

Postal Service states is not analogous and therefore “does not provide the true value of the MAADC barcode.” *Id.* at 18.

Proposal. In order to provide a benchmark that more accurately measures the cost avoidance for Automation MAADC Cards, the Postal Service seeks to create a new benchmark—the Non-automation MAADC BC-Benchmark. *Id.* In order to do so, the Postal Service “would make changes to the First-Class Mail Letters cost avoidance model last filed in Docket No. ACR2023 as folder USPS–FY23–10, while simultaneously employing the Mail Characteristics Study (MCS) changes from Component One,” discussed above. *Id.*

Impact. According to the Postal Service, the changes suggested in Proposal Four would result in a barcode cost avoidance of 0.617 cents (compared to the negative cost avoidance of –0.110 cents resulting from use of the current benchmark), which would “enable the Postal Service to set appropriate discounts for commercial mailers for pre-barcoding First-Class Mail cards.” *Id.* at 20. Further, the Postal Service explains that its changes would reduce the avoided cost from \$0.018 to \$0.006 for Automation Mixed AADC Cards and increase its passthrough from 88.9 percent to 266.7 percent. *Id.*

III. Notice and Comment

The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2024–10 for consideration of matters raised by the Petition. More information on the Petition may be accessed via the Commission’s website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Interested persons may submit comments on the Petition and Proposal Four no later than August 27, 2024. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Gregory S. Stanton is designated as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission establishes Docket No. RM2024–10 for consideration of the matters raised by the Petition of the United States Postal Service for the Initiation of a Proceeding to Consider Proposed Changes in Analytical Principles (Proposal Four), filed July 24, 2024.

2. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than August 27, 2024.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Gregory S. Stanton to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to

represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for the publication of this Order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Jennie L. Jbara,

Primary Certifying Official.

[FR Doc. 2024–16787 Filed 8–8–24; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

39 CFR Part 3050

[Docket No. RM2024–2; Order No. 7321]

Periodic Reporting

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The Commission is acknowledging a recent Postal Service response to Order No. 7049 regarding proposed changes to analytical principles relating to periodic reports (Proposal Eight). This document informs the public of the filing, invites public comment on the Postal Service response, and takes other administrative steps.

DATES: *Comments are due:* August 27, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission’s Filing Online system at <http://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

On July 1, 2024, the Postal Service filed a response to Order No. 7049¹ regarding proposed changes to analytical principles relating to periodic reports (Proposal Eight).² The

¹ Order Approving Analytical Principles Used in Periodic Reporting (Proposal Eight) with Two Modifications, April 18, 2024 (Order No. 7049).

² Response of the United States Postal Service to Order No. 7049 Regarding Rural Carrier Costing, July 1, 2024 (Response). The Postal Service also filed a notice of filing of non-public materials relating to the Response. Notice of Filing of USPS–

Commission reopens this docket for the limited purpose of considering the issues raised by the Response and invites public comments on the Response.

II. Background

In Order No. 7049, the Commission approved the changes in analytical principles proposed by the Postal Service in Proposal Eight with two modifications: (1) the aggregated coverage model specification for box time was approved rather than the Three-Group Coverage Model; and (2) the errors identified in the Postal Service’s costing files were corrected as discussed in the order. Order No. 7049 at 37. The Commission also ordered the Postal Service to conduct additional research to justify the groupings presented in the Three-Group Coverage Model or other specification of its choosing for estimating the volume variability of box time, as well as to report the findings of such research by July 1, 2024. *Id.* In addition, the Commission ordered the Postal Service to provide by July 1, 2024 a detailed description of how it plans to assess the potential partial volume variabilities of sequences 026, 049, 051, 052, 037, 038, 083, 053, and 063. *Id.*

On July 1, 2024, the Postal Service filed the Response addressing the two research topics ordered by the Commission in Order No. 7049. Regarding the first research topic, the Postal Service now proposes a Two-Group Coverage Model for estimating the volume variability of box time, grouping products based on whether they have homogeneous high or low coverage-causing characteristics on box time. *See* Response at 3–14. Based on the Postal Service’s research, it proposes that the high coverage impact group consists of delivery point sequence (DPS) letters, carrier route flats, walk-sequence saturation (WSS) letters, WSS flats, boxholder letters, and boxholder flats. *Id.* at 14. The Postal Service also proposes that the low coverage impact group consists of random letters, random flats, mailbox parcels, door parcels, locker parcels, and accountables. *Id.* The Postal Service then calculates a variability of 33.66 percent for the high coverage impact group and a variability of 5.63 percent for the low coverage impact group. *Id.* at 17. It then proposes 39.28 percent as the volume variability for box time. *Id.* at 33, Table 15. The Postal Service states the Two-Group Coverage Model is preferable over the aggregated coverage

model approved in Order No. 7049 for estimating the volume variability of box time because it “adds precision to the estimating by ferreting out the different effects by using groupings of mail products that have similar coverage-causing characteristics.” *Id.* at 17.

