person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051, 70124; 33 CFR 1.05–1, 6.04–1, 6.04–6, and 160.5; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 00170.1, Revision No. 01.3.

2. Add § 165.T08–1005 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08–1005 Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Shipping Channel, Corpus Christi, TX.

(a) Location. The following area is a safety zone: all navigable waters of the Corpus Christi Shipping Channel in a zone defined by the following coordinates; 27°50′31.28″ N, 97°04′17.23″ W; 27°50′31.73″ N, 97°04′15.44″ W; 27°50′29.06″ N, 97°04′16.61″ W; 27°50′29.32″ N, 97°04′14.82″ W.

(b) Effective period. This section is effective from 8 p.m. on January 3, 2023, through 4 a.m. on January 9, 2023. This section is subject to enforcement from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. of the next day, each day.

(c) Regulations. (1) According to the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into this temporary safety zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Corpus Christi (COTP) or a designated representative. They may be contacted on Channel 16 VHF–FM (156.8 MHz) or by telephone at 361–939–0450.

(2) If permission is granted, all persons and vessels shall comply with the instructions of the COTP or designated representative.

(d) Information broadcasts. The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the enforcement times and date for this safety zone through Broadcast Notices to Mariners, Local Notices to Mariners, and/or Safety Marine Information Broadcasts as appropriate.

J.B. Gunning,
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port Sector Corpus Christi.

[FR Doc. 2023–00071 Filed 1–3–23; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 9110–04–P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Removal of Sacks—USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals Flats

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service™ is amending Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service. Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) to remove references to sacks as a handling unit for USPS Marketing Mail® and Periodicals Flats.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Kennedy at (202) 268–6592 or Doriane Harley at (202) 268–2537.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of its network redesign efforts, the Postal Service is eliminating the use of sacks as containers for Flats acceptance/entry but will continue to allow Flat trays as acceptable containers for acceptance and entry along with bundles on pallets for USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals flat Mail. Carrier route, 5-digit scheme carrier routes and 5-digit carrier routes USPS Marketing Mail and Periodicals flat mail will continue to be allowed to use sacks as a handling unit.

The Postal Service received seven formal comments on the October 21, 2022, proposed rule (87 FR 63985). Two commenters supported the proposed rule, and five cited concerns:

Comment: Commenters expressed one concern about the conversion from using sacks for mail preparation to using trays for Periodicals and Marketing Mail flats. The commenters stated that the change would increase the number of handling unit containers used by varying percentages, ranging from 30% to 50%. The commenters also stated that it the change would require a 50% increase in truck loads, from 321 trucks required to 642 trucks, for their mail alone.

USPS Response: While the Postal Service agrees there will be an increase in flat trays used versus sacks, the intent is to drive increased use of bundles for presorted volume with working mail being packaged with the flat trays. Sacks can still be used for Carrier Route volume containerized to pallet for insertion directly into Destinating Delivery Units and entered for cross dock to the delivery unit.

Comment: Commenters also expressed a lingering concern within the industry around the availability of sufficient flat tubs and pallets in the Mail Transport Equipment (MTE) system to support the change.

USPS Response: The Postal Service has been working proactively to increase the number of flat trays and pallets into the MTE system meet the increased demand for both items. We believe this concern will be mitigated via changes in the supply change process for MTE.

Comment: Commenters expressed concerns about costs to the mailers related to banding equipment for bundles and for flat trays and about having to acquire additional space for MTE storage. This equipment is versatile enough to be used for letter trays, flat trays, and bundles.

USPS Response: The Postal Service hopes that through new efficiencies related to increased bundles for flats, standardizing preparations standards based on shape rather than class of mail, and impacts network changes the increased costs will be mitigated. The Postal Service also believes the storage concern can be mitigated by just-in-time MTE supply management and through better inventory control using METEOR.

Comment: Commenters cited concerns that they cannot implement these changes until their software vendors have time to make changes in the software. As such, the commenters suggested a delay until at least April for implementation. Indeed, all commenters against the proposals are concerned about being ready by the end of January.

USPS Response: The Postal Service has been working proactively with software developers and programmers from the industry in preparation of these potential changes. It is believed that with 30 days’ notice prior to the implementation, the Postal Service and customers will be ready for this implementation.

Comment: The commenters describe operational impacts based on the flexibility in working with sacks. Sacks are flexible and conform to the pallet container, while tubs are more rigid, requiring a specific amount of space and cause an increase in the amount of empty space (air) being shipped in the container.

USPS Response: The Postal Service believes that by driving more of the flats to bundles, eliminating dumping of bundles and moving the flat trays directly to flat operations for working, mailers will find increased efficiencies.
and reduce costs related to flats operations. This will provide benefits to both the customers and the Postal Service.

Comment: Finally, one comments suggested a way to mitigate the flat tub constraints, allowing Mixed NDC and Mixed ADC containers to require no minimums for bundles pallets to eliminate any need to use sacks or trays.

USPS Response: The Postal Service agrees to this recommendation to mitigate impacts and has modified the proposal to eliminate the 100 lb. minimum for bundles on pallets for Mixed NDC and Mixed ADC residual pallets of flats.


We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

4.0 Bundles

[Revise the title of 4.4 to read as follows:]

4.4 Exception to Bundle Preparation—Full Letter and Flat Trays

4.6 Address Visibility for Flats and Parcels

4.8 Preparing Bundles in Sacks and Flat Trays

[Revise the introductory text of 4.8 to read as follows:]

In addition to following the standards in 4.5 through 4.7, mailers must prepare bundles placed in flat trays and sacks as follows:

4.10 Additional Standards for Unsacked/Untrayed Bundles Entered at DDU Facilities

[Revise the introductory text of 4.10 to read as follows:]

Mailers may enter unsacked, untrayed, or nonpalletized bundles of carrier route, Periodicals, or USPS Marketing Mail flats and unsacked bundles of Bound Printed Matter (BPM) flats or irregular parcels (BPM only) at destination delivery units (DDUs) if all the following conditions are met:

4.11 Pieces With Simplified Address

[Revise the last sentence of the introductory text of 4.11 to read as follows:]

5.0 Letter and Flat Trays

5.1 General Standards

[Revise the last sentence of the introductory text of 5.1 to read as follows:]

[Add an item (5.1c) to read as follows:]

c. Flat trays used in a Periodicals or USPS Marketing Mail flat-size mailing
may be nested into each other on a pallet without lids and the pallet then shrink-wrapped.

* * * * *

5.6.2 Preparation for Flats in Flat Trays

[Revise the text of item (e) to read as follows:]

e. Each tray must be covered (with the green side of the lid facing up for First Class mail and the white side facing up for Periodicals and USPS Marketing Mail). Each covered flat tray must then be secured with two plastic straps placed tightly around the width of the tray (the shorter dimension).

