The Federal Register notice, as well as news releases and other relevant information, also are available on the OSHA Web page at http://www.osha.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The hazards of combustible dust encompass a wide array of materials, industries, and processes. Any combustible material can burn rapidly when in a finely divided form. Materials that may form combustible dust, but are not limited to, wood, coal, plastics, biosolids, candy, sugar, spice, starch, flour, feed, grain, fertilizer, tobacco, paper, soap, rubber, drugs, dried blood, dyes, certain textiles, and metals (such as aluminum and magnesium). Industries that may have combustible dust hazards include, among others: animal food manufacturing, grain handling, food manufacturing, wood product manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, textile manufacturing, furniture manufacturing, metal processing, fabricated metal products and machinery manufacturing, pestcide manufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing, tire manufacturing, production of rubber and plastics, plastics and rubber products manufacturing, recycling, wastewater treatment, and coal handling.

OSHA is developing a standard that will comprehensively address the fire and explosion hazards of combustible dust. The Agency issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) that requested comments, including data and other information, on issues related to the hazards of combustible dust in the workplace. (74 FR 54334, Oct. 21, 2009). OSHA plans to use the information received in response to the ANPR, at the stakeholder meetings, and during the Web Chat in developing a proposed standard for combustible dust.

II. Web Chat and Stakeholder Meetings

OSHA conducted stakeholder meetings in Washington, DC, on December 14, 2009; in Atlanta, GA, on February 17, 2010; and in Chicago, IL, on April 21, 2010. This notice announces a Web Chat to gather additional information beyond that provided in the stakeholder meetings. OSHA will pose questions and interact with participants for one hour, beginning at 1 p.m. EDT on June 28, 2010. In addition to the live Web Chat, OSHA will also post additional information on the Department of Labor Blog, http://www.dol.gov/dol/chat.htm, and invites the public to provide feedback via comments on these entries. The Web Blog will remain accessible through July 7, 2010. OSHA will monitor the site, provide additional information, and pose additional questions when appropriate.

OSHA will introduce areas to which participants should focus their views, concerns, and issues related to the hazards of combustible dust. The Web Chat will center on major issues such as:

- Scope.
- Balance between performance and specification based requirements.
- Economic impacts.
- Definitions.

III. Public Participation

To register, follow the instructions provided on the Web site. Participants are asked to provide the following information so that OSHA can solicit clarification of comments, if necessary:

- Name.
- E-mail address.
- Organization being represented.
- Stakeholder category: government, industry, standards-developing organization, research or testing agency, union, trade association, insurance, fire protection equipment manufacturer, consultant, or other (if other, please specify).
- Industry sector (if applicable): metals, wood products, grain or wet corn milling, food (including sugar), pharmaceutical or chemical manufacturing, paper products, rubber or plastics, coal, or other (if other, please specify).

Authority and Signature

This document was prepared under the direction of David Michaels, PhD, MPH, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, pursuant to sections 4, 6, and 8 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 653, 655, 657), 29 CFR part 1911, and Secretary’s Order 5–2007 (72 FR 31160).

Signed at Washington, DC, on June 1, 2010.

David Michaels,
Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.
Mail.dat or Mail.XML files. Electronic postage statements prepared through Postal Wizard will not fulfill the documentation requirement under this proposed rule.

Electronic documentation provided with copalletized mailings may include data for one or multiple mail owners. These standards would require mailers preparing mailings of letter-size pieces in trays, which include pieces to be incorporated within a copalletized mailing, to prepare separate postage statements for the portion of the mailing being accepted at the origin site, and separate statements for the portion being directed to a consolidator. Consolidators preparing copalletized mailings of trays must prepare electronic documentation showing the assignment of the trays with Intelligent Mail ® tray labels to pallets bearing Intelligent Mail container placards, as well as the postage statements for payment at the consolidator site. Consolidators of letter-size pieces in trays will also be required to drop ship copalletized mailpieces at the appropriate postal facility in accordance with the entry discount claimed at the origin acceptance location.

Origin mailers preparing mailings of bundles must prepare separate postage statements for the portion of the mailing being accepted at the origin site and provide the documentation for verification for that portion being directed to a consolidator. In accordance with DMM 705.22.0, Full-Service Automation Option, electronic documentation is currently required with copalletized and other mailings that include full-service Intelligent Mail letters or flats. Mailers who include full-service Intelligent Mail pieces that will later be copalletized must follow all requirements for full-service Intelligent Mail, including the use of an approved electronic method to transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS, and the use of Intelligent Mail tray labels and container placards.

The Postal Service is also proposing to require Periodicals mailers to submit electronic documentation for each comailed and/or copalletized mailing, identifying each title and version (or edition) in the mailing. For mailings that are entered at origin, and later copalletized at a consolidation site, the mail owner or preparer will be required to submit electronic documentation (Mail.dat or Mail.XML) for the copalletized portion of the mailing. Mailers consolidating multiple mailings on pallets will be required to provide the electronic submission equivalent of the comail (hard copy) documentation requirements of DMM 707.27, Combining Multiple Editions or Publications. For copalletized Periodicals mail, postage statements and payment will be entered at the consolidator’s site.

