

By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$245.00
By other than a small entity	\$490.00
(c) Issue fee for issuing a plant patent:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$325.00
By other than a small entity	\$650.00
* * * * *	

5. Section 1.20 is proposed to be amended by revising paragraphs (e) through (g) to read as follows:

§ 1.20 Post issuance fees.

* * * * *

(e) For maintaining an original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent, based on an application filed on or after December 12, 1980, in force beyond four years; the fee is due by three years and six months after the original grant:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$460.00
By other than a small entity	\$920.00

(f) For maintaining an original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent, based on an application filed on or after December 12, 1980, in force beyond eight years; the fee is due by seven years and six months after the original grant:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$1,055.00
By other than a small entity	\$2,110.00

(g) For maintaining an original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent, based on an application filed on or after December 12, 1980, in force beyond twelve years; the fee is due by eleven years and six months after the original grant:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$1,630.00
By other than a small entity	\$3,260.00
* * * * *	

6. Section 1.492 is proposed to be amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) and (a)(5) to read as follows:

§ 1.492 National stage fees.

* * * * *

(a) The basic national fee:

(1) Where an international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid on the international application to the United States Patent and Trademark Office:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$370.00
By other than a small entity	\$740.00

(2) Where no international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, but an international search fee as set forth in § 1.445(a)(2) has been paid on the international application to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an International Searching Authority:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$390.00
By other than a small entity	\$780.00

(3) Where no international preliminary examination fee as set forth in § 1.482 has been paid and no international search fee as set forth in § 1.445(a)(2) has been paid on the international application to the United States Patent and Trademark Office:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$545.00
By other than a small entity	\$1,090.00

* * * * *

(5) Where a search report on the international application has been prepared by the European Patent Office or the Japan Patent Office:	
By a small entity (§ 1.27(a))	\$465.00
By other than a small entity	\$930.00
* * * * *	

Dated: May 4, 2004.

Jon W. Dudas,
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 04-10572 Filed 5-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 501

Authorization to Manufacture and Distribute Postage Meters

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule amends the regulations that define a postage meter and its components and a manufacturer and/or distributor of postage meters. The proposed rule also puts forth the responsibilities of any authorized person or entity to notify the Postal Service upon a change in ownership or control, or bankruptcy or insolvency, and identifies factors the Postal Service will consider in acting upon requests for changes of approval or ownership or control of an approved manufacturer or distributor.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before July 9, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wayne Wilkerson, manager of Postage Technology Management, by fax at 703-292-4050.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title 39, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 501, Authorization to Manufacture and Distribute Postage Meters, expands the definition of a postage meter and its components to include all postage evidencing systems that produce evidence of prepayment of postage by any method other than postage stamps or permit imprints. This part also expands the activities of persons or entities that must be approved by the Postal Service. These changes are required to address the evolution in postage evidencing technology in recent years. The events requiring notification to the Postal Service are hereby expanded to include changes in the financial condition of the authorized party, such as bankruptcy and insolvency as well as a change in ownership or control.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 501

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

The Amendment

For the reasons set out in this document, the Postal Service is proposing to amend 39 CFR part 501 as follows:

PART 501—AUTHORIZATION TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE POSTAGE METERS

1. The authority citation for part 501 continues to read as follows:

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.

2. Amend § 501.1 by replacing the title and all text to read as follows:

§ 501.1 Postage evidencing system/ infrastructure authorization.

a. Postage evidencing systems produce evidence of prepayment of U.S. postage by any method other than postage stamps or permit imprint. They include but are not limited to postage meters and PC Postage® systems.

b. Due to the potential for adverse impact upon Postal Service revenue, the following activities may not be engaged in by any person or concern without prior, written approval of the Postal Service:

i. Producing or distributing any postage evidencing system that generates U.S. postage.

ii. Repairing, distributing, refurbishing, remanufacturing or destroying any component of a postage evidencing system that accounts for or authorizes the printing of U.S. postage.

iii. Owning or operating an infrastructure that maintains operating data for the production of U.S. postage; maintains data concerning users or use of a postage evidencing systems; or accounts for U.S. postage purchased for distribution through a postage evidencing system.

