FEBRUARY 2002

# R2001-1 Omnibus Rate Case Update 

## Settlement Agreement Reached

The Postal Service has reached a settlement agreement with 56 out of 62 participants in the pending postal rate case at the Postal Rate Commission (Docket No. R2001-1). The settlement would raise postal rates in late June - three months earlier than originally expected. Parties agreeing to settle include major customers and trade associations, as well as competitors. Only one party has opposed the settlement agreement.

The Board of Governors approved the filing of the omnibus rate case just before the terrorist attacks on September 11 and the subsequent anthrax mailings. The independent Rate Commission

> The settlement agreement remains subject to review and approval by the Commission and the Governors.
suggested settling the case in light of those events, which have combined with a slowing economy to produce a negative impact on the Postal Service's bottom line. It is estimated that the rate increase under the settlement proposal would generate

[^0]approximately an additional $\$ 1$ billion, compared to the revenue generated if the case were fully litigated. The additional revenue would result from implementing the proposed rate changes about three months earlier than possible under the original litigation schedule.

The ratemaking process typically takes more than a year to complete, with 10 months of proceedings at the Commission, during which it considers testimony from customers and others before issuing a recommended decision. When the current proposals were filed by the Postal Service, rates were not expected to increase prior to September 2002. The Commission began hearings to consider the Postal Service's testimony in December of 2001, but rescheduled appearance of the Postal Service's witnesses in light of the settlement agreement. As a result of settlement, hearings were substantially shortened. The Commission must still consider opposing testimony, and the settlement agreement remains subject to review and approval by the Commission and the Postal Service's Governors. If the settlement is followed, the Commission could issue a recommended decision in time to implement rate and fee changes by June 30, 2002.

The settlement agreement adopted most of the rates and fees proposed by the Postal Service when it filed the case. As an example, the single-piece First-Class Mail rate under the settlement agreement would still increase from 34 cents to 37 cents. The settlement incorporated limited changes in the proposals for FirstClass Mail letter automation rates, Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM) rates, Periodicals Outside-County rates, Standard Mail Enhanced Carrier Route (ECR) rates, and Package Services subclass Parcel Select rates. No changes were made to the rates originally proposed for Priority Mail, Express Mail, or special services. Following is a summary of the revisions embodied in the settlement agreement.

## First-Class Mail

As compared to the USPS proposal, automation letter rates would decrease by $\$ 0.002$ at the 3 -digit (\$0.294 to \$0.292) and 5-digit (\$0.280 to $\$ 0.278$ ) presort levels, and the 3-digit automation sort would be required. The QBRM letter and card rate would decrease $\$ 0.005$ from $\$ 0.345$ to $\$ 0.34$ and $\$ 0.205$ to $\$ 0.20$, respectively.

## Periodicals

Separate nonadvertising pound rate discounts for destination delivery unit (DDU), destination sectional center facility (DSCF), destination area distribution center (DADC), and zones $1 \& 2$ would no longer be proposed. The agreement calls for the nonadvertising pound rate to be a uniform $\$ 0.193$, regardless of entry.

A new $\$ 0.015$ destination entry per-piece pallet discount is proposed and would apply to each addressed piece of nonletter mail (flat-size and irregular parcel) prepared in packages on any destination entry pallet of at least 250 pounds of mail. The pallet discount would not be available for


Volume 7, Issue 2 February 2002
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MAILERS COMPANION
DATA ENTRY
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
6060 PRIMACY PKWY STE 201
MEMPHIS TN 38188-0001
Fax: (901) 821-6252
Printed on Recycled Paper
pieces in sacks or trays on pallets.
Outside-County Periodicals
advertising pound rates would be reduced from the original proposal by $\$ 0.001$ to $\$ 0.002$ depending on entry. Piece rates would increase by $\$ 0.004$ for each presort level.

## Standard Mail

The original proposal called for the maximum weight limit for Standard Mail regular automation letters to increase from 3.3 ounces to 3.5 ounces with special rate adjustment for automation letters exceeding 3.3 ounces. As part of the settlement agreement the maximum weight limit for regular and nonprofit ECR saturation and high density letters also would increase from 3.3 ounces to 3.5 ounces.

As compared to the USPS proposal, ECR saturation letter rates would decrease by $\$ 0.001$ for all entry
levels. For ECR piece/pound rates, the per-piece rate would be reduced from the USPS proposal by $\$ 0.003$, and the per-pound rate would increase by $\$ 0.012$ as compared to the USPS proposal.

