

FR 46026 and 46103-46104, the Agency announced its intent to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for a provision addressing aerial lifts in § 1926.453(a)(2). OSHA stated that the effective date for § 1926.453(a)(2) would be announced in the **Federal Register** at a later date, once OSHA received approval for the information collection requirements in that provision from OMB. The aerial lift provisions contain a requirement for manufacturer certification of "field modified" aerial lifts, which was previously codified in § 1926.556, and which was redesignated at § 1926.453(a)(2) in the final rule.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), OMB has approved the information collection and assigned OMB control number 1218-0216, which expires on October 31, 2000. Under 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an Agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless: (1) The collection displays a valid control number, and (2) the agency informs potential persons who may respond to the collections of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Accordingly, now that OMB has approved the collections in § 1926.453(a)(2), OSHA is codifying the current OMB control number into § 1926.5, which is the central section in which OSHA displays its approved collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act. The effective date of § 1926.453(a)(2) is January 27, 1998.

Authority and Signature

This document was prepared under the direction of Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20210.

List of Subjects in 29 CFR Part 1926

Construction; Occupational safety and health; Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 15th day of January, 1998.

Charles N. Jeffress,

Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Accordingly, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration amends 29 CFR part 1926 as set forth below.

PART 1926—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for subpart A of part 1926 continues to read as follows:

Authority: Section 107, Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (Construction Safety Act) (40 U.S.C. 333); secs. 4, 6, 8, Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 653, 655, 657); Secretary of Labor's Order 12-71 (36 FR 8754), 8-76 (41 FR 25059), or 1-90 (55 FR 9033), as applicable; 29 CFR part 1911.

§ 1926.5 [Amended]

2. In § 1926.5, the table is amended by adding the entry
 "§ 1926.453(a)(2).....1218-0216"
 in numerical order.

[FR Doc. 98-1788 Filed 1-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-26-M

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

Expansion of Global Priority Mail

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: On March 29, 1996, the Postal Service published in the **Federal Register**, 61 FR 14025, an interim rule with a request for comments which expanded Global Priority Mail service by increasing the number of acceptance points, increasing the number of destination countries, and adding weight variable rates for items weighing up to 4 pounds. The Postal Service now adopts the interim regulations, with amendments, as final.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 27, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Jay Thabet, (202) 268-2269.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 29, 1996, the Postal Service published an interim rule expanding Global Priority Mail and requesting comments, 61 FR 14025. Global Priority Mail is an expedited airmail letter service providing fast, reliable, and economical delivery of all items mailable as letters or merchandise up to 4 pounds. Global Priority Mail items receive priority handling in the United States and destination countries. Service is limited to the 34 destination countries identified in the International Mail Manual 226.2. Service is available from designated post offices identified in the International Mail Manual 226.32.

The weight limit for Global Priority Mail items is 4 pounds. The Postal Service offers two sizes of preprinted flat-rate envelopes. The rates for these envelopes are based on a geographic rate zone regardless of the actual weight. Although these envelopes are valid for weights of up to 4 pounds, the practical limitations of the envelopes limit the weight to less than 4 pounds.

The interim rule increased the number of post offices where Global Priority Mail would be available, increased the number of destination countries, and added variable weight-based rates to increase customer convenience.

The Postal Service received one letter containing nine comments on the interim rule.

Comment one suggests that, for those states where all post offices within the state are on the list of acceptance sites, just the state should be listed without showing the different facilities. This suggestion does not take into account that there may arise a case where a post office within a state may not be able to accept Global Priority Mail at some time in the future. The present system of listing the acceptance facilities allows the Postal Service to delete post offices when appropriate.

Comment two suggests that ZIP Codes be listed in numerical order rather than in alphabetical order of the acceptance facility. While both numerical and alphabetical listings are valid, neither is more valid than the other. The Postal Service elects to retain the alphabetical listing.

Comment three states that, in New York State, Postal Codes 117/118 are no longer listed as acceptance sites, whereas they were listed as acceptance sites for the original test. This was a typographical error; ZIP Codes 117/118 are acceptance sites.

Comment four asks for an explanation of certain abnormalities in the rate structure for variable weights and the volume rates. The differences between weight steps does not have to be equal or linear or based totally on cost changes. The competitors' rates for similar products are a factor. The size and weight of the volume the USPS most wants to attract is another factor in the determination of weight level increases.

