apply. Entry into the zones is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Sector Corpus Christi (COTP) or a designated representative. A designated representative is a commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the U.S. Coast Guard assigned to units under the operational control of USCG Sector Corpus Christi.

(2) Persons or vessels desiring to enter or pass through the zones must request permission from the COTP Sector Corpus Christi on VHF–FM channel 16 or by telephone at 361–939–0450.

(3) 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 through Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate of the enforcement times and dates for these security zones.


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

POSTAL SERVICE
39 CFR Part 111

Hardcopy Postage Statements Discontinued

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is amending Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) in various sections to discontinue the use of hardcopy postage statements for domestic commercial mailings.

DATES: Effective: January 28, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Filipski at (312) 765–3089 or Garry Rodriguez at (202) 268–7281.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On February 13, 2023, the Postal Service published a notice of proposed rulemaking (88 FR 9218–9221) to discontinue the use of hardcopy postage statements for domestic commercial mailings. In response to the proposed rule, the Postal Service received 16 comments as follows:

Comment: Multiple comments stated eliminating hardcopy postage statements would make it so we cannot submit bulk mailings any longer.

Response: The Federal Register Notice proposed rule provided that Postal Wizard® and the Intelligent Mail® Small Business Tool (IMsb) are free and simple electronic documentation solutions available to all customers through the Business Customer Gateway, and that third-party software and mail preparation options are also available on the PostalPro website. In addition, all business mail entry unit (BMEU) employees are trained to assist customers with this transition.

Comment: The USPS should rapidly enhance the available of service data for newspaper mail. Better visibility.

Response: The Postal Service has ensured the local BMEUs have encouraged mailers to transition to electronic documentation for several years and official notice was provided 11 months prior to this transition. Given this and that there are various free and easy options to submit electronic documentation, the Postal Service believes January 2024 is sufficient time for hardcopy mailers to transfer.

Comment: The USPS should improve communications to the field, specifically requiring local postmasters where Periodical mail is entered to hold in-person meetings with mailers no later than 180 days before any implementation date of this proposal.

§ 1.445 International application filing, processing and search fees. [Corrected]

(1) * * *

(2) * * *

(3) * * *

TABLE 3 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(1)(j)(C)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 4 TO PARAGRAPH (a)(1)(i)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

37 CFR Parts 1 and 41
[Docket No. PTO–P–2023–0005]
RIN 0651–AD66

Reducing Patent Fees for Small Entities and Micro Entities Under the Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022

Correction

Rule document C1–2023–05382, appearing on page 19862, beginning in the first column, in the issue of Tuesday, April 4, 2023, is hereby withdrawn.

In rule document 2023–05382, appearing on pages 17147–17159, in the issue of Wednesday, March 22, 2023, make the following corrections:

■ On page 17157, in the first column, in instruction 8, the table heading for Table 3 to Paragraph (a)(1)(i)(C) and the table heading for Table 4 to Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) are corrected to read as follows:

§ 1.445 International application filing, processing and search fees. [Corrected]

(a) * * *

(i) * * *

(C) * * *

The USPTO operates the Electronic Filing System (EFS®), an electronic filing system that allows you to electronically file and track your patent application, including all communications to the Office. The EFS® is the preferred filing method and is available 24/7/365. The USPTO also offers the Patent Center, a web portal that provides access to your patent and trademark applications, correspondence with examiners, and other resources.

On April 25, 2023, the USPTO published a rule proposal to reduce filing fees for small entities (48 FR 19862) and micro entities (48 FR 19863). The proposed rule provides for a 80% reduction in filing fees for small entities and a 95% reduction in filing fees for micro entities. The proposal also includes provisions for a 50% reduction in search fees for small entities and a 95% reduction in search fees for micro entities. The rule proposal was published in the Federal Register on April 25, 2023, and the public comment period closed on June 25, 2023.

