanent fastenings including, but not limited to, staples, spiral bindings, glue, and stitching; loose leaf binders and similar fastenings are not considered permanent;

c. Consists of sheets of which at least 90 percent are imprinted with letters, characters, figures or images or any combination of these, by any process other than handwriting or typewriting;

d. Does not have the nature of personal correspondence;

e. Is not stationery, such as pads of blank printed forms.

322.32 Single Piece Rate Category. The single piece rate category applies to Bound Printed Matter subclass mail which is not mailed under section 322.33 or 322.34.

322.33 Bulk Rate Category. The bulk rate category applies to Bound Printed Matter subclass mail prepared in a mailing of at least 300 pieces, prepared and presorted as prescribed by the Postal Service.

322.34 Carrier Route Presort Rate Category. The carrier route rate category applies to Bound Printed Matter subclass mail prepared in a mailing of at least 300 pieces of carrier route presorted mail, prepared and presorted as prescribed by the Postal Service.

323 Subclasses With No 16-Ounce Limitation

323.1 Special Subclass

323.11 Definition. The Special subclass consists of Standard Mail of the following types:

a. Books, including books issued to supplement other books, of at least eight printed pages, consisting wholly of reading matter or scholarly bibliography or reading matter with incidental blank spaces for notations, and containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books. Not more than three of the announcements may contain as part of their format a single order form, which may also serve as a post card. The order forms permitted in this subsection are in addition to and not in lieu of order forms which may be enclosed by virtue of any other provision;

b. 16 millimeter or narrower width films which must be positive prints in final form for viewing, and catalogs of such films, of 24 pages or more, at least 22 of which are printed, except when sent to or from commercial theaters;

c. Printed music, whether in bound form or in sheet form;

d. Printed objective test materials and accessories thereto used by or in behalf of educational institutions in the testing of ability, aptitude, achievement, interests and other mental and personal qualities with or without answers, test scores or identifying information recorded thereon in writing or by mark;

e. Sound recordings, including incidental announcements of recordings and guides or scripts prepared solely

for use with such recordings. Not more than three of the announcements permitted in this subsection may contain as part of their format a single order form, which may also serve as a post card. The order forms permitted in this subsection are in addition to and not in lieu of order forms which may be enclosed by virtue of any other provision;

f. Playscripts and manuscripts for books, periodicals and music;

g. Printed educational reference charts, permanently processed for preservation;

h. Printed educational reference charts, including but not limited to;

i. Mathematical tables;

ii. Botanical tables;

iii. Zoological tables; and

iv. Maps produced primarily for educational reference purposes;

i. Looseleaf pages and binders therefor, consisting of medical information for distribution to doctors, hospitals, medical schools, and medical students; and

j. Computer-readable media containing prerecorded information and guides or scripts prepared solely for use with such media.

323.12 Single Piece Rate Category. The single piece rate category applies to Special subclass mail not mailed under section 323.13 or 323.14.

323.13 Level A Presort Rate Category. The Level A presort rate category applies to mailings of at least 500 pieces of Special subclass mail, prepared and presorted to five-digit destination ZIP Codes as prescribed by the Postal Service.

323.14 Level B Presort Rate Category. The Level B presort rate category applies to mailing of at least 500 pieces of Special subclass mail, prepared and presorted to destination Bulk Mail Centers as prescribed by the Postal Service.

323.2 Library Subclass

323.21 Definition

323.211 General. The Library subclass consists of Standard Mail of the following types, separated or presorted as prescribed by the Postal Service:

a. Matter designated in subsection 323.213, loaned or exchanged (including cooperative processing by libraries) between:

i. Schools or colleges, or universities;

ii. Public libraries, museums and herbaria, nonprofit religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans' or fraternal organizations or associations, or between such organizations and their members, readers or borrowers.

b. Matter designated in subsection 323.214, mailed to or from schools, colleges, universities, public libraries, museums and herbaria and to or from nonprofit religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans' or fraternal organizations or associations; or

c. Matter designated in subsection 323.215, mailed from a publisher or a distributor to a school, college, university or public library.

323.212 Definition of Nonprofit Organizations and Associations. Nonprofit organizations or associations are defined in section 1009.

323.213 Library subclass mail under section 323.211a. Matter eligible for mailing as Library subclass mail under section 323.211a consists of:

a. Books consisting wholly of reading matter or scholarly bibliography or reading matter with incidental blank spaces for notations and containing no advertising other than incidental announcements of books;

b. Printed music, whether in bound form or in sheet form;

c. Bound volumes of academic theses in typewritten or other duplicated form;

d. Periodicals, whether bound or unbound;

e. Sound recordings;

f. Other library materials in printed, duplicated or photographic form or in the form of unpublished manuscripts; and

g. Museum materials, specimens, collections, teaching aids, printed matter and interpretative materials intended to inform and to further the educational work and interest of museums and herbaria.

323.214 Library subclass mail under section 323.211b. Matter eligible for mailing as Library subclass mail under section 323.211b consists of:

a. 16-millimeter or narrower width films; filmstrips; transparencies; slides; microfilms; all of which must be positive prints in final form for viewing;

b. Sound recordings;

c. Museum materials, specimens, collections, teaching aids, printed matter, and interpretative materials intended to inform and to further the educational work and interests of museums and herbaria;

d. Scientific or mathematical kits, instruments or other devices;

e. Catalogs of the materials in section 323.214 a through d and guides or scripts prepared solely for use with such materials.

323.215 Library subclass mail under section 323.211c. Matter eligible for mailing as Library subclass mail under section 323.211c consists of books, including books to supplement other books, consisting wholly of reading matter or scholarly bibliography or reading matter with incidental blank spaces for notations, and containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books.

323.22 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to all Library subclass mail.

330 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

331 SIZE

Standard Mail may not exceed 108 inches in length and girth combined. Additional size limitations apply to individual Standard Mail subclasses. The maximum size for mail presorted to carrier route in the Enhanced Carrier Route and Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclasses is 14 inches in length, 11.75 inches in width, and 0.75 inch in thickness. For merchandise samples mailed with detached address cards, the carrier route maximum dimensions apply to the detached address cards and not to the samples.

332 WEIGHT

Standard Mail may not weigh more than 70 pounds. Additional weight limitations apply to individual Standard Mail subclasses.

333 NONSTANDARD SIZE MAIL

Single Piece subclass mail weighing one ounce or less is nonstandard size if:

a. Its aspect ratio does not fall between 1 to 1.3 and 1 to 2.5 inclusive; or

b. It exceeds any of the following dimensions:

i. 11.5 inches in length;

i. 6.125 inches in width; or

iii. 0.25 inch in thickness.

340 POSTAGE AND PREPARATION

341 POSTAGE

Postage must be paid as set forth in section 3000. When the postage computed at a Single Piece, Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit or Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route Standard rate is higher than the rate prescribed in any of the Standard subclasses listed in 322 or 323 for which the piece also qualifies (or would qualify, except for weight), the piece is eligible for the applicable lower rate. All mail mailed at a bulk or presort rate must have postage paid in a manner not requiring cancellation.

342 PREPARATION

All pieces in a Standard mailing must be separately addressed. All pieces in a Standard mailing must be identified as prescribed by the Postal Service, and must contain the ZIP Code of the addressee when prescribed by the Postal Service. All Standard mailings must be prepared and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service. Two or more Standard mailings may be commingled and mailed only when specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed.

343 NON-IDENTICAL PIECES

Pieces not identical in size and weight may be mailed at a bulk or presort rate as part of the same mailing only when specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed.

344 ATTACHMENTS AND ENCLOSURES

344.1 Single Piece, Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit and Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route Subclasses (section 321)

344.11 General. First-Class Mail may be attached to or enclosed in Standard books, catalogs, and merchandise entered under section 321. The piece must be marked as prescribed by the Postal Service. Except as provided in section 344.12, additional postage must be paid for the attachment or enclosure as if it had been mailed separately. Otherwise, the entire combined piece is subject to the First-Class rate for which it qualifies.

344.12 Incidental First-Class Attachments and Enclosures. First-Class Mail, as defined in section 210 b through d, may be attached to or enclosed with Standard merchandise entered under section 321, including books but excluding merchandise samples, with postage paid on the combined piece at the applicable Standard rate, if the attachment or enclosure is incidental to the piece to which it is attached or with which it is enclosed.

344.2 Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Subclasses (sections 322 and 323)

344.21 General. First-Class Mail or Standard Mail from any of the subclasses listed in section 321 (Single Piece, Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit or Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route) may be attached to or enclosed in Standard Mail mailed under sections 322 and 323. The piece must be marked as prescribed by the Postal Service. Except as provided in sections 344.22 and 344.23, additional postage must be paid for the attachment or enclosure as if it had been mailed separately. Otherwise, the entire combined piece is subject to the First-Class or section 321 Standard rate for which it qualifies (unless the rate applicable to the host piece is higher), or, if a combined piece with a section 321 Standard Mail attachment or enclosure weighs 16 ounces or more, the piece is subject to the Parcel Post rate for which it qualifies.

344.22 Specifically Authorized Attachments and Enclosures. Standard Mail mailed under sections 322 and 323 may contain enclosures and attachments as prescribed by the Postal Service and as described in section 323.11 a and e, with postage paid on the combined piece at the Standard rate applicable to the host piece.

344.23 Incidental First-Class Attachments and Enclosures. First-Class Mail that meets one or more of the definitions in section 210 b through d, may be attached to or enclosed with Standard Mail mailed under section 322 or 323, with postage paid on the combined piece at the Standard rate applicable to the host piece, if the attachment or enclosure is incidental to the piece to which it is attached or with which it is enclosed.

350 DEPOSIT AND DELIVERY

351 DEPOSIT

Standard Mail must be deposited at places and times designated by the Postal Service.

352 SERVICE

Standard Mail may receive deferred service.

353 FORWARDING AND RETURN

353.1 Single Piece, Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit and Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route Subclasses (section 321)

Undeliverable-as-addressed Standard Mail mailed under section 321 will be returned on request of the mailer, or forwarded and returned on request of the mailer. Undeliverable-as-addressed combined First-Class and Standard pieces will be returned as prescribed by the Postal Service. The Single Piece Standard rate is charged for each piece receiving return only service. Charges for forwarding-and-return service are assessed only on those pieces which cannot be forwarded and are returned. The charge for those returned pieces is the appropriate Single Piece Standard rate for the piece plus that rate multiplied by a factor equal to the number of section 321 Standard pieces nationwide that are successfully forwarded for every one piece that cannot be forwarded and must be returned.

353.2 Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Subclasses (sections 322 and 323)

Undeliverable-as-addressed Standard Mail mailed under sections 322 and 323 will be forwarded on request of the addressee, returned on request of the mailer, or forwarded and returned on request of the mailer. Pieces which combine Standard Mail from one of the subclasses described in 322 and 323 with First-Class Mail or Standard Mail from one of the subclasses described in 321 will be forwarded if undeliverable-as-addressed, and returned if undeliverable, as prescribed by the Postal Service. When Standard Mail mailed under sections 322 and 323 is forwarded or returned from one post office to another, additional charges will be based on the appropriate Single Piece Standard rate.

360 ANCILLARY SERVICES

361 ALL SUBCLASSES

All Standard Mail will receive the following services upon payment of the appropriate fees:

Service	Schedule
a. Address correction	SS–1
b. Certificates of mailing indicating that a specified number of pieces have been mailed.	SS–4

Certificates of mailing are not available for Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit and Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail when postage is paid by permit imprint.

362 SINGLE PIECE, PARCEL POST, BOUND PRINTED MATTER, SPECIAL, AND LIBRARY SUBCLASSES

Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library subclass mail will receive the following additional services upon payment of the appropriate fees:

Service	Schedule
a. Certificates of mailing	SS–4
b. COD	SS–6
c. Insured mail	SS–9
d. Special handling	SS–18
e. Return receipt (merchandise only)	SS–16
f. Merchandise return	SS–20

Insurance, special handling, and COD services may not be used selectively for individual pieces in a multi-piece Parcel Post subclass mailing unless specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed.

370 RATES AND FEES

The rates and fees for Standard Mail are set forth as follows:

	Schedule
a. Single Piece subclass	321.1
b. Regular subclass	321.2
c. Enhanced Carrier Route subclass	321.3
d. Nonprofit subclass	321.4
e. Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass	321.5
f. Parcel Post subclass:	
Basic	322.1A
Destination BMC	322.1B
g. Bound Printed Matter subclass:	
Single Piece	322.3A
Bulk and Carrier Route	322.3B
h Special subclass	323.1
i. Library subclass	323.2
j. Fees	1000

380 AUTHORIZATIONS AND LICENSES

381 REGULAR, ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE, NONPROFIT AND NONPROFIT ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE SUBCLASSES

A mailing fee as set forth in Rate Schedule 1000 must be paid once each year by mailers of Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route, Nonprofit and Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route subclass mail.

382 SPECIAL SUBCLASS

A presort mailing fee as set forth in Rate Schedule 1000 must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by or for any person who mails presorted Special subclass mail. Any person who engages a business concern or other individuals to mail presorted Special subclass mail must pay the fee.

383 PARCEL POST SUBCLASS

A mailing fee as set forth in Rate Schedule 1000 must be paid once each year by mailers of Destination BMC rate category mail in the Parcel Post subclass.

PERIODICALS CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

410 DEFINITION

411 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

411.1 Definition. A publication may qualify for mailing under the Periodicals Classification Schedule if it meets all of the requirements in sections 411.2 through 411.5 and the requirements for one of the qualification categories in sections 412 through 415. Eligibility for specific Periodicals rates is prescribed in section 420.

411.2 Periodicals. Periodicals class mail is mailable matter consisting of newspapers and other periodical publications. The term ''periodical publications'' includes, but is not limited to:

a. Any catalog or other course listing including mail announcements of legal texts which are part of post-bar admission education issued by any institution of higher education or by a nonprofit organization engaged in continuing legal education.

b. Any looseleaf page or report (including any index, instruction for filing, table, or sectional identifier which is an integral part of such report) which is designed as part of a looseleaf reporting service concerning developments in the law or public policy.

411.3 Issuance

411.31 Regular Issuance. Periodicals class mail must be regularly issued at stated intervals at least four times a year, bear a date of issue, and be numbered consecutively.

411.32 Separate Publication. For purposes of determining Periodicals rate eligibility, an ''issue'' of a newspaper or other periodical shall be deemed to be a separate publication when the following conditions exist:

a. The issue is published at a regular frequency more often than once a month either on (1) the same day as another regular issue of the same publication; or (2) on a day different from regular issues of the same publication, and

b. More than 10 percent of the total number of copies of the issue is distributed on a regular basis to recipients who do not subscribe to it or request it, and

c. The number of copies of the issue distributed to nonsubscribers or nonrequesters is more than twice the number of copies of any other issue distributed to nonsubscribers or nonrequesters on that same day, or, if no other issue that day, any other issue distributed during the same period. ''During the same period'' shall be defined as the periods of time ensuing between the distribution of each of the issues whose eligibility is being examined. Such separate publications must independently meet the qualifications for Periodicals eligibility.

411.4 Office of Publication. Periodicals class mail must have a known office of publication. A known office of publication is a public office where business of the publication is transacted during the usual business hours. The office must be maintained where the publication is authorized original entry.

411.5 Printed Sheets. Periodicals class mail must be formed of printed sheets. It may not be reproduced by stencil, mimeograph, or hectograph processes, or reproduced in imitation of typewriting. Reproduction by any other printing process is permissible. Any style of type may be used.

412 GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

412.1 Definition. To qualify as a General Publication, Periodicals class mail must meet the requirements in section 411 and in sections 412.2 through 412.4.

412.2 Dissemination of Information. A General Publication must be originated and published for the purpose of disseminating information of a public character, or devoted to literature, the sciences, art, or some special industry.

412.3 Paid Circulation

412.31 Total Distribution. A General Publication must be designed primarily for paid circulation. At least 50 percent or more of the copies of the publication must be distributed to persons who have paid above a nominal rate.

412.32 List of Subscribers. A General Publication must be distributed to a legitimate list of persons who have subscribed by paying or promising to pay at a rate above nominal for copies to be received during a stated time. Copies

mailed to persons who are not on a legitimate list of subscribers are nonsubscriber copies.

412.33 Nominal Rates. As used in section 412.31, nominal rate means:

a. A token subscription price that is so low that it cannot be considered a material consideration;

b. A reduction to the subscriber, under a premium offer or any other arrangements, of more than 50 percent of the amount charged at the basic annual rate for a subscriber to receive one copy of each issue published during the subscription period. The value of a premium is considered to be its actual cost to the publishers, the recognized retail value, or the represented value, whichever is highest.

412.34 Nonsubscriber Copies

412.341 Up to Ten Percent. Nonsubscriber copies, including sample and complimentary copies, mailed at any time during the calendar year up to and including 10 percent of the total number of copies mailed to subscribers during the calendar year are mailable at the rates that apply to subscriber copies provided that the nonsubscriber copies would have been eligible for those rates if mailed to subscribers.

412.342 Over Ten Percent. Nonsubscriber copies, including sample and complimentary copies, mailed at any time during the calendar year, in excess of 10 percent of the total number of copies mailed to subscribers during the calendar year which are presorted and commingled with subscriber copies are charged the applicable rates for Regular Periodicals. The 10 percent limitation for a publication is based on the total number of all copies of that publication mailed to subscribers during the calendar year.

412.35 Advertiser's Proof Copies. One complete copy of each issue of a General Publication may be mailed to each advertiser in that issue as an advertiser's proof copy at the rates that apply to subscriber copies, whether the advertiser's proof copy is mailed to the advertiser directly or, instead, to an advertising representative or agent of the publication. These copies count as subscriber copies.

412.36 Expired Subscriptions. For six months after a subscription has expired, copies of a General Publication may be mailed to a former subscriber at the rates that apply to copies mailed to subscribers, if the publisher has attempted during that six months to obtain payment, or a promise to pay, for renewal. These copies do not count as subscriber copies.

412.4 Advertising Purposes

A General Publication may not be designed primarily for advertising purposes. A publication is ''designed primarily for advertising purposes'' if it:

a. Has advertising in excess of 75 percent in more than one-half of its issues during any 12-month period;

b. Is owned or controlled by individuals or business concerns and conducted as an auxiliary to and essentially for the advancement of the main business or calling of those who own or control it;

c. Consists principally of advertising and editorial write-ups of the advertisers;

d. Consists principally of advertising and has only a token list of subscribers, the circulation being mainly free;

e. Has only a token list of subscribers and prints advertisements free for advertisers who pay for copies to be sent to a list of persons furnished by the advertisers; or

f. Is published under a license from individuals or institutions and features other businesses of the licensor.

413 REQUESTER PUBLICATIONS

413.1 Definition. A publication which is circulated free or mainly free may qualify for Periodicals class as a Requester Publication if it meets the requirements in sections 411, and 413.2 through 413.4.

413.2 Minimum Pages. It must contain at least 24 pages.

413.3 Advertising Purposes

413.31 Advertising Percentage. It must devote at least 25 percent of its pages to nonadvertising and not more than 75 percent to advertisements.

413.32 Ownership and Control. It must not be owned or controlled by one or more individuals or business concerns and conducted as an auxiliary to and essentially for the advancement of

the main business or calling of those who own or control it.

413.4 Circulated to Requesters

413.41 List of Requesters. It must have a legitimate list of persons who request the publication, and 50 percent or more of the copies of the publication must be distributed to persons making such requests. Subscription copies paid for or promised to be paid for, including those at or below a nominal rate may be included in the determination of whether the 50 percent request requirement is met. Persons will not be deemed to have requested the publication if their request is induced by a premium offer or by receipt of material consideration, provided that mere receipt of the publication is not material consideration.

413.42 Nonrequester Copies

413.421 Up to Ten Percent. Nonrequester copies, including sample and complimentary copies, mailed at any time during the calendar year up to and including 10 percent of the total number of copies mailed to requesters during the calendar year are mailable at the rates that apply to requester copies provided that the nonrequester copies would have been eligible for those rates if mailed to requesters.

413.422 Over Ten Percent. Nonrequester copies, including sample and complimentary copies, mailed at any time during the calendar year, in excess of 10 percent of the total number of copies mailed to requesters during the calendar year which are presorted and commingled with requester copies are charged the applicable rates for Regular Periodicals. The 10 percent limitation for a publication is based on the total number of all copies of that publication mailed to requesters during the calendar year.

413.43 Advertiser's Proof Copies. One complete copy of each issue of a Requester Publication may be mailed to each advertiser in that issue as an advertiser's proof copy at the rates that apply to requester copies, whether the advertiser's proof copy is mailed to the advertiser directly or, instead, to an advertising representative or agent of the publication. These copies count as requester copies.

414 PUBLICATIONS OF INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIETIES

414.1 Publisher's Own Advertising. Except as provided in section 414.2, a publication which meets the requirements of sections 411 and 412.4, and which contains no advertising other than that of the publisher, qualifies for Periodicals class as a publication of an institution or society if it is:

a. Published by a regularly incorporated institution of learning;

b. Published by a regularly established state institution of learning supported in whole or in part by public taxation;

c. A bulletin issued by a state board of health or a state industrial development agency;

d. A bulletin issued by a state conservation or fish and game agency or department;

e. A bulletin issued by a state board or department of public charities and corrections;

f. Published by a public or nonprofit private elementary or secondary institution of learning or its administrative or governing body;

g. Program announcements or guides published by an educational radio or television agency of a state or political subdivision thereof, or by a nonprofit educational radio or television station;

h. Published by or under the auspices of a benevolent or fraternal society or order organized under the lodge system and having a bona fide membership of not less than 1,000 persons;

i. Published by or under the auspices of a trade(s) union;

j. Published by a strictly professional, literary, historical, or scientific society; or,

k. Published by a church or church organization.