Regarding the second research topic, the Postal Service proposes the following volume variabilities for the nine sequences ordered by the Commission in Order No. 7049 for it to research:

Sequence	Proposed volume variability (%)
026	29.48
037	84.32
038	84.66
049	29.48
051	84.32
052	84.66
053	84.66
063	5.96
083	46.05

Source: Response at 33, Table 15; *see generally, id.* at 18–32.

Chairman’s Information Request No. 4 (CHIR No. 4) is issued today, July 30, 2024, concerning the Postal Service’s Response and the Postal Service’s response to CHIR No. 4 is due August 13, 2024.³

III. Notice of Filing and Related Proceeding

The Commission hereby informs the public of the Postal Service’s Response and of the reopening of Docket No. RM2024–2 for the limited purpose of considering issues raised by the Response. More information on the Response and additional filings in this proceeding may be accessed via the Commission’s website at <http://www.prc.gov>. Any material filed in this proceeding that is subject to an application for non-public treatment (filed under seal) may be accessed via the Commission’s website only by account holders granted access by an order or in accordance with 39 CFR 3011.300(a). The Commission’s rules on non-public materials (including access to material filed under seal) appear in 39 CFR part 3011.

Interested persons may submit comments on the Response no later than August 27, 2024. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, Nikki Brendemuehl continues to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

IV. Ordering Paragraphs

It is ordered:

1. The Commission reopens Docket No. RM2024–2 for the limited purpose of considering issues raised by the Response of the United States Postal Service to Order No. 7049 Regarding Rural Carrier Costing, filed July 1, 2024.

2. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than August 27, 2024.

3. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Nikki Brendemuehl to continue to serve as an officer of the Commission (Public Representative) to represent the interests of the general public in this docket.

4. The Secretary shall arrange for publication of this order in the **Federal Register**.

By the Commission.

Jennie L. Jbara,

Primary Certifying Official.

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

48 CFR Parts 339 and 352

RIN 0991–AC35

HHS Acquisition Regulation: Acquisition of Information Technology; Standards for Health Information Technology (HHSAR Case 2023–001)

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is proposing to amend and update its Health and Human Services Acquisition Regulation (HHSAR) to implement requirements to procure health information technology (health IT) that meets standards and implementation specifications (standards) adopted by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) in the following parts: Acquisition of Information Technology and Solicitation Provisions and Contract Clauses.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 8, 2024, to be considered in the formulation of the final rule.

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments in response to HHSAR Case 2023–001 through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: <https://www.regulations.gov> by searching for “HHSAR Case 2023–001”.

Select the link “Comment Now” and follow the “Submit a comment” instructions. Please include your name, company name (if any), and indicate they are submitted in response to “RIN 0991–AC35—HHS Acquisition Regulation: Acquisition of Information Technology; Standards for Health Information Technology (HHSAR Case 2023–001).”

Warning: Do not include any personally identifiable information or confidential business information that you do not want publicly disclosed. All comments may be posted on the internet and can be retrieved by most internet search engines. No deletions, modifications, or redactions will be made to comments received.

Inspection of Public Comments: All comments received before the close of the comment period will be available for viewing by the public, including personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. You may wish to consider limiting the amount of personal information that you provide in any voluntary public comment submission you make. HHS reserves the right to withhold information provided in comments from public viewing that it determines may have an adverse impact on an individual(s). For additional information, please read the Privacy Act notice that is available via the link in the footer of <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the search instructions on that website to view the public comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jarreau Vieira, Chief, Acquisition Rule-Making Branch, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, Office of Acquisition Policy, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20201. Email: acquisition_policy@hhs.gov, Telephone: (202) 731–4625. This is not a toll-free telephone number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Authority

This rulemaking is being taken under the authority of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) Act which provides the authority for an agency head to authorize the issuance of agency acquisition regulations that implement or supplement the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The OFPP Act, as codified in 41 U.S.C. 1702, provides the authority for the FAR and for the issuance of agency acquisition regulations consistent with the FAR. This authority ensures that Government

³ Chairman’s Information Request No. 4, July 30, 2024.