* * * * *

204 Barcode Standards

* * * * *

3.0 Standards for Barcoded Tray Labels, Sack Labels, and Container Labels

* * * * *

3.2 Specifications for Barcoded Tray and Sack Labels

* * * * *

3.2.4 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers

* * * * *

Exhibit 3.2.4 3-Digit Content Identifier Numbers

* * * * *

[Revise Exhibit 3.2.4 to read as follows:]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class and mailing</th>
<th>CIN</th>
<th>Human-readable content line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>car. rt. sacks or flat trays—saturation</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>PER FLTS WSS 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car. rt. sacks or flat trays—high density</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>PER FLTS WSH 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car. rt. sacks or flat trays—basic</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>PER FLTS CR 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>PER FLTS 5D CR–RTS. SCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks or flat trays</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>PER FLTS CR–RTS. SCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-digit carrier routes flat trays</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>PER FLTS 3D CR–RTS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER Flats—Barcoded:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit flat trays</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>PER FLTS 5D BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit scheme flat trays</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>PER FLTS 5D SCH BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-digit flat trays</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>PER FLTS 3D BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF flat trays</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>PER FLTS SCF BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC flat trays</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>PER FLTS ADC BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>PER FLTS BC WKG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>PER FLTS WKG W FCM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER Flats—Nonbarcoded:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit scheme flat trays</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>PER FLT 5D SCH NON BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit flat trays</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>PER FLTS 5D NON BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-digit flat trays</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>PER FLTS 3D NON BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF flat trays</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>PER FLTS SCF NON BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC flat trays</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>PER FLTS ADC NON BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>PER FLTS NON BC WKG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>origin mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>PER FLTS WKG W FCM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER Flats—Co-trayed Barcoded and Nonbarcoded:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit scheme flat trays</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>PER FLT 5D SCH BC/ NBC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-digit flat trays</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>PER FLTS 5D BC/NBC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-digit flat trays</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>PER FLTS 3D BC/NBC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCF flat trays</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>PER FLTS SCF BC/ NBC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADC flat trays</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>PER FLTS ADC BC/ NBC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>PER FLTS BC/NBC WKG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>origin mixed ADC flat trays</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>PER FLTS WKG W FCM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Barcoded, and Nonbarcoded:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged 5-digit sacks or flat trays</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>PER FLTS CR/5D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged 5-digit scheme sacks or flat trays</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>PER FLTS CR/5D SCH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>merged 3-digit flat trays</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>PER FLTS CR/5D/3D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Class and mailing** | **CIN** | **Human-readable content line**
--- | --- | ---

[Revise the text of “NEWS Flats—Carrier Route,” “NEWS Flats—Barcoded,” “NEWS Flats—Nonbarcoded,” “NEWS Flats—Cosacked Barcoded and Nonbarcoded,” and “NEWS Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Barcoded and Nonbarcoded” to read as follows:]

**NEWS Flats—Carrier Route:**
- car. rt. sacks or flat trays—saturation ........................................... 487 NEWS FLTS WSS 1.
- car. rt. sacks or flat trays—high density ....................................... 488 NEWS FLTS WSH 1.
- car. rt. sacks or flat trays—basic ................................................... 485 NEWS FLTS CR 1.
- 5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays ....................................... 486 NEWS FLTS 5D CR–RTS.
- 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks or flat trays ............................ 471 NEWS FLTS CR–RTS SCH.
- 3-digit carrier routes flat trays ..................................................... 451 NEWS FLTS 3D CR–RTS.

**NEWS Flats—Barcoded:**
- 5-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 472 NEWS FLTS 5D BC.
- 5-digit scheme flat trays ................................................................. 472 NEWS FLTS 5D SCH BC.
- 3-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 473 NEWS FLTS 3D BC.
- SCF flat trays ................................................................................ 477 NEWS FLTS SCF BC.
- ADC flat trays ................................................................................ 474 NEWS FLTS ADC BC.
- mixed ADC flat trays .................................................................... 475 NEWS FLTS BC WKG.
- origin mixed ADC flat trays ........................................................... 481 NEWS FLTS WKG W FCM.

**NEWS Flats—Nonbarcoded:**
- 5-digit scheme flat trays ................................................................. 478 NEWS FLTS 5D SCH NON BC.
- 5-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 478 NEWS FLTS 5D NON BC.
- 3-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 479 NEWS FLTS 3D NON BC.
- SCF flat trays ................................................................................ 484 NEWS FLTS SCF NON BC.
- ADC flat trays ................................................................................ 480 NEWS FLTS ADC NON BC.
- mixed ADC flat trays .................................................................... 482 NEWS FLTS NON BC WKG.
- origin mixed ADC flat trays ........................................................... 481 NEWS FLTS WKG W FCM.

**NEWS Flats—Co-trayed Barcoded and Nonbarcoded:**
- 5-digit scheme flat trays ................................................................. 421 NEWS FLTS 5D SCH BC/NBC.
- 5-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 421 NEWS FLTS 5D BC/NBC.
- 3-digit flat trays ........................................................................... 422 NEWS FLTS 3D BC/NBC.
- SCF and origin/entry SCF flat trays ............................................. 429 NEWS FLTS SCF BC/NBC.
- ADC flat trays ................................................................................ 431 NEWS FLTS ADC BC/NBC.
- mixed ADC flat trays .................................................................... 432 NEWS FLTS BC/NBC WKG.
- origin mixed ADC flat trays ........................................................... 481 NEWS FLTS WKG W FCM.

**NEWS Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Barcoded, and Nonbarcoded:**
- merged 5-digit ................................................................................ 439 NEWS FLTS CR/5D.
- merged 5-digit scheme .................................................................. 449 NEWS FLTS CR/5D SCH.
- merged 3-digit flat trays ................................................................. 452 NEWS FLTS CR/3D.

[Revise the text of “Enhanced Carrier Route Flats—Nonautomation,” “MKT Flats—Cosacked Automation and Nonautomation,” “MKT Flats—Merged Carrier Route, Automation, and Presorted,” “MKT Flats—Automation,” “MKT Flats—Nonautomation,” and “MKT Flats—Residual Pieces Subject to FCM Single-Piece Prices” to read as follows:]

**Enhanced Carrier Route Flats—Nonautomation:**
- saturation price sacks or flat trays .............................................. 587 MKT FLTS ECRWSS 1.
- high density or high density plus price sacks or flat trays .......... 588 MKT FLTS ECRWSH 1.
- basic price sacks or flat trays ....................................................... 589 MKT FLTS ECRLOT 1.
- 5-digit carrier routes sacks or flat trays .................................... 586 MKT FLTS CR–RTS.
2.1 Price Application

Computation

207 Periodicals

2.1.8 Applying Outside-County Bundle Prices

[Revise the third sentence in the Introductory text of 2.1.8 to read as follows:]

* * * Bundle prices do not apply to barcoded letter-size mail prepared in full letter trays.***

13.2 Sorting

13.2.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the text of 13.2.1b(2) and 13.2.1b(3) to read as follows:]

2. Bundles in carrier route, 5-digit scheme carrier routes, 5-digit carrier routes sacks/flat trays, or 3-digit carrier routes flat trays under 23.0. Sacks/flat trays may be palletized under 705.8.0.
3. Unsacked/untrayed bundles entered at a destination delivery unit under 23.4.2 and 29.6.5.

**18.0 General Mail Preparation**

**18.4 Mail Preparation Terms**

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 18.4j to read as follows:]

\[A 5-digit scheme carrier routes sort for carrier route Periodicals flats prepared in sacks/flat trays and irregular parcels prepared in sacks or as bundles on pallets yields a 5-digit scheme carrier routes sack/flat tray or pallet for those 5-digit ZIP Codes listed in L001 and 5-digit carrier routes sacks/flat trays or pallets for other areas. The 5-digit ZIP Codes in each scheme are treated as one presort destination. Sacks/flat trays or pallets prepared for a 5-digit scheme carrier routes destination that contain carrier route bundles for only one of the schemes 5-digit areas are still considered to be sorted to 5-digit scheme carrier routes. Preparation of 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks/flat trays or pallets must be done for all 5-digit scheme destinations.]

* * * *

[Revise the text of 18.4s to read as follows:]

\[An origin/entry SCF flat tray contains all 5-digit and 3-digit bundles (regardless of quantity) for the SCF in whose service area the mail is verified. At the mailer’s option, such a flat tray may be prepared for the SCF area of each entry Post Office. This presort level applies only to nonletter-size Periodicals prepared in flat trays.

* * * * *

[Revise the first sentence in 8.4y to read as follows:]

\[A “logical” presort destination represents the total number of pieces that are eligible for a specific presort level based on the required sortation, but which might not be contained in one bundle or in one container (flat tray, sack, or pallet) due to preparation requirements or the piece size.]