414.2 General Advertising. A publication published by an institution or society identified in sections 414.1 h through k, may contain advertising of other persons, institutions, or concerns, if the following additional conditions are met:

a. The publication is originated and published to further the objectives and purposes of the society;

b. Circulation is limited to:

i. Copies mailed to members who pay either as a part of their dues or assessment or otherwise, not less than 50 percent of the regular subscription price;

ii. Other actual subscribers; and

iii. Exchange copies.

c. The circulation of nonsubscriber copies, including sample and complimentary copies, does not exceed 10 percent of the total number of copies referred to in 414.2b.

415 PUBLICATIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE

A publication which is issued by a state department of agriculture and which meets the requirements of sections 411 qualifies for Periodicals class as a publication of a state department of agriculture if it contains no advertising and is published for the purpose of furthering the objects of the department.

416 FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Foreign newspapers and other periodicals of the same general character as domestic publications entered as Periodicals class mail may be accepted on application of the publishers thereof or their agents, for transmission through the mail at the same rates as if published in the United States. This section does not authorize the transmission through the mail of a publication which violates a copyright granted by the United States.

420 DESCRIPTION OF SUBCLASSES

421 REGULAR SUBCLASS

421.1 Definition. The Regular subclass consists of Periodicals class mail that is not mailed under section 423 and that:

a. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

b. Meets machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.2 Regular Pound Rates

An unzoned pound rate applies to the nonadvertising portion of Regular subclass mail. A zoned pound rate applies to the advertising portion and may be reduced by applicable destination entry discounts. The pound rate postage is the sum of the nonadvertising portion charge and the advertising portion charge.

421.3 Regular Piece Rates

421.31 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to all Regular subclass mail not mailed under section 421.32 or 421.33.

421.32 Three-Digit City and Five-Digit Rate Category. The rates for this category apply to Regular subclass mail presorted to three-digit cities and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.33 Carrier Route Rate Category. The carrier route rate category applies to Regular subclass mail presorted to carrier routes as prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.4 Regular Subclass Discounts

421.41 Barcoded Letter Discounts. Barcoded letter discounts apply to letter size Regular subclass mail mailed under sections 421.31 and 421.32 which bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service, and which meets the machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.42 Barcoded Flats Discounts. Barcoded flats discounts apply to flat size Regular subclass mail mailed under sections 421.31 and 421.32 which bear a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service, and meet the flats machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.43 High Density Discount. The high density discount applies to Regular subclass mail mailed under section 421.33, presented in walk sequence order, and meeting the high density and preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.44 Saturation Discount. The saturation discount applies to Regular subclass mail mailed under section 421.33, presented in walk-sequence order, and meeting the saturation and

preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

421.45 Destination Entry Discounts. Destination entry discounts apply to Regular subclass mail which is destined for delivery within the service area of the destination sectional center facility (SCF) or the destination delivery unit (DDU) in which it is entered, as defined by the Postal Service. The DDU discount only applies to Carrier Route rate category mail.

421.46 Nonadvertising Discount. The nonadvertising discount applies to all Regular subclass mail and is determined by multiplying the proportion of nonadvertising content by the discount factor set forth in Rate Schedule 421 and subtracting that amount from the applicable piece rate.

422 [RESERVED]

423 PREFERRED RATE PERIODICALS

423.1 Definition. Periodicals class mail, other than publications qualifying as Requester Publications, may qualify for Preferred Rate Periodicals rates if it meets the applicable requirements for those rates in sections 423.2 through 423.5.

423.2 Within County Subclass

423.21 Definition. Within County mail consists of Preferred Rate Periodicals class mail mailed in, and addressed for delivery within the county where published and originally entered, from either the office of original entry or additional entry. In addition, a Within County publication must meet one of the following conditions:

a. The total paid circulation of the issue is less than 10,000 copies; or

b. The number of paid copies of the issue distributed within the county of publication is at least one more than one-half of the total paid circulation of such issue.

423.22 Entry in an Incorporated City. For the purpose of determining eligibility for Within County mail, when a publication has original entry at an independent incorporated city which is situated entirely within a county or which is contiguous to one or more counties in the same state, such incorporated city shall be considered to be within the county with which it is principally contiguous. Where more than one county is involved, the publisher will select the principal county.

423.3 Nonprofit Subclass

Nonprofit mail is Preferred Rate Periodicals class mail entered by authorized nonprofit organizations or associations of the following types:

a. Religious, as defined in section 1009,

b. Educational, as defined in section 1009,

c. Scientific, as defined in section 1009,

d. Philanthropic, as defined in section 1009,

e. Agricultural, as defined in section 1009,

f. Labor, as defined in section 1009,

g. Veterans', as defined in section 1009,

h. Fraternal, as defined in section 1009, and

i. Associations of rural electric cooperatives,

j. One publication, which contains no advertising (except advertising of the publisher) published by the official highway or development agency of a state,

k. Program announcements or guides published by an educational radio or television agency of a state or political subdivision thereof or by a nonprofit educational radio or television station.

l. One conservation publication published by an agency of a state which is responsible for management and conservation of the fish or wildlife resources of such state.

423.4 Classroom Subclass

Classroom mail is Preferred Rate Periodicals class mail which consists of religious, educational, or scientific publications designed specifically for use in school classrooms or religious instruction classes.

423.5 Science of Agriculture

Science of Agriculture mail consists of Preferred Rate Periodicals class mail devoted to the science of agriculture if the total number of copies of the publication furnished during any 12-month period to subscribers residing

in rural areas amounts to at least 70 percent of the total number of copies distributed by any means for any purpose.

423.6 Preferred Rate Pound Rates

For Preferred Rate Periodicals entered under sections 423.3, 423.4 and 423.5, and unzoned pound rate applies to the nonadvertising portion. A zoned pound rate applies to the advertising portion and may be reduced by applicable destination entry discounts. The pound rate postage is the sum of the nonadvertising portion charge and the advertising portion charge. For Preferred Rate Periodicals entered under section 423.2, one pound rate applies to the pieces presorted to carrier route to be delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office, and another pound rate applies to all other pieces.

423.7 Preferred Rate Piece Rates

423.71 Basic Rate Category. The basic rate category applies to all Preferred Rate Periodicals not mailed under section 423.72 or 423.73.

423.72 Three-digit City and Five-Digit Rate Category. The rates for this category apply to Preferred Rate Periodicals entered under sections 423.3, 423,4, or 423.5 that are presorted to three-digit cities and five-digit ZIP code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.73 Carrier Route Rate Category. The carrier route rate category applies to Preferred Rate Periodicals presorted to carrier routes as prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.8 Preferred Rate Discounts

423.81 Barcoded Letter Discounts. Barcoded letter discounts apply to letter size Preferred Rate Periodicals mailed under sections 423.71 and 423.72 which bear a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service, and which meet the machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.82 Barcoded Flats Discounts. Barcoded flats discounts apply to flat size Preferred Rate Periodicals mailed under sections 423.71 and 423.72 which bear a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including ''correction'' digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service, and meet the flats machinability, addressing, and barcoding specifications and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.83 High Density Discount. The high density discount applies to Preferred Rate Periodicals mailed under section 423.73, presented in walk sequence order, and meeting the high density and preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.84 Saturation Discount. The saturation discount applies to Preferred Rate Periodicals mailed under section 423.73, presented in walk sequence order, and meeting the saturation and preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

423.85 Destination Entry Discounts. Destination entry discounts apply to Preferred Rate Periodicals which are destined for delivery within the service area of the destination sectional center facility (SCF) or the destination delivery unit (DDU) in which they are entered, as defined by the Postal Service. The DDU discount only applies to Carrier Route rate category mail; the SCF discount is not available for mail entered under section 423.2.

423.86 Nonadvertising Discount. The nonadvertising discount applies to Preferred Rate Periodicals entered under sections 423.3, 423.4, 423.5 and is determined by multiplying the proportion of nonadvertising content by the discount factor set forth in Rate Schedules 421. 423.3 or 423.4 and subtracting that amount from the applicable piece rate.

430 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

There are no maximum size or weight limits for Periodicals class mail.

440 POSTAGE AND PREPARATION

441 Postage. Postage must be paid on Periodicals class mail as set forth in section 3000

442 PRESORTATION. PERIODICALS CLASS MAIL MUST BE PRESORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE POSTAL SERVICE

443 ATTACHMENTS AND ENCLOSURES

443.1 General. First-Class Mail or Standard Mail from any of the subclasses listed in section 321 (Single Piece, Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route or Nonprofit) may be attached to or enclosed with Periodicals class mail. The piece must be marked as prescribed by the Postal Service. Except as provided in section 443.2, additional postage must be paid for the attachment or enclosure as if it had been mailed separately. Otherwise, the entire combined piece is subject to the appropriate First-Class or section 321 Standard Mail rate for which it qualifies (unless the rate applicable to the host piece is higher), or, if a combined piece with a section 321 Standard Mail attachment or enclosure weighs 16 ounces or more, the piece is subject to the Parcel Post rate for which it qualifies.

443.2 Incidental First-Class Mail Attachments and Enclosures. First-Class Mail that meets one or more of the definitions in sections 210 b through d may be attached to or enclosed with Periodicals class mail, with postage paid on the combined piece at the applicable Periodicals rate, if the attachment or enclosure is incidental to the piece to which it is attached or with which it is enclosed.

444 IDENTIFICATION

Periodicals class mail must be identified as required by the Postal Service. Nonsubscriber and nonrequester copies, including sample and complimentary copies, must be identified as required by the Postal Service.

445 FILING OF INFORMATION

Information relating to Periodicals class mail must be filed with the Postal Service in accordance with 39 U.S.C. 3685.

446 ENCLOSURES AND SUPPLEMENTS

Periodicals class mail may contain enclosures and supplements as prescribed by the Postal Service. An enclosure or supplement may not contain writing, printing or sign thereof or therein, in addition to the original print, except as authorized by the Postal Service, or as authorized under section 443.2.

450 DEPOSIT AND DELIVERY

451 DEPOSIT

Periodicals class mail must be deposited at places and times designated by the Postal Service.

452 SERVICE

Periodicals class mail is given expeditious handling insofar as is practicable.

453 FORWARDING AND RETURN

Undeliverable-as-addressed Periodicals class mail will be forwarded or returned to the mailer, as prescribed by the Postal Service. Undeliverable-as-addressed combined First-Class and Periodicals class mail pieces will be forwarded or returned, as prescribed by the Postal Service. Additional charges when Periodicals class mail is returned will be based on the applicable Standard Mail rate.

470 RATES AND FEES

The rates and fees for Periodicals class mail are set forth as follows:

	Schedule
a. Regular	421
b. Within County	423.2
c. Nonprofit	423.3
d. Classroom	423.4
e. Science of Agriculture	421
f. Fees	1000

480 AUTHORIZATIONS AND LICENSES

481 ENTRY AUTHORIZATIONS

Prior to mailing at Periodicals rates, a publication must be authorized for entry as Periodicals class mail by the Postal Service. Each authorized publication will be granted one original entry authorization at the post office where the office of publication is maintained. An authorization for the establishment of an account to enter a publication at an additional entry office may be granted by the Postal Service upon application by the publisher. An application for re-entry must be made

whenever the publisher proposes to change the publication's title, frequency of issue or office of original entry.

482 PREFERRED RATE AUTHORIZATION

Prior to mailing at Nonprofit, Classroom, and Science of Agriculture rates, a publication must obtain an additional Postal Service entry authorization to mail at those rates.

483 MAILING BY PUBLISHERS AND NEWS AGENTS

Periodicals class mail may be mailed only by publishers or registered news agents. A news agent is a person or concern engaged in selling two or more Periodicals publications published by more than one publisher. News agents must register at all post offices at which they mail Periodicals class mail.

484 FEES

Fees for original entry, additional entry, re-entry, and registration of a news agent are set forth in Rate Schedule 1000.

GENERAL DEFINITIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1000 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

As used in this Domestic Mail Classification Schedule, the following terms have the meanings set forth below.

1001 ADVERTISING

Advertising includes all material for the publication of which a valuable consideration is paid, accepted, or promised, that calls attention to something for the purpose of getting people to buy it, sell it, seek it, or support it. If an advertising rate is charged for the publication of reading matter or other material, such material shall be deemed to be advertising. Articles, items, and notices in the form of reading matter inserted in accordance with a custom or understanding that textual matter is to be inserted for the advertiser or his products in the publication in which a display advertisement appears are deemed to be advertising. If a publisher advertises his own services or publications, or any other business of the publisher, whether in the form of display advertising or editorial or reading matter, this is deemed to be advertising.

1002 ASPECT RATIO

Aspect ratio is the ratio of width to length.

1003 BILLS AND STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNT

1003.1 A bill is a request for payment of a definite sum of money claimed to be owing by the addressee either to the sender or to a third party. The mere assertion of an indebtedness in a definite sum combined with a demand for payment is sufficient to make the message a bill.

1003.2 A statement of account is the assertion of the existence of a debt in a definite amount but which does not necessarily contain a request or a demand for payment. The amount may be immediately due or may become due after a certain time or upon demand or billing at a later date.

1003.3 A bill or statement of account must present the particulars of an indebtedness with sufficient definiteness to inform the debtor of the amount he is required to pay to acquit himself of the debt. However, neither a bill nor a statement of account need state the precise amount if it contains sufficient information to enable the debtor to determine the exact amount of the claim asserted.

1003.4 A bill or statement of account is not the less a bill or statement of account merely because the amount claimed is not in fact owing or may not be legally collectible.

1004 GIRTH

Girth is the measurement around a piece of mail at its thickest part.

1005 INVOICE

An invoice is a writing showing the nature, quantity, and cost or price of items shipped or sent to a purchaser or consignor.

1006 PERMIT IMPRINTS

Permit imprints are printed indicia indicating postage has been paid by the sender under the permit number shown.

1007 PREFERRED RATES

Preferred rates are the reduced rates established pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3626.

1008 ZIP CODE

The ZIP Code is a numeric code that facilitates the sortation, routing, and delivery of mail.

1009 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Nonprofit organizations or associations are organizations or associations not organized for profit, none of the net income of which benefits any private stockholder or individual, and which meet the qualifications set forth below for each type of organization or association. The standard of primary purpose applies to each type of organization or association, except veterans' and fraternal. The standard of primary purpose requires that each type of organization or association be both organized and operated for the primary purpose. The following are the types of organizations or associations which may qualify as authorized nonprofit organizations or associations.

a. Religious. A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is one of the following:

i. To conduct religious worship;

ii. To support the religious activities of nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to conduct religious worship;

iii. To perform instruction in, to disseminate information about, or otherwise to further the teaching of particular religious faiths or tenets.

b. Educational. A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is one of the following:

i. The instruction or training of the individual for the purpose of improving or developing his capabilities;

ii. The instruction of the public on subjects beneficial to the community.

An organization may be educational even though it advocates a particular position or viewpoint so long as it presents a sufficiently full and fair exposition of the pertinent facts to permit an individual or the public to form an independent opinion or conclusion. On the other hand, an organization is not educational if its principal function is the mere presentation of unsupported opinion.

c. Scientific. A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is one of the following:

i. To conduct research in the applied, pure or natural sciences;

ii. To disseminate systematized technical information dealing with applied, pure or natural sciences.

d. Philanthropic. A nonprofit organization primarily organized and operated for purposes beneficial to the public. Philanthropic organizations include, but are not limited to, organizations which are organized for:

i. Relief of the poor and distressed or of the underprivileged;

ii. Advancement of religion;

iii. Advancement of education or science;

iv. Erection or maintenance of public buildings, monuments, or works;

v. Lessening of the burdens of government;

vi. Promotion of social welfare by organizations designed to accomplish any of the above purposes or:

(A) To lessen neighborhood tensions;

(B) To eliminate prejudice and discrimination;

(C) To defend human and civil rights secured by law; or

(D) To combat community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.

e. Agricultural. A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the betterment of the conditions of those engaged in agriculture pursuits, the improvement of the grade of their products, and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in agriculture. The organization may advance agricultural interests through educational activities; the holding of agricultural fairs; the collection and dissemination of information concerning cultivation of the soil and its fruits or the harvesting of marine resources; the rearing, feeding, and management of livestock, poultry, and bees, or other activities relating to agricultural interests. The term agricultural nonprofit organization also includes any nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the collection and dissemination of information or materials relating to agricultural pursuits.

f. Labor. A nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is the betterment of the conditions of workers. Labor organizations include, but are not limited to, organizations in which employees or workmen participate, whose primary purpose is to deal with employers concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours of employment and working conditions.

g. Veterans'. A nonprofit organization of veterans of the armed services of the United States, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such post or organization.

h. Fraternal. A nonprofit organization which meets all of the following criteria:

i. Has as its primary purpose the fostering of brotherhood and mutual benefits among its members;

ii. Is organized under a lodge or chapter system with a representative form of government;

iii. Follows a ritualistic format; and

iv. Is comprised of members who are elected to membership by vote of the members.

2000 DELIVERY OF MAIL

2010 DELIVERY SERVICES

The Postal Service provides the following modes of delivery:

a. Caller service. The fees for caller service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–10.

b. Carrier delivery service.

c. General delivery.

d. Post office box service. The fees for post office box service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–10.

2020 CONDITIONS OF DELIVERY

2021 General. Except as provided in section 2022, mail will be delivered as addressed unless the Postal Service is instructed otherwise by the addressee in writing.

2022 Refusal of Delivery. The addressee may control delivery of his mail. The addressee may refuse to accept a piece of mail that does not require a delivery receipt at the time it is offered for delivery or after delivery by returning it unopened to the Postal Service. For mail that requires a delivery receipt, the addressee or his representative may read and copy the name of the sender of registered, insured, certified, COD, return receipt, and Express Mail prior to accepting delivery. Upon signing the delivery receipt the piece may not be returned to the Postal Service without the applicable postage and fees affixed.

2023 Receipt. If a signed receipt is required, mail will be delivered to the addressee (or competent member of his family), to persons who customarily receive his mail or to one authorized in writing to receive the addressee's mail.

2024 Jointly Addressed Mail. Mail addressed to several persons may be delivered to any one of them. When two or more persons make conflicting orders for delivery for the same mail, the mail shall be delivered as determined by the Postal Service.

2025 Commercial Mail Receiving Agents. Mail may be delivered to a commercial mail receiving agency on behalf of another person. In consideration of delivery of mail to the commercial agent, the addressee and the agent are considered to agree that:

a. No change of address order will be filed with the post office when the agency relationship is terminated;

b. When remailed by the commercial agency, the mail is subject to payment of new postage.

2026 Mail Addressed To Organizations. Mail addressed to governmental units, private organizations, corporations, unincorporated firms or partnerships, persons at institutions (including but not limited to hospitals and prisons), or persons in the military is delivered as addressed or to an authorized agent.

2027 Held Mail. Mail will be held for a specified period of time at the office of address upon request of the addressee, unless the mail:

a. Has contrary retention instructions;

b. Is perishable; or

c. Is registered, COD, insured, return receipt, certified, or Express Mail for which the normal retention period expires before the end of the specified holding period.

2030 FORWARDING AND RETURN

2031 Forwarding. Forwarding is the transfer of undeliverable-as-addressed mail to an address other than the one

originally placed on the mail piece. All post offices will honor change of address orders for a period of time specified by the Postal Service.

2032 Return. Return is the delivery of undeliverable-as-addressed mail to the sender.

2033 Applicable Provisions. The provisions of sections 150, 250, 350 and 450 apply to forwarding and return.

2034 Forwarding for Postal Service Adjustments. When mail is forwarded due to Postal Service adjustments (such as, but not limited to, the discontinuance of the post office of original address, establishment of rural carrier service, conversion to city delivery service from rural, readjustment of delivery districts, or renumbering of houses and renaming of streets), it is forwarded without charge for a period of time specified by the Postal Service.

3000 POSTAGE AND PREPARATION

3010 PACKAGING

Mail must be packaged so that:

a. The contents will be protected against deterioration or degradation;

b. The contents will not be likely to damage other mail, Postal Service employees or property, or to become loose in transit;

c. The package surface must be able to retain postage indicia and address markings;

d. It is marked by the mailer with a material which is not readily water soluble nor which can be easily rubbed off or smeared, and the marking will be sharp and clear.

3020 ENVELOPES

Paper used in the preparation of envelopes may not be of a brilliant color. Envelopes must be prepared with paper strong enough to withstand normal handling.

3030 PAYMENT OF POSTAGE AND FEES

Postage must be fully prepaid on all mail at the time of mailing, except as authorized by law or this Schedule. Except as authorized by law or this Schedule, mail deposited without prepayment of sufficient postage shall be delivered to the addressee subject to payment of deficient postage, returned to the sender, or otherwise disposed of as prescribed by the Postal Service. Mail deposited without any postage affixed will be returned to the sender without any attempt at delivery.