## Package Services

Only Parcel Select rates would be impacted as part of the settlement agreement.

The settlement calls for all DDU rates to remain at today's current rates. DSCF rates that were proposed to increase as part of the original proposal would remain at the proposed rates, and DSCF rates that were proposed to decrease would remain at today's current rates. All destination bulk mail center (DBMC) rates would be reduced by 1.8 percent from the original proposal.

## First-Class Mail

| Automation Letters | Current | Proposed | Settlement |
| :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 3-digit | $\$ 0.269$ | $\$ 0.294$ | $\$ 0.292$ |
| 5-digit | $\$ 0.255$ | $\$ 0.280$ | $\$ 0.278$ |
| Qualified Business | Reply Mail |  |  |
| Card rate | $\$ 0.180$ | $\$ 0.205$ | $\$ 0.200$ |
| Letter rate | $\$ 0.310$ | $\$ 0.345$ | $\$ 0.340$ |

## Standard Mail

## Enhanced Carrier Route

Saturation Letters-For pieces 3.3 ounces ( 0.2063 pound) or less:

| Entry Discount | Current | Proposed | Settlement |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| None | $\$ 0.145$ | $\$ 0.153$ | $\$ 0.152$ |
| DBMC | $\$ 0.126$ | $\$ 0.132$ | $\$ 0.131$ |
| DSCF | $\$ 0.121$ | $\$ 0.127$ | $\$ 0.126$ |
| DDU | $\$ 0.116$ | $\$ 0.121$ | $\$ 0.120$ |

## Enhanced Carrier Route

Piece/Pound Rate Letters and Nonletters-For pieces more than 3.3 ounces ( 0.2063 pound). Each piece is subject to both a piece rate and a pound rate. Residual surcharge of $\$ 0.20$ per piece applies to items that are prepared as a parcel or are not letter-size or flat-size.

| Per Piece | Current | Proposed | Settlement |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\quad$ Basic | $\$ 0.046$ | $\$ 0.071$ | $\$ 0.068$ |
| $\quad$ High Density ${ }^{1}$ | $\$ 0.024$ | $\$ 0.046$ | $\$ 0.043$ |
| $\quad$ Saturation ${ }^{1}$ | $\$ 0.017$ | $\$ 0.037$ | $\$ 0.034$ |
| PLUS |  |  |  |
| Per Pound |  |  |  |
| $\quad$ None | $\$ 0.638$ | $\$ 0.598$ | $\$ 0.610$ |
| DBMC | $\$ 0.545$ | $\$ 0.498$ | $\$ 0.510$ |
| DSCF | $\$ 0.524$ | $\$ 0.473$ | $\$ 0.485$ |
| DDU | $\$ 0.498$ | $\$ 0.441$ | $\$ 0.453$ |

[^1]
## Periodicals

| Outside-County—Excluding Science-of-Agriculture <br>  <br> Advertising <br> Pound Rate <br> DDU | Current | Proposed | Settlement |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| DSCF | $\$ 0.153$ | $\$ 0.160$ | $\$ 0.158$ |
| DADC | $\$ 0.195$ | $\$ 0.204$ | $\$ 0.203$ |
| Zones 1 \& 2 | N/A | $\$ 0.225$ | $\$ 0.223$ |
| Zone 3 | $\$ 0.238$ | $\$ 0.250$ | $\$ 0.248$ |
| Zone 4 | $\$ 0.253$ | $\$ 0.268$ | $\$ 0.267$ |
| Zone 5 | $\$ 0.292$ | $\$ 0.317$ | $\$ 0.315$ |
| Zone 6 | $\$ 0.351$ | $\$ 0.390$ | $\$ 0.389$ |
| Zone 7 | $\$ 0.413$ | $\$ 0.467$ | $\$ 0.466$ |
| Zone 8 | $\$ 0.488$ | $\$ 0.560$ | $\$ 0.559$ |
|  | $\$ 0.552$ | $\$ 0.640$ | $\$ 0.638$ |