* * * * *

**20.0 Sacks and Trays**

**20.1 Basic Standards**

**20.1.1 General**

[Revise the first sentence of 20.1.1 to read as follows:]

Mailings must be prepared in letter trays (letters), flat trays (flats) under 22.7 and 22.5.5, or sacks (carrier route, 5-digit scheme cr-r and 5-digit cr-r flats, or 5-digit flats entered at a DDU, 3-digit/SCF destination SCF flats, and all periodicals parcels).* * * *

* * * * *

**22.0 Preparing Nonbarcoded (Presorted) Periodicals**

**22.3 Firm Bundles**

[Revise the last sentence of 22.3 to read as follows:]

* * * Firm bundles must not be placed in 5-digit scheme flat trays.

**22.4 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces**

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 22.4a to read as follows:]

\[Place bundles in only 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, in origin/entry SCF flat trays, as appropriate.

* * * * *

[Revise the title of 22.5 to read as follows:]

**22.5 Letter Tray Preparation—Letter-Size Pieces**

* * * * *

[Revise the title of 22.6 to read as follows:]

**22.6 Sack Preparation—Parcels**

For mailing jobs that also contain a barcoded mailing, see 22.1.2. For other mailing jobs, preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

[Delete item 22.6a in its entirety and revise the text of 22.6 to read as follows:]

\[For mailing jobs that also contain a barcoded mailing, see 22.1.2. For other mailing jobs, preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

- **1. Line 1:** Use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 21.0 for overseas military mail).
- **2. Line 2:** “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “IRREG” as applicable; followed by “5D”.
- **3. Digit:** Required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.
- **1. Line 1:** Use L002, Column A.
- **2. Line 2:** “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable; followed by “IRREG” as applicable; followed by “3D”.
- **SCF:** Required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum.
- **1. Line 1:** Use L002, Column C.

* * * *

**23.0 Preparing Carrier Route Periodicals**

* * * *

**23.6 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces**

[Revise the text of 23.6a to read as follows:]

\[Place bundles in only 5-digit scheme carrier routes and 5-digit carrier routes sacks/flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or 3-digit carrier routes or merged 3-digit flat trays that contain at least one six-piece carrier route bundle.

* * * * *
23.7 Multi-Box Section Bundles—Optional Preparation

[Revise the text of 23.7e to read as follows:]

a. Place bundles in existing carrier-route flat trays, 5-Digit scheme carrier routes, or 5-Digit carrier routes sacks/flat trays.

25.0 Preparing Flat-Size Barcoded (Automation) Periodicals

25.1 Basic Standards

25.1.7 Exception—Barcoded and Nonbarcoded Flats on Pallets

25.1.8 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

25.1.9 Cotraying and Cobundling With Nonbarcoded and Carrier Route Price Mail

240 Commercial Mail USPS Marketing Mail

243 Prices and Eligibility

5.0 Additional Eligibility Standards for Nonautomation USPS Marketing Mail Letters, Flats, and Presorted USPS Marketing Mail Parcels

5.6 Nonautomation Price Application—Flats

5.6.1 5-Digit Prices for Flats

5.6.2 3-Digit Prices for Flats

5.6.3 ADC Prices for Flats

Mixed ADC prices apply to flat-size pieces in bundles that do not qualify for 5-digit, 3-digit, or ADC prices; placed in mixed ADC flat trays or on ASF, NDC, or mixed NDC pallets under 705.8.0.

6.3 Basic Price Enhanced Carrier Route Standards

6.3.4 Basic Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-digit/Direct Container (Basic-CR Bundles/Container) Price Eligibility—Flats

The Basic-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to each piece in a carrier route bundle of 10 or more pieces that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit merged, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route or 5-digit scheme carrier route pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC, DSCF, or DDU entry or in a carrier route sack or flat tray under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU.

6.5 High Density and High Density Plus (Enhanced Carrier Route) Standards—Flats

6.5.3 High Density Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-Digit/Direct Container (High Density-CR Bundles/Container Discount Eligibility)—Flats

The High Density-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to 125 or more High Density-eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit merged, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 5-digit scheme carrier route pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC, DSCF, or DDU entry or in a carrier route sack or flat tray under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU.

6.5.4 High Density Plus Carrier Route Bundles on a 5-Digit/Direct Container (High Density-Plus-CR Bundles/Container Discount Eligibility)—Flats

The High Density-Plus-CR Bundles/Container discount applies to 300 or more High Density Plus-eligible pieces that are palletized under 705.8.0, 705.10.0, 705.12.0, or 705.13.0 on a 5-digit scheme, 5-digit (scheme) merged, 5-digit carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 5-digit scheme carrier route
pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC, DSCF, or DDU entry or in a carrier route sack or flat tray under 245.9.7a or 203.5.8 and entered at the DDU.
* * * * *
6.7 Saturation Enhanced Carrier Route Standards—Flats
* * * * *
6.7.2 Saturation Prices for Flats
* * * * *
[Revise item c. to read as follows:] c. Placed in a merged 5-digit scheme or merged 5-digit flat tray.
* * * * *
[Add new item d. to read as follows:] d. Placed in a 5-digit scheme carrier routes or 5-digit carrier routes sack/flat tray.
* * * * *
245 Mail Preparation
* * * * *
10 General Information for Mail Preparation
* * * * *
13.2 Flats
* * * * *
[Revise item c. to read as follows:] c. 5-digit scheme (bundles and flat trays) for flats meeting the automation-compatibility standards in 201.4.0: the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces is one of the 5-digit ZIP Code areas processed by the USPS as a single scheme, as shown in L007.
* * * * *
[Revise item e. to read as follows:] e. Merged 5-digit flat trays: the carrier route bundles and/or automation price 5-digit bundles and/or Presorted price 5digit bundles in a flat tray are all for a 5-digit ZIP Code that has an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product that allows combining carrier route price bundles with automation price 5-digit bundles and Presorted price 5-digit bundles in the same 5-digit container.
* * * * *
[Revise item g. to read as follows:] g. Merged 5-digit scheme flat tray: the 5-digit ZIP Codes on pieces in carrier route bundles and/or automation price 5-digit bundles and/or Presorted price 5-digit bundles in a flat tray are all for 5-digit ZIP Codes that are part of a single scheme as shown in L001, and the automation price 5-digit bundles and/or the Presorted price 5-digit bundles also are for 5-digit ZIP Codes that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product that allows combining carrier route bundles with automation price 5-
digit bundles and Presorted price 5-digit bundles in the same 5-digit container. * * * * *

