

Account (EMCA) customers as part of the Postal Service's ongoing mission to help grow revenue in a competitive market by increasing efficiencies, enhancing financial controls, and reducing costs.

Currently EMCA customers may use one of the following payment methods to fund their accounts:

- a. Participate in the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS).
- b. Use a personal or business credit card.
- c. Make an initial deposit with cash or by check of \$250, or the total postage and fees expected during the first 4 weeks of account usage, whichever is higher.

After the first 4 weeks, the minimum balance in the account must equal an average week's postage and fees, or \$100, whichever is higher.

Under this proposal, cash and check deposits would be eliminated and customers would be provided with an ACH payment method as a new option.

Effective December 1, 2007, new EMCA customers would be required to fund their accounts using one of the following payment methods:

- a. Use a personal or business credit or debit card.
- b. Authorize the USPS to originate an ACH debit from a specified bank account.
- c. Participate in the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) debit only if combined with other PostalOne® accounts such as permit imprint, Periodicals, business reply mail, and Address Element Correction.

By using an electronic payment option, customers will no longer have to go to a Post Office™ to make deposits into their EMCA trust accounts. This new payment option enhances financial control by reducing risk and eliminating the administrative costs of pursuing negative balance or delinquent EMCA accounts.

Existing EMCA customers who deposit cash and checks in local trust accounts will be transitioned to electronic payment methods during the next year. Details of this effort will be directly communicated to current EMCA customers.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act [5 U.S.C. of 553(b), (c)] regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites public comment on the following proposed revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual, incorporated in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR 111.1, 111.4.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

PART 111—[AMENDED]

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

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Amend the following sections of *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) as set forth below:

* * * * *

100 Retail Mail

* * * * *

110 Express Mail

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114 Postage Payment Methods

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2.0 Corporate Accounts

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2.4 Minimum Balance

For opening and maintaining an account, the mailer may do any of the following: *[Revise the text in items a, b, and c as follows:]*

a. Use a personal or business credit or debit card.

b. Authorize the USPS to originate an ACH debit from a specified bank account.

c. Participate in the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) debit only if combined with other PostalOne® accounts such as permit imprint, Periodicals, business reply mail, and Address Element Correction.

An appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes will be published if the proposal is adopted.

Neva R. Watson,

Attorney, Legislative.

[FR Doc. E7–19934 Filed 10–9–07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

New Address and Barcode Requirements for Automation, Presorted, and Carrier Route Flat-Size Mail

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service proposes new address placement requirements for Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library

Mail flat-size pieces sent at automation, presorted, or carrier route rates. We also propose to require an 11-digit POSTNET barcode or Intelligent Mail barcode on flat-size First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, and Bound Printed Matter sent at automation rates. In addition, we propose related revisions to the address requirements for automation and presorted First-Class Mail flats.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before December 10, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver written comments to the Manager, Mailing Standards, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Room 3436, Washington, DC 20260–3436. You may inspect and photocopy all written comments at Postal Service Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., 11th Floor N, Washington, DC between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carrie Witt, 202–268–7279.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Postal Service is implementing a new technology, the Flats Sequencing System (FSS), to automate delivery sequencing for flat-size mail. Currently, flat-size mail is sorted mechanically only to the 9-digit ZIP Code or carrier level, and then manually sorted into delivery order by carriers. FSS can sort flat-size mailpieces into delivery sequence, increasing efficiency by reducing carriers' time sorting mail, and allowing carriers to begin delivering mail earlier in the day.

Similar technology boosted postal efficiencies in processing and delivering letter mail in the 1990s. We can significantly increase efficiency and reduce delivery costs for flat-size mail with FSS technology. FSS can sequence flat mail at a rate of approximately 16,500 pieces per hour. Scheduled to operate 17 hours per day, each machine will be capable of sequencing 280,500 mailpieces daily to more than 125,000 delivery addresses.

As we move toward national deployment of FSS, we are working closely with the mailing industry to make the most of this investment and achieve the lowest combined costs for handling flat-size mail, including developing new standards for optimal addressing. Unlike letter mail, which is fairly uniform in size and address location, flat mail covers a broad range of sizes and has highly variable address placement. We need new mailing standards for this diverse mailstream to promote consistent addressing for all flat-size pieces and ensure efficiency in

all flats processing and delivery operations.