## Outside-County-Science-of-Agriculture

| Advertising <br> Pound Rate <br> DDU | Current <br> DSCF | $\$ 0.115$ | Proposed |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\$ 0.120$ | Settlement |  |  |
| DADC | $\$ 0.146$ | $\$ 0.153$ | $\$ 0.119$ |
| Zones 1 \& 2 | N/A | $\$ 0.168$ | $\$ 0.167$ |
| Zone 3 | $\$ 0.179$ | $\$ 0.187$ | $\$ 0.186$ |
| Zone 4 | $\$ 0.253$ | $\$ 0.268$ | $\$ 0.267$ |
| Zone 5 | $\$ 0.292$ | $\$ 0.317$ | $\$ 0.315$ |
| Zone 6 | $\$ 0.351$ | $\$ 0.390$ | $\$ 0.389$ |
| Zone 7 | $\$ 0.413$ | $\$ 0.467$ | $\$ 0.466$ |
| Zone 8 | $\$ 0.488$ | $\$ 0.560$ | $\$ 0.559$ |
|  | $\$ 0.552$ | $\$ 0.640$ | $\$ 0.638$ |

Outside-County and Science-of-Agriculture

| Piece Rate Current Proposed SettlementBasic |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |
| Nonautomation | \$0.333 | \$0.369 | \$0.373 |
| Automation letter | \$0.266 | \$0.277 | \$0.281 |
| Automation flat | \$0.291 | \$0.321 | \$0.325 |
| 3-Digit |  |  |  |
| Nonautomation letter | \$0.283 | \$0.320 | \$0.324 |
| Automation letter | \$0.231 | \$0.245 | \$0.249 |
| Automation flat | \$0.248 | \$0.279 | \$0.283 |
| 5-Digit |  |  |  |
| Nonautomation letter | \$0.219 | \$0.252 | \$0.256 |
| Automation letter | \$0.178 | \$0.191 | \$0.195 |
| Automation flat | \$0.194 | \$0.222 | \$0.226 |
| Carrier Route |  |  |  |
| Basic | \$0.139 | \$0.159 | \$0.163 |
| High Density | \$0.113 | \$0.127 | \$0.131 |
| Saturation | \$0.095 | \$0.108 | \$0.112 |
| Nonadvertising |  |  |  |
| Pound Rate | Current | Proposed | Settlement |
| DDU | \$0.179 | \$0.158 | \$0.193 |
| DSCF | \$0.179 | \$0.180 | \$0.193 |
| DADC | \$0.179 | \$0.191 | \$0.193 |
| All other zones | \$0.179 | \$0.203 | \$0.193 |