3040 METHODS FOR PAYING POSTAGE AND FEES

Postage for all mail may be prepaid by postage meter, adhesive stamps, or permit imprint, unless otherwise limited or prescribed by the Postal Service. The following methods of paying postage and fees require prior authorization from the Postal Service:

a. Permit imprint,

b. Postage meter,

c. Precanceled stamps, precanceled envelopes, and mailer's precanceled postmarks.

3050 AUTHORIZATION FEES

Fees for authorization to use a permit imprint are set forth in Rate Schedule 1000. No fee is charged for authorization to use a postage meter. Fees for setting postage meters are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–12. No fee is charged for authorization to use precanceled stamps, precanceled envelopes or mailer's precanceled postmark.

3060 SPECIAL SERVICE FEES

Fees for special services may be prepaid in any manner appropriate for the class of mail indicated or as otherwise prescribed by the Postal Service.

3070 MARKING OF UNPAID MAIL

Matter authorized for mailing without prepayment of postage must bear markings identifying the class of mail service. Matter so marked will be billed at the applicable rate of postage set forth in this Schedule. Matter not so marked will be billed at the applicable First-Class rate of postage.

3080 REFUND OF POSTAGE

When postage and special service fees have been paid on mail for which no service is rendered for the postage or fees paid, or collected in excess of the lawful rate, a refund may be made. There shall be no refund for registered, COD, general insurance, and Express Mail Insurance fees when the article is

later withdrawn by the mailer. In cases involving returned articles improperly accepted because of excess size or weight, a refund may be made.

3090 CALCULATION OF POSTAGE

When a rate schedule contains per piece and per pound rates, the postage shall be the sum of the charges produced by those rates. When a rate schedule contains a minimum-per-piece rate and a pound rate, the postage shall be the greater of the two. When the computation of postage yields a fraction of a cent in the charge, the next higher whole cent must be paid.

4000 POSTAL ZONES

4010 GEOGRAPHIC UNITS OF AREA

In the determination of postal zones, the earth is considered to be divided into units of area thirty minutes square, identical with a quarter of the area formed by the intersecting parallels of latitude and meridians of longitude. The distance between these units of area is the basis of the postal zones.

4020 MEASUREMENT OF ZONE DISTANCES

The distance upon which zones are based shall be measured from the center of the unit of area containing the dispatching sectional center facility or multi-ZIP coded post office not serviced by a sectional center facility. A post office of mailing and a post office of delivery shall have the same zone relationship as their respective sectional center facilities or multi-ZIP coded post offices, but this shall not cause two post offices to be regarded as within the same local zone.

4030 DEFINITION OF ZONES

4031 Local Zone. The local zone applies to mail mailed at any post office for delivery at that office; at any city letter carrier office or at any point within its delivery limits for delivery by carriers from that office; at any office from which a rural route starts for delivery on the same route; and on a rural route for delivery at the office from which the route starts or on any rural route starting from that office.

4032 First Zone. The first zone includes all territory within the quadrangle of entry in conjunction with every contiguous quadrangle, representing an area having a mean radial distance of approximately 50 miles from the center of a given unit of area. The first zone also applies to mail between two post offices in the same sectional center.

4033 Second Zone. The second zone includes all units of area outside the first zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of approximately 150 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4034 Third Zone. The third zone includes all units of area outside the second zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of approximately 300 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4035 Fourth Zone. The fourth zone includes all units of area outside the third zone lying in whole or in part within a radius approximately 600 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4036 Fifth Zone. The fifth zone includes all units of area outside the fourth zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of approximately 1,000 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4037 Sixth Zone. The sixth zone includes all units of area outside the fifth zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of approximately 1,400 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4038 Seventh Zone. The seventh zone includes all units of area outside the sixth zone lying in whole or in part within a radius of approximately 1,800 miles from the center of a given unit of area.

4039 Eighth Zone. The eighth zone includes all units of area outside the seventh zone.

4040 ZONED RATES

Except as provided in section 4050, rates according to zone apply for zone-rated mail sent between Postal Service facilities including armed forces post offices, wherever located.

4050 APO/FPO MAIL

4051 General. Except as provided in section 4052, the rates of postage for zone-rated mail transported between

the United States, or the possessions or territories of the United States, on the one hand, and Army, Air Force and Fleet Post Offices on the other, or among the latter, shall be the applicable zone rates for mail between the place of mailing or delivery and the city of the postmaster serving the Army, Air Force or Fleet Post Office concerned.

4052 Transit Mail. The rates of postage for zone-rated mail which is mailed at or addressed to an armed forces post office and which is transported directly to or from armed forces post offices at the expense of the Department of Defense, without transiting any of the 48 contiguous states (including the District of Columbia), shall be the applicable local zone rate; provided, however, that if the distance from the place of mailing to the embarkation point or the distance from the point of debarkation to the place of delivery is greater than the local zone for such mail, postage shall be assessed on the basis of the distance from the place of mailing to the embarkation point or the distance from the point of debarkation to the place of delivery of such mail, as the case may be. The word ''transiting'' does not include enroute transfers at coastal gateway cities which are necessary to transport military mail directly between military post offices.

5000 PRIVACY OF MAIL

5010 FIRST-CLASS AND EXPRESS MAIL

Matter mailed as First-Class Mail or Express Mail shall be treated as mail which is sealed against postal inspection and shall not be opened except as authorized by law.

5020 ALL OTHER MAIL

Matter not paid at First-Class Mail or Express Mail rates must be wrapped or secured in the manner prescribed by the Postal Service so that the contents may be examined. Mailing of sealed items as other than First-Class Mail or Express Mail is considered consent by the sender to the postal inspection of the contents.

6000 MAILABLE MATTER

6010 GENERAL

Mailable matter is any matter which:

a. Is not mailed in contravention of 39 U.S.C. Chapter 30, or of 17 U.S.C. 109;

b. While in the custody of the Postal Service is not likely to become damaged itself, to damage other pieces of mail, to cause injury to Postal Service employees or to damage Postal Service property; and

c. Is not mailed contrary to any special conditions or limitations placed on transportation or movement of certain articles, when imposed under law by the U.S. Department of the Treasury; U.S. Department of Agriculture; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Transportation; and any other Federal department or agency having legal jurisdiction.

6020 MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS

The following minimum size standards apply to all mailable matter:

a. All items must be at least 0.007 inches thick, and

b. all items, other than keys and identification devices, which are 0.25 inch thick or less must be

i. rectangular in shape,

ii. at least 3.5 inches in width, and

iii. at least 5 inches in length.

6030 MAXIMUM SIZE AND WEIGHT STANDARDS

Where applicable, the maximum size and weight standards for each class of mail are set forth in sections 130, 230, 330 and 430. Additional limitations may be applicable to specific subclasses, and rate and discount categories as provided in the eligibility provisions for each subclass or category.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–1—ADDRESS CORRECTION SERVICE

1.01 DEFINITION

1.010 Address correction service is a service which provides the mailer with a method of obtaining the correct address, if available to the Postal Service, of the addressee or the reason for nondelivery.

1.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

1.020 Address correction service is available to mailers of postage prepaid mail of all classes. Periodicals class mail will receive address correction service.

1.021 Address correction service is not available for items addressed for delivery by military personnel at any military installation.

1.022 Address correction provides the following service to the mailer:

a. If the correct address is known to the Postal Service, the mailer is notified of both the old and the correct address.

b. If the item mailed cannot be delivered, the mailer will be notified of the reason for nondelivery.

1.03 REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAILER

1.030 Mail, other than Periodicals class mail, sent under this classification schedule must bear a request for address correction service.

1.04 FEES

1.040 There is no charge for address correction service when the correction is provided incidental to the return of the mail piece to the sender.

1.041 A fee, as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–1, is charged for all other forms of address correction service.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–2—BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

2.01 DEFINITIONS

2.010 Business reply mail is a service whereby business reply cards, envelopes, cartons and labels may be distributed by or for a business reply distributor for use by mailers for sending First-Class Mail without prepayment of postage to an address chosen by the distributor. A distributor is the holder of a business reply license.

2.011 A business reply mail piece is nonletter-size for purposes of Classification Schedule SS–2 if it meets addressing and other preparation requirements, but does not meet the machinability requirements prescribed by the Postal Service for mechanized or automated letter sortation.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

2.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

2.020 The distributor guarantees payment on delivery of postage and fees for all returned business reply mail. Any distributor of business reply cards, envelopes, cartons and labels under any one license for return to several addresses guarantees to pay postage and fees on any returns refused by any such addressee.

2.03 REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAILER

2.030 Business reply cards, envelopes, cartons and labels must be readdressed and bear business reply markings.

2.031 Handwriting, typewriting or handstamping are not acceptable methods of preaddressing or marking business reply cards, envelopes, cartons, or labels.

2.04 FEES

2.040 The fees for business reply mail are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2.

2.041 To qualify as an active business reply mail advance deposit trust account, the account must be used solely for business reply mail and contain sufficient postage and fees due for returned business reply mail.

2.042 An accounting fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 must be paid each year for each advance deposit business reply account at each facility where the mail is to be returned.

2.043 EXPERIMENTAL REVERSE MANIFEST FEES

2.0431 A set-up/qualification fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 must be paid by each business reply mail advance deposit trust account holder at each destination postal facility at which it applies to receive nonletter-size business reply mail for which the postage and fees will be accounted for through a reverse manifest method approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage.

A distributor must pay this fee for each business reply mail advance deposit trust account for which participation in the nonletter-size business reply mail experiment is requested.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

2.0432 A nonletter-size reverse manifest monthly fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 must be paid each month during which the distributor's reverse manifest account is active.

This fee applies to the (no more than) 10 advance deposit account holders which are selected by the Postal Service to participate in the reverse manifest nonletter-size business reply mail experiment and which utilize reverse manifest accounting methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage and fees.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

2.044 EXPERIMENTAL WEIGHT AVERAGING FEES

2.0441 A set-up/qualification fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 must be paid by each business reply mail advance deposit trust account holder at each destination postal facility at which it applies to receive nonletter-size business reply mail for which the postage and fees will be accounted for through a weight averaging method approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage.

A distributor must pay this fee for each business reply mail advance deposit trust account for which participation in the nonletter-size business reply mail experiment is requested.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

2.0442 A nonletter-size weight averaging monthly fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 must be paid each month during which the distributor's weight averaging account is active.

This fee applies to the (no more than) 10 advance deposit account holders which are selected by the Postal Service to participate in the weight averaging nonletter-size business reply mail experiment.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

2.05 AUTHORIZATIONS AND LICENSES

2.050 In order to distribute business reply cards, envelopes, cartons or labels, the distributor must obtain a license or licenses from the Postal Service and pay the appropriate fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2.

2.0501 Except as provided in section 2.0502, the license to distribute business reply cards, envelopes, cartons, or labels must be obtained at each office from which the mail is offered for delivery.

2.0502 If the business reply mail is to be distributed from a central office to be returned to branches or dealers in other cities, one license obtained from the post office where the central office is located may be used to cover all business reply mail.

2.051 The license to mail business reply mail may be canceled for failure to pay business reply postage and fees when due, and for distributing business reply cards or envelopes which do not conform to prescribed form, style or size.

2.052 Authorization to pay experimental nonletter-size business reply mail fees as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–2 may be canceled for failure of a business reply mail advance deposit trust account holder to meet the standards prescribed by the Postal Service for the applicable reverse manifest or weight averaging accounting method.

This provision expires June 8, 1999.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–3—CALLER SERVICE

3.01 DEFINITIONS

3.010 Caller service is a service which permits a customer to obtain mail addressed to the customer's box number through a call window or loading dock.

3.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

3.020 Caller service uses post office box numbers as the address medium but does not actually use a post office box.

3.021 Caller service is not available at certain postal facilities.

3.022 Caller service is provided to customers on the basis of mail volume received and number of post office boxes used at any one facility.

3.023 A customer may reserve a caller number.

3.024 Caller service cannot be used when the sole purpose is, by subsequently filing change of address orders, to have mail forwarded or transferred to another address by the Postal Service free of charge.

3.03 FEES

3.030 Fees for caller service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–10.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–4—CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

4.01 DEFINITION

4.010 Certificate of mailing service is a service which furnishes evidence of mailing.

4.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

4.020 Certificate of mailing service is available to mailers of matter sent under the classification schedule to any class of mail.

4.021 A receipt is not obtained upon delivery of the mail to the addressee. No record of mailing is maintained at the post office.

4.022 Additional copies of certificates of mailing may be obtained by the mailer.

4.03 OTHER SERVICES

4.030 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. Parcel airlift	SS–13
b. Special handling	SS–18

4.04 FEES

4.040 The fees for certificate of mailing service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–4.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–5—CERTIFIED MAIL

5.01 DEFINITION

5.010 Certified mail service is a service that provides a mailing receipt to the sender and a record of delivery at the office of address.

5.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

5.020 Certified mail service is provided for matter mailed as First-Class Mail.

5.021 If requested by the mailer, the time of acceptances by the Postal Service will be indicated on the receipt.

5.022 A record of delivery is retained at the office of delivery for a specified period of time.

5.023 If the initial attempt to delivery mail is not successful, a notice of arrival is left at the mailing address.

5.024 A receipt of mailing may be obtained only if the article is mailed at a post office, branch or station, or given to a rural carrier.

5.025 Additional copies of the original mailing receipt may be obtained by the mailer.

5.03 DEPOSIT OF MAIL

5.030 Certified mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

5.04 OTHER SERVICES

5.040 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. Restricted delivery	SS–15
b. Return receipt	SS–16
c. Special delivery	SS–17

5.05 FEES

5.050 The fees for certified mail service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–5.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–6—COLLECT ON DELIVERY SERVICE

6.01 DEFINITION

6.010 Collect on Delivery (COD) service is a service which allows a mailer to mail an article for which he has not been paid and have the price, the cost of postage and fees, and anticipated or past due charges collected by the Postal Service from the addressee when the article is delivered.

6.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

6.020 COD service is available for collection of $600 or less upon the delivery of postage prepaid mail sent under the following classification schedules:

a. Express Mail

b. First-Class Mail

c. Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Standard Mail

6.0201 Service under this schedule is not available for:

a. Collection agency purposes;

b. Return of merchandise about which some dissatisfaction has arisen, unless the new addressee has consented in advance to such return;

c. Sending only bills or statements of indebtedness, even though the sender may establish that the addressee has agreed to collection in this manner; however, when the legitimate COD shipment consisting of merchandise or bill of lading, is being mailed, the balance due on a past or anticipated transaction may be included in the charges on a COD article, provided the addressee has consented in advance to such action;

d. Parcels containing moving-picture films mailed by exhibitors to moving-picture manufacturers, distributors, or exchanges;

e. Goods which have not been ordered by the addressee.

6.021 COD service provides the mailer with insurance against loss, rifling and damage to the article as well as failure to receive the amount collected from the addressee. This provision insures only the receipt of the instrument issued to the mailer after payment of COD charges, and is not to be construed to make the Postal Service liable upon any such instrument other than a Postal Service money order.

6.022 A receipt is issued to the mailer for each piece of COD mail. Additional copies of the original mailing receipt may be obtained by the mailer.

6.023 Delivery of COD mail will be made in a manner specified by the Postal Service. If a delivery to the mailing address is not attempted or if a delivery attempt is unsuccessful, a notice of arrival will be left at the mailing address.

6.024 The mailer may receive a notice of nondelivery if the piece mailed is endorsed appropriately.

6.025 The mailer may designate a new addressee or alter the COD charges by submitting the appropriate form and by paying the appropriate fee as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–6.

6.026 A claim for complete loss may be filed by the mailer only. A claim for damage or for partial loss may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

6.027 COD indemnity claims must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

6.03 Requirements of the Mailer

6.030 COD mail must be identified as COD mail.

6.04 Deposit of Mail

6.040 COD mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

6.05 Forwarding and Return

6.050 A mailer of COD mail guarantees to pay any return postage, unless otherwise specified on the piece mailed.

6.051 For COD mail sent as Standard Mail, postage at the applicable rate will be charged to the addressee:

a. When an addressee, entitled to delivery to the mailing address under Postal Service regulations, requests delivery of COD mail which was refused when first offered for delivery;

b. For each delivery attempt, to an addressee entitled to delivery to the mailing address under Postal Service regulations, after the second such attempt.

6.06 Other Services

6.060 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fee:

	Classification schedule
a. Registered mail, if sent as First-Class	SS–14
b. Restricted delivery	SS–15
c. Special handling	SS–18

6.07 Fees

6.070 Fees for COD service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–6.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–8—DOMESTIC POSTAL MONEY ORDERS

8.01 DEFINITION

8.010 Money order service is a service that provides the customer with an instrument for payment of a specified sum of money.

8.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

8.020 The maximum value for which a domestic postal money order may be purchased is $700. Other restrictions on the number or dollar value of postal money order sales, or both, may be imposed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Postal Service.

8.021 A receipt of purchase is provided at no additional cost.

8.022 The Postal Service will replace money orders that are spoiled or incorrectly prepared, regardless of who caused the error, without charge if replaced on the date originally issued.

8.0221 If a replacement money order is issued after the date of original issue because the original was spoiled or incorrectly prepared, the applicable money order fee may be collected from the customer.

8.023 Inquiries and/or claims may be filed by the purchaser, payee, or endorsee.

8.03 FEES

8.030 The fees for domestic postal money orders are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–8.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–9—INSURED MAIL

PART a—EXPRESS MAIL INSURANCE

9a.01 DEFINITION

9a.010 Express Mail Insurance is a service that provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to items sent by Express Mail.

9a.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

9a.020 Express Mail Insurance is available only for Express Mail.

9a.021 Insurance coverage is provided, for no additional charge, up to $500 per piece for document reconstruction, up to $5,000 per occurrence regardless of the number of claimants. Insurance coverage is also provided, for no additional charge, up to $500 per piece for merchandise. Insurance coverage for merchandise valued at more than $500 is available for an additional fee, as set forth in Rate Schedule SS–9. The maximum liability for merchandise is $5,000 per piece. For negotiable items, currency, or bullion, the maximum liability is $15.

9a.022 Indemnity claims for Express Mail must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

9a.023 Indemnity will be paid under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

9a.024 Among other limitations prescribed by the Postal Service, indemnity will not be paid by the Postal Service for loss, damage or rifling:

a. Of nonmailable matter;

b. Due to improper packaging;

c. Due to seizure by any agency of government; or,

d. Due to war, insurrection or civil disturbances.

9a.03 FEES

9a.030 The fees for Express Mail Insurance service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–9.

PART b—GENERAL INSURANCE

9b.01 DEFINITION

9b.010 General Insurance is a service that provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to mailed items.

9b.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

9b.020 The maximum liability of the Postal Service under this part is $5000.

9b.021 General Insurance is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

a. First-Class Mail, if containing matter which may be mailed as Standard Mail

b. Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Standard Mail

9b.022 This service is not available for matter offered for sale, addressed to prospective purchasers who have not ordered or authorized their sending. If such matter is received in the mail,

payment will not be made for loss, rifling, or damage.

9b.023 The mailer is issued a receipt for each item mailed. For items insured for more than $50, a receipt of delivery is obtained by the Postal Service.

9b.024 For items insured for more than $50, a notice of arrival is left at the mailing address when the first attempt at delivery is unsuccessful.

9b.025 A claim for complete loss may be filed by the mailer only. A claim for damage or for partial loss may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

9b.026 A claim for damage or loss on a parcel sent merchandise return (SS–20) may only be filed by the purchaser of the insurance.

9b.027 Indemnity claims must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

9b.028 Additional copies of the original mailing receipt may be obtained by the mailer, upon payment of the applicable fee set forth in Rate Schedule SS–9.

9b.03 Deposit of Mail

9b.030 Mail insured under this part must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

9b.04 Forwarding and Return

9b.040 By insuring an item, the mailer guarantees forwarding and return postage unless instructions on the piece mailed indicate that it not be forwarded or returned.

9b.041 Mail undeliverable as addressed sent under this part will be returned to the sender as specified by the sender or by the Postal Service.

9b.05 Other Services

9b.050 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this part upon payment of the applicable fees:

Classification	Schedule
a. Parcel Airlift	SS–13
b. Restricted delivery (for items insured for more than $50).	SS–15
c. Return receipt (for items insured for more than $50).	SS–16
d. Special handling	SS–18
e. Merchandise return (shippers only)	SS–20

9b.06 Fees

9b.060 The fees for General Insurance are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–9.

Classification Schedule SS–10—Post Office Box Service

10.01 Definition

10.010 Post office box service is a service which provides the customer with a private, locked receptacle for the receipt of mail during the hours when the lobby of a postal facility is open.

10.02 Description of Service

10.020 The Postal Service may limit the number of post office boxes occupied by any one customer.

10.021 A post office box holder may ask the Postal Service to deliver to the post office box all mail properly addressed to the holder. If the post office box is located at the post office indicated on the piece, it will be transferred without additional charge, in accordance with existing regulations.

10.022 Post office box service cannot be used when the sole purpose is, by subsequently filing change of address orders, to have mail forwarded or transferred to another address by the Postal Service free of charge.