Comment five asks for an explanation for the relationship between rates for Canadian and European destinations. The expected traffic to each country group, the competition that we face going to that country group, and the cost to get into each country group were factors used to determine rates. In the example cited, competitors' rates and delivery costs in the country were the most influential.

Comment six states that the relationship between the flat rate envelopes and the variable weight rate should be clarified and the relationship between the flat rate envelope and the volume rate should be clarified. The flat rate developed for envelopes that the Postal Service provides is independent

of the variable weight rate and the volume rate. The Postal Service developed the flat rates as a convenience for the customer. To receive either the variable weight or volume rate options, the customer must provide the appropriate packaging. The envelopes the Postal Service provides are for the convenience of the customer and are not eligible for either the variable weight or volume rate options.

Comment seven suggests a change in wording to Chapter 2 of the International Mail Manual, part 226.62, to read * * * sticker rate must have the DEC-10 sticker affixed to the address side of the package, for clarification purposes. The Postal Service accepts this comment and revises Chapter 2 of the International Mail Manual, part 226.62.

Comment eight notes that section 226.82 of the International Mail Manual does not state where the single piece rate packages can be mailed. In light of this comment the Postal Service revises Chapter 2 of the International Mail Manual, part 226.82, to state that single piece variable weight option may be deposited in the normal manner of deposit for Global Priority Mail.

Comment nine questions the legality of not providing Global Priority Mail service from every post office under the jurisdiction of the United States Postal Service. The United States Postal Service provides service throughout the entire United States as mandated by 39 USC 3623(d). There are some products and services that are not available at all postal retail units. Acceptance of passport applications is an example. In the case of Global Priority Mail, the service is offered at all post offices from which transportation is available which

allows the mailpiece to reach the appropriate airmail facility in time to make the scheduled airline departure on the day after the mailpiece is deposited. If the transportation network at a given post office does not allow for the mailpiece to leave the United States on the day after deposit, that post office does not accept Global Priority Mail. This restriction is in place to preserve the integrity of a premium service for which the customer pays a premium fee.

A transmittal letter making the changes in the pages of the International 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 20.3.

The Postal Service amends part 226 of the International Mail Manual, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR 20.1.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20

Foreign relations, Incorporation by reference, International postal services.

PART 20—[AMENDED]

The authority citation for 39 CFR Part 20 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 407, 408.

2. The International Mail Manual is amended to incorporate part 226, Global Priority Mail, as follows:

226 Global Priority Mail

226.1 General

226.11 Definition

Global Priority Mail is an expedited airmail letter service providing fast,

reliable, and economical delivery of all items mailable as letters or merchandise up to 4 pounds. Global Priority Mail items receive priority handling in the United States and in destination countries. Service is available only to destination countries identified in 226.2, from post offices identified in 226.3.

226.12 Permissible Items

All items sent as letter class mail (see 221.1) are accepted in Global Priority Mail provided that the contents are mailable and fit securely in the envelope. Global Priority Mail items may contain dutiable merchandise unless the country of destination specifically prohibits dutiable merchandise in letters (see 224.51). Any item that is prohibited in international mail is prohibited in Global Priority Mail. Refer to the "Country Conditions of Mailing" in the Individual Country Listings for individual country prohibitions.

226.13 Packaging

Items must fit comfortably within the flat-rate envelope without distorting or bursting the container. Do not use excessive tape to keep the envelopes from bursting. Use only one piece of tape to secure the flap.

226.2 Availability

Global Priority Mail is available to the following countries. Countries specifically identified will have service only to specific cities within those countries, as noted below:

COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

Western Europe	Pacific Rim	North America	South America	Middle East
Austria Belgium Denmark Finland France (including Monaco) Germany Great Britain and Northern Ireland ¹ Iceland Ireland Liechtenstein Luxembourg Netherlands, The Norway Portugal Spain Sweden Switzerland	Australia China ² Hong Kong Japan Korea, Republic of New Zealand Philippines Singapore Taiwan Thailand Vietnam	Canada Mexico ³	Brazil ⁴ Chile ⁵	Israel. ⁶ Saudi Arabia. ⁷

¹ Includes England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man.

² Destinations in China are limited to Beijing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Qingdao, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Suzhou, Tianjin, Wuxi, Xiamen, and Zhuhai ONLY.