[Revise item q. to read as follows:] q. Residual pieces/bundles/flat trays: contain material remaining after completion of a presort sequence. Residual mail lacks the volume set by standard to require or allow preparation to a particular destination, and usually does not qualify for a presort price. * * * * *
1.4 Preparation Definitions and Instructions
* * * * *
[Add new item e. to read as follows; renumber current items (e) through (y) as (f) through (z):] e. A full flat tray is one that is physically full. Although a specific minimum volume is required (at least a single stack of mail lying flat on the bottom of the tray and filling the tray to the bottom of the handholds) before a tray may or must be prepared to the corresponding presort destination, trays must be filled with additional available pieces (up to the reasonable capacity of the tray) when standards require preparation of full trays.
* * * * *
[Revise new item f. to read as follows:] f. A full sack is defined in the standards for the class and price claimed.
* * * * *
[Revise new item h. to read as follows:] h. A 5-digit scheme sort for flats meeting the automation-compatibility standards in 2013.0 yields 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007 and 5-digit bundles for other ZIP Codes. When standards require 5-digit/scheme sort, all carriers must prepare all possible 5-digit scheme bundles and flat trays of flats, then prepare all possible 5-digit bundles and flat trays. The 5-digit ZIP Codes in each scheme are treated as a single presort destination subject to a single minimum volume, with no further separation required. Bundles prepared for a 5-digit scheme destination that contain pieces for only one of the schemes 5-digit ZIP Codes are still considered 5-digit scheme sorted and are labeled accordingly. Bundles must be labeled using an optional endorsement line (OEL) under 203.7.0 or with a red “5 SCH” bundle label. Bundles are placed in appropriate containers using the OEL “label to” 5-digit ZIP Code or using L007 column B.
* * * * *
[Revise new items k. through m. to read as follows:] k. A merged 5-digit sort for USPS Marketing Mail flats prepared in flat trays yields merged 5-digit flat trays that contain carrier route bundles and/or automation price 5-digit bundles, and/or Presorted price 5-digit bundles that are all for a 5-digit ZIP Code that has an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product that allows combining carrier route bundles, automation price 5-digit bundles, and Presorted price 5-digit bundles in the same 5-digit flat tray or pallet. The merged 5-digit sort is optional for USPS Marketing Mail flats prepared in flat trays. Flat trays prepared for a merged 5-digit destination that contain only a single price level of bundle(s) (only carrier route bundle(s) or only automation price 5-digit bundle(s) or only Presorted price 5-digit bundle(s)) or that contain only two price levels of bundle(s) is still considered to be merged 5-digit sorted and are labeled accordingly. If preparation of merged 5-digit flat trays is performed, it must be done for all 5-digit ZIP Code destinations with an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product that allows combining carrier route bundles, automation price 5-digit bundles, and Presorted price 5-digit bundles in the same 5-digit container.
1. A merged 5-digit sort for USPS Marketing Mail flats prepared as bundles on pallets yields merged 5-digit pallets that contain carrier route bundles and noncarrier route 5-digit bundles (automation price 5-digit bundles and/or Presorted price 5-digit bundles). The merged 5-digit sort is optional for USPS Marketing Mail flats prepared in flat trays under 705.10.0. Flat trays or pallets prepared for a merged 5-digit destination that contain only a single price level of bundle(s) (only carrier route bundle(s) or only automation price 5-digit bundle(s) or only Presorted price 5-digit bundle(s)) or only two price levels of bundle(s) is still considered to be merged 5-digit sorted and must be labeled accordingly.
2. A merged 5-digit scheme sort for USPS Marketing Mail flats prepared in flat trays under 705.10.0 yields merged 5-digit scheme flat trays that contain carrier route bundles and noncarrier route 5-digit bundles (automation price 5-digit bundles and/or Presorted price 5-digit bundles) for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that are part of a single scheme as shown in L001. Flat trays prepared for a merged 5-digit scheme destination that contain only a single price level of bundle(s) (only carrier route bundle(s) or only automation price 5-digit bundle(s) or only Presorted price 5-digit bundle(s)) or only two price levels of
bundle(s), or bundles for only one of the schemed 5-digit ZIP Codes are still considered to be merged 5-digit scheme sorted and must be labeled accordingly. If preparation of merged 5-digit scheme flat trays is performed, it must be done for all 5-digit scheme destinations in L001.

8.4 Loose Packing

District managers may authorize loose packing of unbundled pieces in flat trays if no pieces in a flat tray would be more finely sorted if bundled. Pieces must be faced and packed to remain oriented in transit. Requests for loose packing must be made in advance through the Post Office of mailing.

8.5 Required Traying

Except as provided in 8.6, a flat tray, or a letter tray under 3.0, must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches a full flat tray (up to the handholds), subject to these conditions:

- The actual piece count or mail weight for each tray is used, if documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows for each tray the number of pieces and the total weight.

8.7 Traying, and Labeling

Preparation sequence, flat tray and labeling:

- 5-digit/scheme (required); scheme sort required (before 5-digit sort), only for pieces meeting the automation flats criteria in 201.6.0, see definition in 1.4j; full flat tray; labeling: * * * *

8.9 Merged Containerization of Carrier Route, Automation, and Nonautomation Flats

b. If the mailing job contains a carrier route mailing and a nonautomation mailing, then it must be separately sacked or trayed under 9.0 or 10.0 or prepared using the merged sacking/traying option in 705.10.0.

d. If the mailing job contains a carrier route mailing and an automation mailing, then it must be separately sacked or trayed under 9.0 and 10.0 or prepared using the merged sacking/traying option in 705.10.0.

8.10 Residual Pieces

Mailers entering USPS Marketing Mail residual pieces that do not qualify for USPS Marketing Mail prices, and paying the First-Class Mail prices (but prepared "as is" under 244.5.0), must separately bundle and flat tray residual pieces from the automation and presort pieces. Mailers must label flat trays under 204.3.0 using the CIN code 582 for use with residual flat trays. Label flat trays as follows: * * * *

9.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Flats

When traying/sacking is required, mailers must prepare a flat tray/sack when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches either up to the handholds (see full flat tray 245.1.4),
125 pieces or 15 pounds of pieces (sacks), whichever occurs first. The following conditions apply:

* * * * *

[Revise item c. to read as follows:]

c. Less than full flat trays (see 245.1.4) and sacks with fewer than 125 pieces or less than 15 pounds of pieces may be prepared to a carrier route when the saturation price is claimed for the contents and the applicable density standard is met.

* * * * *

9.8 Merged Containerization of Carrier Route, Automation, and Presorted Price Flats

[Revise the first sentence of 9.8 to read as follows:]

Under the optional preparation in 705.10.0, carrier route price bundles prepared under 9.3 and 9.4 areotrayed with Presorted price 5-digit bundles prepared under 8.0 and with automation price 5-digit bundles prepared under 10.0 in merged 5-digit scheme flat trays and merged 5-digit flat trays. * * * * *

10.0 Preparing Automation Flats

[Revise the last sentence of 10.1 to read as follows:]

10.1 Basic Standards

* * * Flat trays must bear the appropriate barcoded container labels under 4.0.

* * * * *

[Revise the title of 10.4 to read as follows:]

10.4 USPS Marketing Mail Bundle and Flat Tray Preparation

* * * * *

[Revise the title of 10.4.2 to read as follows:]

10.4.2 Required Traying

[Revise the introductory text of 10.4.2 to read as follows:]

A flat tray or a letter tray under 3.0, must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches either a full flat tray (1.4e), 125 pieces, or 15 pounds of pieces, whichever occurs first, subject to these conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 10.4.2b to read as follows:]

b. For nonidentical-weight pieces, mailers must either use the minimum that applies to the average piece weight for the entire mailing (divide the net weight of the mailing by the number of pieces; the resulting average single-piece weight determines whether the 125-piece or 15-pound minimum applies) or tray by the actual piece count or mail weight for each flat tray, if documentation can be provided with the mailing that shows (specifically for each flat tray) the number of pieces and their total weight.

[Revise the title of 10.4.3 to read as follows:]

10.4.3 Traying and Labeling

[Revise the first sentence of 10.4.3 to read as follows:]

Preparation sequence, flat tray size, and labeling:

* * * * *

[Revise the text of items 10.4.3a, 10.4.3a(1) and 10.4.3a(2) to read as follows:]

a. 5-digit/scheme (required); scheme sort required before 5-digit sort; see definition in 1.4g.; full flat tray, 125-piece, or 15-pound minimum, labeling:

1. Line 1: For 5-digit scheme flat trays use L007, Column B. For 5-digit schemes flat trays use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 203.5.11 for overseas military mail).

2. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme flat trays, “STD FLTS 5D SCH BC.” For 5-digit flat trays, “STD FLTS 5D BC.”