10.03 Fees

10.030 Fees for post office box service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–10.

10.031 In postal facilities primarily serving academic institutions or the students of such institutions, fees for post office boxes are administered as follows:

Period for box use	Fee
95 days or less	½ semi-annual fee.
96 to 140 days	¾ semi-annual fee.
141 to 190 days	Full semi-annual fee.
191 to 230 days	1¼ semi-annual fee.
231 to 270 days	1½ semi-annual fee.
271 days to full year	Full annual fee.

10.032 No refunds will be made for post office box fees paid under section

10.031. For purposes of this classification schedule SS–10, the full annual fee is twice the amount of the semi-annual fee.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–11—MAILING LIST SERVICES

11.01 DEFINITION

11.010 Mailing list services include:

a. Correction of mailing lists;

b. Change of address information for election boards and registration commissions;

c. ZIP coding of mailing lists; and

d. Arrangement of address cards in the sequence of delivery.

11.0101 Correction of mailing list service provides current information concerning name and address mailing lists or correct information concerning occupant mailing lists.

11.0102 ZIP coding of mailing lists service is a service identifying ZIP code addresses in areas served by multi-ZIP coded postal facilities.

11.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

11.020 Correction of mailing list service is available only to the following owners of name and address or occupant mailing lists:

a. Members of Congress

b. Federal agencies

c. State government departments

d. Municipalities

e. Religious organizations

f. Fraternal organizations

g. Recognized charitable organizations

h. Concerns or persons who solicit business by mail

11.0201 The following corrections will be made to name and address lists:

a. Names to which mail cannot be delivered or forwarded will be deleted;

b. Incorrect house, rural, or post office box numbers will be corrected;

c. When permanent forwarding orders are on file for customers who have moved, new addresses including ZIP codes will be furnished;

d. New names will not be added to the list.

11.0202 The following corrections will be made to occupant lists:

a. Numbers representing incorrect or non-existent street addresses will be deleted;

b. Business or rural route addresses will be distinguished if known;

c. Corrected cards or sheets will be grouped by route;

d. Street address numbers will not be added or changed.

11.0203 Corrected lists will be returned to customers at no additional charge.

11.021 Residential change-of-address information is available only to election boards or registration commissions for obtaining, if known to the Postal Service, the current address of an addressee.

11.022 ZIP coding or mailing list service provides that addresses will be sorted to the finest possible ZIP code sortation.

11.0221 Gummed labels, wrappers, envelopes or Stamped Cards or post cards indicative of one-time use will not be accepted as mailing lists.

11.023 Sequencing of address cards service provides for the removal of incorrect addresses, notation of missing addresses and addition of missing addresses.

11.03 REQUIREMENTS OF CUSTOMER

11.030 A customer desiring correction of a mailing list or arrangement of address cards in sequence of carrier delivery must submit the list or cards as prescribed by regulation.

11.04 FEES

11.040 The fees for mailing list services are set forth in Rate Schedules SS–11a, SS–11b, SS–11c and SS–11d.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–12—ON-SITE METER SETTING

12.01 DEFINITION

12.010 On-site meter setting or examination service is a service whereby the Postal Service will service a postage meter at the mailer's or meter manufacturer's premises.

12.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

12.020 On-site meter setting or examination service is available on a scheduled basis, and meter setting may be done on an emergency basis for

those customers enrolled in the scheduled on-site meter setting or examination program.

12.03 FEES

12.030 The fees for on-site meter setting or examination service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–12.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–13—PARCEL AIRLIFT (PAL)

13.01 DEFINITION

13.010 Parcel airlift service is a service that provides for air transportation of parcels on a space available basis to or from military post offices outside the contiguous 48 states.

13.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

13.020 Parcel airlift service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedule:

STANDARD MAIL

13.03 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

13.030 The minimum physical limitations established for the mail sent under the classification schedule for which postage is paid apply to parcel airlift mail. In no instance may the parcel exceed 30 pounds in weight, or 60 inches in length and girth combined.

13.04 REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAILER

13.040 Mail sent under this schedule must be endorsed as prescribed by regulation.

13.05 DEPOSIT OF MAIL

13.050 PAL mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

13.06 FORWARDING AND RETURN

13.060 PAL mail sent for delivery outside the contiguous 48 states is forwarded as set forth in section 2030 of the General Definitions, Terms and Conditions. PAL mail sent for delivery within the contiguous 48 states is forwarded or returned as set forth in section 353 as appropriate.

13.07 OTHER SERVICES

13.070 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. Certificate of mailing	SS–4
b. Insured mail	SS–9
c. Restricted delivery (if insured for more than $50).	SS–15
d. Return receipt (if insured for more than $50).	SS–16
e. Special handling	SS–18

13.08 FEES

13.080 The fees for parcel airlift service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–13.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–14—REGISTERED MAIL

14.01 DEFINITION

14.010 Registered mail is a service which provides added protection to mail sent under this Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and optional indemnity in case of loss or damage.

14.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

14.020 Registered mail service is available to mailers of prepaid mail sent as First-Class Mail except that registered mail must meet the minimum requirements for length and width regardless of thickness.

14.021 Registered mail service provides insurance up to a maximum of $25,000, depending upon the actual value at the time of mailing, except that insurance is optional for articles valued $100 or less.

14.022 There is no limit on the value of articles sent under this classification schedule.

14.023 Registered mail service is not available for:

a. All delivery points because of the high security required for registered mail; in addition, not all delivery points will be available for registry and liability is limited in some geographic areas.

b. Mail of any class sent in combination with First-Class Mail;

c. Two or more articles tied or fastened together, unless the envelopes are enclosed in the same envelope or container.

14.024 The following services are provided as part of registered mail service at no additional cost to the mailer:

a. A receipt;

b. A record of delivery, retained by the Postal Service for a specified period of time;

c. A notice of arrival will be left at the mailing address if the initial delivery attempt is unsuccessful;

d. When registered mail is undeliverable-as-addressed and cannot be forwarded, a notice of nondelivery is provided.

14.025 A claim for complete loss of insured articles may be filed by the mailer only. A claim for damage or for partial loss of insured articles may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

14.026 Indemnity claims for registered mail on which insurance is provided, or for articles valued $100 or less on which optional insurance has been elected, must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

14.027 No indemnity is paid on any matter registered free.

14.03 Deposit of Mail

14.030 Registered mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

14.04 Service

14.040 Registered mail is provided maximum security.

14.05 Forwarding and Return

14.050 Registered mail is forwarded and returned without additional registry charge.

14.06 Other Services

14.060 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. Collect on delivery	SS–6
b. Restricted delivery	SS–15
c. Return receipt	SS–16
d. Merchandise return (shippers only)	SS–20

14.07 Fees

14.070 The fees for registered mail are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–14.

Classification Schedule SS–15—Restricted Delivery

15.01 Definition

15.010 Restricted delivery service is a service that provides a means by which a mailer may direct that delivery will be made only to the addressee or to someone authorized by the addressee to receive such mail.

15.02 Description of Service

15.020 This service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

	Classification schedule
a. Certified Mail	SS–5
b. COD Mail	SS–6
c. Insured Mail (if insured for more than $50)	SS–9
d. Registered Mail	SS–14

15.021 Restricted delivery is available to the mailer at the time of mailing or after mailing.

15.022 Restricted delivery service is available only to natural persons specified by name.

15.023 A record of delivery will be retained by the Postal Service for a specified period of time.

15.024 Failure to provide restricted delivery service when requested after mailing, due to prior delivery, is not grounds for refund of the fee or communications charges.

15.03 Fees

15.030 The fees for restricted delivery service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–15.

Classification Schedule SS–16—Return Receipts

16.01 Definition

16.010 Return receipt service is a service which provides evidence to the mailer that an article has been received at the delivery address.

16.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

16.020 Return receipt service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

	Classification schedule
a. Certified mail	SS–5
b. COD mail	SS–6
c. Insured mail (if insured for more than $50)	SS–9
d. Registered mail	SS–14
e. Express Mail.	
f. Priority Mail (merchandise only).	
g. Standard Mail (limited to merchandise sent by Single Piece, Postal Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Subclasses).	

16.021 Return receipt service is available at the time of mailing or, when purchased in conjuction with certified, COD, insured (if for more than $50), registered, or Express Mail, after mailing.

16.0211 Mailers requesting return receipt service at the time of mailing will be provided, as appropriate, the signature of the addressee or addressee's agent, the date delivered, and the address of delivery, if different from the address on the mailpiece.

16.0212 Mailers requesting return receipt service *after mailing* will be provided the date of delivery and the name of the person who signed for the article.

16.022 If the mailer does not receive a return receipt within a specified period of time from the date of mailing, the mailer may request a duplicate return receipt. No fee is charged for a duplicate return receipt.

16.03 FEES

16.030 The fees for return receipt service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–16.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–17—[RESERVED]

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–18—SPECIAL HANDLING

18.01 DEFINITION

18.010 Special handling service is a service that provides preferential handling to the extent practicable during dispatch and transportation.

18.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

18.020 Special handling service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

a. First-Class Mail

b. Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Standard Mail

18.021 Special handling service is mandatory for matter which requires special attention in handling, transportation and delivery.

18.03 REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAILER

18.030 Mail sent under this schedule must be identified as prescribed by regulation.

18.04 DEPOSIT OF MAIL

18.040 Mail sent under this schedule must be deposited in a manner prescribed by the Postal Service.

18.05 FORWARDING AND RETURN

18.050 If undeliverable as addressed, special handling mail that is forwarded to the addressee is given special handling without requiring payment of an additional handling fee. However, additional postage at the applicable Standard Mail rate is collected on delivery.

18.06 OTHER SERVICES

18.060 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. COD mail	SS–6
b. Insured mail	SS–9
c. Parcel airlift	SS–13
d. Merchandise return (shippers only)	SS–20

18.07 FEES

18.070 The fees for special handling service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–18.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–19—STAMPED ENVELOPES

19.01 DEFINITION

19.010 Plain stamped envelopes and printed stamped envelopes are envelopes with postage thereon offered for sale by the Postal Service.

19.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

19.020 Stamped envelopes are available for:

a. First-Class Mail within the first rate increment.

b. Standard Mail mailed at a minimum per-piece rate as prescribed by the Postal Service.

19.021 Printed stamped envelopes may be obtained by special request.

19.03 FEES

19.030 The fees for stamped envelopes are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–19.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–19A—STAMPED ENVELOPES

19A.01 DEFINITION

19A.010 Stamped Cards. Stamped Cards are cards with postage imprinted or impressed on them and supplied by the Postal Service for the transmission of messages.

19A.011 Double Stamped Cards. Double Stamped Cards consist of two attached cards, one of which may be detached by the receiver and returned by mail as a single Stamped Card.

19A.020 Description of Service. Stamped Cards are available for First-Class Mail.

19A.030 Fees. The fees for Stamped Cards are set forth in Rate Schedule SS–19A.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–20—MERCHANDISE RETURN

20.01 DEFINITION

20.010 Merchandise return service provides a method whereby a shipper may authorize its customers to return a parcel with the postage paid by the shipper. A shipper is the holder of a merchandise return permit.

20.02 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE

20.020 Merchandise return service is available to all shippers who obtain the necessary permit and who guarantee payment of postage and fees for all returned parcels.

20.021 Merchandise return service is available for the return of any parcel under the following classification schedules.

a. First-Class Mail

b. Standard Mail

20.03 REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAILER

20.030 Merchandise return labels must be prepared at the shipper's expense to specifications set forth by the Postal Service.

20.031 The shipper must furnish its customer with an appropriate merchandise return label.

20.04 OTHER SERVICES

20.040 The following services may be purchased in conjunction with Merchandise Return Service:

	Classification schedule
a. Certificate of mailing	SS–4
b. Insured mail	SS–9
c. Registered mail	SS–14
d. Special handling	SS–18

20.041 Only the shipper may purchase insurance service for the merchandise return parcel by indicating the amount of insurance on the merchandise return label before providing it to the customer. The customer who returns a parcel to the shipper under merchandise return service may not purchase insurance.

20.05 FEES

20.050 The fee for the merchandise return service is set forth in Rate Schedule SS–20. This fee is paid by the shipper.

20.06 AUTHORIZATIONS AND LICENSES

20.060 A permit fee as set forth in Rate Schedule 1000 must be paid once each calendar year by shippers utilizing merchandise return service.

20.061 The merchandise return permit may be canceled for failure to

maintain sufficient funds in a trust account to cover postage and fees on returned parcels or for distributing merchandise return labels that do not conform to Postal Service specifications.

RATE SCHEDULES

Calculation of Postage

When a rate schedule contains per-piece and per pound rates, the postage shall be the sum of the charges produced by those rates.

When a rate schedule contains a minimum-per-piece rate and a pound rate, the postage shall be the greater of the two.

When the computation of postage yields a fraction of a cent in the charge, the next higher whole cent must be paid.

EXPRESS MAIL RATE SCHEDULES 121,122, AND 123*

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Schedule 121 same day airport service	Schedule 122 custom designed	Schedule 123 next day and second day PO to PO	Schedule 123 next day and second day PO to addressee
½				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
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45				
46				
47				
48				
49				
50				
51				
52				
53				

EXPRESS MAIL RATE SCHEDULES 121,122, AND 123*—Continued

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Schedule 121 same day airport service	Schedule 122 custom designed	Schedule 123 next day and second day PO to PO	Schedule 123 next day and second day PO to addressee
54				
55				
56				
57				
58				
59				
60				
61				
62				
63				
64				
65				
66				
67				
68				
69				
70				

*Notes:
1. The applicable 2-pound rate is charged for matter sent in a 'flat rate' envelope provided by the Postal Service.
2. Add $ for each pickup stop.
3. Add $ for each Custom Designed delivery stop.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 221, LETTERS AND SEALED PARCELS

Postage rate unit	Rate (cents)
Letters & Sealed Parcels	
Regular	
Single First ounce	
Piece:	
Presort [1]	
Pre-barcoded parcels (experimental) [11]	
Additional Ounce [2]	
Nonstandard Surcharge	
Single Piece	
Presort	
Automation—Presort [1]	
Letters [3]	
Basic Presort [4]	
3-Digit Presort [5]	
5-Digit Presort [6]	
Carrier Route Presort [7]	
Flats [8]	
Basic Presort [9]	
3/5-Digit Presort [10]	
Additional Ounce [2]	
Nonstandard Surcharge	

Schedule 221 Notes:

[1] A mailing fee of $ must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by any person who mails other than Single Piece First-Class Mail. Payment of the fee allows the mailer to mail at any First-Class rate. For presorted mailing weighing more than 2 ounces, subtract cents per piece.

[2] Rate applies through 11 ounces. Heavier pieces are subject to Priority Mail rates.

[3] Rates apply to bulk-entered mailings of at least 500 letter-size pieces, which must be delivery point barcoded and meet other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

[4] Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail not mailed at 3-Digit, or Carrier Route rates.

[5] Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code designations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[6] Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[7] Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to carrier routes specified by the Postal Service.

[8] Rates apply to bulk-entered mailings of at least 500 flat-size pieces, each of which must be delivery-point barcoded or bear a ZIP+4 barcode, and must meet other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

[9] Rate applies to flat-size Automation-Presort category mail not mail at the 3/5-Digit rate.

[10] Rate applies to flat-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as specified by the Postal Service.

[11] Nonpresorted pre-barcoded parcels must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 50 pieces.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 222

[Stamped Cards and Post Cards]

Postage rate unit	Rate (cents)
Cards	
Regular	
Single Piece	
Presort [1]	
Automation-Presort [1, 2]	
Basic Presort [3]	
3-Digit Presort [4]	
5-Digit Presort [5]	
Carrier Route Presort [6]	

Schedule 222 Notes:

[1] A mailing fee of $ must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by any person who mails other than Single Piece First-Class Mail. Payment of the fee allows the mailer to mail at any First-Class rate.

[2] Rates apply to bulk-entered mailings of at least 500 pieces, which must be barcoded and meet other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

[3] Rate applies to Automation-Presort category mail not mailed at 3-Digit, 5-Digit, or Carrier Route rates.

[4] Rate applies to Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[5] Rate applies to Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[6] Rate applies to Automation-Presort category mail presorted to carrier routes specified by the Postal Service.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULES 223 PRIORITY MAIL SUBCLASS*

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	L, 1,2,3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
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16						
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66						
67						
68						
69						

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULES 223 PRIORITY MAIL SUBCLASS *—Continued

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	L, 1,2,3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
70						

***Notes:**

1. The 2-pound rate is charged for matter sent in a 'flat rate' envelope provided by the Postal Service.
2. Add $ for each pickup stop.
3. Pieces presented in mailings of at least 300 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for presorted Priority Mail received the cente per-piece discount.
4. EXCEPTION: Parcels weighing less than 15 pounds, measuring over 84 inches in length and girth combined, and chargeable with a minimum rate equal to that for a 15-pound parcel for the zone to which addressed.
5. Pieces presented in mailings of at least 50 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for pre-barcoded Priority Mail parcels receive a discount of cents per piece (experimental).

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.1

[Single piece subclass]

	Rate[1] (cents)
Basic:	
One ounce or less	
Not more than two ounces	
Not more than three ounces	
Not more than four ounces	
Not more than five ounces	
Not more than six ounces	
Not more than seven ounces	
Not more than eight ounces	
Not more than nine ounces	
Not more than ten ounces	
Not more than eleven ounces	
Not more than thirteen ounces	
More than thirteen ounces but less than sixteen ounces	
Nonstandard Surcharge[2]	
Keys and identification Devices	
First 2 ounces	
Each additional 2 ounces	

Schedule 321.1 Notes:

[1] When the postage rate computed at the single piece rate is higher than the rate prescribed in the other Standard Class parcel categories contained in rate schedules 322.1, 322.2, 322.3, or .323.1 for which the piece qualifies, the lower rate applies.

[2] Applies only to pieces weighing one ounce or less.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.2A
REGULAR SUBCLASS

[Presort Category[1]]

	Rate[1] (cents)
Letter size	
Piece Rate	
Basic	
3/5-Digit	
Destination Entry Discount per Piece	
BMC	
SCF	
Non-Letter Size	
Piece Rate	
Minimum per Piece 2/	
Basic	
3/5 Digit	
Destination Entry Discount per Piece	
BMC	
SCF	
Pound Rate 2/	
Plus per Piece Rate	
Basic	
3/5-Digit	
Destination Entry Discount per Pound	
BMC	
SCF	

Schedule 321.2A Notes:

[1] A fee of must be paid each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit

[2] Mailer pays either the minimum piece rate or the pound rate, whichever is higher.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.2B
REGULAR SUBCLASS
[Automation Category[1]

Letter size[2]	Rate (cents)
Piece Rate	
Basic Letter[3]	
3-Digit Letter[4]	
5-Digit Letter[5]	
Destination Entry Discount per Peice	
BMC	
SCF	
Flat size[6]	
Piece Rate	
Minimum per Piece[7]	
Basic Flat[8]	
3/5-Digit Flat[9]	
Destination Entry Discount per Piece	
BMC	
SCF	
Pound Rate[7]	
Plus per piece Rate	
Basic Flat	
3/5-Digit Flat	
Destination Entry Discount per Pound	
BMC	
SCF	

Schedule 321.2B Notes:

[1] A fee of $ must be paid once each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit.

[2] For letter-size automation pieces meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

[3] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail not mailed at 3-digit, 5-digit or carrier route rates.

[4] Rate applies to letter-size automation presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[5] Rate applies to letter-size automation presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[6] For flat-size automation mail meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

[7] Mailer pays minimum piece rate or pound rate, whichever is higher.

[8] Rate applies to flat-size automation mail not mailed at 3/5-digit rate.

[9] Rate applies to flat-size automation mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.3
[Enhanced Carrier Route Subclass[1]]

	Rate (cents)
Letter Size	
Piece Rate	
Basic	
Basic Automated Letter[2]	
High Density	
Saturation	
Destination Entry Discount per Piece	
BMC	
SCF	
DDU[3]	
Non-Letter Size	
Piece Rate	
Minimum per Piece[4]	
Basic	
High Density	
Saturation	
Destination Entry Discount per Piece	
BMC	
SCF	
DDU[3]	
Pound Rate[4]	
Plus per Piece Rate	
Basic	
High Density	
Saturation	
Destination Entry Discount per Pound	
BMC	
SCF	
DDU[3]	

Schedule 321.3 Notes:

[1] A fee of $ must be paid each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit.

[2] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail presorted to routes specified by the Postal Service.

[3] Applies only to enhanced carrier route mail.

[4] Mailer pays either the minimum piece rate or the pound rate, whichever is higher.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.4A—
NONPROFIT SUBCLASS PRESORT CATEGORIES[1]
[Full Rates]

	Rate (cents)
Letter Size:	
Piece Rate:	
Basic	.....
3/5-Digit	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
Non-Letter Size:	
Piece Rate:	
Minimum per Piece:[2]	.....
Basic	.....
3/5-Digit	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
Pound Rate:[2]	
Plus per Piece Rate:	
Basic	.....
3/5-Digit	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Pound:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....

Schedule 321.4A Notes

[1] A fee of $85.00 must be paid once each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit.