Parcel Select
DDU and DSCF Rates

|  | Current |  | Proposed |  | Settlement |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Weight Not Over (pounds) | DDU | DSCF | DDU | DSCF | DDU | DSCF |
| 1 | \$1.28 | \$1.71 | \$1.19 | \$1.50 | \$1.23 | \$1.53 |
| 2 | 1.28 | 1.71 | 1.24 | 1.68 | 1.28 | 1.71 |
| 3 | 1.33 | 1.85 | 1.29 | 1.81 | 1.33 | 1.85 |
| 4 | 1.38 | 1.99 | 1.34 | 1.95 | 1.38 | 1.99 |
|  | 1.43 | 2.12 | 1.39 | 2.08 | 1.43 | 2.12 |
| 6 | 1.47 | 2.24 | 1.43 | 2.20 | 1.47 | 2.24 |
| 7 | 1.51 | 2.35 | 1.46 | 2.30 | 1.51 | 2.35 |
| 8 | 1.55 | 2.45 | 1.50 | 2.40 | 1.55 | 2.45 |
| 9 | 1.58 | 2.56 | 1.53 | 2.51 | 1.58 | 2.56 |
| - | 1.62 | 2.65 | 1.57 | 2.60 | 1.62 | 2.65 |
| 11 | 1.65 | 2.74 | 1.60 | 2.70 | 1.65 | 2.74 |
| 12 | 1.68 | 2.83 | 1.63 | 2.80 | 1.68 | 2.83 |
| 13 | 1.71 | 2.92 | 1.66 | 2.90 | 1.71 | 2.92 |
| 14 | 1.74 | 3.00 | 1.69 | 3.00 | 1.74 | 3.00 |
| 15 | 1.77 | 3.08 | 1.72 | 3.10 | 1.77 | 3.10 |
| 16 | 1.79 | 3.15 | 1.74 | 3.19 | 1.79 | 3.19 |
| 17 | 1.82 | 3.22 | 1.77 | 3.28 | 1.82 | 3.28 |
| 18 | 1.85 | 3.29 | 1.79 | 3.36 | 1.85 | 3.36 |
| 19 | 1.87 | 3.36 | 1.81 | 3.45 | 1.87 | 3.45 |
| 20 | 189 | 3.43 | 183 | 3.53 | 1.89 | 3.53 |
| 21 | 1.92 | 3.49 | 1.86 | 3.61 | 1.92 | 3.61 |
| 22 | 1.94 | 3.55 | 1.88 | 3.68 | 1.94 | 3.68 |
| 23 | 1.96 | 3.61 | 1.90 | 3.76 | 1.96 | 3.76 |
| 24 | 1.98 | 3.67 | 1.92 | 3.83 | 1.98 | 3.83 |
| 25 | 2.00 | 3.73 | 1.94 | 3.90 | 2.00 | 3.90 |
| 26 | 2.02 | 3.78 | 1.96 | 3.97 | 2.02 | 3.97 |
| 27 | 2.04 | 3.83 | 1.98 | 4.04 | 2.04 | 4.04 |
| 28 | 2.06 | 3.89 | 2.00 | 4.11 | 2.06 | 4.11 |
| 29 | 2.07 | 3.94 | 2.01 | 4.17 | 2.07 | 4.17 |
| 30 | 2.09 | 3.99 | 2.03 | 4.24 | 2.09 | 4.24 |
| 31 | 2.10 | 4.03 | 2.04 | 4.30 | 2.10 | 4.30 |
| 32 | 2.11 | 4.08 | 2.05 | 4.36 | 2.11 | 4.36 |
| 33 | 2.12 | 4.13 | 2.06 | 4.42 | 2.12 | 4.42 |
| 34 | 2.13 | 4.17 | 2.07 | 4.48 | 2.13 | 4.48 |
| $35$ | 2.14 | 4.21 | 2.08 | 4.54 | 2.14 | 4.54 |
| - 36 | 2.15 | 4.26 | 2.09 | 4.59 | 2.15 | 4.59 |
| 37 | 2.16 | 4.30 | 2.10 | 4.65 | 2.16 | 4.65 |
| 38 | 2.17 | 4.34 | 2.10 | 4.70 | 2.17 | 4.70 |
| 39 | 2.18 | 4.38 | 2.11 | 4.76 | 2.18 | 4.76 |
| 40 | 2.19 | 4.42 | 2.12 | 4.81 | 2.19 | 4.81 |
| 41 | 2.20 | 4.46 | 2.13 | 4.86 | 2.20 | 4.86 |
| 42 | 2.21 | 4.50 | 2.14 | 4.91 | 2.21 | 4.91 |
| 43 | 2.22 | 4.53 | 2.15 | 4.96 | 2.22 | 4.96 |
| 44 | 2.23 | 4.57 | 2.16 | 5.01 | 2.23 | 5.01 |
| 45 | 2.24 | 4.61 | 2.17 | 5.06 | 2.24 | 5.06 |
| 46 | 2.25 | 4.64 | 2.18 | 5.11 | 2.25 | 5.11 |
| 47 | 2.26 | 4.67 | 2.19 | 5.16 | 2.26 | 5.16 |
| 48 | 2.27 | 4.71 | 2.20 | 5.20 | 2.27 | 5.20 |
| 49 | 2.28 | 4.74 | 2.21 | 5.25 | 2.28 | 5.25 |
| 50 | 2.29 | 4.77 | 2.22 | 5.29 | 2.29 | 5.29 |
| 51 | 2.30 | 4.80 | 2.23 | 5.34 | 2.30 | 5.34 |
| 52 | 2.31 | 4.84 | 2.24 | 5.38 | 2.31 | 5.38 |
| 53 | 2.32 | 4.87 | 2.25 | 5.42 | 2.32 | 5.42 |
| 54 | 2.33 | 4.90 | 2.26 | 5.46 | 2.33 | 5.46 |
| 55 | 2.34 | 4.93 | 2.27 | 5.51 | 2.34 | 5.51 |
| 56 | 2.35 | 4.96 | 2.28 | 5.55 | 2.35 | 5.55 |
| 57 | 2.36 | 4.98 | 2.29 | 5.59 | 2.36 | 5.59 |
| 58 | 2.37 | 5.01 | 2.30 | 5.63 | 2.37 | 5.63 |
| 59 | 2.38 | 5.04 | 2.31 | 5.67 | 2.38 | 5.67 |
| 60 | 2.39 | 5.07 | 2.32 | 5.71 | 2.39 | 5.71 |
| 61 | 2.40 | 5.10 | 2.33 | 5.74 | 2.40 | 5.74 |
| 62 | 2.41 | 5.12 | 2.34 | 5.78 | 2.41 | 5.78 |
| 63 | 2.42 | 5.15 | 2.35 | 5.82 | 2.42 | 5.82 |
| 64 | 2.43 | 5.17 | 2.36 | 5.86 | 2.43 | 5.86 |
| 65 | 2.44 | 5.20 | 2.37 | 5.89 | 2.44 | 5.89 |
| 66 | 2.45 | 5.22 | 2.38 | 5.93 | 2.45 | 5.93 |
| 67 | 2.46 | 5.25 | 2.39 | 5.97 | 2.46 | 5.97 |
| 68 | 2.47 | 5.27 | 2.40 | 6.00 | 2.47 | 6.00 |
| 69 | 2.48 | 5.30 | 2.41 | 6.04 | 2.48 | 6.04 |
| 70 | 2.49 | 5.32 | 2.42 | 6.07 | 2.49 | 6.07 |
| Oversized | 6.98 | 11.35 | 6.77 | 11.95 | 6.98 | 11.95 |