Toward this goal, we are proposing new standards requiring mailers to use an 11-digit POSTNET barcode or Intelligent Mail barcode on all automation rate First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, and Bound Printed Matter flat-size pieces. Mailers must also place the address in the upper portion of all Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail flat-size pieces mailed at automation, presorted, or carrier route rates. Mailers may place the address parallel or perpendicular to the top edge, but not upside down as read in relation to the top edge. For bound or folded pieces not in envelopes or polywrap, the “top” of the mailpiece is the upper edge when the bound or final folded edge is vertical and on the right side of the piece. For enveloped or polywrapped pieces, the “top” is either of the shorter edges.

Mailers must address all presorted, carrier route, and automation flat-size mailpieces using a minimum of 8-point type. In addition, for all automation pieces, the lines and the characters in the address must not touch or overlap, and each element of the address line may be separated by no more than three blank character spaces.

The new standards will enable FSS to process flat-size pieces in delivery sequence at high speeds and reduce the time carriers spend manually sorting flat-size mail. The new standards further increase efficiency by ensuring that carriers need not reorient flat-size pieces to read the address, whether the mail is held, pulled from a mailbag, or removed from a tray.

As we transition to the automated flats processing environment, the Intelligent Mail barcode provides opportunities for mailers to save space within the address block. For example, mailers can include all tracking and routing information and avoid reproducing human-readable ACS codes and keylines. In addition, to further mitigate the larger type size requirements, we are looking at ways to shorten optional endorsement lines and allow mailers to place mailer-specified information (such as customer numbers) to the left of the optional endorsement line when OneCode ACS is used. We may also be able to reduce the amount of clear space required under the Intelligent Mail barcode. We will publish these changes in a future revision. For other ways to reduce address block size, refer to Publication 28, *Postal Addressing Standards* (available on Postal Explorer at pe.usps.com; click on “Address

Quality” in the left frame, then “Address Management Publications”).

Although we are exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act [5 U.S.C. 553(b), (c)] regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), we invite public comments on the following proposed revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR 111.1.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 111 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 111—[AMENDED]

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

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

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

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300 Discount Mail: Flats

* * * * *

302 Elements on the Face of a Mailpiece

1.0 All Mailpieces

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[Revise 1.2 as follows:]

1.2 Delivery Address

The delivery address specifies the location to which the USPS is to deliver a mailpiece. Except for mail prepared with detached address labels under 602.4.0, the piece must have the address of the intended recipient, visible and legible, only on the side of the piece bearing postage. Use at least 8-point type (8-point type is approximately 1/10-inch high). An Arial font is preferred. Additional standards apply to presorted, automation-compatible, and carrier route rate flats mailed at First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail rates (see 2.0).

* * * * *

[Re-number 2.0 through 4.0 as 3.0 through 5.0. Insert new 2.0 as follows:]

2.0 Address Placement

2.1 Basic Standards

On all Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail flats mailed at presorted,

automation, or carrier route rates, mailers must place the address block at least 1/8 inch from any edge of the mailpiece. For the purposes of these standards, the “address block” is defined as the recipient’s name or other identification; the company information line; the street and number, and any necessary secondary information; and the city, state, and ZIP Code. The address may appear on the front or the back of the mailpiece (but must be on the side bearing postage), parallel or perpendicular to the top edge, but it cannot be upside down as read in relation to the top edge. See 2.2 for additional standards for enveloped or polywrapped pieces, and 2.3 for bound or folded pieces not in envelopes or polywrap.

2.2 Address Placement on Enveloped or Polywrapped Pieces

The following standards apply to enveloped or polywrapped Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail flats mailed at presorted, automation, or carrier route rates:

a. The “top” of the mailpiece is either of the shorter edges.

b. If the address is parallel to the top edge, the entire address block must appear within 3 inches of the top of the mailpiece. If the address is perpendicular to the top edge, one edge of the address block (either the first or last possible character) must be within 2 1/2 inches of the top of the mailpiece. See Exhibit 2.3.

c. On all pieces, the address block must be at least 1 inch closer to the top than to the bottom of the piece.

d. When the address is placed on an insert polywrapped with the host piece, the insert must be secured to maintain address placement throughout processing and delivery.