[2] Mailer pays either the minimum piece rate or the pound rate, whichever is higher.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.4B—NONPROFIT SUBCLASS AUTOMATION CATEGORIES[1]

[Full Rates]

	Rate (cents)
Letter Size	
Piece Rate:	
Basic Letter[3]	.....
3-Digit Letter[4]	.....
5-Digit Letter[5]	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
Flat Size:[6]	
Piece Rate:	
Minimum per Piece:[7]	
Basic Flat[8]	.....
3/5-Digit[9]	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
Pound Rate:[7]	
Plus per Piece Rate	
Basic Flat	.....
3/5-Digit Flat	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Pound:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....

Schedule 321.4B Notes

[1] A fee of $85.00 must be paid once each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit.

[2] For letter-size automation pieces meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

[3] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail not mailed at 3-digit, 5-digit or carrier route rates.

[4] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[5] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

[6] For flat-size automation mail meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

[7] Mailer pays minimum piece rate or pound rate, whichever is higher.

[8] Rate applies to flat-size automation mail not mailed at 3/5-digit rate.

[9] Rate applies to flat-size automation mail presorted to single or multiple three-and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as specified by the Postal Service.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 321.5—NONPROFIT ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE SUBCLASS[1]

[Full Rates]

	Rate (cents)
Letter Size:	
Piece Rate:	
Basic	.....
Basic Automated Letter[2]	.....
High Density	.....
Saturation	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
DDU[3]	.....
Non-Letter Size:	
Piece Rate:	
Minimum per Piece:[4]	
Basic	.....
High Density	.....
Saturation	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Piece:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
DDU[3]	.....
Pound Rate:[4]	
Plus per Piece Rate:	
Basic	.....
High Density	.....
Saturation	.....
Destination Entry Discount per Pound:	
BMC	.....
SCF	.....
DDU[3]	.....

Schedule 321.5 Notes

[1] A fee of $ must be paid each 12-month period for each bulk mailing permit.

[2] Rate applies to letter-size automation mail presorted to routes specified by the Postal Service.

[3] Applies only to enhanced carrier route mail.

[4] Mailer pays either the minimum piece rate or the pound rate, whichever is higher.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 322.1A PARCEL POST SUBCLASS BASIC RATES*

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Local	Zone ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 322.1A PARCEL POST SUBCLASS BASIC RATES*—Continued

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Local	Zone ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Zone 6	Zone 7	Zone 8
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								
26								
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66								
67								
68								
69								
70								

***Notes:**
1. For Intra-BMC parcels, deduct:
2. For nonmachinable Inter-BMC parcels, add:
3. For each pickup stop, add:

STANDARD RATE SCHEDULE 322.1B PARCEL POST SUBCLASS DESTINATION BMC RATES*

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Zones ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Zones ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
					36				

STANDARD RATE SCHEDULE 322.1B PARCEL POST SUBCLASS DESTINATION BMC RATES*—Continued

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Zones ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5	Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Zones ½	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
2					37				
3					38				
4					39				
5					40				
6					41				
7					42				
8					43				
9					44				
10					45				
11					46				
12					47				
13					48				
14					49				
15					50				
16					51				
17					52				
18					53				
19					54				
20					55				
21					56				
22					57				
23					58				
24					59				
25					60				
26					61				
27					62				
28					63				
29					64				
30					65				
31					66				
32					67				
33					68				
34					69				
35					70				

*A fee of $ must be paid each year.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 322.3A BOUND PRINTED MATTER SUBCLASS SINGLE PIECE RATES*

[Dollars]

Weight not exceeding (pounds)	Zones							
	Local	1 & 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.5								
2								
2.5								
3								
3.5								
4								
4.5								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
Per piece rate								
Per pound rate								

*Includes both catalogs and similar bound printed matter.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 322.3B BOUND PRINTED MATTER SUBCLASS BULK AND CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT RATES [1]

[Dollars]

Zone	Per-piece	Carrier route [2]	Per-pound
Local			
1 & 2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

[1] Includes both catalogs and similar bound printed matter.
[2] Applies to mailings of at least 300 pieces presorted to carrier route as prescribed by the Postal Service.

STANDARD MAIL RATE SCHEDULES 323.1 & 323.2 SPECIAL AND LIBRARY RATE SUBCLASSES

	Rates (cents)
Schedule 323.1: Special	
First Pound	
Not presorted	
LEVEL A Presort (5-digits) [1 2]	
LEVEL B Presort (BMC) [1 3]	
Each additional pound through 7 pounds	
Each additional pound over 7 pounds	
Schedule 323.2: Library	Full Rates (cents)
First pound	
Each additional pound through 7 pounds	
Each additional pound over 7 pounds	

Schedule 323.1 Notes:
[1] A fee must be paid once each 12-month period for each permit.
[2] For mailings of 500 or more pieces properly prepared and presorted to five-digit destination ZIP Codes.
[3] For mailings of 500 or more pieces properly prepared and presorted to Bulk Mail Centers.

PERIODICALS RATE SCHEDULE 421 REGULAR SUBCLASS [1 2]

	Postage rate unit	Rate [3] (cents)
Per pound:		
Nonadvertising Portion	Pound	
Advertising Portion:		
Delivery Office [4]	Pound	
SCF [5]	Pound	
1&2	Pound	
3	Pound	
4	Pound	
5	Pound	
6	Pound	
7	Pound	
8	Pound	
Science of Agriculture		
Delivery Office	Pound	
SCF	Pound	
Zone 1&2	Pound	
PER PIECE: Less Nonadvertising Factor of	cents.[6]	
Required Preparation [7]	Piece	
Presorted to 3-digit city/5-digit	Piece	
Presorted to Carrier Route	Piece	

PERIODICALS RATE SCHEDULE 421 REGULAR SUBCLASS [1 2]—Continued

	Postage rate unit	Rate [3] (cents)
Discounts:		
Prepared to Delivery Office [4]	Piece	
Prepared to SCF [5]	Piece	
High Density [8]	Piece	
Saturation [9]	Piece	
Automation Discounts for Automation Compatible Mail [10]		
From Required:		
Pre-barcoded letter size	Piece	
Pre-barcoded flats	Piece	
From 3/5 Digit:		
Pre-barcoded 3-digit letter size.	Piece	
Pre-barcoded 5-digit letter size.	Piece	
Pre-barcoded flats	Piece	

Schedule 421 Notes:
[1] The rates in this schedule also apply to commingled nonsubscriber, non-requester, complimentary, and sample copies in excess of 10 percent allowance in regular-rate, non-profit, and classroom periodicals.
[2] Rates do not apply to otherwise regular rate mail that qualifies for the Within-County rates in Schedule 423.2.
[3] Charges are computed by adding the appropriate per-piece charge to the sum of the nonadvertising portion and the advertising portion, as applicable.
[4] Applies to carrier route (including high density and saturation) mail delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office.
[5] Applies to mail delivered within the SCF area of the originating SCF office.
[6] For postage calculations, multiply the proportion of nonadvertising content by this factor and subtract from the applicable piece rate.
[7] Mail presorted to 3-digit (other than 3-digit city), SCF, states, or mixed states.
[8] Applicable to high density mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[9] Applicable to saturation mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[10] For automation compatible mail meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

PERIODICALS RATE SCHEDULE 423.2—WITHIN COUNTY

[Full Rates]

	Rate (cents)
Per Pound:	
General	.....
Delivery Office[1]	.....
Per Piece:	
Required Presort	.....
Carrier Route	.....
Presort	.....
Per Piece Discounts:	
Delivery Office[2]	.....
High Density (formerly 125 piece)[3]	.....
Saturation	.....
Automation Discounts for Automation Compatible Mail[4] From Required:	
3-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	.....
5-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	.....
3/5-Digit Pre-barcoded Flats	.....

Schedule 423.2 Notes
[1] Applicable only to the pound charge of carrier route (including high density and saturation) presorted pieces to be delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office
[2] Applicable only to carrier presorted pieces to be delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office.

[3] Applicable to high density mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[4] For automation compatible pieces meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.

RATE SCHEDULE 423.3—PUBLICATIONS OF AUTHORIZED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS [10]

[Full Rates]

	Postage rate unit	Rate [1] (cents)
Per Pound:		
Nonadvertising portion	Pound	
Advertising portion: [9]		
Delivery Office [2]	Pound	
SCF [3]	Pound	
1&2	Pound	
3	Pound	
4	Pound	
5	Pound	
6	Pound	
7	Pound	
8	Pound	
Per Piece: Less Nonadvertising Factor of cents. [4]		
Required Preparation [5]	Piece	
Presorted to 3-digit city/5-digit	Piece	
Presorted to Carrier Route	Piece	
Discounts:		
Prepared to Delivery Office [2]	Piece	
High Density (formerly 125-Piece) [6]	Piece	
Saturation [7]	Piece	
Automation Discounts for Automation Compatible Mail [8]		
From Required:		
Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
Pre-barcoded Flats	Piece	
From 3/5 Digit:		
3-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
5-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
Pre-barcoded Flats	Piece	

Schedule 423.3 Notes

[1] Charges are computed by adding the appropriate per-piece charge to the sum of the nonadvertising portion and the advertising portion, as applicable.
[2] Applies to carrier route (including high density and saturation) mail delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office.
[3] Applies to mail delivered within the SCF area of the originating SCF office.
[4] For postage calculation, multiply the proportion of nonadvertising content by this factor and subtract from the applicable piece rate.
[5] Mail presorted to 3-digit (other than 3-digit city), SCF, states, or mixed states.
[6] Applicable to high density mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[7] Applicable to saturation mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[8] For automation compatible mail meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.
[9] Not applicable to publications containing 10 percent or less advertising content.
[10] If qualified, nonprofit publications may use Within-County rates for applicable portions of a mailing.

PERIODICALS RATE SCHEDULE 423.4—CLASSROOM PUBLICATIONS [10]

[Full Rates]

	Postage rate unit	Rate [1] (cents)
Per Pound:		
Nonadvertising Portion	Pound	
Advertising Portion: [9]		
Delivery Office [2]	Pound	
SCF [3]	Pound	
1&2	Pound	
3	Pound	
4	Pound	
5	Pound	
6	Pound	
7	Pound	
8	Pound	
Per Piece: Less Nonadvertising Factor of cents: [4]		
Required Preparation [5]	Piece	
Presorted to 3-digit city/5-digit	Piece	
Presorted to Carrier Route	Piece	
Discounts:		
Prepared to Delivery Office. [2]	Piece	
Prepared to SCF	Piece	
High Density (formerly 125-piece)	Piece	
Saturation [7]	Piece	
Automation Discounts for Automation Compatible Mail: [8]		
From Required:		
Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
Pre-barcoded Flats	Piece	
From 3/5-Digit:		
3-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
5-Digit Pre-barcoded Letter size	Piece	
Pre-barcoded Flats	Piece	

Schedule 423.4 Notes

[1] Charges are computed by adding the appropriate per-piece charge to the sum of the nonadvertising portion and the advertising portion, as applicable.
[2] Applies to carrier route (including high density and saturation) mail delivered within the delivery area of the originating post office.
[3] Applies to mail delivered within the SCF area of the originating SCF office.
[4] For postage calculation, multiply the portion of nonadvertising content by this factor and subtract from the applicable piece rate.
[5] Mail presorted to 3-digit (other than 3-digit city), SCF, states, or mixed states.
[6] Applicable to high density mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[7] Applicable to saturation mail, deducted from carrier route presort rate.
[8] For automation compatible mail meeting applicable Postal Service regulations.
[9] Not applicable to publications containing 10 percent or less advertising content.
[10] If qualified, Classroom Mail may use Within County rates for applicable portions of a mailing.

Special services	Description	Fee
SCHEDULE SS–1		
Address Corrections	Per manual correction	
	Per automated correction	
SCHEDULE SS–2—BUSINESS REPLY MAIL	Active business reply advance deposit account:	
	Per piece:	
	Pre-barcoded	
	Nonletter-size, using reverse manifest (experimental)	

Special services	Description	Fee
	Nonletter-size, using weight averaging (experimental)	
	Other	
	Payment of postage due charges if active business reply mail advance deposit account not used:	
	Per piece	
	Annual License and Accounting Fees:	
	Accounting Fee for Advance Deposit Account	
	Permit fee (with or without Advance Deposit Account)	
	Monthly Fees for customers using a reverse manifest or weight averaging for nonletter-size business reply	
	Nonletter-size, using reverse manifest (experimental)	
	Nonletter-size, using weight averaging (experimental)	
	Set-up/Qualification fee for customers using a reverse manifest or weight averaging for nonletter-size business reply	
	Nonletter-size, using reverse manifest (experimental)	
	Nonletter-size, using weight averaging (experimental)	
	[1] Experimental per piece, monthly, and set-up/qualification fees are applicable only to participants selected by the Postal Service for the nonletter-size business reply mail experiment. The experimental fees expire June 8, 1997.[1]	
SCHEDULE SS–4		
Certificates of Mailing	Individual Pieces	(in addition to postage)
	Original certificate of mailing for listed pieces of all classes of ordinary mail (per piece)	
	Three or more pieces individually listed in a firm mailing book or an approved customer provided manifest (per piece)	
	Each additional copy of original certificate of mailing or original mailing receipt for registered, insured, certified, and COD mail (each copy)	
	Bulk Pieces:	
	Identical pieces of First-Class and Single Piece, Regular, and Nonprofit Standard Mail paid with ordinary stamps, precanceled stamps, or meter stamps are subject to the following fees:	
	Up to 1,000 pieces (one certificate for total number).	
	Each additional 1,000 pieces or fraction.	
	Duplicate copy.	
SCHEDULE SS–5		
Certified Mail	Service (per mailpiece	(in addition to postage)
SCHEDULE SS–6		
Collect on Delivery	Amount to be collected, or Insurance Coverage Desired	(in addition to postage)
	Notice of nondelivery of COD	
	Alteration of COD charges or designation of new addresses	
	Registered COD	
SCHEDULE SS–8		
Money Orders	Domestic	
	$0.01 to $700	
	APO–FPO $0.01 to $700	
	Inquiry Fee, which includes the issuance of copy of a paid money order	
SCHEDULE SS–9—Insured Mail Part a—Express Mail Insurance	Document Reconstruction Coverage	(in addition to postage) no charge.
	$0.01 to $500	
	Merchandise Declared Value Fee	no charge for each $100 (or fraction thereof) over $500 in value.
	$ 0.01 to $ 500	
	500.01 to 5000	
Part b—General Insurance	Declared Value Fee	(in addition to postage).

Special services	Description	Fee
	$ 0.01 to $ 50	plus for each $100 (or fraction thereof) over $100 in declared value.
	50.01 to $ 100	
	100.01 to $5000	
SCHEDULE SS–10—Post Office Boxes and Caller Service	I. Semi-annual Box Fees [1]	Fee Group A, B, C, D and E [3]
	1. Semi-annual Box Fees[1]	Fee Group—A, B, C, D, E[3]
	Box Size [2]	
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	II. Semi-annual Caller Service Fees	Fee Group A, B, C, D
	III. Annual Call Number Reservation Fee (all applicable fee groups)	

[1] A customer ineligible for carrier delivery may obtain a post office box at no charge, subject to administrative decisions regarding customer's proximity to post office.
[2] Box Size 1=under 296 cubic inches; 2=296–499 cubic inches; 3=500–999 cubic inches; 4=1000–1999 cubic inches; 5=2000 cubic inches and over.
[3] Group E post office box customers subject to these fees are those eligible for carrier delivery.

	Description	Fee
SCHEDULE SS–11a		
Zip Coding of Mailing Lists	Per thousand addresses	
SCHEDULE SS–11b		
Correction of Mailing Lists	Per submitted address	
	Minimum charge per list corrected	
SCHEDULE SS–11c		
Address Changes for Election Boards and Registration		
	Per change of address	
Commissions		
SCHEDULE SS–11d		
Corrections Associated with Arrangement of Address Cards in Carrier Delivery Per correction		
Sequence		
NOTE: When rural routes have been consolidated or changed to another post office, no charge will be made for correction if the list contains only names of persons residing on the route or routes involved.		
SCHEDULE SS–12		
On-site Meter Setting	First Meter.	
	By appointment	
	Unscheduled request	
	Additional meters	
	Checking meter in or out of (per meter)	
SCHEDULE SS–13		
Parcel Air Lift	Up to 2 pounds	Fee (in addition to Parcel Post postage)
	Over 2 up to 3 pounds	
	Over 3 up to 4 pounds	
	Over 4 pounds	

	Declared Value of Article [1]	Fees [2] (in addition to postage)	Handling charge
Schedule SS–14—Registered Mail.	$0.00 to $100	(without insurance)	None.
	0.00 to 100	(with insurance)	
	100.01 to 500		
	500.01 to 1,000		
	1,000.01 to 2,000		
	2,000.01 to 3,000		
	3,000.01 to 4,000		
	4,000.01 to 5,000		
	5,000.01 to 6,000		
	6,000.01 to 7,000		
	7,000.01 to 8,000		
	8,000.01 to 9,000		
	9,000.01 to 10,000		
	10,000.01 to 11,000		
	11,000.01 to 12,000		
	12,000.01 to 13,000		
	13,000.01 to 14,000		
	14,000.01 to 15,000		
	15,000.01 to 16,000		
	16,000.01 to 17,000		
	17,000.01 to 18,000		
	18,000.01 to 19,000		
	19,000.01 to 20,000		
	20,000.01 to 21,000		
	21,000.01 to 22,000		
	22,000.01 to 23,000		
	23,000.01 to 24,000		
	24,000.01 to 25,000		
	25,000.01 to $1 million	plus	cents for each $1,000 (or fraction thereof) over $25,000.
	Over $1 million to $15 million	plus	cents for each $1,000 (or fraction thereof) over $1 million.
	Over $15 million	plus	Amount determined by the Postal Service based on weight, space and value.

[1] Articles with a declared value of more than $25,000 can be registered, but compensation for loss or damage is limited to $25,000.
[2] Fees for articles with declared values of more than $100 include insurance.

	Description	Fee
SCHEDULE SS–15		
		(in addition to postage)
Restricted Delivery	Per Piece	
SCHEDULE SS–16—Return Receipts	Receipts Issued at Time of Mailing [1]	
	Items other than merchandise	
	Merchandise (without another special service)	
	Receipt Issued after Mailing [2]	
SCHEDULE SS–18		
Special handling	Not more than 10 pounds	
	More than 10 pounds	
SCHEDULE SS–19		
Stamped	Single Sale	(in addition to postage)
Envelopes		
	BULK (500) #6¾ size: Regular Window	
	BULK (500) size > #6¾ through #10 [1] Regular Window	
	Multi-Color Printing (500) #6¾ size, #10 size [1]	
	Printing charge per 500 Envelopes (for each type of printed envelope)	
	Minimum Order (500) envelopes)	
	Order for 1,000 or more envelopes	
	Double Window (500)—Size > #6¾ through #10 [1]	
	Household (50): size #6¾—Regular Window	
	size > #6¾ through #10—Regular Window	
SCHEDULE SS–19A—Stamped Cards	Stamped Card	(in addition to postage)
	Double Stamped Card	
SCHEDULE SS–20		
Merchandise Return	Per Transaction	
	Shipper must have an advance deposit account (see DMCS Schedule 1000)	
SCHEDULE 1000		
Fees	First-Class Presorted Mailing Fee	
	Periodicals Fees	
	A. Original Entry	
	B. Additional Entry	
	C. Re-entry	
	D. Registration for News Agents	
	Regular, Enhanced Carrier Route and Nonprofit Standard Mail Bulk Mailing Fee	
	Parcel Post: Destination BMC	
	Special Standard Mail Presorted Mailing Fee	
	Authorization to Use Permit Imprint	
	Merchandise Return (per facility receiving merchandise return labels)	
	Business Reply Mail Permit	

[1] Fee for precancelled envelopes is the same.
[1] This receipt shows the signature of the person to whom the mailpiece was delivered, the date of delivery and the delivery address, if such address is different from the address on the mailpiece.
[2] This receipt shows to whom the mailpiece was delivered and the date of delivery.

[61 FR 32657, June 25, 1996; 61 FR 37316, July 17, 1996, as amended at 61 FR 55100, 55102, Oct. 24, 1996; 62 FR 35425, 35426, July 1, 1997]

Subpart D—Rules Applicable to Requests for Changes in the Nature of Postal Services

§ 3001.71 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart govern the procedure with regard to proposals of the Postal Service pursuant to section 3661 of the Act requesting from the Commission an advisory opinion on changes in the nature of postal services which will generally affect service on a nationwide or substantially nationwide basis. The Rules of General Applicability in subpart A of this part are also applicable to proceedings on requests subject to this subpart.

§ 3001.72 Filing of formal requests.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission issue an advisory opinion on a proposed change in the nature of postal services subject to this subpart, the Postal

Service shall file with the Commission a formal request for such an opinion in accordance with the requirements of §§ 3001.9 to 3001.11 and 3001.74. Such request shall be filed not less than 90 days in advance of the date on which the Postal Service proposes to make effective the change in the nature of postal services involved. Within 5 days after the Postal Service has filed a formal request for a recommended decision in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall lodge a notice thereof with the Director of the Federal Register for publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[38 FR 4330, Feb. 13, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.73 Filing of prepared direct testimony.