[Revise the text of items 10.4.3b to read as follows:]

b. 3-digit (required); full flat tray, 125-piece, or 15-pound minimum; labeling:

* * * *

[Revise the text of items 10.4.3d to read as follows:]

d. ADC (required); full flat tray, 125-piece, or 15-pound minimum; labeling:

3.0 Use of Alternative Addressing

* * * *

3.2 Simplified Address

* * * *

3.2.3 Mail Preparation

[Revise the introductory paragraph of 3.2.3 to read as follows:]

Mailers must prepare letter-size pieces in trays. Mailers must prepare flat-size pieces in carrier route bundles in sacks, flat trays, or directly on pallets. Mailers must prepare irregular parcels in carrier route bundles in sacks or directly on pallets. Bundles, sacks, or trays may be placed on SCF, 3-digit, 5-digit, or 5-digit scheme pallets under 705.8.10. In addition to the required simplified address, each bundle must bear a facing slip showing the desired distribution (for example, 5-digit ZIP Code and route number) or the top piece of each bundle must include the route number and ZIP Code. Mailers may obtain delivery statistics for routes as described in 509.1.0. The following also applies: * * *

8.0 Preparing Pallets

* * * *

8.5 General Preparation

* * * *

8.5.3 Minimum Load

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 8.5.3a(1) to read as follows:]

1. In a single mailing, the minimum load per pallet is 250 pounds of bundles, parcels, or sacks, except as provided in items 2 through 4 below. When preparing letter trays on pallets, the minimum load is 30 linear feet or three layers of trays, except as provided in items 2 and 4 below. When preparing flat trays on pallets, the minimum load is 24 linear feet or three layers of flat trays, except as provided in items 2 and 4 below.

* * * *

[Add a new item 8.5.3a(6) to read as follows:]

6. There is no minimum load for MNDC pallets of bundles or flat trays of USPS Marketing Mail flats.

* * * *

8.10 Pallet Presort and Labeling

* * * *

8.10.2 Periodicals—Bundles, Sacks, Letter, or Flat Trays

* * * *

[Revise the text of 8.10.2f to read as follows:]

i. 5-digit, required, except for letter trays; permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet must contain only automation price and/or Presorted price mail for the same 5-digit ZIP Code or the same 5-digit scheme under L007 (for automation-compatible flats only under 2016.0). Five-digit scheme bundles are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” 5-digit ZIP Code in L007. Labeling: * * * *

* * * *

[Revise the text of 8.10.2h to read as follows:]

h. SCF, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or
Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005. Mailers may place origin mixed ADC (OMX) sacks (irregular parcels only) or flat trays on origin SCF pallets. Labeling: * * *

[Revise the text of 8.10.2i to read as follows:]

i. ADC, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L004. Labeling: * * *

[Revise the text of 8.10.2j to read as follows:]

j. Origin Mixed ADC (OMX), optional for sacks and trays; allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Bundles of flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and presorted price mail. Labeling: * * *

[Revise the text of 8.10.2k to read as follows:]

k. Mixed ADC, optional for sacks (irregular parcels only) and trays; allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Bundles of flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, or presorted price mail. Pallets must not contain sacks, trays or bundles that should be properly placed on the origin mixed ADC (OMX) pallet. Labeling: * * *

8.10.3 USPS Marketing Mail or Parcel Select Lightweight—Bundles, Sacks, or Trays

* * * * *

[Add new item d to read as follows and renumber items d through f as items e through j:]

d. 5-digit, required except for trays, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet must contain only automation price and/or Presorted price mail for the same 5-digit ZIP Code or same 5-digit scheme. 5-digit scheme bundles and trays are assigned to 5-digit pallets according to the “label to” 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling: * * *

* * * * *

[Revise the text of renumbered 8.10.3f to read as follows:]

f. SCP, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L005, or L001 for Parcel Select Lightweight sacks. Mailers may, at their option, place AADC trays on SCF pallets when the tray’s “label to” 3-digit ZIP Code (from L801) is within that SCF’s service area. Mailers may also, at their option, place mixed ADC or mixed AADC trays, labeled per L100, on an SCF pallet entered at the SCF facility responsible for the processing of mixed ADC or mixed AADC trays for that NDC/ASF facility. The SCF Pallet discount applies to 3-Digit, ADC, 5-Digit, Carrier Route, High Density, High Density Plus, Saturation (including EDDM—Not Retail) USPS Marketing Mail flat shaped pieces on a SCF pallet entered at an Origin (None), DNDC, or DSCF entry. SCF pallet discount does not apply to Marketing Mail letters or parcels. Labeling: * * *

* * * * *

[Revise the text of renumbered 8.10.3g to read as follows:]

g. ASF, required unless bundle reallocation used under 8.13, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L002. ADC bundles, sacks, or trays are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L004 as appropriate. AADC trays are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L801. At the mailer’s option, appropriate mixed ADC bundles and trays of flats; and mixed ADC and mixed AADC trays of letters, may be sorted to ASF pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L100. All mixed ADC bundles, sacks, and trays and mixed AADC trays must contain only pieces destined within the ASP as shown in L802. Labeling: * * *

[Revise the text of renumbered 8.10.3h to read as follows:]

h. NDC, required, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only). Pallet may contain carrier route, automation price, and/or Presorted price mail for the 3-digit ZIP Code groups in L601. ADC bundles, sacks, or trays are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L604 as appropriate. AADC trays are assigned to pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L801. At the mailer’s option, appropriate mixed ADC bundles and trays of flats; and mixed ADC trays and mixed AADC trays of letters, may be sorted to NDC pallets according to the “label to” ZIP Code in L100. All mixed ADC bundles, sacks, and trays and mixed AADC trays must contain only pieces destined within the NDC as shown in L601. Labeling: * * *

[Revise the text of renumbered 8.10.3i to read as follows:]

i. Mixed NDC, optional, permitted for bundles, trays, and sacks (irregular parcels only); allowed with no minimum and required at 100 pounds of mail for bundles of flats. Bundles of flats totaling less than 100 pounds in weight must be trayed if not palletized. Pallet may contain carrier route, automation, and/or Presorted mail. Mailers must place trays and sacks (irregular parcels only) containing pieces paid at the single-piece price on the mixed NDC pallet (unless required to be presented separately by special postage payment authorization). Labeling: * * *

* * * * *

8.11 Bundle Reallocation To Protect SCF Pallet for Periodicals Flats and Irregular Parcels and USPS Marketing Mail Flats on Pallets

* * * * *

8.11.3 Reallocation of Bundles if Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Prepared

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 8.11.3d to read as follows:]

d. If no single 5-digit level pallet within the SCF service area contains an adequate volume of mail to allow reallocation of a portion of the mail on a pallet as described in 8.11.3c, then no bundles will be reallocated and an SCF pallet will not be prepared; the mail that falls beyond the SCF pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet (ADC, ASF, NDC or MND) or in the next appropriate sack (irregular parcels) or flat tray.

8.11.4 Reallocation of Bundles if Optional 3-Digit Pallets Are Not Prepared

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 8.11.4b to read as follows:]

b. If no single 5-digit level pallet within the SCF service area contains an adequate volume of mail to allow reallocation of a portion of the mail on a pallet as described in 8.11.4a, then no bundles will be reallocated and a SCF pallet will not be prepared; the mail that falls beyond the SCF pallet level must be placed on the next appropriate pallet (ADC, ASF, NDC or MND) or in the next appropriate sack (irregular parcels) or flat tray.

* * * * *

8.12 Bundle Reallocation To Protect ADC Pallet for Periodicals Flats and Irregular Parcels on Pallets

8.12.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the text of 8.12.1 to read as follows:]

Bundle reallocation to protect the ADC pallet is an optional preparation method authorized for mailers using
PAVE-certified presort software and may be used to create pallets under the standards in 8.12.2 and 8.12.3. Presort software determines if mail for an ADC service area falls beyond the ADC level if all finer level pallets are prepared. Reallocation is performed only when there is mail for the ADC service area that falls beyond the ADC pallet level (e.g., to sacks or flat trays). Reallocation only the minimum number of bundles necessary to create an ADC pallet at the minimum required weight.