On June 29, 2023, the USPTO published a final rule to reduce filing fees for small entities and micro entities (88 FR 33725). The final rule reduces filing fees for small entities by 80% and search fees by 50%. The final rule also reduces filing fees for micro entities by 95% and search fees by 90%. The rule became effective on September 1, 2023.

On September 28, 2023, the USPTO published a notice of new filing and search fees for small entities and micro entities (88 FR 53538). The notice included an update to the final rule to reflect changes in the USPTO’s budget. The notice also included changes to the fees for certain services, such as the filing fee for a patent application.

On October 4, 2023, the USPTO published a rule to further reduce filing fees for small entities and micro entities (88 FR 53539). The rule reduces filing fees for small entities by an additional 20% and search fees by an additional 10%. The rule became effective on November 1, 2023.

On November 29, 2023, the USPTO published a notice of new filing and search fees for small entities and micro entities (88 FR 61989). The notice included an update to the final rule to reflect changes in the USPTO’s budget. The notice also included changes to the fees for certain services, such as the filing fee for a patent application.

On December 28, 2023, the USPTO published a notice of new filing and search fees for small entities and micro entities (88 FR 61991). The notice included an update to the final rule to reflect changes in the USPTO’s budget. The notice also included changes to the fees for certain services, such as the filing fee for a patent application.
approved electronic method to transmit a postage statement to the PostalOne! ® system.

The Postal Service provides free means of electronic postage statement submission through the Intelligent Mail for Small Business (IMsb) tool and Postal Wizard. There are also approved third party software options available on PostalPro at postalpro.usps.com.

The use of hardcopy postage statements for Every Door Direct Mail—Retail® (EDDM–R®) and international mailings will not be affected by this revision.

We believe this revision will provide customers with a more efficient mailing experience.


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

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

Accordingly, 39 CFR part 111 is amended as follows:

PART 111—[AMENDED]

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


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

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

200 Commercial Letters, Flats, and Parcels

203 Basic Postage Statement, Documentation, and Preparation Standards

1.0 Postage Statements

1.1 Completing Postage Statements

[Revise the first sentence of 1.1 to read as follows:] Unless manifested using eVS under 705.2.9, any domestic mailing claiming a discount and all permit imprint mailings must be accompanied by a completed electronic postage statement [NOTE: Except for Every Door Direct Mail—Retail, all commercial references to “postage statements” in the DMM are electronic.). * * * * * * [Delete 1.3, Facsimile Postage Statements, in its entirety.]

3.0 Standardized Documentation for First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Flat-Size Bound Printed Matter

3.2 Format and Content

For First-Class Mail, Periodicals, USPS Marketing Mail, and Bound Printed Matter, standardized documentation includes:

a. * * * * * * * * e. * * * * For Periodicals mailings, documentation also must provide:

[Delete the last sentence of item e4.]

230 Commercial Mail First-Class Mail

234 Postage Payment and Documentation

2.0 Affixing Postage to Presorted and Automation Letters and Flats

2.1 Affixing Postage for Presorted and Automation First-Class Mail

Except as permitted under 2.2 or authorized by the director, Business Acceptance Solutions, each piece must bear the numerical value of postage under one of these conditions:

[Revise the last sentence of item b to read as follows:] b. * * * * Additional postage must be paid at the time of mailing with an advance deposit account.

2.2 Affixing Postage at Less Than Full Price to All Pieces

2.2.1 Lowest Price

A mailer may affix postage evidencing postage at the lowest price on identical-weight pieces as follows:

[Revise the last sentence of item b to read as follows:] b. Additional postage: * * * * The total additional postage must be paid by advance deposit account.

2.2.2 Mixed Price Alternative

[Revise the last sentence of 2.2.2 to read as follows:] * * * * The total additional postage must be paid by advance deposit account.

240 Commercial Mail USPS Marketing Mail

243 Prices and Eligibility

3.3 Additional Basic Standards for USPS Marketing Mail

Each USPS Marketing Mail mailing is subject to these general standards:

[Revise the first sentence of item h to read as follows:] h. A completed postage statement using the correct USPS form must be submitted with each mailing.