Simultaneously with the filing of a formal request for an advisory opinion under this subpart, the Postal Service shall file all of the prepared direct evidence upon which it proposes to rely in the proceeding on the record before the Commission to establish that the proposed change in the nature of postal services is in accordance with and conforms to the policies of the Act. Such prepared direct evidence shall be in the form of prepared written testimony and documentary exhibits which shall be filed in accordance with § 3001.31.

§ 3001.74 Contents of formal requests.

(a) *General requirements.* Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and basis as are necessary and appropriate to fully inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance and impact of the proposed change in the nature of postal services and to show that such change in the nature of postal service is in accordance with and conforms to the policies established under the Act. Detailed data and information and statements of reasons or basis set forth in the Postal Service's prepared direct evidence may be relied upon for purposes of the formal request without restatement therein by reference in the request to the portions of the prepared direct evidence relied upon.

(b) *Specific information.* Subject to the right of the Commission to request additional information, each formal request shall include the following:

(1) A detailed statement of the present nature of the postal services proposed to be changed and the change proposed;

(2) The proposed effective date for the proposed change in the nature of postal services;

(3) A full and complete statement of the reasons and basis for the Postal Service's determination that the proposed change in the nature of postal services is in accordance with and conforms to the policies of the Act.

§ 3001.75 Service by the Postal Service.

Immediately after the issuance of an order or orders by the Commission designating an officer of the Commission to represent the interests of the general public in a proceeding before the Commission under this subpart, the Postal Service shall serve copies of its formal request for an advisory opinion and its prepared direct evidence upon such officer and the intervenors as provided by § 3001.12. Service shall also be made on persons who are limited participators.

[38 FR 3511, Feb. 7, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

Subpart E—Rules Applicable to Rate and Service Complaints

§ 3001.81 Applicability.

The rules in this subpart govern the procedure with regard to rate and service complaints filed under section 3662 of the Act. The Rules of General Applicability in subpart A of this part are also applicable to proceedings on such complaints.

§ 3001.82 Scope and nature of complaints.

Interested parties who believe the Postal Service is charging rates which do not conform to the policies set out in the Act, or who believe that they are not receiving postal service in accordance with the policies of such title, may file and serve a written complaint with the Commission in the form and manner required by §§ 3001.9 to 3001.12.

The Commission shall entertain only those complaints which clearly raise an issue concerning whether or not rates or services contravene the policies of the Act; thus, complaints raising a question as to whether the Postal Service has properly applied its existing rates and fees or mail classification schedule to a particular mail user or with regard to an individual, localized, or temporary service issue not on a substantially nationwide basis shall generally not be considered as properly raising a matter of policy to be considered by the Commission. The Commission shall, in the exercise of its discretion, decline to entertain a complaint during the period the complainant is continuing to pursue the general subject matter of the complaint before an Administrative Law Judge or the judicial officer of the Postal Service.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 25027, Nov. 25, 1972]

§ 3001.83 Contents of complaints.

Subject to the right of the Commission to require the furnishing of additional information, each complaint shall include the following information:

(a) The full name and address of the complainant(s);

(b) A full and complete statement of the grounds for such complaint, including specific reference to the postal rates or services involved and the policies to which it is claimed they do not conform;

(c) A list or description of all persons or classes of persons known or believed to be similarly affected by the rates or services involved in the complaint;

(d) A statement of the specific relief or redress requested;

(e) Copies of all correspondence or written communications between the complainant, his/her agent, representative, or attorney, and the Postal Service or any officer, employee or instrumentality thereof, and which relates to the subject matter of the complaint; provided, however, that any such documents which are a part of a public file in any proceeding before an Administrative Law Judge or the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service need not be included if the complaint states the title, docket reference, nature, current status, and disposition of such proceeding.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 37 FR 25027, Nov. 25, 1972; 58 FR 38976, 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.84 Answers by the Postal Service.

Within 30 days after the filing of a complaint with the Commission (unless more time is allowed under § 3001.85(a)), the Postal Service shall file and serve an answer. Such answer shall be in the form and manner required by §§ 3001.9 to 3001.12, and shall include the following:

(a) Specific admission, denial or explanation of each fact alleged in the complaint or, if the Postal Service is without knowledge thereof, a statement to that effect. Each fact alleged in a complaint not thus specifically answered shall be deemed to have been admitted;

(b) A statement as to the position of the Postal Service on the allegations in the complaint that the rates or service involved are not in accord with the policies of the Act, and the facts and reasons in support of such position;

(c) The position of the Postal Service on the specific relief or redress requested by the complainant, the disposition of the complaint recommended by the Postal Service, including whether or not a hearing should be held, and a statement of any facts and reasons in support of such position.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 49 FR 6490, Feb. 22, 1984; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.85 Informal procedures.

(a) In case of a complaint alleging service not in accordance with the policies of the Act, the Commission, acting through such appropriate Commission employees as the Chairman shall designate, may use correspondence, conferences, or other appropriate informal inquiry methods to define the issues, further the exchange of information and explanations between the Postal Service and the complainant, and facilitate negotiated settlement. On receiving a service complaint, the Commission will give a notice of whether or not it intends to use informal procedures, In either case, it will give the

Postal Service such additional time to answer the complaint as is just and appropriate. After expeditiously conducting informal inquiries, it will issue an order summarizing the results. All correspondence and other documents issued by or lodged with the Commission during informal inquiries will be part of the public record of the case.

(b) It shall be the general policy and practice of the Commission to encourage the resolution and settlement of complaints by informal procedures, including correspondence, conferences between the parties, and the conduct of proceedings off the record with the consent of the parties.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 49 FR 6490, Feb. 22, 1984; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.86 Proceedings on the record.

If a complaint is not resolved or settled under informal procedures, the Commission shall consider whether or not, in its discretion, a proceeding on the record with an opportunity for hearing should be held on such complaint. If the Commission has reason to believe that the complaint may be justified and that a hearing may otherwise be appropriate in the exercise of its discretion, the Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding pursuant to § 3001.17, and further formal proceedings shall then be held as appropriate under the Commission's rules in subpart A of this part.

§ 3001.87 Commission determinations.

If the Commission determines, after the completion of proceedings which provide an opportunity for hearing, that a complaint is justified in whole or in part, the Commission shall issue a recommended decision to the Postal Service if the complaint involves a matter of rates and fees or mail classification and shall render a public report if the complaint involves other matters. The Commission shall notify the complainant, the Postal Service, and any other parties in each complaint proceeding of the action taken or the final disposition of the complaint.

Subpart F—Rules Applicable to the Filing of Testimony by Intervenors

§ 3001.91 Applicability and general policy.

(a) The rules in this subpart identify those areas in which intervenors in rate and classification proceedings could assist the Commission. Intervenors are free to file any relevant and material evidence which is not unduly repetitious or cumulative.

(b) Intervenors are invited to submit the information specified in § 3001.92 (a) through (1) on a voluntary basis as part of their own direct cases. The Commission's request that intervenors voluntarily file such information is not in derogation of the Commission's and the presiding officer's authority, pursuant to §§ 3001.23 through 3001.28, respecting the provision of such or other information. Intervenors, particularly those making contentions under section 3622(b)(4) of the Act, shall be aware that their failure to provide relevant and material information will be taken into account in determining the weight which the Commission accords to their arguments and evidence.

(c) All evidence shall be filed in accordance with § 3001.31. The rules of general applicability of subpart A of this part are also applicable to filings subject to this subpart.

[38 FR 7536, Mar. 22, 1973, as amended at 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

§ 3001.92 Submissions by intervenors.

In addition to any other direct testimony submitted by an intervenor in a rate or classification proceeding, and in addition to further requests for information by the Commission, the Commission requests that the following information be submitted where applicable and where it is within the ability of the intervenor to produce it. If it is alleged that such information is representative of a significant segment of a rate-category of mail or of the users thereof it should be accompanied by a demonstration to that effect.

(a) *Description of intervenor.* A statement as to the nature of the business and operations of the intervenor. If the intervenor is an association, the names

of the members of the association and a general description of their business and operations.

(b) *Usage of postal services.* An identification of the extent to and method by which the postal services are used including an estimated itemization of the postage cost by class and rate.

(c) *Intervenor's mailing operations.* A description of the mailing and handling operations of the intervenor for items which are to pass through the Postal Service. Descriptions of premailing operations should include the details as to any special arrangements with the Postal Service. Also, a statement as to the total mail handling costs exclusive of Postal Service payments including a breakdown of such costs by, and identification of, the functions for which the costs are incurred.

(d) *Intervenor's postage costs.* A statement of the relative importance of postage costs to other expenses. An estimated itemization of postage costs by class of mail as related to total operating expenses. If more than one major product is affected by postage costs, data should be presented for each, e.g., each periodical of a firm in the publishing business.

(e) *Financial impact of rate or classification changes.* An estimate of the financial impact of the proposed rate or classification changes on the intervenor, or aggregate data for members of mail user associations, together with details of the basis of estimates and supporting data.

(f) *Absorption/avoidance of rate changes.* An analysis as to the ability or inability of the intervenor to absorb, avoid, or pass on postal rate changes, to customer groups (or advertisers or sponsoring organizations, if any). The analysis should include an analysis of the intervenor's customers' demand for the product of the intervenor's industry.

(g) *Demand for postal services.* An indication of the demand of the intervenor's industry for postal services including an estimate of the elasticity of such demand.

(h) *Competitor operations.* If the intervenor is a competitor of the Postal Service, a definition of the areas of competition between the intervenor and the Postal Service and a demonstration of the intervenor's ability or inability to meet postal competition. Include a brief historical description of the company's operations during the past 5 years, showing growth in each major segment of the company's business and a statement of the current rates and all conditions of service applicable to the portion of the intervenor's operations which is affected by comparable service of the Postal Service. The statement should include data on the costs of the services which the intervenor contends are competitive with services of the Postal Service. The statement of costs should identify by character and amount those attributed to the competitive service and the intervenor's rationale (i.e., cost and pricing hypothesis) for such attribution.

(i) *Impact of rate changes on users' suppliers.* If the intervenor is a manufacturer or supplier of goods or services provided to users of the Postal Service, a statement of the impact on expenses and revenues resulting from postage changes, together with statistical or other accounting data and the reasons supporting such statement.

(j) *Statement of revenues, volumes, costs, and profits.* For all intervenors, a certified statement of the total revenues, costs, and profits for each of the last 5 years together with an estimate of the impact of the proposed postal changes on total revenues, costs, and profits. Also the intervenor's volume of mail passing through the Postal Service (by class and subclass) and the comparable volume of traffic moving by competitive services (or the volume of services performed in competition with the Postal Service, or the volume of materials manufactured for or supplied to the Postal Service or users of the Postal Service). Volume data should be presented for each of the 5 years for which total revenues, costs, and profits are reported. An estimate of the impact on volume resulting from the proposed postal increases should be included.

(k) *User studies of Postal Service.* Any studies of the Postal Service's costs, revenues, or operations which would be of help to the Commission in evaluating the merits of the Postal Service's request.

(l) *Workpapers.* (1) Whenever an intervenor presents evidence it shall accompany such evidence with seven sets of workpapers, five for use by the Commission staff and two which shall be available for use by the public at the Commission offices. Two additional sets shall be delivered to counsel for the U.S. Postal Service.

(2) Workpapers shall contain the data and analyses underlying the submissions, including:

(i) A description of the methods used in collecting, summarizing and expanding the data and a clear indication of how the workpapers relate to the various submissions;

(ii) Summaries of sample data and other data used; and

(iii) Any special studies made.

(3) Workpapers shall be neat and legible.

(4) Workpapers shall include citations sufficient to enable a reviewer to trace any number used but not derived in the associated testimony back to published documents or, if not obtained from published documents, to primary data sources. Citations shall be sufficiently detailed to enable a reviewer to identify and locate the specific data used, e.g., by reference to document, page, line, column, etc. With the exception of workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format, the required citations themselves, or a cross-reference to a specific page, line, and column of a table of citations, shall appear on each page of each workpaper. Workpapers that follow a standardized and repetitive format shall include the citations described in this paragraph for a sufficient number of representative examples to enable a reviewer to trace numbers directly or by analogy.

[38 FR 7536, Mar. 22, 1973, as amended at 50 FR 43393, Oct. 25, 1985; 51 FR 8827, Mar. 14, 1986]

Subpart G—Rules Applicable to the Filing of Periodic Reports by the U.S. Postal Service

§ 3001.101 Applicability and general policy.

The rules in this subpart identify reports[1] financial statements and cost analyses which the Postal Service will file with the Secretary of the Commission on a periodic basis.

[41 FR 47438, Oct. 29, 1976, as amended at 51 FR 24531, July 7, 1986; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.102 Filing of reports.

Each report listed in this section shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission within two weeks of its presentation for use by postal management unless otherwise noted. The reports and information required to be provided by this subpart need not include matters exempt from disclosure by law. Whenever a specific source is cited in this section, that citation includes any successor or substituted source.

(a) *Annual reports.* The following information will be filed by the Postal Service annually.

(1) Cost and Revenue Analysis Report which will identify each change in attribution assumptions from the prior year's report. The Postal Service will file concurrently portions of LIOCATT used in the report, transportation workpapers 31 and 57 and, if changed from the prior year, data collection forms and corresponding training handbooks.

(2) Cost Segments and Components.

(3) City Delivery Information including the number of routes by type, the number of possible deliveries by type, the number of collection boxes and

[1] It is realized that some items, characterized as ''reports,'' are not reports in the true sense of the word since they are not published and heretofore have only been intended for internal use.

businesses served (120 days from the close of the fiscal year).

(4) Rural Carrier Information including the number of routes by type and miles, stops, boxes served and mail pieces by route type (120 days from the close of the fiscal year).

(5) Civil Service Retirement Fund Deficit Report (2 weeks after release of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General).

(6) Worker's Compensation Report including summary workpapers (2 weeks after release of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General).

(7) Annual Report of the Postmaster General.

(8) Congressional Budget Submission including workpapers. The Postal Service will also file concurrently Summary Tables SE 1, 2 and 6 (coincide with submission to Congress).

(9) Audit Adjustment Vouchers, if any.

(10) Billing determinants, at the level of detail employed in the most recent formal request for a change in rates or fees, except that the filing of billing determinant information for Express Mail, Priority Mail, and parcel post pursuant to this section may be delayed for up to one year.

(b) *Quarterly reports.* The folllowing information will be filed by the Postal Service quarterly:

(1) Revenue, Pieces and Weight by Classes of Mail and Special Services.

(2) Origin/Destination Information Report National Service Index.

(3) Investment Income Statements (60 days from the close of the Quarter, except for the last report for the fiscal year—2 weeks after release of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General).

(c) *Accounting period reports.* The following information will be filed by the Postal Service each accounting period:

(1) Cash Flow Statement (60 days from the close of the Accounting Period, except for the last report for the fiscal year—2 weeks after release of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General).

(2) Summary Financial and Operating Report.

(3) National Payroll Hours Summary.

(4) National Consolidated Trial Balances and the Revenue and Expense Summary.

(d) *Miscellaneous reports.* The following information will be filed by the Postal Service as updated:

(1) Before/After Pay Increase Reports.

(2) Before/After COLA Cost Report.

(3) A master list of publications and handbooks including those related to internal information systems or data collection procedures (when changed).

(4) Notice of Changes in Data Reporting Systems (90 days before implementing changes in data reporting systems).

[51 FR 24531, July 7, 1986, as amended at 54 FR 35495, Aug. 28, 1989; 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

Subpart H—Rules Applicable to Appeals of Postal Service Determinations To Close or Consolidate Post Offices

SOURCE: 42 FR 10993, Feb. 25, 1977, unless otherwise noted.

§3001.110 Applicability.

Rules in this subpart govern the procedure regarding the appeal of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office by patrons of the post office in question. Pursuant to section 404(b) of the Act any decision to close or consolidate a post office must be preceded by 60 days notice to persons served by such post office, the opportunity for such persons to present their views, and a written determination based upon consideration of each of the factors listed in section 404(b)(2) of the Act. This notice must include a provision stating that, pursuant to Pub. L. 94–421, a final Postal Service determination to close or consolidate a post office may be appealed to the Postal Rate Commission at 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001, within 30 days after the issuance of a written determination by the Postal Service. The rules of general applicability in subpart A of this part, which do not relate solely to evidentiary proceedings on the record, are

also applicable to proceedings subject to this subpart.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.111 Initiation of review proceedings.

(a) *Petition for review.* Review of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate a post office shall be obtained by filing a petition for review with the Secretary of this Commission. Such petition must be received by the Commission within 30 days after the Service has made available to persons served by that post office the written determination to close or consolidate required by 39 U.S.C. 404(b) (3) through (4). The petition shall specify the parties seeking review, all of whom must be persons served by the post office proposed to be closed or consolidated and shall identify the Postal Service as respondent. The Commission encourages parties seeking review to attach a copy of the Postal Service written determination, as the appeal process is thereby expedited. If two or more persons are entitled to petition for review of the same determination and their interests are such as to make joinder practicable, they may file a joint petition for review and may thereafter proceed as a single petitioner.

(b) *Intervention.* A person served by the post office to be closed or consolidated pursuant to the Postal Service written determination under review who desires to intervene in the proceeding, or any other interested person, or any counsel, agent or other person authorized or recognized by the Postal Service as such interested person's representative or the representative of such interested person's recognized group, such as Postmasters, shall file with the Secretary of the Commission and serve upon all parties a notice of intervention in a form prescribed by § 3001.20. The notice shall contain a concise statement of the interest of the moving party and the grounds upon which intervention is sought. A notice of intervention shall be filed within 25 days of the date on which the notice for review is filed. The provisions of § 3001.20 (c) through (f) of Subpart A of this part shall apply to notices of intervention in review proceedings.

[48 FR 33707, July 25, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.112 The record on review.

The written determination sought to be reviewed or enforced, the conclusions and findings upon which it must be based under section 404(b)(3) of the Act, the notices to local patrons and the evidence contained in the entire administrative record before the Postal Service shall constitute the record on review. The record shall contain all evidence considered by the Postal Service in making its determination and shall contain no evidence not previously considered by the Postal Service.

§ 3001.113 Filing of the record.

(a) *Time for filing of the record by the Postal Service.* The Postal Service shall file the record with the Secretary of the Commission within 15 days after the date on which the petition for review is filed with the Commission. The Commission may shorten or extend the time prescribed above. The Secretary shall give notice to all parties of the date on which the record is filed.

(b) *Composition of the filing.* The Postal Service may file the entire record or such parts thereof as the parties may designate by stipulation filed with the Postal Service. The original papers in the Postal Service proceeding or certified copies thereof may be filed. All parts of the record retained by the Postal Service shall be a part of the record on review for all purposes.

§ 3001.114 Suspension pending review.

(a) *Application.* Application for suspension of a determination of the Postal Service to close or consolidate any post office pending the outcome of an appeal to the Postal Rate Commission shall be made at the time of the filing of a petition for review or of the filing of a notice of intervention in an extant appellate proceeding. The application shall show the reasons for the relief requested and the facts relied upon, and if the facts are subject to dispute the application shall be supported by affidavits or other sworn statements or copies thereof. The applicant must be a

person served by the affected post office. Immediate notice of the application shall be given to all parties to the proceeding. The application shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission.

(b) *Answer and filing of the relevant record by the U.S. Postal Service.* Within 10 days after the application for suspension is filed, the Postal Service shall file with the Secretary of the Commission and serve on the petitioners an answer to the application supported by affidavits or other sworn statements or copies thereof. The Postal Service, within 10 days from the date of filing of the application, shall file with the Secretary such parts of the record as are relevant to the relief sought.

[36 FR 396, Jan. 12, 1971, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§3001.115 Participant statement or brief.

(a) *Participant statement.* Upon the filing of the petition for review of a decision to close or consolidate a post office, the Secretary shall furnish the petitioner with a copy of PRC Form 61, a form designed to permit the appellant to make a concise statement of his/her arguments in support of the petition and the instructions regarding its use. In addition to eliciting this information, the instructions for Form 61 shall provide: (1) Notification that, if the appellant prefers, he or she may file a brief as described in paragraph (b) of this section presenting the arguments, in lieu of completing PRC Form 61; (2) a concise explanation of the purpose of the form; and (3) notification that the completed form, or a brief as described in paragraph (b) of this section, in lieu thereof, must be filed with the Commission not more than 35 days following the date of filing of the petition (which date shall be set forth, as it appears in the Commission's records).

(b) *Appellant's initial brief.* The initial brief of the appellant shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on all parties 35 days after the filing of the petition for review of a decision to close or consolidate a post office. The brief will be limited in length to 30 pages, typewritten and double spaced, and shall include the following in the order indicated:

(1) A subject index with page references, and a list of all cases and authorities relied upon, arranged alphabetically, with references to the pages where the citation appears (which need not be included in the page count);

(2) A concise statement of the case from the viewpoint of the filing participant;

(3) A clear, concise and definitive statement of the position of the author as to the merits of the determination under review;

(4) A discussion of the evidence, reasons, and authorities relied upon with exact references to the record and the authorities; and

(5) Proposed holding with appropriate references to the record or the prior discussion of the evidence and authorities relied upon, and to the appellate criteria of section 404(b)(5) of the Act.

Briefs before the Commission shall be completely self-contained and shall not incorporate by reference any portion of any other brief, pleading or document. Testimony and exhibits shall not be quoted or included in briefs except for short excerpts pertinent to the argument presented.