2.3 Address Placement on Bound or Folded Pieces

The following standards apply to bound or folded Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail flats mailed at presorted, automation, or carrier route rates not in envelopes or polywrap:

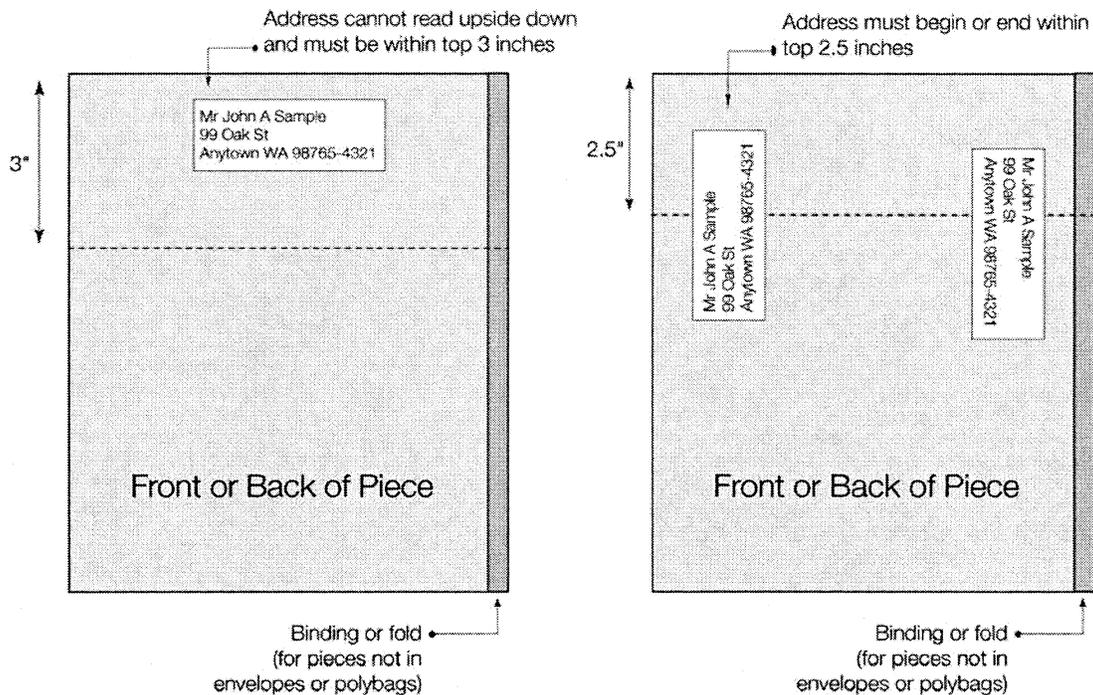
a. The “top” is the upper edge of the mailpiece when the bound or final folded edge is vertical and on the right side of the piece. Exception: For Carrier Route (or Enhanced Carrier Route) saturation rate pieces, the “top” of the mailpiece is either of the shorter edges.

b. If the address is parallel to the top edge, the entire address block must appear within 3 inches of the top of the mailpiece. If the address is perpendicular to the top edge, one edge

of the address block (either the first or last possible character) must be within 2½ inches of the top of the mailpiece. See Exhibit 2.3.

c. On all pieces, the address block must be at least 1 inch closer to the top than to the bottom of the piece.

Exhibit 2.3 Address Placement



2.4 Type Size and Line Spacing

On all First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail flats mailed at presorted, automation, or carrier route rates, mailers must print the address using at least 8-point type (8-point type is approximately 1/10-inch high). An Arial font is preferred. These additional standards apply to automation rate pieces:

a. The individual characters and the individual lines in the address cannot touch or overlap. A minimum 0.028-inch clear space between lines is preferred.

b. Each element on each line of the address may be separated by no more than three blank character spaces. For example, "ANYTOWN U.S. 12345," not "ANYTOWN U.S. 12345."

* * * * *

5.0 Barcode Placement

[Revise heading and text of renumbered 5.1 to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes when a POSTNET barcode is used on automation flat-size pieces, as follows:]

5.1 Basic Standards

On any flat-size piece claimed at automation rates (including machinable

barcoded Periodicals rates), the piece must bear one 11-digit POSTNET barcode under 5.3 or it may bear two 11-digit POSTNET barcodes under 5.4. Other mailer-applied non-USPS barcodes may appear on the address side of the piece if the barcode format is not detectable by automated postal equipment as a routing code. Automation rate flat-size pieces must not bear a 5-digit or a ZIP+4 barcode.

[Further renumber 5.5, DPBC Numeric Equivalent, as new 5.2. Renumber 5.2 through 5.4 as 5.3 through 5.5.]

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[Delete renumbered 5.5, 5-Digit and ZIP+4 Barcode Permissibility. Further renumber 5.6 and 5.7 as 5.5 and 5.6.]

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330 First-Class Mail

333 Rates and Eligibility

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5.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Automation Rate First-Class Mail Flats

5.1 Basic Standards for Automation First-Class Mail

All pieces in a First-Class Mail automation rate mailing must:

* * * * *

[Revise item e to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes or Intelligent Mail barcodes as follows:]

e. Bear an accurate 11-digit POSTNET barcode or Intelligent Mail barcode with a delivery point routing code (either on the piece or on an insert showing through a window) meeting the standards in 302.5.0, Barcode Placement, and 708.4.0, Standards for POSTNET and Intelligent Mail Barcodes.

