

on board a vessel displaying a Coast Guard Ensign, and

(ii) Proceed as directed by any commissioned, warrant or petty officer on board a vessel displaying a Coast Guard Ensign.

(d) *Enforcement.* The U.S. Coast Guard may be assisted in the patrol and enforcement of the zone by Federal, State and local agencies.

(e) *Enforcement period.* This section will be enforced from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on July 4, 2007, and if necessary due to inclement weather, from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on July 5, 2007.

Dated: April 2, 2007.

**Jonathan C. Burton,**

*Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting Captain of the Port, Baltimore, Maryland.*

[FR Doc. E7-6782 Filed 4-10-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

## ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

### 36 CFR Part 1192

[Docket No. 2007-1]

RIN 3014-AA38

### Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles

**AGENCY:** Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

**ACTION:** Availability of draft revisions to guidelines.

**SUMMARY:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) has placed in the docket and on its web site for public review and comment draft revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles. The draft revisions to the guidelines cover only buses, vans and similar vehicles. Draft revisions to the guidelines for other modes will be issued later. Comments will be accepted on the draft revisions to the guidelines, and the Access Board will consider those comments prior to issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking to update the guidelines.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft revisions to the guidelines must be received by June 11, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to Docket 2007-1, Office of Technical and Informational Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington, DC 20004-1111. E-mail

comments should be sent to [cannon@access-board.gov](mailto:cannon@access-board.gov). Comments sent by e-mail will be considered only if they contain the full name and address of the sender in the text. Comments will be available for inspection at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on regular business days.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dennis Cannon, Office of Technical and Information Services, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, 1331 F Street, NW., suite 1000, Washington DC 20004-1111. *Telephone number:* (202) 272-0015 (voice); (202) 272-0082 (TTY). *Electronic mail address:* [cannon@access-board.gov](mailto:cannon@access-board.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In 1991, the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) issued the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles, which is codified at 36 CFR part 1192. The guidelines have not been updated since they were issued, except for modifications for over-the-road buses in 1994. The Access Board is beginning the process of updating the guidelines by publishing draft revisions to subparts A and B of 36 CFR part 1192, which contain general provisions and cover buses, vans and similar vehicles. Draft revisions to other subparts, which cover other modes, will be available later. Changes are proposed to accommodate new technology and vehicles, and new system designs, particularly Bus Rapid Transit.

Subsequent to issuance of the guidelines in 1991, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued regulations for vehicle lifts. The Access Board will coordinate its rulemaking with NHTSA to ensure consistency.

The Access Board is making the draft revisions to the guidelines and supplemental information available for public review and comment prior to issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking to update the guidelines. Comments on the draft revisions to the guidelines will be considered by the Access Board in developing the notice of proposed rulemaking to update the guidelines, which will also be open for public comment. The draft revisions to the guidelines and supplementary information are available on the Access Board's Internet site (<http://www.access-board.gov/vguidedraft.htm>). You may also obtain a copy of the draft guidelines and supplementary information by contacting the Access Board at (202) 272-0080. Persons using a TTY should call (202) 272-0082. The documents are available in alternate formats upon

request. Persons who want a copy in an alternate format should specify the type of format (cassette tape, Braille, large print, or ASCII disk.)

**James J. Raggio,**

*General Counsel.*

[FR Doc. E7-6722 Filed 4-10-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8150-01-P

## POSTAL SERVICE

### 39 CFR Part 111

### New Standards for Periodicals Mailing Services

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** This proposed rule provides the revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) that we propose to adopt in support of the new Periodicals pricing and price structure to be implemented on July 15, 2007.

The new prices will enhance efficiency, offer more choices, and better ensure that all types of Periodicals mail cover their costs. Periodicals mailers will have new incentives to use efficient containers and bundles, and copalletization will become a permanent offering to encourage more publishers to combine mailings. We also add new prices for the editorial portion of a mailing to give mailers of high-editorial-content publications access to lower destination entry rates.

**DATES:** We must receive your comments on or before April 25, 2007.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joel Walker, 202-268-7266; or Carrie Witt, 202-268-7279.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 14, 2007, the Postal Service will adopt new prices and mailing standards to support the majority of the Docket No. R2006-1 pricing change recommended by the Postal Regulatory Commission and accepted by the Governors of the United States Postal Service. The Postal Service Board of Governors is delaying the implementation of new Periodicals prices and mailing standards until July 15, 2007, to give postal employees and

mailers more time to prepare for the new pricing structure recommended by the Commission. This proposal provides the revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) that we propose to adopt in support of the Periodicals portion of the Docket No. R2006–1 pricing change.

You can find this Periodicals proposal, as well as the rate case final rule for all other classes of mail, at [www.usps.com/ratecase](http://www.usps.com/ratecase). We also provide rate charts and other helpful information for mailers, including frequently asked questions, press releases, and *MailPro* articles related to the pricing change.

### Background

In our request for a recommended decision filed with the Commission on May 3, 2006, we proposed Periodicals rates based on pieces, pounds, and a single container charge. The Commission recommended rates based on pieces and pounds but also on bundles, sacks, and pallets. Piece rates vary based on machinability, barcoding, and presort level. Bundle, sack, and pallet rates vary based on presort level and point of entry. The recommended rate structure is much more complex than the one we originally proposed. Ideally, by explicitly recognizing the cost differences between various bundles, containers, and entry points, many mailers will respond to these price signals, bring down costs, and improve the cost-coverage for all Periodicals mailers.

For In-County Periodicals, the rate design is still based on pieces and pounds, as it is today. Since many publications use both Outside-County and In-County rates, the Board set the same July 15 implementation date for both subclasses, and for all Periodicals fees.

### Overview of New Outside-County Periodicals Rate Design

In general, mailers who sort their mail to the 5-digit and carrier route levels on destination-entered pallets will pay the lowest rates. Mailers should note that the piece, pound, bundle, and container rates are designed to work together to more accurately reflect handling and delivery costs. We suggest that mailers test different preparation scenarios to see the interplay between variables and how their own mail will be affected.

### New Container Rate Structure

The new rate structure adds container rates for Periodicals mail. We define a “container” as a tray, sack, pallet, or other equivalent USPS-approved

container. Most of our standards for mail preparation are not changing as a result of the new rate structure. Mailers will still follow the mail preparation requirements in DMM 705, 707, and 708, which specify when to prepare mail in bundles and when to place it in trays, sacks, and pallets. We note that mailers must follow the preparation and entry requirements in the DMM. Mailers cannot choose to use certain containers (or to not use containers) to circumvent the rates.

New Outside-County container rates are based on the type of container (tray, sack, or pallet), the level of sortation of the container, and where the container is entered. We will apply the container rates to pallets, sacks, and trays containing Outside-County Periodicals mail (except for mixed containers of In-County and Outside-County pieces in carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, and 5-digit/scheme containers). When trays and sacks are placed on pallets, we propose to charge for each tray and sack, but not for the pallets. This should encourage mailers to use pallets.

Container rates decrease with deeper entry because there are fewer handlings needed. Our best rates are for mail that is finely sorted on pallets and entered close to its destination. For example, the price for a 5-digit pallet entered at the DDU is \$1.20, compared to \$15.50 if entered at the DADC.

On the other hand, when entered at the same facility level, prices are higher for more-finely presorted containers than for those that are less-finely presorted. The difference reflects the additional handlings that the more-finely presorted container will get before it is opened. For instance, for origin entry, the price for a 5-digit pallet is \$26.95, or \$8.34 higher than the \$18.61 price for an ADC pallet.

Working in the opposite direction, a bundle in a less-finely presorted container requires more handlings prior to piece sortation than the same level bundle in a more-finely presorted container, and bundle prices reflect this. The price for a 5-digit bundle is \$0.095 on an ADC pallet, but only \$0.008 on a 5-digit pallet, a difference of \$0.087.