(c) *Answering brief of the Postal Service.* The answering brief of the Postal Service shall be filed 20 days after the date designated for filing of the appellant's brief and shall follow the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(d) *Reply by appellant.* The appellant may file a written response to the brief of the Postal Service 15 days after the date designated for filing of that brief, which shall be strictly limited in content to reply to arguments made by the Postal Service. If presented as a brief, such reply brief shall conform to the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) *Intervenor statements or briefs.* An intervenor shall file its brief within the time allowed for initial and reply, or answering, briefs, as appropriate. The Secretary shall furnish to each intervenor a copy of PRC Form 61 as soon as intervenor status is granted. If the intervenor chooses to file a brief, the

brief shall follow the format detailed in paragraph (b) of this section.

[42 FR 10993, Feb. 25, 1977, as amended at 48 FR 33707, July 25, 1983; 58 FR 38976, 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.116 Oral argument.

Oral argument will be held in these appeal cases only when a party has made a showing that, owing to unusual circumstances, oral argument is a necessary addition to the written filings. Any request for oral argument shall be filed within 7 days of the date on which reply briefs are due. If a request for oral argument is granted, it will be held at the Postal Rate Commission's offices at 1333 H Street, NW., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20268–0001.

[48 FR 33708, July 25, 1983, as amended at 58 FR 38977, July 21, 1993]

§ 3001.117 Posting of documents by Postal Service for inspection by affected postal patrons.

In all proceedings conducted pursuant to this subpart H, the Postal Service shall cause to be displayed prominently, in the post office or offices serving the patrons affected by the determination to close or consolidate a post office which is under review, a copy of the service list and all pleadings, notices, orders, briefs and opinions filed in such proceedings. Failure by the Postal Service to display prominently any such document shall be deemed sufficient reason to suspend the effectiveness of the Postal Service determination under review until final disposition of the appeal.

[42 FR 10993, Feb. 25, 1977. Redesignated at 48 FR 33708, July 25, 1983]

Subpart I—Rules Applicable to Requests for Market Tests of Proposed Classification Changes

SOURCE: 61 FR 24454, May 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24454, May 15, 1996, subpart I consisting of §§ 3001.161 through 3001.166 were added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§ 3001.161 Applicability.

(a) This section and §§ 3001.162 through 3001.166 apply in cases in which the Postal Service requests a recommended decision pursuant to section 3623 preceded by testing in the market in order to develop information necessary to support a permanent change. The requirements and procedures specified in these sections apply exclusively to the Commission's determination to recommend in favor of or against a market test proposed by the Postal Service, and do not supersede any other rules applicable to the Postal Service's request for recommendation of a permanent change in mail classification. In administering this subpart, it shall be the policy of the Commission to recommend market tests that are reasonably calculated to produce information needed to support a permanent change in mail classification, and that are reasonably limited in scope, scale, duration, and potential adverse impact. Except in extraordinary circumstances and for good cause shown, the Commission shall not recommend market tests of more than one year in duration; however, this limitation is not intended to bar the Postal Service from conducting more than one market test in support of a potential permanent change in mail classification in appropriate circumstances.

(b) This section and §§ 3001.162 through 3001.166 are effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§ 3001.162 Filing of market test proposal and supporting direct evidence.

Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a recommended decision on a change in mail classification preceded by testing in the market, the Postal Service shall file with the Commission, in addition to its request for a permanent change in mail classification pursuant to section 3623, a request for a recommended decision in favor of its proposed market test of the requested change in mail classification. Each formal request filed under this subpart shall include such information and data and such statements of reasons and bases as are necessary and appropriate fully to inform the Commission and the parties of the nature, scope, significance and impact of the proposed

market test, and to show that it is in the public interest and in accordance with the policies of the Act and the applicable criteria of the Act. Each formal request shall also include the following particular information:

(a) A description of the services to be provided in the market test, and the relationship between the services to be provided and the permanent change or changes in the mail classification schedule requested by the Postal Service;

(b) A statement of each rate or fee to be charged for each service to be provided during the market test, together with all information relied upon to establish consistency of those rates and fees with the factors specified in section 3622(b);

(c) A description of the number and extent of the service areas in which the market test will be conducted, including the number and type of postal facilities which will be used;

(d) A statement of the planned duration of the market test;

(e) Proposed Domestic Mail Classification Schedule provisions which incorporate the information required in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section;

(f) A statement of the goals and objectives of the proposed market test, supported by quantitative projections of anticipated results to the extent practicable.

(g) A statement of those features of the proposed market test that, in the opinion of the Postal Service, cannot be modified without significantly impairing the value of the test;

(h) An estimate of the number of customers who will participate in the market test to the extent that such an estimate is practicable, together with a description of the means by which the Postal Service plans to provide equal access to all potential users in the test market service areas; and

(i) A plan for testing the proposed change or changes in the market, including a plan for gathering the data needed to support a permanent change in mail classification and for reporting the test data to the Commission. If periodic reporting of the test data would be harmful to the purposes of the test, such as by revealing information that might encourage competitors or mailers to take actions that would affect the test results, the plan may provide for presentation of the test data as part of the subsequent filing of data supporting a permanent mail classification change.

§3001.163 Procedures—expedition of public notice and procedural schedule.

(a) The purpose of this section is to provide a schedule for expediting proceedings in which the Postal Service proposes to conduct a market test of a requested change in mail classification it has submitted to the Commission pursuant to section 3623.

(b) Persons who are interested in participating in proceedings to consider Postal Service requests to conduct a market test may register at any time with the Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission, who shall maintain a publicly available list of the names and business addresses of all such registrants. Persons whose names appear on this list will automatically become parties to each proceeding in which the Postal Service requests to conduct a market test pursuant to this subpart. Other interested persons may intervene pursuant to §3001.20 within 28 days after the filing of a formal request made under the provisions of this subpart. Parties may withdraw from the register or a particular case by filing a notice with the Secretary of the Commission.

(c) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of this subpart, it shall on that same day effect service by hand delivery of the complete filing to each person registered pursuant to paragraph (b) who maintains an address for service within the Washington metropolitan area and serve the complete filing by Express Mail service on all other registrants. Each registrant is responsible for insuring that his or her address remains current.

(d) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of this subpart, it shall on that same day send by Express Mail to all participants in the most recent omnibus rate case a notice which briefly describes its proposal. This notice shall indicate on its

first page that it is a notice of a Market Test Request to be considered under §§3001.161 through 3001.166, and identify the last day for filing a notice of intervention with the Commission.

(e) Within 5 days after receipt of a Postal Service request under the provisions of this subpart, the Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding and provide for intervention by interested parties pursuant to §3001.20. In the event that a party wishes to dispute a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved in the consideration of the Postal Service's request, that party shall file with the Commission a request for a hearing within the time allowed in the notice of proceeding. The request for a hearing shall state with specificity the fact or facts set forth in the Postal Service's filing that the party disputes, and when possible, what the party believes to be the true fact or facts and the evidence it intends to provide in support of its position. The Commission will hold hearings on a Postal Service request made pursuant to this subpart when it determines that there is a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved, and that a hearing is needed to resolve that issue.

§3001.164 Rule for decision.

The Commission will issue a decision on the Postal Service's proposed market test in accordance with the policies of the Postal Reorganization Act, but will not recommend modification of any feature of the proposed market test which the Postal Service has identified in accordance with §3001.162(g). The purpose of this subpart is to allow for consideration of proposed market tests within 90 days, consistent with the procedural due process rights of interested persons.

§3001.165 Data collection and reporting requirements.

In any case in which the Commission has issued a recommended decision in favor of a market test requested by the Postal Service, and the Board of Governors has put the market test recommended by the Commission into effect, the Postal Service shall gather test data and report them to the Commission in accordance with the plan submitted pursuant to § 3001.162(h). If the Postal Service's plan for reporting test data does not provide for periodic reporting during the conduct of the test, the Postal Service shall submit all test data to the Commission no later than 60 days following the conclusion of the test.

§3001.166 Suspension, continuation or termination of proceeding.

(a) In any case in which the Commission has issued a recommended decision in favor of a market test requested by the Postal Service, and the Board of Governors has put the market test recommended by the Commission into effect, the Postal Service may move for suspension of the proceeding in which its request for a permanent change in mail classification is to be considered. The Commission shall grant the Postal Service's motion for suspension if, in the Commission's opinion, it would be reasonable under the circumstances to defer consideration of the request until the information to be produced in connection with the market test becomes available.

(b) At any time during the pendency of a market test recommended by the Commission pursuant to this subpart, or following the completion of such a market test, the Postal Service may move to revise or withdraw its request for a permanent change in mail classification. If the Postal Service moves to revise its request, it shall file with the Commission all data necessary to support its amended request. If the Postal Service moves to withdraw its request, it shall explain the circumstances leading to its motion, but need not produce the test data that would otherwise be submitted pursuant to §3001.165.

Subpart J—Rules Applicable to Requests for Provisional Service Changes of Limited Duration

SOURCE: 61 FR 24456, May 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24456, May 15, 1996, subpart J consisting of §§3001.171 through 3001.176 were added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§3001.171 Applicability.

(a) This section and §§3001.172 through 3001.176 apply in cases in which the Postal Service requests that the Commission recommend the establishment of a provisional service which will supplement, but will not alter, existing mail classifications and rates for a limited and fixed duration. The requirements and procedures specified in these sections apply exclusively to the Commission's determination to recommend in favor of or against a provisional service proposed by the Postal Service, and do not supersede the rules applicable to requests for permanent changes in rates, fees, mail classifications, and in the nature of postal services. In administering this subpart, it shall be the policy of the Commission to recommend the introduction of provisional services that enhance the range of postal services available to the public, without producing a material adverse effect overall on postal revenues or costs, and without causing unnecessary or unreasonable harm to competitors of the Postal Service. Except in extraordinary circumstances and for good cause shown, the Commission shall not recommend provisional services of more than two years in duration; however, the Commission may grant a request to extend a provisional service for an additional year if a Postal Service request to establish the provisional service as a permanent mail classification is pending before the Commission.

(b) This section and §§3001.172 through 3001.176 are effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§3001.172 Filing of formal request and prepared direct evidence.

(a) Whenever the Postal Service determines to request that the Commission submit a decision recommending the establishment of a provisional service of limited and fixed duration, it shall file a request for a change in mail classification pursuant to section 3623 that comports with the requirements of this subpart and of subpart C of this part. Each formal request shall include the following particular information:

(1) A description of the proposed classification, including proposed Domestic Mail Classification Schedule language and rate schedules;

(2) A statement of the goals and objectives of introducing the proposed provisional service, supported by quantitative projections of anticipated results to the extent practicable.

(3) A statement of those features of the proposed provisional service that, in the opinion of the Postal Service, cannot be modified without significantly reducing the benefits of introducing the proposed service;

(4) An explanation and complete documentation of the development of the rates proposed for the provisional service;

(5) A termination date on which the proposed provisional service will be discontinued;

(6) An estimate of the effect of implementing the proposed provisional service on overall Postal Service costs and revenues during the period in which it is in effect; and

(7) A plan for meeting the data collection and reporting requirements specified in §3001.175.

(b) If the Postal Service believes that data required to be filed under §3001.64 are unavailable, it shall explain their unavailability, as required by §3001.64 (a)(2)(i), (ii), and (iv). In particular, if the provisional character of the request bears on the unavailability of the data in question, the Postal Service shall explain in detail the nexus between these circumstances. A satisfactory explanation of the unavailability of data will be grounds for excluding from the proceeding a contention that the absence of the data should form a basis for rejection of the request, unless the party desiring to make such contention:

(1) Demonstrates that, having regard to all the facts and circumstances of the case, it was clearly unreasonable for the Postal Service to propose the change in question without having first secured the data which are unavailable, or

(2) Demonstrates other compelling circumstances requiring that the absence of the data in question be treated as bearing on the merits of the proposal.

§ 3001.173 Procedures—expedition of public notice and procedural schedule.

(a) The purpose of this section is to provide a schedule for expediting proceedings in which the Postal Service requests that the Commission recommend the establishment of a provisional service which will supplement, but will not alter, existing mail classifications and rates for a limited and fixed duration.

(b) Persons who are interested in participating in proceedings to consider Postal Service requests to establish a provisional service may register at any time with the Secretary of the Postal Rate Commission, who shall maintain a publicly available list of the names and business addresses of all such registrants. Persons whose names appear on this list will automatically become parties to each proceeding in which the Postal Service requests establishment of a provisional service pursuant to this subpart. Other interested persons may intervene pursuant to § 3001.20 within 28 days after the filing of a formal request made under the provisions of this subpart. Parties may withdraw from the register or a particular case by filing a notice with the Secretary of the Commission.

(c) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of this subpart, it shall on that same day effect service by hand delivery of the complete filing to each person registered pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section who maintains an address for service within the Washington metropolitan area and serve the complete filing by Express Mail service on all other registrants. Each registrant is responsible for insuring that his or her address remains current.

(d) When the Postal Service files a request under the provisions of this subpart, it shall on that same day send by Express Mail service to all participants in the most recent omnibus rate case a notice which briefly describes its proposal. Such notice shall indicate on its first page that it is a notice of a Request for Establishment of a Provisional Service to be considered under §§ 3001.171 through 3001.176, and identify the last day for filing a notice of intervention with the Commission.

(e) Within 5 days after receipt of a Postal Service request under the provisions of this subpart, the Commission shall issue a notice of proceeding and provide for intervention by interested parties pursuant to § 3001.20. In the event that a party wishes to dispute a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved in the consideration of the Postal Service's request, that party shall file with the Commission a request for a hearing within the time allowed in the notice of proceeding. The request for a hearing shall state with specificity the fact or facts set forth in the Postal Service's filing that the party disputes, and when possible, what the party believes to be the true fact or facts and the evidence it intends to provide in support of its position. The Commission will hold hearings on a Postal Service request made pursuant to this subpart when it determines that there is a genuine issue of material fact to be resolved, and that a hearing is needed to resolve that issue.

§ 3001.174 Rule for decision.

The Commission will issue a decision on the Postal Service's proposed provisional service in accordance with the policies of the Postal Reorganization Act, but will not recommend modification of any feature of the proposed service which the Postal Service has identified in accordance with § 3001.172(a)(3). The purpose of this subpart is to allow for consideration of proposed provisional services within 90 days, consistent with the procedural due process rights of interested persons.

§ 3001.175 Data collection and reporting requirements.

In any case in which the Commission has issued a recommended decision in favor of a provisional service of limited duration requested by the Postal Service, and the Board of Governors has put the provisional service recommended by the Commission into effect, the Postal Service shall collect and report data pertaining to the provisional service during the period in which it is in effect in accordance with the periodic reporting requirements specified in

§3001.102. If the Postal Service's regular data reporting systems are not revised to include the provisional service during the period of its effectiveness, the Postal Service shall perform, and provide to the Commission on a schedule corresponding to §3001.102 reports, special studies to provide equivalent information to the extent reasonably practicable.

§3001.176 Continuation or termination of provisional service.

At any time during the period in which a provisional service recommended by the Commission and implemented by the Board of Governors is in effect, the Postal Service may submit a formal request that the provisional service be terminated, or that it be established, either as originally recommended by the Commission or in modified form, as a permanent mail classification. Following the conclusion of the period in which the provisional service was effective, the Postal Service may submit a request to establish the service as a mail classification under any applicable subpart of the Commission's rules.

Subpart K—Rules for Use of Multi-Year Test Periods

SOURCE: 61 FR 24457, May 15, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 61 FR 24457, May 15, 1996, subpart K consisting of §§3001.181 through 3001.182 were added, effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§3001.181 Use of multi-year test period for proposed new services.

(a) The rules in §§3001.181 and 3001.182 apply to Postal Service requests pursuant to section 3623 for the establishment of a new postal service, with attendant rates, which in the estimation of the Postal Service cannot generate sufficient volumes and revenues to recover all costs associated with the new service in the first full fiscal year of its operation. In administering these rules, it shall be the Commission's policy to adopt test periods of up to 5 fiscal years for the purpose of determining breakeven for newly introduced postal services where the Postal Service has presented substantial evidence in support of the test period proposed.

(b) This section and §3001.182 are effective May 15, 1996 through May 15, 2001.

§3001.182 Filing of formal request and prepared direct evidence.

In filing a request for establishment of a new postal service pursuant to section 3623, the Postal Service may request that its proposal be considered for a test period of longer duration than the test period prescribed in §3001.54(f)(2). Each such request shall be supported by the following information:

(a) The testimony of a witness on behalf of the Postal Service, who shall provide:

(1) A complete definition of the multi-year test period requested for the proposed new service;

(2) A detailed explanation of the Postal Service's preference of a multi-year test period, including the bases of the Service's determination that the test period prescribed in §3001.54(f)(2) would be inappropriate; and

(3) A complete description of the Postal Service's plan for achieving an appropriate contribution to institutional costs from the new service by the end of the requested test period.

(b) Complete documentary support for, and detail underlying, the test period requested by the Postal Service, including:

(1) Estimated costs, revenues, and volumes of the proposed new service for the entire requested test period;

(2) Return on Investment projections and all other financial analyses prepared in connection with determining the cost and revenue impact of the proposed new service; and

(3) Any other analyses prepared by the Postal Service that bear on the overall effects of introducing the proposed new service during the requested test period.

PART 3002—ORGANIZATION

Sec.

3002.1 Purpose.
3002.2 The Commission and its offices.
3002.3 Administrative Office.

3002.4 Office of Technical Analysis and Planning.
3002.5 Office of Administrative Law Judges.
3002.6 Office of the General Counsel.
3002.7 Office of the Consumer Advocate.
3002.8 Official seal.

APPENDIX A TO PART 3002

AUTHORITY: 84 Stat. 759, 39 U.S.C. 3603; Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, 81 Stat. 54.

§ 3002.1 Purpose.

This part is published in compliance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(1) and constitutes a general description of the Postal Rate Commission.

[36 FR 21994, Nov. 18, 1971]

§ 3002.2 The Commission and its offices.

(a) The Commissioners. The Postal Rate Commission is an independent establishment of the executive branch of the U.S. Government created by the Postal Reorganization Act (84 Stat. 719, title 39, U.S.C.). The Commission consists of five Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, one of whom is designated as Chairman by the President.

(b) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman has the administrative responsibility for assigning the business of the Commission to the other Commissioners and to the offices and employees of the Commission. He/She has the administrative duty to preside at the meetings and sessions of the Commision and to represent the Commission in matters specified by statute or executive order or as the Commission directs. The Commission shall elect annually a member of the Commission to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Commission for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. In case of a vacancy in the Office of the Chairman of the Commission, or in the absence or inability of the Chairman to serve, the Vice-Chairman, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman, shall have the administrative responsibilities and duties of the Chairman during the period of vacancy, absence, or inability.

[48 FR 13167, Mar. 30, 1983]

§ 3002.3 Administrative Office.

(a) The incumbent head of the office is responsible for exercising two executive functions of the Commission and utilizes the title of either ''Secretary'' or ''Chief Administrative Officer'', as appropriate.

(b) As Secretary of the Commission, the incumbent head shall have custody of the Commission's seal, the minutes of all action taken by the Commission, its rules and regulations, its administrative and other orders, and records. All orders and other actions of the Commission shall be authenticated or signed by the Secretary or any such other person as may be authorized by the Commission.

(c) As Chief Administrative Officer the incumbent head is also responsible, subject to the policy guidelines of the Commission, for: Development, implementation, and administration of the Commission's financial management system and accounting activities including those relating to the budget and the payroll; development and administration in conjunction with the Personnel Officer of a personnel program designed to meet the needs of the Commission and its employees; development and administration, subject to the supervision of the Chairman, of a public information program appropriate to the agency mission; provision of facilities and operating and support services essential to the efficent and effective conduct of operations; acquisition, planning and assignment of office space; procurement and supply; serving as the contracting officer for the Commission and controlling the obligation of Commission funds, as authorized by the Commission.

(d) The personnel management functions set out above are the immediate responsibility of the Personnel Officer, whose position is located in the Administrative Office.

[48 FR 13167, Mar. 30, 1983]

§ 3002.4 Office of Technical Analysis and Planning.

(a) The Office of Technical Analysis and Planning is responsible for technical (as opposed to legal) analysis and the formulation of policy recommendations for the Commission.

(b) This office provides the analytic support to the Commission for reviewing the record of rate and classification requests, post office closings and other issues which come before the Commission. The functional areas of expertise within this office are:

(1) The economic analysis of the market for postal services including the alternative sources for such services and the users of the service;

(2) The analysis of the operational characteristics of the postal system and its interface with various segments of the economy; and,

(3) The analysis of the costs of operating the Postal Service and how such costs are influenced by the operational characteristics.

(c) These functional activities are combined in the evaluation of the revenue requirements of the Postal Service under possible alternative operating circumstances for the purpose of developing rate structures. They are also used to evaluate the impact of various proposed changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the consequences of these changes upon the mailers and upon the revenue requirements and rate structure of the Postal Service.

(d) The office also collects, analyzes and periodically summarizes financial and various other statistical information for use in its ongoing activities and for the development of future methods, techniques and systems of analysis and reporting.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

§3002.5 Office of Administrative Law Judges.