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5.4 Address Standards for Barcoded Pieces

* * * * *

5.4.4 Address Elements

[Add a new last sentence to 5.4.4 to reference the address placement standards as follows:]

* * * The address must appear on the piece according to 302.2.4.

* * * * *

340 Standard Mail

343 Rates and Eligibility

* * * * *

7.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Automation Rate Standard Mail Flats

7.1 General

All pieces in a Regular Standard Mail or Nonprofit Standard Mail automation rate mailing must:

[Revise item e to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes or Intelligent Mail barcodes as follows:]

e. Bear an accurate 11-digit POSTNET barcode or Intelligent Mail barcode with a delivery point routing code (either on the piece or on an insert showing through a window) meeting the standards in 302.5.0, *Barcode Placement*, and 708.4.0, *Standards for POSTNET and Intelligent Mail Barcodes*.

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7.3 Address Standards for Barcoded Pieces

* * * * *

7.3.4 Address Elements

[Add a new last sentence to 7.3.4 to reference the address placement standards as follows:]

* * * The address must appear on the piece according to 302.2.0.

* * * * *

360 Bound Printed Matter

363 Rates and Eligibility

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6.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Barcoded Bound Printed Matter Flats

6.1 General

[Revise 6.1 to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes or Intelligent Mail barcodes as follows:]

The barcode discount applies only to BPM flat-size pieces that bear a correct, readable 11-digit POSTNET barcode under 708.4.0, *Standards for POSTNET and Intelligent Mail Barcodes*, for the numeric DPBC of the delivery address. Instead of a POSTNET barcode, pieces may bear Intelligent Mail barcodes (under 708.4.0) containing a delivery point routing code for the delivery address. The pieces must be part of a nonpresorted rate mailing of 50 or more flat-size pieces or part of a presorted rate mailing of at least 300 BPM flat-size pieces prepared under 705.8.0, *Preparing Pallets*, and 365.7.0, *Preparing Barcoded Flats*. The barcode discount is not available for flat-size pieces mailed at Presorted DDU rates or carrier route rates. To qualify for the barcode discount, the flat-size piece must meet the standards in 301.3.0,

Additional Criteria for Automation Flats.

* * * * *

6.3 Address Standards for Barcode Discount

* * * * *

6.3.4 Address Elements

[Add a new last sentence to 6.3.4 to reference the address placement standards as follows:]

* * * The address must appear on the piece according to 302.2.0.

* * * * *

370 Media Mail

373 Rates and Eligibility

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3.0 Rate Eligibility for Media Mail Flats

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3.3 Delivery and Return Addresses

All Media Mail must bear a delivery address. The delivery address on each piece must include the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. The address must appear on the piece according to 302.2.0. Alternative addressing formats under 602.3.0 or detached address labels under 602.4.0 may be used. Each piece must bear the sender's return address.

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380 Library Mail

383 Rates and Eligibility

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3.0 Rate Eligibility for Library Mail Flats

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3.3 Delivery and Return Addresses

All Library Mail must bear a delivery address. The delivery address on each piece must include the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. The address must appear on the piece according to 302.2.0. Alternative addressing formats under 602.3.0 or detached address labels under 602.4.0 may be used. Each piece must bear the sender's return address.

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700 Special Standards

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707 Periodicals

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3.0 Physical Characteristics and Content Eligibility

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3.2 Addressing

3.2.1 General

[Revise 3.2.1 to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes or Intelligent Mail barcodes on machinable barcoded flats as follows:]

Each addressed piece, including the top copy of a firm bundle, must bear the addressee's name and address. The address must include the correct ZIP+4 code or 5-digit ZIP Code. Flat-size pieces mailed at the machinable barcoded rates must include the correct 11-digit POSTNET barcode or Intelligent Mail barcode (under 708.4.0) containing a delivery point routing code for the delivery address.

* * * * *

3.2.3 Address Placement

[Revise 3.2.3 to reference the new address placement standards as follows:]

The delivery address must be clearly visible on or through the outside of the mailpiece, whether placed on a label or directly on the host publication, a component, or the mailing wrapper. If placed on the mailing wrapper, the address must be on a flat side, not on a fold. If a polybag is used, the address must not appear on a component that rotates within the bag, and the address must remain visible throughout the addressed component's range of motion. For flat-size pieces, mailers must follow the additional address placement and formatting standards in 302.2.0 and 302.5.0.