iv. Owning or operating an infrastructure that maintains operating data or data concerning existing or proposed users of a postage evidencing system that is used to facilitate licensing or registration with the Postal Service of users of a postage evidencing system.

c. Any person or entity seeking authorization to perform any activity described in b must submit a request to the Postal Service in person or in writing.

d. Approval shall be based upon satisfactory evidence of the applicant's integrity and financial responsibility and a determination that disclosure to the applicant of the Postal Service customer, financial, or other data of a commercial nature necessary to perform the function for which approval is sought would be appropriate and consistent with good business practices within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. 410(c)(2).

e. Qualification and approval may be based upon conditions agreed to by the Postal Service and the applicant. The applicant is approved in writing to engage in the function(s) for which authorization was sought and approved.

3. Amend § 501.3 by replacing the title and all text to read as follows:

§ 501.3 Changes in ownership or control, bankruptcy, or insolvency.

a. Any person or entity authorized under 501.1 must promptly notify the Postal Service when it has a reasonable expectation that there may be a change

in its ownership or control including changes in the ownership of an affiliate which exercises control over its postage evidencing system operations in the United States. A change of ownership or control within the meaning of this section includes entry into a strategic alliance or other agreement under which a third party may gain access to Postal Service customer or financial data. Any person or entity seeking to acquire ownership or control of a person or entity authorized under 501.1 must provide the Postal Service satisfactory evidence that it satisfies the conditions for approval stated in 501.1. Early notification of a proposed change in ownership or control will facilitate expeditious review of an application to acquire ownership or control under this section.

b. Any person or entity authorized under 501.1 must promptly notify the Postal Service when it has a reasonable expectation that there may be a change in the status of its financial condition either through bankruptcy, insolvency, assignment for the benefit of creditors, or other similar financial action. Any person or entity authorized under 501.1 who experiences a change in the status of its financial condition may, at the discretion of the Postal Service, have its authorization under 501.1 modified or terminated.

Neva Watson,

Attorney, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 04-10497 Filed 5-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 52**

[W1119-01b; FRL-7657-7]

Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Wisconsin: Kewaunee County Ozone Maintenance Plan Update

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The EPA is proposing to approve a plan prepared by Wisconsin to maintain the one-hour national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) for ozone in the Kewaunee County maintenance area through the year 2012. This revision is required by the Clean Air Act. The effect of this approval is to ensure Federal enforceability of the State air program plan and to maintain consistency between the State-adopted plan and the approved State

Implementation Plan (SIP). In the final rules section of this **Federal Register**, we are approving the SIP revision as a direct final rule without prior proposal, because we view this as a noncontroversial revision amendment and anticipate no adverse comments. A detailed rationale for the approval is set forth in the direct final rule. If no adverse comments are received in response to the direct final rule, no further activity is contemplated in relation to this proposed rule. If we receive adverse comments, the direct final rule will be withdrawn and all public comments received will be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on this proposed rule. We will not institute a second comment period on this action. Any parties interested in commenting on this action should do so at this time.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 9, 2004.

Comments may also be submitted electronically or through hand delivery/courier. Please follow the detailed instructions described in part(I)(B)(1)(i) through (iii) of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of the related direct final rule which is published in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to: J. Elmer Bortzer, Chief, Criteria Pollutants Section, Air Programs Branch (AR-18), EPA Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590. *bortzer.jay@epa.gov*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Leslie, Environmental Engineer, Criteria Pollutants Section (AR-18), Air Programs Branch, Air and Radiation Division, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, (312) 353-6680, *leslie.michael@epa.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For additional information, see the Direct Final Rule which is located in the Rules section of this **Federal Register**. Copies of the request and the EPA's analysis are available for inspection at the above address. (Please telephone Michael Leslie at (312) 353-6680 before visiting the Region 5 Office.)

Dated: April 26, 2004.

Bharat Mathur,

Acting Regional Administrator, Region 5.

[FR Doc. 04-10342 Filed 5-7-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P