Therefore, as the container presort-level becomes finer, container prices increase but prices for bundles within the container decrease. The lower bundle postage will offset some, all, or more than all of the higher container postage.

Taken as a whole, the inter-relationships among the per-container, per-bundle and per-piece prices in this rate structure provide further incentives for mailers to comail and copalletize.

The rate structure also provides new rates for pallets and for sacks on pallets entered at the destination bulk mail center (DBMC) to ensure efficient handling and consistent service. These rates reflect the cost of cross-docking pallets and do not represent a new pallet or sack sortation level. Mailers can enter Periodicals mail at the DBMCs listed in DMM Exhibit 346.3.1, or at a USPS-designated facility. For DBMC entry, pieces must be prepared in bundles or in sacks on ADC, 3-digit, or 5-digit pallets, and addressed for delivery to one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes served by that BMC.

### New Bundle Rate Structure

We are adopting new rates for bundles of Periodicals mail, but we are not changing the definition of a bundle or the bundling requirements. A “bundle” is a group of addressed pieces secured together as a unit. Pieces are first sorted to destinations and then assembled into groups for bundling based on quantity and other factors. The term bundle does not apply to unsecured groups of pieces (for example, pieces prepared in letter or flat trays and identified by separator cards or tic marks). “Firm bundles” are also groups of pieces that are secured together, but in a firm bundle all pieces are for delivery to the address shown on the top piece.

New Outside-County bundle rates are based on the level of sorting of both the bundle and the container (but not on the type of container). More finely presorted bundles within the same container level have higher rates to reflect more bundle handlings before they are opened. For example, for pieces sorted into a carrier route bundle, and then placed on an ADC pallet or sack, a mailer pays 10.4 cents per bundle. For pieces sorted into an ADC bundle and placed on an ADC pallet or sack, a mailer pays 3.8 cents per bundle. A lower piece rate for pieces in more finely presorted bundles offsets the higher bundle charge.

We propose to apply the bundle rates to all bundles containing Outside-County mail, except for mixed bundles of In-County and Outside-County pieces in carrier route and 5-digit/scheme bundles. This will avoid imposing the Outside-County pricing structure on bundles that will likely contain mostly In-County Periodicals.

Firm bundles are subject to both a piece charge (16.9 cents) and a bundle charge (2.7 cents to 7.9 cents, depending on the container level). Because of this new rate structure, mailers may no longer use firm bundles to satisfy a six-piece bundle requirement to a presort level.

We will charge bundle rates based on the actual number of bundles entered, so mailers must precisely document the number of bundles they produce. Unlike today, where there is no rate impact for a difference between the number of bundles implied by the presort requirements and the actual number of bundles created during production, under the new rates mailers must conscientiously modify software parameters and monitor adherence to physical breaks between bundles to ensure the number of bundles produced matches their documentation.

#### New Piece Rate Structure

Periodicals Outside-County prices include new piece rates based on shape, machinability, barcoding, and presort level. The presort level of the piece is based primarily on the bundle level of the piece, with one exception: The presort level of pieces loose in trays is based on the container level.

While the new structure eliminates the per-piece discounts for pieces on pallets, including the experimental copalletization discounts, the container and bundle charges are designed to encourage copalletization. The new structure also eliminates the per-piece discounts for destination area distribution center (DADC), destination sectional center facility (DSCF), and destination delivery unit (DDU) entry, but recognizes instead the associated cost savings in the new DADC, DSCF, and DDU rates for editorial pounds, as well as in the container rates.

We divide the piece rates into "letter" rates, "machinable flats" rates, and "nonmachinable flats and parcel" rates, with the exception of carrier route rates, which we divide only according to saturation, high density, and basic rates.

#### Letters

We provide letter rates for "barcoded" and "nonbarcoded" pieces. Periodicals letters must meet the standards for all letters in DMM 201. Letters mailed at the barcoded rates must include a barcode and must meet the additional standards for automation pieces in DMM 201.3.0. Automation Periodicals letters meet these dimensions:

- For height, no more than 6 $\frac{1}{8}$  or less than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches high.
- For length, no more than 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  or less than 5 inches long.
- For thickness, no more than 0.25 or less than:
  - 0.007 inch thick if no more than 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches high and 6 inches long; or
  - 0.009 inch thick if more than 4 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches high or 6 inches long, or both.
- The maximum weight for each piece is 3.5 ounces.

Periodicals letters mailed at the nonbarcoded rates meet the letter standards in DMM 201 but do not include a barcode. We assigned the machinable—nonbarcoded flats rates to these pieces. Nonbarcoded Periodicals letters meet these dimensions:

- For height, no more than 6 $\frac{1}{8}$  or less than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches high.
- For length, no more than 11 $\frac{1}{2}$  or less than 5 inches long.
- For thickness, no more than 0.25 or less than 0.007-inch thick.
- The maximum weight for each piece is 3.5 ounces.

#### Flats

We divide flats rates into categories for machinable and nonmachinable pieces, and then provide rates for barcoded and nonbarcoded pieces.

For flats prepared in 3-digit, ADC, and mixed ADC bundles and containers, we define "machinable—barcoded" flats as barcoded pieces that we can process on our primary flats-sorting equipment, the automated flat sorting machine (AFSM 100). These pieces must meet our standards for minimum flexibility, maximum deflection, and uniform thickness, and use automation-compatible polywrap (if polywrapped). Machinable—barcoded Periodicals flats meet these dimensions:

- Minimum height is 5 inches. Maximum height is 12 inches.
- Minimum length is 6 inches. Maximum length is 15 inches.
- For bound or folded pieces, the edge perpendicular to the bound or folded edge may not exceed 12 inches.
- Minimum thickness is 0.009 inch. Maximum thickness is 0.75 inch.
- The maximum weight for each piece is 20 ounces.

These pieces are defined in DMM 301.3.0 and match our standards for Standard Mail flat-size pieces mailed at automation rates, with a different weight limit.

"Machinable—nonbarcoded" flats prepared in 3-digit, ADC, and mixed ADC bundles and containers meet the same dimensions noted above, but they do not include a barcode.

For flats prepared in 3-digit, ADC, and mixed ADC bundles and containers, we define "nonmachinable—barcoded" flats as barcoded pieces that we can process on the upgraded flat sorting machine (UFSM 1000) and potentially in the future flats sequencing environment; therefore, the requirements are slightly more restrictive than current UFSM 1000 requirements. These pieces must meet our standards for uniform thickness and use automation-compatible polywrap (if polywrapped), but they are not

currently subject to our standards for minimum flexibility and maximum deflection. Nonmachinable—barcoded Periodicals flats meet these dimensions:

- Minimum height is 5 inches. Maximum height is 12 inches.
- Minimum length is 6 inches. Maximum length is 15 inches.
- Minimum thickness is 0.009 inch. Maximum thickness is 1.25 inches.
- The maximum weight for each piece is 4.4 pounds.

These pieces are defined in proposed DMM 707.26.0, and they are unique to Periodicals mail.

For pieces prepared in 5-digit bundles and containers, we define "machinable—barcoded" flats as those pieces prepared under 301.3.0 that we can process on the AFSM 100, and those pieces prepared under 707.26 that we can process on the UFSM 1000 and potentially on the future flats sequencing system. This definition will help us align Periodicals mail with the flats sequencing system, which will likely process a wider variety of flat-shaped mail than the AFSM 100 can process, and also recognizes that only some flats prepared in 5-digit bundles are sorted to carrier routes by the AFSM 100, while the rest are sorted manually. We are not proposing to change the standards for combining AFSM 100—compatible (defined in 301.3.0) and UFSM 1000—compatible (defined in 707.26.0) pieces in the same bundle.