³Destinations in Mexico are limited to Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey ONLY.

⁴Destinations in Brazil are limited to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro ONLY.

⁵Destinations in Chile are limited to Santiago, Valparaiso, and Viña del Mar ONLY.

⁶Destinations in Israel are limited to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa ONLY.

⁷Destinations in Saudi Arabia are limited to Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam ONLY.

226.3 Mailing Locations

226.31 Acceptance Offices and Pickup Service Locations

Global Priority Mail service is available only through the designated post offices and the additional post offices listed in 226.32. Pickup Service is available for an additional fee. (See 226.83.)

226.32 Service Areas

Service is available only from the metropolitan areas as defined by the ZIP Code ranges shown in Exhibit 226.32. If Global Priority Mail is presented at a non-participating retail unit, advise the customer that the item cannot be accepted as Global Priority Mail. Refer customer to the nearest Global Priority Mail retail acceptance unit. Within these service areas, prepaid items may be given to carriers, deposited in Express Mail collection boxes, or mailed at post offices, stations, and branches.

Exhibit 226.32 Global Priority Mail Acceptance Cities and Three-Digit ZIP Codes

ALABAMA

Anniston: 362
Birmingham: 352
Huntsville: 356, 357, 358
Mobile: 366
Montgomery: 361, 368

ARIZONA

Phoenix: 850, 852, 853
Tucson: 857

ARKANSAS

Little Rock: 722
West Memphis: 723

CALIFORNIA

Industry: 917, 918
Inglewood: 902, 903, 904, 905
Long Beach: 906, 907, 908
Los Angeles: 900, 901
North Bay: 949
Oakland: 945, 946, 947, 948,
Pasadena: 910, 911, 912
Salinas: 939
San Diego: 919, 920, 921
San Francisco: 940, 941, 943, 944
San Jose: 950, 951
Santa Ana: 926, 927, 928
Van Nuys: 913, 914, 915, 916

COLORADO

Brighton: 806
Colorado Springs: 808, 809
Denver: 800, 801, 802, 803
Longmont: 805
Pueblo: 810

CONNECTICUT

Hartford: 060, 061, 062
New Haven: 063, 064, 065, 066
Stamford: 068, 069
Waterbury: 067

DELAWARE

Wilmington: 197, 198, 199

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (Washington, DC)

Washington: 200, 202, 203, 204, 205

FLORIDA

Daytona Beach: 321
Fort Myers: 339
Ft. Lauderdale: 333
Gainesville: 326, 344
Jacksonville: 320, 322
Lakeland: 338
Manasota: 342
Miami: 331, 332
Mid-Florida: 327
Orlando: 328, 329, 347
South Florida: 330
St. Petersburg: 337
Tallahassee: 323
Tampa: 335, 336, 346
West Palm Beach: 334, 349

GEORGIA

Albany: 317
Athens: 306
Atlanta: 303, 311
Augusta: 298, 308, 309
Columbus: 318, 319
Macon: 310, 312
North Metro: 300, 301, 302, 305
Savannah: 299, 313, 314
Swainsboro: 304
Valdosta: 316
Waycross: 315

INDIANA

Bloomington: 474
Columbus: 472
Evansville: 424, 476, 477
Fort Wayne: 467, 468
Gary: 463, 464
Indianapolis: 460, 461, 462
Kokomo: 469
Lafayette: 479
Muncie: 473
South Bend: 465, 466
Terre Haute: 478
Washington: 475

ILLINOIS

Bloomington: 617
Carbondale: 629
Carol Stream: 601, 603
Centralia: 628
Chicago: 606, 607, 608
East St. Louis: 622
Effingham: 624
Champaign: 618, 619
Fox Valley: 605
Galesburg: 614
Kankakee: 609
La Salle: 613
Palatine: 600, 602

Peoria: 615, 616
Quincy: 623, 634, 635
Rockford: 610, 611
Rock Island: 612
Springfield: 625, 626, 627
South Suburban: 604

IOWA

Burlington: 526
Cedar Rapids: 522, 523, 524
Davenport: 527, 528
Des Moines: 500, 501, 502, 503, 509
Dubuque: 520
Mason City: 504
Ottumwa: 525
Sioux City: 510, 511
Waterloo: 506, 507