* * * * *

[Revise the title of 705.9.0 to read as follows:]

9.0 Combining Bundles of Automation and Nonautomation Flats in Flat Trays

* * * * *

9.2 Periodicals

9.2.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the text of the introductory paragraph of 9.2.1 to read as follows:]

Bundles of flat-size pieces in a machinable barcoded (automation) price mailing must be cotrayed with bundles of flat-size pieces in a machinable nonbarcoded price mailing under the following conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 9.2.1b through 9.2.1f to read as follows:]

b. The machinable barcoded price mailing must meet the eligibility criteria in 207.14.0, except that the traying and documentation criteria in 9.2.1, 9.2.3, and 9.2.4 must be met rather than the traying and documentation criteria in 207.25.0.

c. The machinable nonbarcoded price mailing must meet the eligibility criteria in 207.12.0, except that the traying and documentation criteria in 9.2.1, 9.2.3, and 9.2.4 must be met rather than the traying and documentation criteria in 207.25.0.

d. The bundles prepared from the machinable barcoded price mailing and the bundles prepared from the machinable nonbarcoded price mailing must be sorted into the same flat trays as described in 9.2.3 and 9.2.4.

e. A complete, signed, appropriate postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form or an approved facsimile, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. In addition to the applicable postage statement, documentation produced by PAVE-certified software or standardized documentation under 203.3.0 must be submitted with each cotrayed mailing job that describes for each flat tray sortation level the number of pieces qualifying for each applicable price.

f. Barcoded tray labels under 204.3.0 must be used to label flat trays.

* * * * *

9.2.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise the text of 9.2.3 to read as follows:]

5-digit and 3-digit bundles prepared under 207.22.0 and 207.25.0 may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. These low-volume bundles may be placed in 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces or on 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF pallets. Pieces in low-volume bundles must claim the applicable mixed ADC price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County).

[Revise the title of 9.2.4 to read as follows:]

9.2.4 Optional Sack Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the text 9.2.4 to read as follows:]

Allowed for 3-digit and SCF non-palletized sacks entered at the Destination SCF and 5-digit sacks entered at a DDU. Machinable barcoded price and machinable nonbarcoded price bundles must be presorted together into sacks (cosacked) in the sequence listed below. Sacks must be labeled using the following information for Lines 1 and 2 and 207.21.0 for other sack label criteria. If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the machinable barcoded price pieces are considered flat-size under 201.6.0 and the machinable nonbarcoded price pieces are considered irregular parcels under 201.7.6, the processing category shown on the sack label must show “FLTS.”

a. 3-digit, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum; labeling:
   1. Line 1: use L002, Column A.
   2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable and “FLTS 3D BC/NBC.”

b. SCF, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum; labeling:
   1. Line 1: use L002, Column C.
   2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable and “FLTS SCF BC/NBC.”

[Revise the title of 9.2.5 to read as follows:]

9.2.5 Flat Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Machinable Pieces

[Revise the introductory text 9.2.5 to read as follows:]

See 207.20.0 for use of flat trays. Machinable pieces meeting the criteria in 201.6.0—Mailers must either bundle or group all pieces as specified in 207.25.0 and 207.22.0 for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, SCF, and ADC destination. Bundling is not permitted unless it achieves a finer presort than the presort destination of the tray. The trays are subject to a container charge, and any bundles are subject to a bundle charge. Tray preparation, sequence, and labeling:

* * * * *

9.3 USPS Marketing Mail

9.3.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 9.3.1 to read as follows:]

Bundles of flats in an automation price mailing must be cotrayed with bundles of flats in a Presorted price mailing under the following conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise the text of 9.3.1c through 9.3.1i to read as follows:]

c. The automation price mailing must meet the eligibility criteria in 243.7.0, except that the traying and documentation criteria in 9.3.1, 9.3.4, and 9.3.5 must be met rather than the traying and documentation criteria in 245.7.0.

d. The Presorted price mailing must meet the eligibility criteria in 243.2.0 and 243.3.0, except that the traying and documentation criteria in 9.3.1, 9.3.4, and 9.3.5 must be met rather than the traying and documentation criteria in 245.5.0.

e. The prices for pieces in the automation price mailing are applied based on the number of pieces in the bundle and the level of bundle to which they are sorted under 243.7.0. The prices for pieces in the Presorted price mailing are based on the number of pieces in the bundle and the level of flat tray in which they are placed under 243.3.6 and 243.3.7.

f. The pieces must be marked according to 202.

g. The bundles prepared from the automation price mailing and the bundles prepared from the Presorted price mailing must be sorted into the same flat trays as described in 9.3.4 and 9.3.5.

h. A complete, signed postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form or an approved facsimile, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. In addition to the applicable postage statement, documentation produced by PAVE-certified software or standardized documentation under 203.3.0 must be submitted with each cotrayed mailing job that describes for each flat tray sortation level the number of pieces qualifying for each applicable automation price and the number of
Carrier route bundles in a carrier route mailing may be placed in the same flat trays or on the same pallet as 5-digit bundles from machinable (barcoded or nonbarcoded) price mailings (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) under the following conditions:

Revise the text of 10.1.1a to read as follows:

a. A carrier route mailing must be part of the mailing job, unless cobundled under 11.0 using 5-digit scheme (L007) or 3-digit scheme (L008) bundle preparation, and traveled under 10.1.4.

Revise the text of 10.1.1c to read as follows:

c. Pieces in the machinable price mailing must meet the flats criteria in 201.6.0; pieces that meet the flats criteria in 207.26.0 must also be traveled under this option. Pieces in the machinable nonbarcoded price mailing and the carrier route mailing must be flat-size.

Revise the text of 10.1.1e through 10.1.1j to read as follows:

e. Carrier route bundles may be cotrayed or copalleted with machinable barcoded 5-digit bundles, machinable nonbarcoded price 5-digit bundles, and cobundled 5-digit bundles only for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product indicating eligibility for such cotraying or copalletization. Containers of mail sorted in this manner are called “merged 5-digit” flat trays or pallets. Containers of mail sorted in this manner for which scheme (L001) sortation is also performed are called “merged 5-digit scheme” flat trays or pallets. Pieces in 5-digit scheme (L007) bundles may not be placed in merged 5-digit containers.

f. If sortation under this section is performed, merged 5-digit flat trays or pallets must be prepared for all 5-digit ZIP Codes with an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product that permits such preparation when there is enough volume for the 5-digit ZIP Code to prepare such a flat tray under 10.1.4 or such a pallet under 10.1.5. In addition, all possible merged 5-digit scheme flat trays must be prepared under 10.1.4, or all possible merged 5-digit scheme and 5-digit scheme pallets must be prepared under 10.1.5.

g. For mailings prepared in flat trays, mailers may not combine firm bundles and 5-digit scheme pieces in 5-digit scheme bundles or in 5-digit scheme flat trays. Firm bundles must be placed in a separate individual 5-digit flat tray under 10.1.4g to maintain 5-digit price eligibility. Mailers may combine firm bundles with 5-digit scheme, 3-digit scheme, and other presort destination bundles in carrier route, 5-digit, 3-digit, SCF, ADC, and mixed ADC flat trays. Only an In-County firm bundle can contribute toward the six-piece minimum for price eligibility.

h. The bundles from each separated mailing must be sorted together into flat trays (cotrayed) under 10.1.4 or on pallets (copalletized) under 10.1.5 using presort software that is PAVE-certified.

i. A complete, signed postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form or an approved facsimile, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. In addition to the postage statement(s), documentation prepared by PAVE-certified software must be submitted with each cotrayed or copalletized mailing job that describes for each flat tray sortation level and flat tray, or each pallet sortation level and pallet, the number of pieces qualifying for each applicable price.

j. Barcoded tray labels under 204.3.0 must be used to label flat trays.

10.1.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

Revise the introductory text of 10.1.3 to read as follows:

Carrier route, 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, and 3-digit bundles may contain fewer than six pieces when the publisher determines that such preparation improves service. Pieces in these low-volume bundles must be claimed at the applicable mixed ADC price (Outside-County) or basic price (In-County). Low-volume bundles are permitted only when they are sacked (as applicable), trayed, or prepared on pallets as follows:

Revise the text of items 10.1.3a(1) through 10.1.3a(3) to read as follows:

1. Carrier route, merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme carrier routes, merged 5-digit, 5-digit carrier routes, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF sacks (5-digit scheme carrier routes and 5-digit carrier routes only) or flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces.