"Machinable—nonbarcoded" flats prepared in 5-digit bundles and containers meet the same dimensions noted above, but they do not include a barcode. The rate design includes a price for "nonmachinable—barcoded—flats prepared in 5-digit bundles, but mailers will not use this rate because we allow these UFSM 1000-compatible barcoded pieces to pay the lower, machinable—barcoded rates at the 5-digit level.

For all sort levels, we define "nonmachinable—nonbarcoded" flats as barcoded or nonbarcoded pieces that do not meet the standards in DMM 301.3.0 or in proposed 707.26.0.

#### Parcels

Periodicals parcels are pieces that cannot be processed on our primary flat-sorting equipment. This rate category includes rigid and parcel-like pieces, pieces in boxes, and tubes and rolls. Parcels exceed the weight or dimensions for machinable flats in DMM 707.26, but cannot weigh more than 70 pounds or measure more than 108 inches in length and girth combined (for parcels, length is the longest dimension and girth is the distance around the thickest part).

Parcel rates are the “nonmachinable flats and parcels—nonbarcoded” rates, whether or not the parcel includes a barcode.

### New Pound Rate Structure

For advertising pounds, the new price structure retains zoned rates and per-pound incentives for DADC, DSCF, and DDU entry. For editorial pounds, postage from any entry point upstream from the DADC will continue to be unzoned, but there are new per-pound incentives for DADC, DSCF, and DDU entry. There are no pound-rate incentives for DBMC entry.

### Documentation

We propose new documentation requirements in DMM 708.1.0, including a new bundle report, a new container report, and a new column on the USPS qualification report indicating which bundles and containers are subject to the Outside-County bundle and container rates. As we stated above, we will charge bundle rates based on the actual number of bundles entered, and the new documentation will help us verify that mailers have correctly prepared and paid for their mailings. We are not changing the documentation requirements for In-County mail.

Although we are exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C 410(a)), we invite your comments on the following proposed revisions to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR part 111.

### List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

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

### PART 111—[AMENDED]

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

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

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

### 200 Discount Letters and Cards

### 201 Physical Standards

\* \* \* \* \*

### 3.0 Physical Standards for Automation Letters and Cards

\* \* \* \* \*

### 3.5 Weight Standards for Periodicals Automation Letters

Maximum weight limit for Periodicals automation letters (see 3.13.4 for pieces heavier than 3 ounces) is 3.5 ounces (0.2188 pound).

\* \* \* \* \*

### 700 Special Standards

\* \* \* \* \*

### 705 Advanced Preparation and Special Postage Payment Systems

\* \* \* \* \*

### 8.0 Preparation for Pallets

\* \* \* \* \*

### 8.9 Bundles on Pallets

\* \* \* \* \*

### 8.9.3 Periodicals

Bundle size: Six-piece minimum (lower-volume bundles permitted under 707.22.0, Preparing Presorted Periodicals, and 707.23.0, Preparing Carrier Route Periodicals), 20-pound maximum, except:

*[Revise item a to remove the option to count firm bundles as one piece for presort standards as follows:]*

a. Firm bundles may contain as few as two copies of a publication. Mailers must not consolidate firm bundles with other bundles to the same 5-digit destination.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 9.0 Preparing Cotrayed and Cosacked Bundles of Automation and Presorted Flats

\* \* \* \* \*

### 9.2 Periodicals

\* \* \* \* \*

### 9.2.5 Sack Preparation and Labeling

Nonbarcoded rate and barcoded rate bundles prepared under 9.2.2, 9.2.3, and 9.2.4 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 707.21.0 for other sack label criteria. If, due to the physical size of the mailpieces, the barcoded rate pieces are considered flat-size under 301.3.0 and the nonbarcoded rate pieces are considered parcels under 401.1.6, the processing category shown on the sack label must show “FLTS.”

*[Revise item a to require scheme sorting as follows:]*

a. 5-digit/scheme, required; scheme sort required only for pieces meeting the criteria in 301.3.0; 24-piece minimum, fewer pieces not permitted; labeling:

1. Line 1: For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L007, Column B. For 5-digit sacks,

use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination on pieces.

2. Line 2: “PER” or “NEWS” as applicable and, for 5-digit scheme sacks, “FLT 5D SCH BC/NBC;” for 5-digit sacks, “FLT 5D BC/NBC.”

\* \* \* \* \*

### 10.0 Preparation for Merged Containerization of Bundles of Flats Using City State Product

### 10.1 Periodicals

### 10.1.1 Basic Standards

Carrier route bundles in a carrier route rate mailing may be placed in the same sack or on the same pallet as 5-digit bundles from a barcoded rate mailing and 5-digit bundles from a nonbarcoded rate mailing (including pieces cobundled under 11.0) under the following conditions:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item j to remove the option to count firm bundles toward the six-piece minimum for rate eligibility as follows:]*

j. For mailings prepared in sacks, mailers may not combine firm bundles and 5-digit scheme bundles in 5-digit scheme (L007) bundles. 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 sacks.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 11.0 Preparing Cobundled Barcoded Rate and Nonbarcoded Rate Flats

\* \* \* \* \*

### 11.2 Periodicals

### 11.2.1 Basic Standards

*[Revise the introductory text in 11.2.1 to require 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme sort and eliminate distinctions between AFSM 100 and UFSM 1000 flats as follows:]*

Mailers may choose to cobundle (see 707.18.4ab) barcoded rate and nonbarcoded rate flat-size pieces as an option to the basic bundling requirements in 707.22.0 and 707.25.0. 5-digit scheme and 3-digit scheme bundles also must meet the additional standards in 707.18.4i and 707.18.4r. Mailing jobs (for flats meeting the criteria in 301.3.0) prepared using the 5-digit scheme and/or the 3-digit scheme bundle preparation must be sacked under 10.0 or palletized under 10.0, 12.0, or 13.0. All bundles are subject to the following conditions:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item g as follows:]*

g. Within a bundle, all pieces must meet the requirements in 301.3.0 or all

pieces must meet the requirements in 707.26.0.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 11.2.2 Bundle Preparation

*[Revise the introductory text in 11.2.2 to specify that pieces meeting the criteria in 301.3.0 must be scheme-sorted as follows:]*

Pieces meeting the criteria in 301.3.0 must be prepared in 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007 and in 3-digit scheme bundles for those 3-digit ZIP Codes identified in L008. Preparation sequence, bundle size, and labeling:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item b to require 5-digit scheme bundles as follows:]*

b. 5-digit scheme, required; \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item d to require 3-digit scheme bundles as follows:]*

d. 3-digit scheme, required; \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

### 15.0 Plant-Verified Drop Shipment

\* \* \* \* \*

### 15.2 Program Participation

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 15.2.4 Periodicals

*[Revise 15.2.4 to reflect the new rate structure for Periodicals mail as follows:]*

Periodicals postage must be paid at the post office verifying the copies or as designated by the district. Postage is calculated from the destination USPS facility where deposited and accepted as mail (or from the facility where the Express Mail or Priority Mail Open and Distribute destinates). The publisher must ensure that sufficient funds are on deposit to pay for all shipments before their release. A publisher authorized under an alternative postage payment system must pay postage under the corresponding standards.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 16.0 Express Mail Open and Distribute and Priority Mail Open and Distribute

*[Revise heading of 16.1 as follows:]*

#### 16.1 Description

\* \* \* \* \*

##### 16.1.4 Basis of Rate

*[Revise 16.1.4 to specify that container rates do not apply to Express Mail and Priority Mail Open and Distribute sacks as follows:]*

Mailers must pay Express Mail and Priority Mail postage based on the weight of the entire contents of the