KANSAS

Fort Scott: 667
Kansas City: 660, 661, 662
Hays: 676
Salina: 674
Topeka: 664, 665, 666, 668
Wichita: 672

KENTUCKY

Ashland: 411, 412
Bowling Green: 421, 422
Campton: 413, 414
Elizabeth: 427
Louisville: 400, 401, 402, 471
Lexington: 403, 404, 405, 406
Owensboro: 423
Pikeville: 415, 416

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge: 707, 708
New Orleans: 700, 701
Hammond: 704
Thibodaux: 703

MAINE

Bangor: 044, 046, 047
Portland: 040, 041, 042, 043, 045, 048, 049

MARYLAND

Baltimore: 210, 211, 212, 214, 219
Cumberland: 215, 267
Easton: 216
Frederick: 217
Salisbury: 218
Southern: 206, 207
Suburban: 208, 209

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston: 021, 022
Brockton: 020, 023, 024
Buzzards Bay: 025, 026
Middlesex-Essex: 018, 019
Pittsfield: 012
Springfield: 010, 011, 013
Worcester: 014, 015, 016, 017

MICHIGAN

Detroit: 481, 482
Flint: 484, 485
Gaylord: 497
Grand Rapids: 493, 494, 495
Jackson: 492
Kalamazoo: 490, 491

Lansing: 488, 489
Royal Oak: 480, 483
Saginaw: 486, 487
Traverse City: 496

MINNESOTA

Detroit Lakes: 565
Duluth: 558
Mankato: 560
Minneapolis: 553, 554
Rochester: 559
Saint Cloud: 563
St. Paul: 550, 551, 540
Thief River Falls: 567
Willmar: 562
Windom: 561

MISSISSIPPI

Grenada: 389
Gulfport: 395
Hattiesburg: 394
Jackson: 392
McComb: 396

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau: 636, 637, 638, 639
Chillicothe: 646
Harrisonville: 647
Kansas City: 640, 641
Mid-Missouri: 650, 651, 652, 653
Saint Joseph: 644, 645
Springfield: 648, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658
St. Louis: 620, 630, 631, 633

MONTANA

Billings: 591

NEBRASKA

Lincoln: 683, 684, 685
Norfolk: 686, 687
Omaha: 515, 516, 680, 681

NEVADA

Las Vegas: 891

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester: 030, 031, 032, 033, 034
Portsmouth: 038, 039

NEW JERSEY

Hackensack: 076
Kilmer: 088, 089
Monmouth: 077
Newark: 070, 071, 072, 073
Paterson: 074, 075
South Jersey: 080, 081, 082, 083, 084
Trenton: 085, 086, 087
West Jersey: 078, 079

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque: 871

NEW YORK

Albany: 120, 121, 122, 123
Binghamton: 137, 138, 139
Bronx: 104
Brooklyn: 112
Buffalo: 140, 141, 142, 143
Elmira: 148, 149
Glen Falls: 128
Hicksville: 118
Jamestown: 147
Long Island: 111
Mid-Hudson: 124, 125, 126, 127
Mid Island: 117, 119
New York: 100, 101, 102
Plattsburgh: 129

Queens: 110, 113, 114, 116
Rochester: 144, 145, 146
Rockland: 109
Staten Island: 103
Syracuse: 130, 131, 132
Utica: 133, 134, 135
Watertown: 136
Westchester: 105, 106, 107, 108
Western Nassau: 115

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville: 287, 288, 289
Charlotte: 280, 281, 282, 297
Greensboro: 270, 271, 272, 273, 274
Hickory: 286
Raleigh: 275, 276, 277

NORTH DAKOTA

Bismarck: 585
Dickinson: 586
Devils Lake: 583
 Fargo: 580, 581
Grand Forks: 582
Jamestown: 584
Minot: 587
Williston: 588

OHIO

Akron: 442, 443
Athens: 457
Canton: 446, 447
Chillicothe: 456
Cincinnati: 410, 450, 451, 452, 470
Cleveland: 440, 441
Columbus: 430, 431, 432, 433
Dayton: 453, 454, 455
Lima: 458
Mansfield: 448, 449
Steubenville: 439
Toledo: 434, 435, 436
Youngstown: 444, 445
Zanesville: 437, 438