2. Merged 3-digit flat trays that contain at least one six-piece carrier route bundle.

3. Origin/entry SCF flat trays.

10.0 Merging Bundles of Flats Using the City State Product

10.1 Periodicals

10.1.1 Basic Standards

Revise the introductory text of 10.1.1 to read as follows:
trays, or on 3-digit or SCF pallets, as appropriate.

[Revise the title of 10.1.4 to read as follows:]

10.1.4 Sack and Flat Tray Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of 10.1.4 to read as follows:]

All carrier route bundles must be placed in sacks/flat trays under 10.1.4a through 10.1.4h as described below. When sorting is performed under this section, mailers must prepare merged 5-digit scheme sacks (irregular parcels) or flat trays, 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks/flat trays, and merged 5-digit sacks (irregular parcels) or flat trays for all possible 5-digit schemes or 5-digit ZIP Codes as applicable, using L001 (merged 5-digit scheme and 5-digit scheme carrier routes sort only) and the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product when there is enough volume for the 5-digit scheme or 5-digit ZIP Code to prepare such sacks (irregular parcels) or flat trays under 10.1.4. Mailers must label sacks/flat trays according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 207.20.1. If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the barcoded pieces are considered flat-size under 207.26.0, and the carrier route pieces and nonbarcoded pieces are considered irregular parcels under 201.7.6, “FLTS” must be shown as the processing category on the sack/tray label. If a mailing job does not contain barcoded price pieces and the carrier route pieces and the nonbarcoded pieces are irregular parcel shaped, use “IRREG” for the processing category on the contents line of the label. Mailers must prepare sacks/flat trays containing carrier route and 5-digit bundles from the carrier route, barcoded, and nonbarcoded mailings in the mailing job in the following manner and sequence:

* * * * *

[Revise the text of item 10.1.4b to read as follows:]

b. Merged 5-digit scheme, required at 72 pieces, optional at 24 pieces minimum. Must contain at least one 5-digit ZIP Code in the scheme with an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product. May contian carrier route bundles for any 5-digit ZIP Code(s) in a single scheme listed in L001 as well as machinable barcoded price 5-digit bundles and machinable nonbarcoded price 5-digit bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes in the schemes that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product. For 5-digit ZIP Code(s) in a scheme that has a “B” or “D” indicator in the City State Product, prepare sack(s) (irregular parcels only) or flat tray(s) under 10.1.4g and 10.1.4h. For 5-digit ZIP Codes not included in a scheme, prepare sacks (irregular parcels only) or flat trays under 10.1.4d through 10.1.4h. Labeling: * * * * *

[Revise the text of item 10.1.4h to read as follows:]

h. Merged 3-digit. Required for carrier route, 5-digit, and 5-digit scheme bundles remaining after preparing sacks (irregular parcels only) or flat trays under 10.1.4a through 10.1.4g, and any 3-digit and 3-digit scheme bundles with a minimum of 24 pieces for a 3-digit area. Labeling: * * * * * *

10.2 USPS Marketing Mail

10.2.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 10.2.1 and item 10.2.1a to read as follows:]

Carrier route bundles from a carrier route price mailing may be placed in the same flat tray or on the same pallet as 5-digit bundles from an automation price mailing and 5-digit bundles from a Presorted price mailing (including pieces cubondled under 11.0) under the following conditions:

a. A carrier route mailing must be part of the mailing job, unless cubondled under 11.0 utilizing 5-digit scheme (L007) or 3-digit scheme (L008) bundle preparation and trayed under 10.1.4.

* * * * *

[Revise the text of items 10.2.1e through 10.2.1g to read as follows:]

e. Carrier route bundles may be cotrayed or copalletized with automation price 5-digit bundles, Presorted price 5-digit bundles, and cubondled 5-digit bundles only for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product indicating eligibility for such cotraying or copalletization. Containers of mail sorted in this manner are called “merged 5-digit” flat trays or pallets. Containers of mail sorted in this manner for which scheme (L007) sortation is also performed are called “merged 5-digit scheme” flat trays or pallets. Pieces in 5-digit scheme (L007) bundles may not be placed in merged 5-digit containers.

f. If sortation under this section is performed, merged 5-digit flat trays or pallets must be prepared for all 5-digit ZIP Codes with an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product that permits such preparation when there is enough volume for the 5-digit ZIP Code to prepare that flat tray or pallet.

For cotrayed mailings, the prices for pieces in the carrier route mailing are based on the criteria in 243.6.0, the prices for pieces in the automation price mailing are applied based on the number of pieces in the bundle and the level of bundle to which they are sorted under 243.7.0, and the prices for pieces in the Presorted price mailing are based on the number of pieces in the bundle and the level of flat tray to which they are sorted under 243.5.0.

* * * * *

[Revise the text of item 10.2.1j to read as follows:]

j. The bundles from each separate mailing must be sorted together into flat trays (cotrayed) under 10.2.3 and 10.2.4 or on pallets (copalletized) under 10.2.5 using presort software that is PAVE-certified.

* * * * *

[Revise the text of items 10.2.1l and 10.2.1m to read as follows:]

l. In addition to the applicable postage statement, documentation produced by PAVE-certified software must be submitted with each cotrayed or copalletized mailing job that describes for each sack/flat tray sortation level and flat tray, or each pallet sortation level and pallet, the number of pieces qualifying for each applicable carrier route price, each applicable automation price, and each applicable Presorted price.

m. Barcoded tray labels under 204.3.0 must be used to label flat trays.

* * * * *

[Revise the title and text of 10.2.3 to read as follows:]

10.2.3 Sacking and Traying Rules

When the minimum quantity of 125 pieces or 15 pounds of mail for sacks or a full flat tray is specified for a sortation level in 10.2.4, the provisions of 245.7.4 and 245.1.4e apply.

10.2.4 Sack/Flat Tray Preparation and Labeling

[Revise the introductory text of 10.2.4 to read as follows:]

Mailers must prepare sacks and flat trays in the following manner and sequence. All carrier route bundles must be placed in sacks or flat trays under 10.2.4a through 10.2.4e as described below. Mailers must prepare all merged 5-digit scheme flat trays, 5-digit scheme carrier routes sacks or flat trays, and merged 5-digit flat trays that are possible in the mailing based on the volume of mail to the destination using L001 and the Carrier Route Indicators field in the City State Product. Mailers must label sacks/flat trays according to the Line 1 and Line 2 information listed below and under 245.4.0.

* * * * *
[Revise the text of 10.2.4b to read as follows:]

b. Merged 5-digit scheme, required and permitted only when there is at least one 5-digit ZIP Code in the scheme with an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product. May contain carrier route bundles for any 5-digit ZIP Code(s) in a single scheme listed in L001 as well as automation price 5-digit bundles and Presorted 5-digit bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes in the scheme with an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product. When preparation of this flat tray level is permitted, a flat tray must be prepared if there are any carrier route bundle(s) for the scheme. If there is not at least one carrier route bundle for any 5-digit destination in the scheme, preparation of this flat tray is required when there is at least a full flat tray (245.1.4), 125 pieces or 15 pounds of pieces in 5-digit bundles for any of the 5-digit ZIP Codes in the scheme that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product (smaller volume not permitted). For a 5-digit ZIP Code(s) in a scheme with a “B” or “D” indicator in the City State Product, prepare flat tray(s) for the automation price and Presorted price bundles under 10.2.4g and 10.2.4h. For 5-digit ZIP Codes not included in a scheme, prepare flat trays under 10.2.4d through 10.2.4h.