Express Mail or Priority Mail shipment. Do not include the tare weight of the external container. Do not apply Priority Mail dimensional weight pricing or Periodicals container rates to the external container.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 707 Periodicals

#### 1.0 Rates and Fees

##### 1.1 Outside-County—Excluding Science-of-Agriculture

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber 1.1.3 through 1.1.5 as new 1.1.5 through 1.1.7. Insert new 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 as follows:]*

##### 1.1.3 Outside-County Bundle Rates

Rate for each bundle containing Outside-County Periodicals mail (see 2.1.7 for how to apply these rates):

*[We provide all of the new rates for Periodicals mail at the end of this proposal.]*

##### 1.1.4 Outside-County Container Rates

Rate for each pallet, sack, tray, or other USPS-approved container containing Outside-County Periodicals mail (see 2.1.8 for how to apply these rates):

*[We provide all of the new rates for Periodicals mail at the end of this proposal.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

##### 1.2 Outside-County—Science-of-Agriculture

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber 1.2.3 as new 1.2.5. Insert new 1.2.3 and 1.2.4 as follows:]*

##### 1.2.3 Outside-County Bundle Rates

Rate for each bundle containing Outside-County Periodicals mail (see 2.1.7 for how to apply these rates):

*[We provide all of the new rates for Periodicals mail at the end of this proposal.]*

##### 1.2.4 Outside-County Container Rates

Rate for each pallet, sack, tray, or other USPS-approved container containing Outside-County Periodicals mail (see 2.1.8 for how to apply these rates):

*[We provide all of the new rates for Periodicals mail at the end of this proposal.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

### 2.0 Rate Application and Computation

#### 2.1 Rate Application

##### 2.1.1 Rate Elements

*[Revise 2.1.1 to reflect the new Outside-County bundle and container*

*rates and the new nonadvertising pound rate structure as follows:]*

Postage for Periodicals mail includes a pound rate charge, a piece rate charge, bundle and container rate charges for Outside-County mail, and any discounts for which the mail qualifies under the corresponding standards.

*[Renumber 2.1.2 through 2.1.5 as 2.1.3 through 2.1.6. Add new 2.1.2 to reflect the new piece rate structure as follows:]*

##### 2.1.2 Applying Piece Rate

Apply piece rates based on the following criteria:

- The shape of the mailpiece (letter, flat, or parcel).
- The characteristics of the mailpiece (machinable or nonmachinable). See 18.4ac and 18.4ad.
- The use of a barcode.
- The bundle level.

##### 2.1.3 Applying Pound Rate

*[Revise renumbered 2.1.3 to reflect the new nonadvertising rate structure and to clarify item b as follows:]*

Apply pound rates to the weight of the pieces in the mailing as follows:

- Outside-County and Science-of-Agriculture Outside-County pound rates are based on the weight of the advertising portion sent to each postal zone (as computed from the entry office) or destination entry zone, and the weight of the nonadvertising portion to a destination entry zone or a single rate to all other zones.
- In-County pound rates consist of a DDU entry rate and an unzoned rate for eligible copies delivered within the county of publication.

*[Revise the heading of renumbered 2.1.4 as follows:]*

##### 2.1.4 Computing Weight of Advertising and Nonadvertising Portions

*[Revise renumbered 2.1.4 to reflect the new nonadvertising rate structure as follows:]*

The pound rate charge is the sum of the charges for the computed weight of the advertising portion of copies to each destination entry and zone, plus the sum of the charges for the computed weight of the nonadvertising portion of copies to each destination entry and all other zones. The following standards apply:

- The minimum pound rate charge for any zone to which copies are mailed is the 1-pound rate. For example, three 2-ounce copies for a zone are subject to the minimum 1-pound charge.
- Authorized Nonprofit and Classroom publications with an advertising percentage that is 10% or

less are considered 100% nonadvertising. When computing the pound rates and the nonadvertising adjustment, use "0" as the advertising percentage. Authorized Nonprofit and Classroom publications claiming 0% advertising must pay the nonadvertising pound rate for the entire weight of all copies to all zones.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Insert new 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 as follows:]*

### 2.1.7 Applying Bundle Rates

For mailings prepared in bundles, mailers pay the bundle rate according to the presort level of the bundle and the presort level of the container that the bundle is placed in or on. The bundle rates are in addition to the container rates in 2.1.8. The following standards apply:

- a. Bundles of fewer than six pieces under 25.1.5 (including single-piece bundles) must each pay the applicable bundle charge.
- b. For bundles containing both In-County and Outside-County pieces, mailers do not pay the bundle rate for carrier route and 5-digit/scheme bundles.

### 2.1.8 Applying Container Rates

For mailings prepared in trays, sacks, pallets, and other USPS-approved containers, mailers pay the container rate according to the type of container, the presort level of the container, and where the mail is entered. The container rates are in addition to the bundle rates in 2.1.7. The following standards apply:

- a. For mailings prepared in trays or sacks, mailers pay the container rate for each tray or sack based on container level and entry.
- b. For mailings prepared on pallets under 705.8.0:
  1. For bundles on pallets, mailers pay the container rate for each pallet.
  2. For trays or sacks on pallets, mailers pay the container rate for each tray or sack, and not for the pallets. The container rate for each tray or sack is based on the container level and entry.
- c. For containers with both In-County and Outside-County pieces, mailers do not pay the container rate for carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, and 5-digit/scheme pallets, sacks, and trays.

### 2.2 Computing Postage

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber 2.2.7 as 2.2.8. Insert new 2.2.7 to compute the Outside-County bundle and container rates as follows:]*

### 2.2.7 Outside-County Bundle and Container Charges

The Outside-County bundle charge is the sum of the number of bundles for

each bundle level and container level in the mailing subject to the Outside-County bundle rates (see 1.1.3 and 1.2.3), multiplied by the applicable bundle rates. The Outside-County container charge is the sum of the number of containers for each container type, container level, and entry level in the mailing subject to the Outside-County container rates (see 1.1.4 and 1.2.4), multiplied by the applicable container rates. Mailers who prepare Periodicals publications as a combined mailing by merging copies or bundles of copies under 27.0 may pay the Outside-County bundle and container charges in one of the following ways:

- a. On one publisher's Form 3541.
- b. On one consolidated Form 3541. Under this option, the consolidator must complete the appropriate sections of the form and pay the charges from the consolidator's own advance deposit account.
- c. Apportioned on each publisher's Form 3541. The following standards apply:

1. The qualification report must be submitted electronically via Mail.dat. See 708.1.0 for additional documentation requirements.
2. The total charges on all Form 3541s in a combined mailing must equal the total charges for all bundles and containers subject to the Outside-County container rates presented for mailing.
3. Apportion the bundle charge for each title or edition by determining how many of each type of bundle that title or edition is in. Next calculate the percentage of copies in each of those bundles and convert to four decimal places, rounding if necessary (for example, convert 20.221% to .2022). Add the decimal values for each type of bundle in the mailing and multiply the total by the applicable bundle rate in 1.1.3 and 1.2.3. Add the bundle charges to determine the total for each title or edition.
4. Apportion the container charge for each title or edition by determining how many of each type of container that title or edition is in. Next calculate the percentage of copies in each of those containers and convert to four decimal places, rounding if necessary (for example, convert 20.221% to .2022). Add the decimal values for each type of container in the mailing and multiply the total by the applicable container rate in 1.1.4 and 1.2.4. Add the container charges to determine the total for each title or edition.

### 2.2.8 Total Postage

*[Revise renumbered 2.2.8 to reflect the new Outside-County container rates as follows:]*

Total Outside-County postage is the sum of the per pound and per piece charges, the bundle charges, the container charges, and any Ride-Along and Repositionable Notes charges; minus all discounts; rounded off to the nearest whole cent. Total In-County postage is the sum of the per pound and per piece charges, and any Ride-Along and Repositionable Notes charges, less all discounts, rounded off to the nearest whole cent.