OKLAHOMA

Ardmore: 734
Clinton: 736
Durant: 747
Enid: 737
Lawton: 735
McAlester: 745
Muskogee: 744
Oklahoma City: 730, 731
Ponca City: 746
Poteau: 749
Shawnee: 748
Tulsa: 740, 741, 743
Woodard: 738

OREGON

Portland: 972

PENNSYLVANIA

Altoona: 166, 168
Bradford: 167
Dubois: 158
Erie: 164, 165
Greensburg: 156
Harrisburg: 170, 171, 172, 178
Johnstown: 155, 157, 159
Lancaster: 173, 174, 175, 176
Lehigh Valley: 180, 181, 183
New Castle: 160, 161, 162
Oil City: 163
Philadelphia: 190, 191
Pittsburgh: 150, 151, 152, 153, 154
Reading: 179, 195, 196
Scranton: 184, 185, 188

Southeastern: 189, 193, 194
Wilkes-Barre: 182, 186, 187

PUERTO RICO/VIRGIN ISLANDS

San Juan: 006, 007, 008, 009

RHODE ISLAND

Providence: 027, 028, 029

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston: 294
Columbia: 290, 291, 292
Florence: 295
Greenville: 293, 296

SOUTH DAKOTA

Aberdeen: 574
Dakota Central: 572, 573
Mobridge: 576
Pierre: 575
Rapid City: 577
Sioux Falls: 570, 571

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga: 307, 373, 374
Columbia: 384
Cookeville: 385
Jackson: 383
Johnson City: 376
Knoxville: 377, 378, 379
McKenzie: 382
Memphis: 380, 381, 386
Nashville: 370, 371, 372

TEXAS

Abilene: 768, 795, 796
Amarillo: 791
Austin: 786, 787, 789
Beaumont: 776, 777
Bryan: 778
Corpus Christi: 784
Dallas: 751, 752, 753
El Paso: 799
Fort Worth: 760, 761, 762, 764
Greenville: 754
Houston: 770, 772
Longview: 756
Lubbock: 794
Lufkin: 759
North Houston: 773, 774, 775
North Texas: 750
Palestine: 758
San Angelo: 769
San Antonio: 780, 781, 782, 788
Texarkana: 755
Tyler: 757
Waco: 765, 766, 767
Wichita Falls: 763

UTAH

Provo: 845, 846, 847
Salt Lake City: 840, 841, 843, 844

VERMONT

Burlington: 054, 056
White River Junction: 035, 036, 037, 050,
051, 052, 053, 057, 058, 059

VIRGINIA

Charlottesville: 228, 229, 244
Culpeper: 227
Farmville: 239
Northern Virginia: 201, 220, 221, 222, 223
Norfolk: 233, 234, 235, 236, 237
Richmond: 224, 225, 230, 231, 232, 238
Winchester: 226

WASHINGTON

Everett: 982
 Olympia: 985
 Seattle: 980, 981
 Tacoma: 983, 984
 Wenatchee: 988
 Yakima: 989

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield: 246, 247, 248
 Charleston: 250, 251, 252, 253
 Huntington: 255, 256, 257
 Martinsburg: 254

Wheeling: 260

WISCONSIN

Eau Claire: 547
 Green Bay: 543
 La Crosse: 546
 Madison: 537
 Milwaukee: 530, 531, 532
 Oshkosh: 549
 Racine: 534
 Spooner: 548

WYOMING

Cheyenne: 820

226.4 Postage

226.41 Flat-Rate Envelopes Postage

Each Global Priority Mail flat-rate envelope is charged at a flat rate. The rate is based on the geographic rate zone regardless of its actual weight. Postage is required for each piece. (See Exhibit 226.41.)

Exhibit 226.41

FLAT-RATE ENVELOPE POSTAGE RATES

Destination	Small	Large
Western Europe and Middle East	\$3.75	\$6.95
Canada and Mexico	3.75	6.95
Pacific Rim and South America	4.95	8.95
Weight Limit 4 Lbs.		

226.42 Variable Weight Option Postage—Single Piece Rates

Global Priority Mail variable weight rates are calculated in half (or fraction thereof) increments based on the weight of each piece the destination geographic rate zone up to four pounds. (See Exhibit 226.42.)