Labeling:* * * * *

[Revise the text of 10.2.4d to read as follows:]

d. Merged 5-digit, required. Must be prepared only for those 5-digit ZIP Codes that are not part of a scheme and that have an “A” or “C” indicator in the City State Product. May contain carrier route bundles, automation price 5-digit bundles, and Presorted price 5-digit bundles. Must be prepared if there are any carrier route bundles for the 5-digit destination. If there is not at least one carrier route bundle for the 5-digit destination, must be prepared when there is at least a full flat tray (245.1.4), 125 pieces or 15 pounds of pieces in 5-digit bundles for the same 5-digit destination (smaller volume not permitted). Labeling: * * * *

[Revise the text of 10.2.4h to read as follows:]

h. 3-digit through Mixed ADC flat trays. Any 5-digit scheme and 5-digit bundles remaining after preparing flat trays under 10.2.4h through 10.2.4g, and all 3-digit, ADC, and Mixed ADC bundles, must be trayed and labeled according to the applicable requirements under 9.3 for cosacking/cotraving in automation price and Presorted price bundles, except if there are no automation price bundles in the mailing job, tray and label under 245.5.0, or if there are no Presorted price bundles in the mailing job, tray and label under 245.7.4.

10.2.5 Pallet Preparation and Labeling
* * * * *

[Add a new item (j) to read as follows:]

j. Mixed NDC, use 8.10.3h, as applicable, to prepare and label Mixed NDC pallets. * * * * *

11.0 Combining Automation Price and Nonautomation Price Flat Flats in Bundles
* * * * *

11.2 Periodicals

11.2.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory text of 11.2.1 to read as follows:]

*** Mailing jobs (for flats meeting the criteria in 201.6.0) prepared using the 5-digit scheme and/or the 3-digit scheme bundle preparation must be trayed under 9.0 or 10.0 or palletized under 10.0. * * * * *

[Revise the text of 11.2.1b to read as follows:]

b. Mailings prepared in flat trays must meet the basic standards in 9.0 or 10.0. * * * * *

11.2.3 Bundles With Fewer Than Six Pieces

[Revise the last sentence of the introductory text of 11.2.3 to read as follows:]

*** Low-volume bundles are permitted only when they are trayed or prepared on pallets as follows:

[Revise the text of items 11.2.3a and 11.2.3b to read as follows:]

a. Place low-volume 5-digit and 3-digit bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces; or in origin/entry SCF flat trays; or on merged 5-digit scheme, 5-digit scheme, merged 5-digit, 5-digit, 3-digit, or SCF pallets, as appropriate.

b. Place low-volume 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles in only 5-digit scheme, 3-digit, and SCF flat trays that contain at least 24 pieces, or in origin/entry SCF flat trays, or on 3-digit or SCF pallets, as appropriate.

11.3 USPS Marketing Mail

11.3.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the introductory text of 11.3.1 to read as follows:]

Mailers may choose to cobundle (see 245.1.4d) automation price and nonautomation price flat-size pieces as an option to the basic bundling requirements in 245.5.0 and 245.7.0. All pieces in the same bundle must meet the standards in 201.6.0. 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles must meet the additional standards in 245.1.4f and 245.1.4m. Mailing jobs prepared using the 5-digit scheme and/or 3-digit scheme bundle preparation (for flats meeting the criteria in 201.6.0) must be trayed under 10.0 or palletized under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0. All bundles are subject to the following conditions: * * * * *

[Revise the text of 11.3.1b to read as follows:]

b. Mailings prepared in flat trays must meet the basic standards in 9.0 or 10.0. * * * * *

12.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using a 5% Threshold

12.1 Periodicals

12.1.1 Basic Standards
* * * * *

[Revise the text of 12.1.1g to read as follows:]

g. Portions of the mailing job that cannot be palletized must be prepared in sacks/flat trays. * * * * *

12.2 USPS Marketing Mail

12.2.1 Basic Standards
* * * * *

[Revise the text of 12.2.1l to read as follows:]
l. Portions of the mailing job that cannot be palletized must be prepared in flat trays. * * * * *

12.2.3 Pallet Preparation and Labeling
* * * * *

[Add a new item (j) to read as follows:]

j. Mixed NDC, use 8.10.3h, as applicable, to prepare and label Mixed NDC pallets. * * * * *

13.0 Merging Bundles of Flats on Pallets Using the City State Product and a 5% Threshold

13.1 Periodicals

13.1.1 Basic Standards
* * * * *

[Revise the text of 13.1.1h to read as follows:]

h. Portions of the mailing job that cannot be palletized must be prepared in flat trays. * * * * *

13.2 USPS Marketing Mail

13.2.1 Basic Standards
* * * * *
[Revise the text of 13.2.1m to read as follows:]

a. Portions of the mailing job that cannot be palletized must be prepared in flat trays.

* * * * *

13.2.4 Pallet Preparation and Labeling

[Add a new item (j) to read as follows:]

j. Mixed NDC, use 8.10.3h, as applicable, to prepare and label Mixed NDC pallets

* * * * *

Sarah Sullivan,

Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2022–28587 Filed 1–4–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52


Air NSR Revisions; NC; Miscellaneous NSR Revisions and Updates; Updates to References to Appendix W Modeling Guideline

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing the approval of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision, submitted by North Carolina on April 13, 2021. Specifically, EPA is approving updates to the incorporation by reference of Federal new source review (NSR) regulations and federal guidelines on air quality modeling in the North Carolina SIP. EPA is also converting a previous conditional approval regarding the infrastructure SIP prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) elements, for the 2015 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for North Carolina to a full approval. EPA is also approving updates to North Carolina’s NSR regulations to better align them with the federal rules. EPA is approving these changes pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA or Act).

DATES: This rule is effective February 6, 2023.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA–R04–OAR–2022–0782. All documents in the docket are listed on the www.regulations.gov website. Although listed in the index, some information may not be publicly available, i.e., Confidential Business Information or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically through www.regulations.gov or in hard copy at the Air Regulatory Management Section, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–8960. EPA requests that, if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to schedule your inspection. The Regional Office’s official hours of business are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josue Ortiz Borrero, Air Planning and Implementation Branch, Air and Radiation Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303–8960. The telephone number for Mr. Ortiz Borrero is (404) 562–8085. Mr. Ortiz Borrero can also be reached via electronic mail at ortizborrero.josue@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On October 1, 2015, EPA promulgated a revised primary and secondary NAAQS for ozone, revising the 8-hour ozone standards from 0.075 parts per million (ppm) to a new more protective level of 0.070 ppm. See 80 FR 65292 (October 26, 2015). Pursuant to section 110(a)(1) of the CAA, states are required to submit SIP revisions meeting the applicable requirements of section 110(a)(2) within three years after promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS or within such shorter period as EPA may prescribe. For the 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS, states were required to submit such SIP revisions (also known as ISIPs) no later than October 1, 2018.

On September 27, 2018, North Carolina met its commitment by submitting a SIP revision to correct the provisions (Prongs 1 & 2) and the PSD provisions for North Carolina, except for the Interstate Transport provisions (Prongs 1 & 2) and the PSD provisions (elements C, Prong 3, and J), on March 11, 2020. See 85 FR 14147. EPA approved the interstate transport provisions (Prongs 1 & 2) for North Carolina on December 2, 2021. See 86 FR 68413.

Under section 110(a)(4), EPA may conditionally approve a SIP revision based on a commitment from a state to adopt specific enforceable measures by a date certain, but not later than one year from the date of approval. If the state fails to meet the commitment within one year of the final conditional approval, the conditional approval will be treated as a disapproval and EPA will issue a finding of disapproval.

3 Under CAA section 110(k)(4), EPA may conditionally approve a SIP revision based on a commitment from a state to adopt specific enforceable measures by a date certain, but not later than one year from the date of approval. If the state fails to meet the commitment within one year of the final conditional approval, the conditional approval will be treated as a disapproval and EPA will issue a finding of disapproval.

EPA approved most elements for North Carolina, except for the Interstate Transport provisions (Prongs 1 & 2) and the PSD provisions (elements C, Prong 3, and J), on March 11, 2020. See 85 FR 14147. EPA approved the interstate transport provisions (Prongs 1 & 2) for North Carolina on December 2, 2021. See 86 FR 68413.

For information or other information whose copyright is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form, EPA requests that, if at all possible, you contact the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section to schedule your inspection.