### 3.0 Physical Characteristics and Content Eligibility

\* \* \* \* \*

### 3.5 Mailpiece Construction

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 3.5.2 Size and Weight

*[Revise 3.5.2 as follows:]*

Periodicals mail may not weigh more than 70 pounds or measure more than 108 inches in length and girth combined. Additional size and weight limits apply to letters and machinable and nonmachinable pieces. Requester publications must contain at least 24 pages per issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 11.0 Basic Rate Eligibility

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 11.4 Discounts

The following discounts are available:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Delete item c to eliminate the pallet discounts.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

### 15.0 Ride-Along Rate Eligibility

\* \* \* \* \*

### 15.3 Physical Characteristics

The host Periodicals piece and the Ride-Along piece must meet the following physical characteristics:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item c as follows:]*

- c. A Periodicals piece with a Ride-Along must maintain the same processing category as before the addition of the Ride-Along. For example, if, due to the inclusion of a Ride-Along piece, a barcoded letter-size host piece can no longer be processed as a barcoded letter, then that piece must pay the Periodicals nonbarcoded letter rate for the host piece plus the Ride-Along rate or the Standard Mail rate for the attachment or enclosure.

\* \* \* \* \*

**16.0 Postage Payment**

\* \* \* \* \*

**16.4 Payment Method**

*[Revise 16.4 to clarify payment options in a combined mailing as follows:]*

Mailers must pay Periodicals postage by advance deposit account at the original or additional entry post office, except under procedures in 16.5 for Centralized Postage Payment or in 705.15.2.4. Mailers may not pay postage for Periodicals using permit imprint, meter stamp, postage stamp, or precanceled stamps. Mailers must pay postage for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail enclosures under 703.9.8 through 703.9.12 and 705.16.1. Mailers who prepare Periodicals publications as a combined mailing by merging copies or bundles of copies under 27.0 may pay the Outside-County bundle and container charges on one mailer's Form 3541, on one consolidated Form 3541, or on each mailer's Form 3541 (see 2.2.7).

\* \* \* \* \*

**17.0 Documentation**

\* \* \* \* \*

**17.7 Additional Standards**

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Insert new 17.7.4 as follows:]*

**17.7.4 Outside-County Bundle and Container Rate Documentation**

A complete, signed postage statement, using the correct USPS form or an approved facsimile, must accompany each mailing, supported by standardized documentation meeting the basic standards in 708.1.0. The documentation must show how many bundles are used and how many trays, sacks, and pallets are required for the rates and discounts claimed.

**18.0 General Information for Mail Preparation**

\* \* \* \* \*

**18.3 Presort Terms**

Terms used for presort levels are defined as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise items e and p for scheme sorting as follows:]*

*e. 5-digit scheme (bundles and sacks) for flats prepared according to 301.3.0:* the ZIP Code in the delivery address on all pieces is one of the 5-digit ZIP Codes processed by the USPS as a single scheme, as shown in L007.

\* \* \* \* \*

*p. 3-digit scheme bundles for flats prepared according to 301.3.0:* the ZIP

Code in the delivery address on all pieces is one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes processed by the USPS as a single scheme, as shown in L008.

\* \* \* \* \*

**18.4 Mail Preparation Terms**

For purposes of preparing mail:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise item b to require trays to be at least 85% full as follows:]*

*b. A full letter tray is one in which faced, upright pieces fill the length of the tray between 85% and 100% full.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise items i and r for scheme sorting as follows:]*

*i. A 5-digit scheme sort for flats prepared according to 301.3.0 yields 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007. Mailers must presort according to L007. Pieces prepared in scheme bundles must meet the automation flat criteria in 301.3.0. Mailpieces must be labeled using an optional endorsement line under 708.7.0. Periodicals firm bundles must not be combined within 5-digit scheme bundles.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*r. A 3-digit scheme sort for flats prepared according to 301.3.0 yields 3-digit scheme bundles for those 3-digit ZIP Codes identified in L008. The 3-digit scheme sort is optional, except under 705.12.0 and 705.13.0. For 705.12.0 and 705.13.0, mailers must presort according to L008. Pieces prepared in scheme bundles must meet the automation flat criteria in 301.3.0. Mailers must label mailpieces using an OEL under 708.7.0. Periodicals firm bundles must not be combined within 3-digit scheme bundles.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Insert new items ac and ad to define "machinability" as follows:]*

*ac. Machinable flats are:*

1. Flat-size pieces meeting the standards in 301.3.0 that are sorted into 5-digit, 3-digit, ADC, and mixed ADC bundles. These pieces are compatible with processing on the AFSM 100, or
2. Flat-size pieces meeting the standards in 26.0 that are sorted into 5-digit bundles.

*ad. Nonmachinable flats are flat-size pieces meeting the standards in 26.0, with the exception of 5-digit pieces under 18.4ac (item 2) above. Nonmachinable flats are not compatible with processing on the AFSM 100.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**22.0 Preparing Nonbarcoded Periodicals**

\* \* \* \* \*

**22.2 Bundle Preparation**

*[Revise the introductory text of 22.2 to specify that pieces must meet the criteria in 301.3.0 for scheme sorting as follows:]*

Mailings consisting entirely of nonbarcoded pieces meeting the criteria in 301.3.0 may be prepared in 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007 and in 3-digit scheme bundles for those 3-digit ZIP Codes identified in L008. A bundle must be prepared when the quantity of addressed pieces for a required presort level reaches the minimum bundle size (except under 22.7). Smaller volumes are not permitted except in mixed ADC bundles and 5-digit/scheme and 3-digit/scheme bundles prepared under 22.4. Bundling is also subject to 19.0, Bundles. Preparation sequence, bundle size, and labeling:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber items b through f as new items c through g. Insert new item b as follows:]*

*b. 5-digit scheme (optional); six-piece minimum; OEL.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber new items d through g as items e through h. Insert new item d as follows:]*

*d. 3-digit scheme (optional); six-piece minimum; OEL.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Revise 22.3 to remove the option to count firm bundles toward the six-piece bundle requirement for a presort destination as follows:]*

**22.3 Firm Bundles**

A "firm bundle" is defined as two or more copies for the same address placed in one bundle. If each copy has a delivery address, each may be claimed as a separate piece for presort and on the postage statement, or the firm bundle may be claimed as one addressed piece. A firm bundle claimed as one addressed piece must be physically separate from other bundles and may not be used to satisfy a six-piece bundle requirement to a presort destination.

\* \* \* \* \*

**22.6 Sack Preparation—Flat-Size Pieces and Parcels**

For mailing jobs that also contain a barcoded rate mailing under 301.3.0, see 22.1.2 and 705.9.0 or 705.10.0. For mailing jobs that do not contain barcoded rate pieces, preparation sequence, sack size, and labeling:

*[Renumber items a through g as new items b through h. Insert new item a for scheme sorting as follows:]*



a. 5-digit scheme; optional; for pieces meeting the standards in 301.3.0; 24-piece minimum, fewer pieces not permitted.