Exhibit 226.42

VARIABLE WEIGHT STICKER OPTION—SINGLE PIECE RATES

Weight level	Western Europe and Middle East	Pacific Rim and South America	Canada and Mexico
½ lb	\$7.00	\$8.00	\$5.95
1.0 lb	10.50	12.50	10.00
1.5 lbs	12.50	16.95	13.50
2.0 lbs	15.00	21.00	16.50
2.5 lbs	17.50	23.95	18.00
3.0 lbs	19.95	27.25	19.50
3.5 lbs	22.00	31.50	21.00
4.0 lbs	24.75	34.50	22.50
Weight Limit 4 Lbs.			

226.43 Global Priority Mail Sticker—Volume Rates

226.431 Minimum Quantity Requirement

The mailer must have a minimum of five or more pieces to one or more Global Priority Mail countries. The minimum does not apply to each geographic zone rate. (See Exhibit 226.43.)

226.432 Mailing Statement

Postage for volume rate mail and permit imprint must be computed on PS

Form 3653, Global Priority Mail Statement of Mailings.

Exhibit 226.43

VARIABLE WEIGHT STICKER OPTION—VOLUME RATES

Weight level	Western Europe and Middle East	Pacific Rim and South America	Canada and Mexico
½ lb	\$5.95	\$6.95	\$5.00
1.0 lb	8.50	10.00	7.50
1.5 lbs	10.00	13.50	10.00
2.0 lbs	12.00	16.95	12.50
2.5 lbs	14.00	19.25	13.50
3.0 lbs	16.95	21.95	14.50
3.5 lbs	19.95	25.50	15.50
4.0 lbs	22.50	27.75	16.50
Weight Limit 4 Lbs.			

226.5 Payment Methods

226.51 Postage Payment Methods

Nonidentical weight piece mailings must have the applicable postage affixed by adhesive stamps, meter stamps or if presented at a post office, postal validation imprinter (PVI labels). Identical weight piece mailings may be paid by meter stamps, adhesive stamps, PVI labels or permit imprint subject to certain standards. To use permit imprint, the mailing must consist of 200 or more pieces and be of identical weight. The 200-piece criterion for permit imprint applies to both volume rate and flat-rate mail. Mailers may use permit imprint with nonidentical weight items only if authorized by the USPS under a Manifest Mailing System (MMS), in DMM P710.

226.52 Postal Marking Related to Volume Rate Postage

When pieces are paid at the volume rate and paid by stamps or meter impression, each piece must be legibly marked with the words "Volume Rate Global Priority Mail." If stamps are used the endorsement must appear on the address side of each piece and must be applied by a printing press, hand stamp or other similar printing device. If meter impression is used the endorsement must be in the ad plate or the slug area. If part of the slug, the abbreviation GPM Vol. Rate may be used. See DMM P030.4.14 for specification of size requirements.

226.53 Permit Imprint Content and Format

All permit imprints on Global Priority Mail must show city and state, "Global Priority Mail," U.S. Postage Paid, and permit number. They may show the mailing date, amount of postage paid or the number of ounces for each postage.

226.54 Meter Stamps Content

At a minimum, a meter stamp must show the month, day, and year in the postmark, city and state designation of the licensing post office, the number, and the amount of postage. See DMM P030.4.6.

226.6 Preparation Requirements

226.61 Addressing

All items must bear the complete delivery address of the addressee and the full name (no abbreviations) of the destination country. See 122.

226.62 Marking

Global Priority Mail items must be mailed in special envelopes (EP-15A,

EP-15B) or with the Global Priority Mail sticker (DEC-10) provided by the Postal Service. (These supplies may be obtained by calling 800-222-1811.) Unmarked pieces are subject to the applicable LC/AO airmail regular rates and treatment. Pieces paid at the Global Priority Mail sticker rate must have the DEC-10 sticker affixed to the address side of the package.

226.63 Customs

A green customs label must be affixed if the package is 16 ounces or more, regardless of its contents. Only documents and correspondence under 16 ounces do not require a customs form.

226.7 Size and Weight Limits

226.71 Size Limits

226.711 Flat-Rate Envelope Sizes

- a. Small Size—6 x 10 inches.
- b. Large Size—9½ x 12½ inches.

226.712 Package Sizes for Variable Weight Option

- a. Minimum length and height: 5½ x 3½ inches.
- b. Minimum depth (thickness): .007 inches.
- c. Maximum length: 24 inches.
- d. Maximum length, height, depth (thickness) combined: 36 inches.