The Office of Administrative Law Judges is responsible for discharging the functions and exercising the powers of such Administrative Law Judges as the Commission may from time to time employ, in hearings, and in accordance with the provisions of sections 556 and 557 of the Administrative Procedures Act (5 U.S.C. 556 and 557).

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

§3002.6 Office of the General Counsel.

The General Counsel directs and coordinates the functions of the Office of the General Counsel and is directly responsible for the counseling and advisory services set forth in 39 CFR 3000.735–203. In accordance with §3001.8 of the rules of practice, the General Counsel does not appear as an attorney in hearings in any proceeding before the Commission and takes no part in the preparation of evidence or argument presented in such hearings. The General Counsel represents the Commission in court proceedings and performs legal research on issues coming before the Commission; advises the Commission on the legal aspects of proposed legislation and rulemaking, the legal aspects of proposed action and policies on procurement, contracting, personnel matters, and other internal legal questions.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

§3002.7 Office of the Consumer Advocate.

(a) The Office of the Consumer Advocate provides representation for the interests of the general public in Commission proceedings. The office prepares and litigates before the Commission legal and evidentiary presentations in all formal Commission dockets under chapter 36 of title 39, U.S. Code. It also is responsible for maintaining a continuing litigation capability including preparation for consideration of issues likely to reflect the interests of the general public in subsequent proceedings.

(b) The head of this office is responsible for directing both legal and technical personnel to fulfill its functions. The office includes both litigation attorneys and a broad spectrum of technical expertise to analyze and evaluate the diverse economic, cost and market issues before the Commission. During the pendency of a proceeding, personnel serving in the Office of the Consumer Advocate are prohibited from participating or advising as to any intermediate or Commission decision in that proceeding pursuant to the Commission Rules of Practice.

(c) A policy statement regarding the Office of the Consumer Advocate is contained as appendix A to this part.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

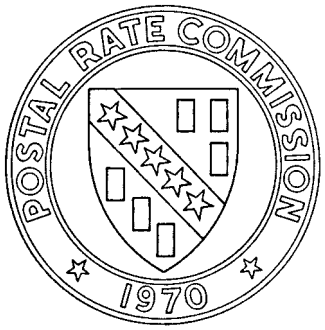
§ 3002.8 Official seal.

(a) *Authority.* The Seal described in this section is hereby established as the official seal of the Postal Rate Commission.

(b) *Description.* (1) On a white disc within a blue border with inner and outer rims gold and inscribed at top POSTAL RATE COMMISSION and in base, between two small five-pointed stars, 1970, all in gold, the shield of the coat of arms in full color blazoned as follows:

Five blue stars on a white stripe running from the upper left to the lower right of the shield, with three white billets on each of the upper and lower sections of the shield, the former blue and the latter red.

(2) The official seal of the Postal Rate Commission is modified when reproduced in black and white and when embossed, as it appears in this section.



(c) *Custody and authorization to affix.* (1) The seal is the official emblem of the Postal Rate Commission and its use is therefore permitted only as provided in this part.

(2) The seal shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary and is to be used to authenticate records of the Postal Rate Commission and for other official purposes.

(3) Use by any person or organization outside of the Commission may be made only with the Commission's prior written approval. Such request must be made in writing to the Secretary.

[39 FR 2481, Jan. 22, 1974. Redesignated at 42 FR 3646, Jan. 19, 1977, and 48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

APPENDIX A TO PART 3002

(The following policy statement regarding the Office of the Consumer Advocate (formerly Office of the Officer of the Commission) was adopted by the Commission and published at 47 FR 25523, June 14, 1982.)

1. The officer of the Commission appointed under 39 U.S.C. 3624(a) shall be appointed from the Office of the Consumer Advocate and shall assist, using the means and procedures available to parties before the Commission, to develop a complete and accurate record by:

(a) Identifying information or data that are needed in addition to those presented by other parties;

(b) Identifying inaccuracies or fallacies in submitted data or information; and

(c) Sponsoring relevant and material evidence which presents needed data or information, which critiques record evidence, or which supports proposals of the officer or other participants not inconsistent with Commission precedents and judicial decisions reviewing Commission precedents. The preceding shall not preclude the officer from offering testimony on a methodology which the Commission has previously considered but not adopted, if a fair reading of the Commission opinion(s) concerned shows that such methodology offers potential benefits and new data are available to remedy any defects cited by the Commission.

2. To argue for equity on behalf of the general public and principally those segments of the general public who are not otherwise represented in PRC proceedings. In so doing, the officer shall consider both long and short term consequences.

3. During the course of proceedings the officer, in accordance with Commission rules, shall maintain complete independence from the members of the Commission and the agency's advisory staff.

[48 FR 13168, Mar. 30, 1983]

PART 3003—PRIVACY ACT RULES

Sec.
3003.1 Purpose and scope.
3003.2 Definitions.
3003.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.
3003.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.
3003.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.
3003.6 Special procedures: medical records.
3003.7 Request for correction or amendment to record.
3003.8 Agency review of request for correction or amendment of record.

3003.9 Appeal of initial adverse agency determination on correction or amendment.
3003.10 Disclosure of record to person other than the individual to whom it pertains.
3003.11 Fees.
3003.12—3003.13 [Reserved]
3003.14 Specific exemptions.

AUTHORITY: Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–579), 5 U.S.C. 522a.

SOURCE: 40 FR 38154, Aug. 27, 1975, unless otherwise noted.

§3003.1 Purpose and scope.

This part is published in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–579). It establishes procedures, consistent with the purposes of the Act, by which individuals may safeguard their privacy by obtaining access to, and requesting amendments or corrections in, information about them which is under the Commission's control.

§3003.2 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) *Commission* means The Postal Rate Commission.

(b) *Act* means the Privacy Act of 1974 (Pub. L. 93–579).

(c) *Individual* means a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(d) *Maintain*, used with reference to a record means to collect, to use, to disseminate, to have control over and responsibility for such record.

(e) *Record* means any item, collection or grouping of information about an individual that is maintained by the Commission and that is retrievable by his or her name or an identifying particular, such as a number, symbol, fingerprint, or photograph, of the individual. Information maintained by the Commission includes but is not limited to, education, financial transactions, medical history, employment history and criminal history.

(f) *Routine use* means, with respect to the disclosure of a record, the use of such a record for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which it was collected. The routine uses of record systems maintained by the Commission were established pursuant to notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(g) *System of records* means a group of any records under the control of the Commission from which information about an individual is retrievable by his or her name or by some identifying particular.

§3003.3 Procedures for requests pertaining to individual records in a record system.

(a)(1) An individual who wishes to know whether a system of records maintained by the Commission contains a record or records pertaining to him or her shall file a written inquiry to this effect with the Chief Administrative Officer of the Commission at the Commission's business address. The request shall clearly state on the outside of the envelope and in the body that it is a Privacy Act request.

(2) The Chief Administrative Officer shall respond within 10 days of receipt of such an inquiry (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) informing the individual whether a system of records maintained by the Commission contains such a record or records.

(b) After an accounting of disclosures has been kept, an individual may request an accounting of disclosures of his or her record or records made within the immediately preceding year, except for those made:

(1) To those officers and employees of the Commission who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties;

(2) Required under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552);

(3) To another agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency or instrumentality has made a written request to the Commission specifying the particular portion desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought.

Such a request shall be addressed in writing to the Chief Administrative Officer.

(c)(1) An individual who desires to gain access to any record pertaining to him or her contained in a system of records maintained by the Commission shall file a written request with the Chief Administrative Officer at the Commission's business address.

(2) The written request shall state whether the individual intends to appear in person at the Commission's offices or whether he desires to receive a copy of the record or records pertaining to him or her through the mails.

§ 3003.4 Times, places, and requirements for identification of individuals making requests.

(a) An individual appearing in person pursuant to paragraph (c) of § 3003.3, shall:

(1) Appear at the Commission's business offices between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on any day except Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays;

(2) Present suitable identification, such as a driver's license, employee identification card, or Medicare card;

(3) If accompanied by another individual of his or her choosing, provide a written statement authorizing discussion of his or her record in the presence of the accompanying individual,

(b) An individual who files a request through the mails pursuant to paragraph (c) of § 3003.3 of this part shall include his or her date of birth and other suitable proof of identity, such as a facsimile of a driver's license, employee identification card, Medicare card.

[40 FR 38154, Aug. 27, 1975, as amended at 41 FR 52455, Nov. 30, 1976]

§ 3003.5 Disclosure of requested information to individuals.

An individual who has filed a request in accordance with § 3003.4 shall be permitted to review the record or records pertaining to him or her and to have all or any portion thereof copied. Review of Commission records pursuant to § 3003.4(a) will be conducted in the presence of a representative of the Commission.

§ 3003.6 Special procedures: medical records.

An individual who requests access to records containing medical information about himself or herself shall provide the Chief Administrative Officer with the name of a licensed medical practitioner. If in the Chief Administrative Officer's judgment transmission of the medical information to the individual could have an adverse effect upon him or her, the information will be transmitted directly to the named medical practitioner.

§ 3003.7 Request for correction or amendment to record.

(a) An individual may request that a record or records pertaining to him or her be amended or corrected. Such requests shall be submitted in writing to the Chief Administrative Officer at the Commission's business address.

(b) An individual requesting amendment of a record or records pertaining to him or her shall furnish suitable identification, as provided in § 3003.4(a)(2) and (b).

(c) A request for amendment shall contain an exact description of the item or items sought to be amended and specific reasons for the requested amendment.

§ 3003.8 Agency review of request for correction or amendment of record.

(a) Within 10 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after receipt of a request to amend a record, the Chief Administrative Officer shall transmit to the requester a written acknowledgment of receipt of the request. Such an acknowledgment may, if necessary, request any additional information needed to make a determination on the request. No acknowledgment is required if the request can be reviewed, processed, and the individual notified of compliance or denial within the ten-day period.

(b) The Chief Administrative Officer shall promptly review the record upon receipt of a request for amendment thereof.

(c) If the Chief Administrative Officer determines that the requested amendment is appropriate to insure that the record is:

(1) Relevant and necessary to accomplish the purposes of chapter 36 of title 39, U.S.C.; and

(2) As accurate, timely and complete as is reasonably necessary to assure fairness to the requester, the Chief Administrative Officer shall:

(i) Change the record accordingly;

(ii) Advise the requester that the change has been made and transmit a copy of the revision to him or her; and

(iii) After an accounting of disclosures has been kept pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c), advise all previous recipients of the record of the fact that the amendment was made and the substance of the amendment.

(d) If, after review of the record, the Chief Administrative Officer determines that the requested amendment is not in conformity with the requirements of the Act, he shall:

(1) Advise the requester in writing of such determination, together with the specific reasons therefor; and

(2) Inform the requester that further review of the request by the Chairman of the Commission is available if a written request therefor is made.

§ 3003.9 Appeal of initial adverse agency determination on correction or amendment.

(a) Within 30 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) of receipt of a written request for review pursuant to § 3003.8(d)(2), the Chairman shall make an independent review of the record, using the criteria of § 3003.8(c) (1) and (2). If the Chairman determines that the record should be amended in accordance with the request, the Chief Administrative Officer shall:

(1) Change the record accordingly;

(2) Advise the requester that the change has been made; and

(3) After an accounting of disclosures has been kept pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c), advise all previous recipients of the record of the fact that the amendment was made and the substance of the amendment.

(b) If the Chairman, after independent review, determines that the record should not be amended in accordance with the request, the Chief Administrative Officer shall advise the requester:

(1) Of the determination and the reasons therefor:

(2) Of his or her right to file with the Chief Administrative Officer a concise statement of his or her reasons for disagreeing with the refusal to amend the record:

(3) That the record will be annotated to indicate to anyone subsequently having access to it that a statement of disagreement has been filed, and that the statement will be made available to anyone to whom the record is disclosed;

(4) That the Chairman and the Chief Administrative Officer may, in their discretion, include a brief summary of their reasons for refusing to amend the record whenever such disclosure is made;

(5) That any prior recipients of the disputed record will be sent a copy of the statement of disagreement, after an accounting of disclosures has been kept pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(c);

(6) Of his or her right to seek judicial review of the refusal to amend the record, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(g)(1)(A).

§ 3003.10 Disclosure of record to person other than the individual to whom it pertains.

Commission employees or officers who have possession of or access to individuals' records may be subject to criminal penalties pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(1) for disclosure thereof without the prior written consent of the individuals to whom the records pertain unless disclosure is:

(a) To those officers and employees of the Commission who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties;

(b) Required under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552);

(c) For a routine use as defined in § 3003.2(f);

(d) To the Bureau of the Census for purposes of planning or carrying out a census or survey or related activity pursuant to the provisions of title 13;

(e) To a recipient who has provided the agency with advance adequate written assurance that the record will be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, and the record is to be transferred in a form that is not individually identifiable;

(f) To the National Archives of the United States as a record which has sufficient historical or other value to warrant its continued preservation by the U.S. Government, or for evaluation by the Administrator of General Services or his designee to determine whether the record has such value;

(g) To another agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control

of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if the head of the agency which maintains the record has made a written request to the Commission specifying the particular portion desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought;

(h) To a person pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of an individual if upon such disclosure notification is transmitted to the last known address of such individual;

(i) To either House of Congress, or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof, any joint committee of Congress or subcommittee of any such joint committee;

(j) To the Comptroller General, or any of his authorized representatives, in the course of the performance of the duties of the General Accounting Office; or

(k) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

§ 3003.11 Fees.

There shall be no charge for the first copy of any records furnished pursuant to §§ 3003.5 and 3003.6. Additional copies will be charged at the cost of reproduction.

§§ 3003.12—3003.13 [Reserved]

§ 3003.14 Specific exemptions.

The Postal Rate Commission has not established any system of records to be exempted from the provisions of §§ 3003.3, 3003.4, 3003.5, 3003.6, 3003.7, 3003.8, 3003.9, and 3003.11 of this part.

[41 FR 52455, Nov. 30, 1976]

FINDING AIDS

A list of CFR titles, subtitles, chapters, subchapters and parts and an alphabetical list of agencies publishing in the CFR are included in the CFR Index and Finding Aids volume to the Code of Federal Regulations which is published separately and revised annually.

Material Approved for Incorporation by Reference
Table of CFR Titles and Chapters
Alphabetical List of Agencies Appearing in the CFR
List of CFR Sections Affected

Material Approved for Incorporation by Reference

(Revised as of July 1, 1997)

The Director of the Federal Register has approved under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51 the incorporation by reference of the following publications. This list contains only those incorporations by reference effective as of the revision date of this volume. Incorporations by reference found within a regulation are effective upon the effective date of that regulation. For more information on incorporation by reference, see the preliminary pages of this volume.

39 CFR CHAPTER I
POSTAL SERVICE

	39 CFR
United States Postal Service Washington, D.C. 20260	
Domestic Mail Manual, (most recent amendment published in the Federal Register on May 5, 1994).	111.1; 111.3
International Mail Manual, (most recent amendment published in the Federal Register on March 10, 1994).	20.1; 20.3
Postal Procurement Manual, (most recent amendment published in the Federal Register on December 23, 1992).	601.100; 601.105

For information on where these materials are available see—

39 CFR 20.2 Availability of International Mail Manual

39 CFR 111.2 Availability of the Domestic Mail Manual

39 CFR 601.104 Availability of Postal Procurement Manual

Table of CFR Titles and Chapters

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Title 1—General Provisions

I Administrative Committee of the Federal Register (Parts 1—49)
II Office of the Federal Register (Parts 50—299)
IV Miscellaneous Agencies (Parts 400—500)

Title 2—[Reserved]

Title 3—The President

I Executive Office of the President (Parts 100—199)

Title 4—Accounts

I General Accounting Office (Parts 1—99)
II Federal Claims Collection Standards (General Accounting Office—Department of Justice) (Parts 100—299)

Title 5—Administrative Personnel

I Office of Personnel Management (Parts 1—1199)
II Merit Systems Protection Board (Parts 1200—1299)
III Office of Management and Budget (Parts 1300—1399)
IV Advisory Committee on Federal Pay (Parts 1400—1499)
V The International Organizations Employees Loyalty Board (Parts 1500—1599)
VI Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Parts 1600—1699)
VII Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (Parts 1700—1799)
VIII Office of Special Counsel (Parts 1800—1899)
IX Appalachian Regional Commission (Parts 1900—1999)
XI Armed Forces Retirement Home (Part 2100)
XIV Federal Labor Relations Authority, General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority and Federal Service Impasses Panel (Parts 2400—2499)
XV Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President (Parts 2500—2599)
XVI Office of Government Ethics (Parts 2600—2699)
XXI Department of the Treasury (Parts 3100—3199)
XXII Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (Part 3201)
XXIII Department of Energy (Part 3301)

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XXIV	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Part 3401)
XXVI	Department of Defense (Part 3601)
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XXIX	Federal Communications Commission (Parts 3900—3999)
XXX	Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation (Parts 4000—4099)
XXXI	Farm Credit Administration (Parts 4100—4199)
XXXIII	Overseas Private Investment Corporation (Part 4301)
XXXV	Office of Personnel Management (Part 4501)
XL	Interstate Commerce Commission (Part 5001)
XLI	Commodity Futures Trading Commission (Part 5101)
XLII	Department of Labor (Part 5201)
XLIII	National Science Foundation (Part 5301)
XLV	Department of Health and Human Services (Part 5501)
XLVI	Postal Rate Commission (Part 5601)
XLVII	Federal Trade Commission (Part 5701)
XLVIII	Nuclear Regulatory Commission (Part 5801)
L	Department of Transportation (Part 6001)
LII	Export-Import Bank of the United States (Part 6201)
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List of CFR Sections Affected

All changes in this volume of the Code of Federal Regulations which were made by documents published in the FEDERAL REGISTER since January 1, 1986, are enumerated in the following list. Entries indicate the nature of the changes effected. Page numbers refer to Federal Register pages. The user should consult the entries for chapters and parts as well as sections for revisions.

For the period before January 1, 1986, see the ''List of CFR Sections Affected, 1949–1963, 1964–1972, and 1973–1985'' published in seven separate volumes.

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3 Authority citation revised 18323
3.4 (g) amended 9791
(p) and (q) amended 18323
3.7 (c) amended 18323
4 Authority citation revised; section authority citations removed 18323
4.5 Amended 18323
10 IMM amended; incorporation by reference; interim 17018
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111 Authority citation revised 6413, 9653, 17021, 41302
111.3 DMM amended; incorporation by reference 6413, 9653, 12997, 17629, 19548, 19832, 21756
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221 Authority citation revised 40796
221.2 (a) revised 40796

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221.5 Redesignated as 221.6 and revised; new 221.5 added 40796
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222 Authority citation revised 40797
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222.5 (a) introductory text, (1), and (7), and (b) amended; (c) revised 40798
222.6 (c) designated as (c) introductory text and revised; (c)(1) through (4), (d), and (e) redesignated from 244.1 (a) (1) through (4), (d), and (e) 40798
222.7 (a)(3) and (c)(2) and (3) amended 40798
222.8 (a)(3) and (c)(3) amended 40798
222.9 Heading, (a) introductory text, and (b) revised 40798
222.10 Heading and text amended 40798

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265.10 (a)(3) amended 26386
265 Appendix A revised 5326
266 Authority citation revised 26386
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320 Authority citation revised; section authority citations removed 29638
320.8 Added 29638
776.2 Amended 40170
776.5 (g), (h), and (i) amended; (f) introductory text revised 40170
777 Revised 6983
927—931 Undesignated center heading revised 6914
927 Authority citation revised 6914
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3001.101 Amended 24531
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3000.735–302 (h) added 5069
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10 IMM amended; incorporation by reference 673, 6143, 10375, 13442
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Redesignated as Part 20; new Part 10 added 29697
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10.3 (d) table amended 3226
20 Redesignated from Part 10 29697
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111 Authority citation revised 19350
111.3 DMM amended; incorporation by reference 4496, 5283, 19350, 20389
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224.7 Amended 12900
225 Revised 46999
225.9 (b)(9) revised; eff. 7–31–87 18912
226 Revised 46999
227 Added 47000
228 Added 47001
229 Added 47002
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265.7 (a)(1) amended; (a)(4) and (c)(2) revised 13668
265.8 Revised 13668
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273 Undesignated center heading above Part removed; part added 12901
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20.3 Heading republished; (a), (b), and (c) revised; (d) redesignated as (e); new (d) added 52697

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447.21 Removed; new 447.21 redesignated from 447.23; introductory text and (a) through (i) removed; (j) and (k) redesignated as (a) and (b); heading and new (a) revised; new (c) and new (d) through (g) redesignated from 447.25(a) and 447.25(c) through (f) 47244

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3001.61—3001.69c (Subpart C) Appendix A revised 32657, 37316
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3001.69 Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24453

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3001.69a Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24453
3001.69b Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24453
3001.69c Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24454
3001.161—3001.166 (Subpart I) Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24454
3001.171—3001.176 (Subpart J) Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24456
3001.181—3001.182 (Subpart K) Added; eff. 5–15–96 through 5–15–01 24457

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3.7 (d) revised 18519
4.6 Revised 18519
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20 IMM amended; incorporation by reference 635, 640, 19224, 28633

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111.1 Revised 14827
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963.4 (a) amended 4459
963.8 Introductory text amended 4459
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963.14 Amended 4459

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