1. Line 1: L007, Column B.
2. Line 2: "PER" or NEWS" as applicable, followed by "FLTS 5D SCH NON BC."

\* \* \* \* \*

## 22.7 Optional Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Nonbarcoded Pieces

*[Revise the introductory text in 22.7 to specify that pieces must meet the criteria in 301.3.0 and to add the container charge for trays as follows:]*

As an option, mailers may place in flat-size trays the pieces prepared under 301.3.0 that would normally be placed in ADC, origin mixed ADC, or mixed ADC sacks. The trays are subject to the container charge in 1.1.4 or 1.2.4. Pieces must not be secured in bundles and are not subject to a bundle charge. Mailers must group together pieces for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, and ADC destination as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

## 23.0 Preparing Carrier Route Periodicals

\* \* \* \* \*

## 23.4 Preparation—Flat-Size Pieces and Irregular Parcels

\* \* \* \* \*

### 23.4.2 Exception to Sacking

*[Revise the introductory text in 23.4.2 to specify that mailers do not pay the container charge as follows:]*

Sacking is not required for bundles prepared for and entered at a DDU when the mailer unloads bundles under 29.4.6. Mail presented under this exception is not subject to the container charge. Mailers must prepare unsacked bundles as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

## 25.0 Preparing Flat-Size Periodicals With Barcodes

### 25.1 Basic Standards

#### 25.1.1 General

*[Revise 25.1.1 to reference 301.3.0 as follows:]*

Each piece must meet the physical standards in 301.3.0 or in 26.0. Bundle, sack, and tray preparation are subject to 18.0 through 21.0 and this section. Trays and sacks must bear the appropriate barcoded container labels under 708.6.0.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### 25.1.5 Bundle Preparation

*[Revise 25.1.5 for clarity and to update the cross-references as follows:]*

All pieces must be prepared in bundles (except under 25.6) and meet the following requirements:

- a. Pieces that meet the standards in 301.3.0 must be prepared in separate bundles from pieces that meet the standards in 26.0.

\* \* \* \* \*

- c. Each bundle of pieces prepared under 301.3.0 and each bundle of pieces prepared under 26.0 must separately meet the bundle minimums in 25.4.

- d. Bundles may contain fewer than six pieces when the mailpieces are too thick or too heavy to create a six-piece bundle. Piece rate eligibility is not affected if the total number of pieces bundled for a presort destination meets or exceeds the minimum for rate eligibility under 14.0.

#### 25.1.6 Scheme Bundle Preparation

*[Revise 25.1.6 as follows:]*

Pieces must be prepared in 5-digit scheme bundles for those 5-digit ZIP Codes identified in L007 and in 3-digit scheme bundles for those 3-digit ZIP Codes identified in L008. These bundles must meet the additional standards in 18.4i or 18.4r.

#### 25.1.7 Sack Preparation

*[Revise 25.1.7 as follows:]*

Mailers may combine bundles of pieces prepared under 301.3.0 and bundles of pieces prepared under 26.0 in the same sack, with the exception of 5-digit scheme sacks, which may contain only pieces prepared under 301.3.0.

#### 25.1.8 Exception—Barcoded and Nonbarcoded Flats on Pallets

*[Revise 25.1.8 as follows:]*

When the physical dimensions of the mailpieces in a Periodicals mailing meet the definition of both a letter-size piece and a machinable barcoded flat-size piece, the entire job may be prepared, merged, and palletized under 705.9.0 through 705.13.0. The following standards apply:

- a. The nonbarcoded portion is paid at the nonbarcoded rates.
- b. Mailing jobs prepared entirely in sacks and claiming this exception must be cobundled under 705.11.0.
- c. As an alternative to 705.9.0 through 705.13.0, if a portion of the job is prepared as palletized barcoded flats, the nonbarcoded portion may be prepared as palletized flats and paid at nonbarcoded machinable and carrier route rates. The nonbarcoded rate pieces that cannot be placed on ADC or finer pallets may be prepared as flats in sacks and paid at the nonbarcoded rates.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber 25.2 through 25.4 as new 25.3 through 25.5. Insert new 25.2 as follows:]*

### 25.2 Physical Standards

Each flat-size piece must be rectangular and must meet the standards in 301.3.0 or, for 5-digit pieces, in 26.0.

### 25.3 Bundling and Labeling

Preparation sequence, bundle size, and labeling:

*[Revise items a and c to require scheme bundling as follows:]*

- a. 5-digit scheme (required); six-piece minimum (fewer pieces permitted under 25.1.9); OEL required.

\* \* \* \* \*

- c. 3-digit scheme (required); six-piece minimum (fewer pieces permitted under 25.1.9); OEL required.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 25.4 Sacking and Labeling

For mailing jobs that also contain a nonbarcoded rate mailing, see 25.1.10 and 705.9.0. Other mailing jobs are prepared, sacked, and labeled as follows:

*[Revise item a as follows:]*

- a. 5-digit scheme, required at 24 pieces, fewer pieces not permitted; may contain 5-digit scheme bundles only; labeling:

\* \* \* \* \*

### 25.6 Optional Tray Preparation—Flat-Size Barcoded Pieces

*[Revise the introductory text in renumbered 25.6 to specify that pieces must meet the criteria in 301.3.0 and to add the container charge for trays as follows:]*

As an option, mailers may place in trays pieces prepared under 301.3.0 that would normally be placed in ADC, origin mixed ADC, or mixed ADC sacks. The trays are subject to the container charge in 1.1.4 or 1.2.4. Pieces must not be secured in bundles. Mailers must group together pieces for each 5-digit scheme, 5-digit, 3-digit scheme, 3-digit, and ADC destination as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber 26.0 through 29.0 as 27.0 through 30.0. Insert new 26.0 as follows:]*

## 26.0 Alternative Physical Criteria for Flat-Size Periodicals

### 26.1 General

Mailers may prepare barcoded flat-size pieces according to 25.0 above. These pieces may not be combined in the same bundle with pieces prepared under 301.3.0. Determine length and height according to 301.1.2.



**26.2 Weight and Size**

The maximum weight for each piece is 4.4 pounds. The following minimum and maximum dimensions apply:

- a. Minimum height is 5 inches. Maximum height is 12 inches.
- b. Minimum length is 6 inches. Maximum length is 15 inches.
- c. Minimum thickness is 0.009 inch. Maximum thickness is 1.25 inches.

**26.3 Address Placement on Folded Pieces**

Mailers must design folded pieces so that the address is in view when the final folded edge is to the right and any intermediate bound or folded edge is at the bottom of the piece. Unbound flat-size pieces must be at least double-folded.

**26.4 Flexibility and Deflection**

Pieces prepared under 26.0 are not subject to the minimum standards for flexibility in 301.1.4 or the maximum standards for deflection in 301.3.2.4.

**26.5 Additional Criteria**

Pieces must meet the standards for polywrap coverings in 301.3.3; protrusions and staples in 301.3.4; tabs, wafer seals, tape, and glue in 301.3.5; and uniform thickness and exterior format in 301.3.6.

**27.0 Combining Multiple Editions or Publications**

*[Reorganize and revise renumbered 27.0 to add the definition and standards for copalletized mailings. The experimental copalletization drop-ship classifications in 709.3.0 and 709.4.0 expire, and all mailers may copalletize as follows:]*

**27.1 Description**

Mailers may prepare Periodicals publications as a combined mailing by merging copies or bundles of copies to achieve the finest presort level possible or to reduce the total Outside-County postage. Mailers may use the following methods:

- a. Mailers may merge and sort together ("comail") individually addressed copies of different editions of a Periodicals publication (one title) or individually addressed copies of different Periodicals publications (more than one title) to obtain finer presort levels.

- b. Mailers may place two or more copies of different Periodicals publications (two or more titles), and/or multiple editions of the same publication in the same mailing wrapper or firm bundle and present it as one addressed piece to a single

addressee to reduce the per piece charge.

- c. Mailers may copalletize separately presorted bundles of different Periodicals titles and editions to achieve minimum pallet weights. Mailers do not have to achieve the finest pallet presort level possible.