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[Delete Exhibit 3.2.4, Address Placement for Periodicals.]

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3.3 Permissible Mailpiece Components

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3.3.10 Label Carrier

A label carrier may be used to carry the delivery address for the mailpiece and must consist of a single unfolded, uncreased sheet of card or paper stock, securely affixed to the cover of the publication or large enough so that it does not rotate inside the wrapper, subject to these conditions:

* * * * *

[Insert new item e as follows:]

e. For flat-size pieces, mailers must follow the additional address placement and formatting standards in 302.2.0 and 302.5.0.

* * * * *

13.0 Carrier Route Rate Eligibility**13.1 Basic Standards**

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13.1.2 Address Quality

All pieces in a Periodicals carrier route rate mailing must bear a delivery address that includes the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code and that meets these address quality standards:

* * * * *

[Insert new item d as follows:]

d. For flat-size pieces, mailers must follow the additional address placement and formatting standards in 302.2.0 and 302.5.0.

* * * * *

14.0 Barcoded (Automation) Rate Eligibility**14.1 Basic Standards****14.1.1 General**

All pieces in a Periodicals barcoded (automation) rate mailing must:

* * * * *

[Revise item b as follows:]

b. Bear a delivery address that includes the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code, and that meets these address quality standards:

* * * * *

c. Bear an accurate barcode meeting the standards in 708.4.0, under these conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise item c2 to require 11-digit POSTNET barcodes or Intelligent Mail barcodes as follows:]

2. If a flat: The mailer may use an 11-digit POSTNET or an Intelligent Mail barcode with a delivery point routing code, under 708.4.0. Mailers may apply the barcode either on the piece or on an insert showing through a window.

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

Neva R. Watson,

Attorney, Legislative.

[FR Doc. E7-19932 Filed 10-9-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Eastern New York Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Enhancement of Survival Permit**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability and Receipt of Application; Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Eastern New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has applied to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for an Enhancement of Survival Permit (ESP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. The requested permit, which is for a period of 50 years, includes a draft Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) for the Karner blue butterfly in portions of Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Warren Counties, New York.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), is also available for public review. We are requesting comments on this application.

DATES: Written comments on the permit application, SHA, and EA must be received on or before November 9, 2007.

ADDRESSES: Please address comments to Field Office Supervisor, New York Field Office, 3817 Luker Road, Cortland, New York 13045; facsimile 607-753-9699. Please refer to permit TE162713-0 when submitting comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Stilwell or Robyn Niver at the New York Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), telephone 607-753-9334; facsimile 607-753-9699, or Robyn_Niver@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Document Availability**

Individuals wishing copies of the permit application or the draft EA, or copies of the full text of the proposed SHA, should contact the office and personnel listed in the **ADDRESSES** section. Documents also will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at this office (see **ADDRESSES**).

We specifically request information, views, and opinions from the public on the proposed Federal action of issuing a permit. Further, we solicit information regarding the adequacy of the SHA as

measured against our permit issuance criteria found in 50 CFR 17.22(c).

Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Background

TNC has applied to the Service for a section 10(a)(1)(A) ESP for the endangered Karner blue butterfly in portions of 4 eastern New York counties (Albany, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Warren) for a period of 50 years.

TNC plans to implement a programmatic SHA program on non-Federal and non-TNC lands in eastern New York to promote the recovery of the Karner blue butterfly on enrolled private lands located in the counties listed above. The conservation measures will improve and maintain pitch pine scrub oak barrens oak-pine savannahs, and tall grass prairie openings through mowing, tree clearing, and grubbing, removal of debris, prescribed burning, limited use of herbicides, and planting seeds or seedlings by hand or mechanical equipment. TNC may also employ captive-rearing and translocation methods to enhance butterfly colonization of sites. Due to the programmatic nature of the SHA, baseline conditions will be determined at the time of enrollment. Baseline conditions for most properties are anticipated to be zero. Where properties are determination to have an environmental baseline greater than zero, these areas shall be described in the cooperative agreement between TNC and the property owner, with detailed descriptions and maps showing the locations of existing habitat attached to the cooperative agreement.

Under an SHA, a participating property owner voluntarily undertakes management activities on their property to enhance, restore, or maintain habitat benefiting species listed under the Act. Safe Harbor Agreements encourage private and other non-Federal property owners to implement conservation efforts for listed species by assuring property owners they will not be subject to increased property use restrictions if their efforts attract listed species to their property or increase the numbers or distribution of listed species already on their property.