To support the automated electronic tracking of copalletized mailpieces, the electronic documentation submitted at the origin site must indicate which bundles, trays, or sacks will be sent to a consolidator for copalletization. The standardized documentation and postage statements will be available for viewing by acceptance offices when the electronic documentation for the copalletized portion of the mailing job is updated by the consolidator through the original container data. The origin facility will then be required to transmit electronic documentation to the PostalOne ® system before the consolidator’s electronic documentation is transmitted to the USPS.

With this change, the consolidator will be responsible for updating the electronic documentation from the mail owner or preparer for that portion of the mailing going to the consolidation site. Mailers consolidating multiple mailings on pallets must use the electronic data received from the creator of the mailing to create new electronic data. This electronic data will then be used to generate the original container data, indicating the origin of the bundles, trays or sacks comprising the copalletized mailing. For mailings of bundles, the electronic data will be used to generate postage statements and payment at the consolidator site.

Additional information concerning the submission of electronic documentation can be obtained from the USPS online publication, A Guide to Intelligent Mail Letters & Flats, at http://ribbs.usps.gov.

We are also proposing to revise portions of DMM 705.8.0, Preparing Pallets, to include reference to the copalletization of letter-size pieces within those sections. Although we are 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), 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 Part 111.

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:


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

700 Special Standards

705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems

8.0 Preparing Pallets

8.7 Copalletized, Combined, or Mixed-Price Level Palletized Mailings

8.7.1 General

8.7.3 Periodicals Publications

8.7.4 Standard Mail

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

To copalletize different Standard Mail letter- or flat-size mailings, the mailer must consolidate on pallets all independently sorted trays or bundles from each mailing to
achieve the finest presort level for the mailing, except that a flat-size copalletized mailing prepared under 8.11 or 8.14 using the bundle reallocation option may not always result in all bundles being placed on the finest pallet level possible. * * * * Origin mailers participating in a copalletized mailing of Standard Mail letters in trays must prepare a separate postage statement for the portion entered at the origin site and another postage statement for the portion directed to the consolidator.

8.8 Basic Uses
These types of mail may be palletized:

- * * * * [Revise 8.8 by re-sequencing items f through i as new g through j and adding a new item k as follows:]
- f. Copalletized multiple label-size mailings, prepared in trays, subject to 8.0.
- * * * * [Revise title of 8.16 as follows:]

8.16 Copalletized Letter-Size and Flat-Size Pieces—Periodicals or Standard Mail

8.16.1 Basic Standards

- [Revise 8.16.1 as follows:] Copalletized letter- and flat-size mailings must meet the applicable standards in 8.0. In addition, if copalletized under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0, the applicable provisions of that preparation option must also be met. Any combination of automation mailings and nonautomation mailings is subject to the restrictions in 8.14. Trays and bundles in a copalletized mailing qualify for the appropriate presort level price, regardless of the pallet level on which they are placed.

- Mailers participating in copalletized mailings must:
  a. Transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS using an approved electronic method.
  b. In accordance with 708.6.5 and 708.6.6, use Intelligent Mail tray labels on trays and sacks and Intelligent Mail container placards on pallets or similar containers.
  c. Unless excepted by Business Mailer Support, mailers combining Periodicals publications under 27.1a must transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS using a BMS-approved electronic method.
  d. Mailers combining Periodicals publications under 27.1c must transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS using a BMS-approved electronic method.
  e. Prepare a separate postage statement for the portion of the mailing accepted at the origin site and another statement for that portion directed to the consolidator.
  f. Meet postage payment requirements as specified by Business Mailer Support.

8.16.2 Periodicals
Additional standards are as follows:

- * * * * [Revise 8.16.2 by adding a new item d as follows:]
  d. Postage for copalletized mailings of flat-size Periodicals must be paid at the consolidator’s site.

8.16.3 Standard Mail
Additional standards are as follows:

- * * * * [Revise 8.16.3 by adding a new item f as follows:]
  f. Origin mailers participating in a copalletized mailing of Standard Mail letters in trays must prepare a separate postage statement for the portion entered at the origin site and another postage statement for the portion directed to the consolidator.

707 Periodicals
* * * *

27.0 Combining Multiple Editions or Publications
* * *

27.5 Documentation
* * * The following additional standards apply:

- [Revise 27.5 by adding a new item c and d as follows:]
  c. Unless excepted by Business Mailer Support (BMS), mailers combining Periodicals publications under 27.1a must transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS using a BMS-approved electronic method.
  d. Mailers combining Periodicals publications under 27.1c must transmit postage statements and mailing documentation to the USPS using a BMS-approved electronic method.

- [Renumber current 27.6 through 27.8 as new 27.7 through 27.9 and add a new item 27.6 as follows:]

27.6 Additional Standards
Mailers combining Periodicals publications under 27.1a or 27.1c must:

- a. Use Intelligent Mail tray labels on trays and sacks and Intelligent Mail container placards, under 708.6.5 and 6.6, on pallets or similar containers.
  b. When using a consolidator, prepare a separate postage statement for the portion of the mailing accepted at the origin site and another statement for that portion directed to the consolidator.
  c. When using a consolidator under 27.1c, pay postage at the consolidator’s site.
  d. If consolidating multiple mailings on pallets, update the electronic data for each of the original mailings. This updated data must be reflected in the electronic data transmitted to the USPS by the consolidator.
  e. Meet postage payment requirements as specified by Business Mailer Support.

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

Stanley F. Mires,
Chief Counsel, Legislative.
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