**27.2 Authorization****27.2.1 Basic Standards**

Each publication in a combined mailing must be authorized (or pending authorization) to mail at Periodicals rates. Each mailer must be authorized to comail or copalletize mailings under 27.1a and 27.1c by Business Mailer Support (see 608.8.1 for address). Requests for authorization must show:

- a. The mailer's name and address.
- b. The mailing office.
- c. Procedures and quality control measures for the combined mailing.
- d. The expected date of the first mailing.
- e. A sample of the standardized documentation.

**27.2.2 Denial**

If the application is denied, the mailer or consolidator may reapply at a later date, or submit additional information needed to support the request.

**27.2.3 Termination**

An authorization may not exceed 2 years. Business Mailer Support may take action to terminate an authorization at any time, by written notice, if the mailer does not meet the standards.

**27.3 Minimum Volume**

The following minimum volume standards apply:

- a. For combined mailings prepared under 27.1a, more than one Periodicals publication, or edition of a publication, are combined to meet the required minimum volume per bundle, sack, or tray for the rate claimed.
- b. For combined mailings prepared under 27.1b, the minimum volume requirements in 201.3.0 (for letters) or in 22.0, 23.0, or 25.0 apply for the rate claimed.
- c. For copalletized mailings prepared under 27.1c, the minimum volume requirements for pallets in 705.8.5.3 apply for the rate claimed.

**27.4 Labeling**

Mailers must label all containers in a combined mailing as either "NEWS" (see 21.1.3) or "PER" as follows:

- a. If at least 51% of the total number of copies in the combined mailing can qualify for "NEWS" treatment then all containers in the mailing are labeled "NEWS," unless the mailer chooses to use "PER."

- b. If less than 51% of the total number of copies in a combined mailing can qualify for "NEWS" treatment then all containers in the mailing are labeled "PER."

**27.5 Documentation**

Each mailing must be accompanied by documentation meeting the standards in 17.0, as well as any additional mailing information requested by the USPS to support the postage claimed (such as advertising percentage and weight per copy). The following additional standards apply:

- a. Presort documentation required under 708.1.0 must show the total number of addressed pieces and total number of copies for each publication and each edition in the combined mailing claimed at the carrier route, 5-digit, 3-digit, and ADC/mixed ADC rates. The mailer also must provide a list, by 3-digit ZIP Code prefix, of the number of addressed pieces for each publication and each edition claimed at any destination entry discount.

- b. Copalletized mailing documentation must consolidate and identify each title and version (or edition) in the mailing. Mailers may use codes in the summary heading to represent each title and version (or edition) presorted together on pallets. The documentation must include presort and pallet reports showing by title and version (or edition) how the bundles are presorted and where they will be entered.

**27.6 Postage Statements**

Mailers must prepare postage statements for a combined mailing as follows:

- a. Copy weight and advertising percentage determine whether separate postage statements are required for editions of the same publication:

- 1. If the copy weight and advertising percentage for all editions of a publication are the same, mailers may report all the editions on the same postage statement or each edition on a separate postage statement.

- 2. If the copy weight or the advertising percentage is different for each edition of a publication, mailers must report each edition on a separate postage statement.

- b. For a combined mailing prepared under 27.1a, mailers must prepare a separate postage statement that claims all applicable per piece, per pound charges, and bundle and container charges (if apportioned) for each publication or edition. The mailer must annotate on, or attach to, each postage statement, the title and issue date of each publication or edition and indicate

that the pieces were prepared as part of a combined mailing under 27.1a.

c. For mailings under 27.1b, mailers must prepare a separate postage statement claiming the applicable per pound charges for each publication or edition in the combined mailing except as provided in 27.2.5a. The mailer must annotate on, or attach to, each postage statement, the title and issue date of each publication or edition and indicate that the copies were prepared as part of a combined mailing under 27.1b. The per piece charges must be claimed as follows:

1. If all copies in the combined mailing are eligible for the Classroom or Nonprofit discount, or if all copies are not eligible for the Classroom or Nonprofit discount, mailers may claim the per piece charges only on the postage statement for the publication that contains the highest amount of advertising.

2. If a portion of the copies in the combined mailing are eligible for the Classroom or Nonprofit discount and a portion are not eligible, mailers may claim the per piece charges only on the postage statement for the publication that contains the highest amount of advertising and is not eligible for the Classroom or Nonprofit discount. The Classroom or Nonprofit per piece discount must not be claimed.

d. For copalletized mailings under 27.1c, mailers must prepare a separate postage statement for each publication in the mailing. One consolidated postage statement and a register of mailings for each publication must accompany mailings consisting of different editions or versions of the same publication.

## 27.7 Postage Payment

Each mailing must meet the postage payment standards in 16.0. For copalletized mailings under 27.1c, mailers must pay postage at the post office serving the facility where consolidation takes place, except that postage for publications authorized under the Centralized Postage Payment (CPP) system may be paid to the Pricing and Classification Service Center (see 608.8.4.1 for address).

## 27.8 Deposit of Mail

Each publication in a combined mailing must be authorized for original entry or additional entry at the post office where the mailing is entered. For copalletized mailings under 27.1c, mailers must enter each mailing at the post office serving the facility where consolidation takes place.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 29.0 Destination Entry Rate Eligibility

### 29.1 Basic Standards

#### 29.1.1 Rate Application

*[Revise renumbered 29.1.1 to eliminate the pallet discounts and add the new container and bundle rates as follows:]*

Outside-County addressed pieces may qualify for destination bulk mail center (DBMC), destination area distribution center (DADC), or destination sectional center facility (DSCF) rates under 29.2 or 29.3. Carrier route rate addressed pieces may qualify for destination delivery unit (DDU) rates under 29.5. Outside-County pieces are subject to the Outside-County bundle rates in 1.1.3 or 1.2.3 and the Outside-County container rates in 1.1.4 or 1.2.4. For all destination entry rate pieces:

a. An individual bundle, tray, sack, or pallet may contain pieces claimed at different destination entry pound rates.

b. In-County carrier route rate addressed pieces may qualify for the DDU discount under 29.5.

c. The advertising and nonadvertising portions may be eligible for DADC, DSCF, or DDU pound rates based on the entry facility and the address on the piece.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Further renumber 29.2 through 29.4 as 29.3 through 29.5. Insert new 29.2 as follows:]*

## 29.2 Destination Bulk Mail Center

### 29.2.1 Definition

For this standard, destination bulk mail center (DBMC) includes the facilities in Exhibit 346.3.1, or a USPS-designated facility.

### 29.2.2 Eligibility

Addressed pieces may be entered at DBMCs as follows:

a. Pieces must be prepared in bundles on pallets or in sacks or trays on pallets (except mixed ADC pallets) under 705.8.0.

b. Pieces must be addressed for delivery to one of the 3-digit ZIP Codes served by the BMC facility where deposited.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 29.3 Destination Area Distribution Center

\* \* \* \* \*

### 29.3.3 Rates

*[Revise renumbered 29.3.3 to reflect the new nonadvertising rate structure as follows:]*

DADC rates include a nonadvertising pound rate and, if applicable, an advertising pound rate.

## 29.4 Destination Sectional Center Facility

\* \* \* \* \*

### 29.4.3 Rates

*[Revise renumbered 29.4.3 to reflect the new nonadvertising rate structure as follows:]*

DSCF rates include a nonadvertising pound rate and, if applicable, an advertising pound rate.