244 Postage Payment and Documentation

2.0 Additional Postage Payment Standards

2.1 Identical-Weight Pieces

[Revise the third sentence in 2.1 to read as follows:] * * * * If exact postage is not affixed, all additional postage and surcharges must be paid at the time of mailing with an advance deposit account.

3.0 Affixing Postage at Less Than Full Price

3.2 Lowest Price

A mailer may affix metered postage at the lowest price on identical-weight pieces as follows:

[Revise the last sentence of item c to read as follows:] c. Additional postage: * * * * The total additional postage must be paid by advance deposit account.

3.3 Mixed Price Alternative for Letters and Flats

[Revise the last sentence of 3.3 to read as follows:] * * * * The total additional postage must be paid by advance deposit account.

245 Mail Preparation

6.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Letters
6.9 Delivery Sequence Documentation

6.9.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory text of 6.9.1 to read as follows:] * * * The mailer’s electronic confirmation during eDoc submission certifies that this standard has been met when the corresponding mail is presented to the USPS. * * * * * 

9.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Flats

9.10 Delivery Sequence Documentation

9.10.1 Basic Standards

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory text of 9.10.1 to read as follows:] * * * The mailer’s electronic confirmation during eDoc submission certifies that this standard has been met when the corresponding mail is presented to the USPS. * * * * * 

12.0 Preparing Enhanced Carrier Route Product Sample Parcels

12.7 Delivery Sequence Documentation

12.7.1 General Standards

[Revise the third sentence of the introductory text of 12.7.1 to read as follows:] * * * The mailer’s electronic confirmation during eDoc submission certifies that this standard has been met when the corresponding mail is presented to the USPS. * * * * * 

250 Commercial Mail Parcel Select

254 Postage Payment and Documentation

* * * * * 

2.0 Mailing Documentation

2.1 Completing Postage Statements

[Revise the first sentence of 2.1 to read as follows:] All metered and permit imprint mailings of 50 pieces or more, except manifested mail using eVS under 705.2.9, must be accompanied by a completed postage statement. * * * * * 

602 Addressing
ability of the USPS to demand proper payment after acceptance when it becomes apparent such payment was not made.

* * * * *

700  Special Standards
* * * * *

705  Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems
* * * * *

2.0  Manifest Mailing System
* * * * *

2.2  Basic Standards
* * * * *

2.2.7  Postage Statement

[Revise the text of 2.2.7 by deleting the last two sentences.]

* * * * *

9.0  Combining Bundles of Automation and Nonautomation Flats in Trays and Sacks

9.1  First-Class Mail

9.1.1  Basic Standards

Bundles of flats in an automation price mailing prepared under 235.6.5 must be cosacked with bundles of flats in a Presorted price mailing under the following conditions:

* * * * *

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

h. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. * * *

* * * * *

9.3  USPS Marketing Mail

9.3.1  Basic Standards

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

* * * * *

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

h. A complete postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. * * *

* * * * *

9.4  Bound Printed Matter

9.4.1  Basic Standards

Bundles of flat-size pieces in a Presorted price mailing qualifying for and claiming the barcode discount under 263.3.0, 263.2.0, and 263.5.0 must be cosacked with bundles of flat-size pieces from a Presorted price mailing (not claiming the barcode discount) under the following conditions:

* * * * *

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

h. A complete postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. * * *

* * * * *

10.0  Merging Bundles of Flats Using the City State Product

10.1  Periodicals

10.1.1  Basic Standards

* * * Carrier route bundles in a carrier route mailing may be placed in the same sack 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 first sentence of item i to read as follows:]

i. A complete postage statement(s), using the correct USPS form, must accompany each mailing job prepared under these procedures. * * *

* * * * *

10.2  USPS Marketing Mail

10.2.1  Basic Standards

Carrier route bundles from a carrier route price mailing may be placed in the same sack 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 cobundled under 11.0) under the following conditions:

* * * * *

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

j. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must be submitted for each mailing job prepared under these procedures.