226.713 Rolls

- a. Minimum length: 4 inches.
- b. Minimum length plus twice the diameter combined: 6¾ inches.
- c. Maximum length: 36 inches.
- d. Maximum length plus twice the diameter combined: 42 inches.

226.72 Weight Limit

Items sent as Global Priority Mail in envelopes and the variable weight option must not exceed 4 pounds.

226.73 Special Services

Mailers may obtain certificates of mailing (see NO TAG). No other special services such as registry, insurance, restricted delivery, return receipt, or recorded delivery are available.

226.8 Mailer Preparation

226.81 Mailer Requirement

Global Priority Mail claimed at the volume rate must be separated by geographic rate zone (Western Europe, Pacific Rim, and Canada) when presented to the business mail entry unit unless otherwise authorized by the USPS. All pieces in a permit imprint mailing and metered mail must be facing the same direction.

226.82 Deposit of Mail

Global Priority Mail pieces paid by permit imprint and pieces claimed at the Global Priority Mail volume rates must be deposited at a business mail acceptance unit as authorized by the postmaster in the designated Global Priority Mail sites for weighing. Single piece variable weight option may be deposited in the normal manner of deposit for Global Priority Mail. Flat-rate envelopes with postage affixed may be deposited in any Express Mail Street collection box or other such place where Express Mail is accepted. Metered mail must be deposited in locations under the jurisdiction of the licensing post office except as permitted under DMM P030.

226.83 Pickup Service

On call and scheduled pickup service are available for Global Priority Mail from the designated Global Priority Mail acceptance cities. There is a charge of \$4.95 for each pickup stop, regardless of the number of pieces picked up. (See DMM D010 for standards of pickup service.) Pickup is not available for Global Priority Mail pieces if paid by permit imprint or claimed at the volume rate.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

46 CFR Part 382

[Docket No. R-158]

RIN 2133-AB19

Determination of Fair and Reasonable Guideline Rates for the Carriage of Bulk and Packaged Preference Cargoes on U.S.-Flag Commercial Vessels

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The regulations at 46 CFR part 382 prescribe the administrative procedures and methodology for determining fair and reasonable rates for the carriage of dry and liquid bulk and packaged preference cargoes on United States commercial cargo vessels. MARAD is issuing this rule to prescribe cost averaging as the methodology used for determining rates and to implement conforming procedural changes.

MARAD is also reducing information collection under these regulations.

DATES: This final rule is effective January 29, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael P. Ferris, Director, Office of Costs and Rates, Maritime Administration, Washington, DC 20590, Tel. (202) 366-2324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 901(b)(1) of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 (the Act), as amended (46 App. U.S.C. 1241(b)), cited as the Cargo Preference Act of 1954, requires that at least 50 percent of any equipment, materials or commodities purchased by the United States or for the account of any foreign nation without provision for reimbursement, or acquired as the result of funds or credits from the United States, shall be transported on privately owned U.S.-flag commercial vessels, to the extent that such vessels are available at fair and reasonable rates. In 1985, section 901 was amended to exclude certain programs from the application of cargo preference and to raise the U.S.-flag share to 75 percent on certain others. Upon request, MARAD provides fair and reasonable rates (also referred to as guideline rates) to U.S. shipper agencies. Section 901(b)(2) of the Act provides the authority for MARAD (by delegation from the Secretary of Transportation) to issue regulations governing the administration of section 901(b)(1). In 1989, MARAD issued regulations at 46 CFR part 382 ("Rule"), that initially became effective on January 1, 1990.

Under the 1990 Rule, MARAD established fair and reasonable rates, so-called guideline rates, based on each individual vessel's costs which applied to the ocean borne portion of cargo transportation. The guideline rate consisted of four components: (1) Operating costs; (2) capital costs; (3) port and cargo handling costs; and (4) brokerage and overhead. The operating cost component of the guideline rate for each participating vessel reflected actual historical vessel operating costs escalated to the current period by utilizing factors for wage and non-wage costs. All eligible annual operating costs are added together for each vessel and divided by the total number of operating days for that vessel to yield a daily operating cost.

Each vessel's actual reported fuel consumption at sea and in port forms the basis of the guideline rate's fuel cost segment. The actual fuel consumption of each vessel is multiplied by the corresponding projected number of voyage days at sea and in port to calculate total units of fuel consumed.