## 29.5 Destination Delivery Unit

\* \* \* \* \*

### 29.5.3 Rates

*[Revise renumbered 29.5.3 to reflect the new nonadvertising rate structure as follows:]*

DDU rates for Outside-County include a nonadvertising pound rate and, if applicable, an advertising pound rate. DDU rates for In-County consist of a pound charge and a per piece discount off the addressed piece rate.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 30.0 Additional Entry

\* \* \* \* \*

## 30.2 Authorization

### 30.2.1 Filing

*[Add new last sentence to renumbered 30.2.1 as follows:]*

The publisher is responsible for timely filing of all forms and supporting documentation to establish, modify, or cancel an additional entry. Under the standards for combining mailings on pallets in 27.0, consolidators may apply for additional entry authorizations, on behalf of publishers, at the post office serving the consolidator's facility.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 708 Technical Specifications

### 1.0 Standardized Documentation for First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, and Flat-Size Bound Printed Matter

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1.2 Format and Content

For First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, and flat-size Bound Printed Matter, standardized documentation includes:

\* \* \* \* \*

c. For mail in trays or sacks, the body of the listing reporting these required elements:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Delete item c8, renumber item c9 as new item c8, and add new item c9 as follows:]*

9. For Periodicals mailings that contain both In-County and Outside-

County pieces, include a separate "Container Charge" and "Bundle Charge" column. The body of the listing must indicate which trays, sacks and bundles are subject to the container or bundle charges and a running total.

d. For bundles on pallets, the body of the listing reporting these required elements:

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Renumber item d7 as item d8. Add new item d7 as follows:]*

7. For Periodicals mailings that contain both In-County and Outside-County pieces, include a separate "Container Charge" and "Bundle Charge" column. The body of the listing must indicate which pallets and bundles are subject to the container or bundle charges and a running total.

*[Revise item e as follows:]*

e. At the end of the documentation, a summary report of the total number of pieces mailed at each postage rate for each mailing reported on the listing by postage payment method (and by entry point for drop shipment mailings) and the total number of pieces in each mailing. This information must correspond to the information reported on the postage statement(s) for the pieces reported. For Periodicals mailings, documentation also must provide:

1. A summary of the total number of each type of bundle in the mailing and the total bundle charge paid. Report only bundles subject to the Outside-County bundle rate under 1.1.3 or 1.2.3.

2. A summary of the total number of each type of container in the mailing and the total container charge paid. Report only trays, sacks, and pallets

subject to the Outside-County container rates under 1.1.4 or 1.2.4.

3. For combined mailings, a summary by individual mailer of the number of each type of bundle and container in the mailing and the bundle and container rate paid. Report only bundles, trays, sacks, and pallets subject to the Outside-County bundle and container rates under 1.1.3 or 1.2.3 and 1.1.4 or 1.2.4.

4. A summary of the total number of copies for each zone, including In-County, delivery unit, SCF, and ADC rates. A separate summary report is not required if a PAVE-certified postage statement facsimile generated by the presort software used to prepare the standardized documentation is presented for each mailing.

5. Additional data if necessary to calculate the amount of postage for the mailing (or additional postage due, or postage to be refunded) if nonidentical-weight pieces that do not bear the correct postage at the rate for which they qualify are included in the mailing, or if different rates of postage are affixed to pieces in the mailing.

\* \* \* \* \*

*[Insert new 1.8 as follows:]*

### **1.8 Bundle and Container Reports for Periodicals Mail**

A publisher must present documentation to support the actual number of bundles and containers of each edition of an issue as explained in 1.8.1 and 1.8.2 below.

#### **1.8.1 Bundle Report**

The bundle report must contain, at a minimum, the following elements:

a. Container identification number.

b. Container type.

c. Container presort level.

d. Bundle ZIP Code.

e. Bundle level.

f. Rate category.

g. Number of copies by version in the bundle.

h. An indicator showing which bundles are subject to the bundle charge.

#### **1.8.2 Container Report**

The container report must contain, at a minimum, the following elements:

a. Container identification number.

b. Container type.

c. Container level.

d. Container entry level (origin, DDU, DSCF, DADC, or DBMC).

e. An indicator showing which containers are subject to the container charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **709 Experimental Classifications and Rates**

*[Delete 3.0, Outside-County Periodicals Copalletization Drop-Ship Classification; and 4.0, Outside-County Periodicals Copalletization Drop-Ship Discounts for High-Editorial, Heavy-Weight, Small-Circulation Publications. Renumber remaining sections 5.0 and 6.0 as new 3.0 and 4.0. The experimental copalletization discounts expire and are replaced by the new rate structure for Periodicals mail in 707.]*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Stanley F. Mires,**

*Chief Counsel, Legislative.*

**BILLING CODE 7710-12-P**

## Periodicals (Rates Effective July 15, 2007)

### Outside-County

**Pound Rates**—per pound or fraction

Advertising Portion			Nonadvertising Portion		
Zone	Regular Rate	Science-of-Agriculture	Zone	Regular Rate	Science-of-Agriculture
DDU	\$0.160	\$0.120	DDU	\$0.133	\$0.133
DSCF	0.209	0.157	DSCF	0.174	0.174
DADC	0.219	0.164	DADC	0.182	0.182
1 & 2	0.239	0.179	Other	0.199	0.199
3	0.257	0.257			
4	0.303	0.303			
5	0.372	0.372			
6	0.446	0.446			
7	0.534	0.534			
8	0.610	0.610			

**Preferred Rate Discount:** Authorized nonprofit and classroom mailers receive a discount of 5% off the total Outside-County postage excluding the postage for advertising pounds. The 5% discount does not apply to commingled nonsubscriber copies in excess of the 10% allowance provided under DMM 707.7.

### Outside-County and In-County

**Ride-Along Rate**—per Ride-Along piece: \$0.155

**Piece Rates**—per addressed piece

Bundle Level	Letters		Machinable Flats		Nonmachinable Flats & Parcels	
	Barcoded	Nonbarcoded	Barcoded	Nonbarcoded	Barcoded	Nonbarcoded
5-Digit	\$0.211	\$0.276	\$0.268	\$0.276	\$0.285	\$0.289
3-Digit/SCF	0.275	0.348	0.331	0.348	0.362	0.373
ADC	0.289	0.370	0.350	0.370	0.412	0.432
MXD ADC	0.327	0.431	0.404	0.431	0.504	0.534

All Carrier Route pieces: Firm—\$0.169; Saturation—\$0.131; High Density—\$0.149; Basic—\$0.169  
Nonadvertising adjustment factor for each 1% of nonadvertising content: \$0.00091

**Bundle Rates**—per bundle

Bundle Level	Container Level			
	CR/5-Digit	3-Digit/SCF	ADC	MXD ADC
Firm	\$0.027	\$0.045	\$0.048	\$0.079
Carrier Route	0.039	0.095	0.104	—
5-Digit	0.008	0.084	0.095	0.161
3-Digit/SCF	—	0.039	0.063	0.134
ADC	—	—	0.038	0.129
MXD ADC	—	—	—	0.100

**Container Rates**—per pallet, sack, or tray

Entry	Pallet			Tray/Sack			
	5-Digit	3-Digit/SCF	ADC	CR/5-Digit	3-Digit/SCF	ADC	MXD ADC
Destination Delivery Unit	\$1.20	—	—	\$0.70	—	—	—
Destination SCF	8.00	\$6.70	—	0.90	\$0.60	—	—
Destination ADC	15.50	12.20	\$8.90	1.30	1.00	\$0.60	—
Destination BMC	17.50	14.40	13.00	1.50	1.20	1.10	—
Origin	26.95	22.98	18.61	2.24	1.90	1.80	\$0.42

### In-County

**Pound Rates**—per pound or fraction

Zone	Rate
Destination Delivery Unit	\$0.132
All other zones	0.171

**Piece Rates**—per addressed piece

Presort Level	Automation		Nonautomation
	Letters	Flats	Letters, Flats, & Parcels
Carrier Route	—	—	—
Saturation	—	—	\$0.028
High Density	—	—	0.041
Basic	—	—	0.056
5-Digit	\$0.044	\$0.093	0.098
3-Digit	0.046	0.099	0.110
Basic	0.055	0.107	0.122

Destination delivery unit (DDU) discount for each addressed piece: \$0.008