* * * * *

12.2  USPS Marketing Mail

12.2.1  Basic Standards

* * * Five-digit bundles from an automation price mailing and 5-digit bundles from a Presorted price mailing (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) may be placed on the same pallet as carrier route bundles under the following conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item g to read as follows:]

g. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must be submitted for each mailing job. * * *

* * * * *

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

* * * Five-digit bundles from a barcoded price mailing and 5-digit bundles from a nonbarcoded price mailing (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) may be placed on the same pallet as carrier route bundles under the following conditions:

* * * * *

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

j. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must be submitted for each mailing job prepared under these procedures.

* * * * *

13.2  USPS Marketing Mail

13.2.1  Basic Standards

* * * Five-digit bundles from an automation price mailing and 5-digit bundles from a Presorted price mailing (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) may be placed on the same pallet as carrier route bundles under the following conditions:

* * * * *

[Revise the first sentence in the introductory text of item k to read as follows:]

k. A complete postage statement, using the correct USPS form, must be submitted for each mailing job prepared under these procedures.

* * * * *

17.0  Plant-Verified Drop Shipment

* * * * *

17.2  Program Participation

* * * * *
17.2.3 Verification at Origin BMEU

PVDS verification can be performed at the origin business mail entry unit (BMEU) under these conditions:

* * * * * *

[Revise the text of item d to read as follows]

d. Form 8125 accompanies each PVDS (or segment, if the PVDS is contained in more than one vehicle).

* * * * * *

Tram T. Pham, Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2023–08620 Filed 4–24–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 49


Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is approving amendments to the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut (the Mohegans, or the Tribe) Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) to regulate air pollution within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe’s reservation. EPA approved the Tribe for treatment in the same manner as a State (Treatment as State or TAS) for purposes of administering New Source Review (NSR) under the CAA on December 26, 2006. The TIP revisions we are approving include permitting requirements for minor sources of air pollution not covered by the Tribe’s existing federally approved NSR permitting program. The purpose of the TIP revisions is to enable the Tribe to obtain a potential to emit limit to render its operation as a minor NSR Source Review (NSR) permitting program. The TIP revisions include the addition of sources registration program for new and existing sources, a minor NSR permitting program, and provisions to obtain a potential to emit limit to render a source non-major for new and existing sources. The revisions also outline a process by which the Mohegan Tribe can establish permit by rules, and the Tribe has adopted one permit by rule into its body of regulations for gasoline dispensing facilities as part of these revisions.

II. Response to Comments

EPA received one comment during the comment period, which supported EPA’s proposed action. As such, this comment does not require further response to finalize the action as proposed. The comment is available in the docket for this action.

III. Final Action

EPA is approving the Mohegan TIP revisions under the Clean Air Act to regulate air pollution within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe’s reservation. The TIP revisions include the addition of a source registration program for new and existing sources, a minor NSR permitting program, and provisions to obtain a potential to emit limit to render a source non-major for new and existing sources. The revisions also outline a process by which the Mohegan Tribe can establish permit by rules, and the Tribe has adopted one permit by rule into its body of regulations for gasoline dispensing facilities as part of these revisions.

IV. Incorporation by Reference

In this rule, EPA is finalizing regulatory text that includes incorporation by reference. In accordance with requirements of 1 CFR 51.5, the EPA is finalizing the incorporation by reference of the Mohegan Tribe’s Resolution No. 2022–31, which incorporates Article XIII–A and establishes a minor NSR preconstruction permitting program and allows for sources that would otherwise be major to take restrictions on their potential to emit to below major source thresholds, as described in the amendments to 40 CFR part 49 set forth below. The EPA has made, and will continue to make, these documents generally available through https://www.regulations.gov and at the EPA Region 1 Office (please contact the...