Parcel Select — dbmс Rates


## First-Class Mail

Overall, First-Class Mail rates would increase an average of $8.2 \%$. The single-piece 1-ounce First-Class Mail rate would increase from $\$ 0.34$ to $\$ 0.37$, and the single-piece card rate from $\$ 0.21$ to $\$ 0.23$. The additional ounce rate for single-piece First-Class Mail would remain at $\$ 0.23$. There would be a lower additional ounce rate for Presorted First-Class Mail. Pieces mailed at any discount rate would pay $\$ 0.225$ for each additional ounce.

Business mailers would see larger automation presort discounts. The automation carrier route discount and the nonautomation presort discount would remain at the current levels. The proposed increase in automation discounts and the proposed half-cent reduction in the additional-ounce rate would result in more attractive incentives, especially for large-volume First-Class Mail users who presort and mail heavier pieces.

## Automation Basic Rate Split Into Two New Rates

For automation cards and letters, the current rate structure contains a 5-digit, 3-digit, and basic rate. The proposed rate structure would split the basic rate into an automated area distribution center (AADC) and a mixed AADC. For automation flats, the current rate structure contains a 5 -digit, 3 -digit, and basic rate. The proposed rate structure would split the basic rate into an area distribution center (ADC) rate and a mixed ADC.

## Nonmachinable Surcharge

The definition of the current nonstandard surcharge would be expanded to include any physical criteria that could make a mailpiece nonmachinable. Pieces that are nonmachinable are excluded from automated processing and must be
handled manually. Nonmachinable pieces also may impede mail flow or damage the mail or mail processing equipment. Manual pieces are considerably more costly to process than machinable letters.

The nonmachinable surcharge would be $\$ 0.12$ for single-piece rate pieces and $\$ 0.055$ for Presorted and automation rate pieces.

## Business Reply Mail

The Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM) letter rate would increase from $\$ 0.31$ to $\$ 0.34$ and the card rate from \$0.19 to \$0.21.

## Delivery Confirmation and Signature Confirmation for FirstClass Mail Parcels

The Postal Service would add two new special service options for First-Class Mail parcels: Delivery Confirmation and Signature Confirmation. Both services would be available in manual (retail) and electronic options. The fees for Delivery Confirmation would be $\$ 0.55$ (retail) and $\$ 0.13$ (electronic). The fees for Signature Confirmation would be $\$ 1.80$ (retail) and $\$ 1.30$ (electronic).

## Priority Mail

Overall, Priority Mail rates would increase an average of $13.5 \%$.

## Zoned Rates for Pieces 1 Pound and Over

Currently, Priority Mail rates are not zoned for pieces weighing 2 through 5 pounds, but they are zoned for pieces weighing more than 5 pounds. The weight increments from more than 1 pound and up to 5 pounds would be zoned to more accurately reflect actual costs to the Postal Service for transportation and handling.

## Flat Rate Envelope Priced at 1-Pound Rate

Currently, the rate for the Priority Mail flat-rate envelope is the same as the 2-pound rate. The rate for the flatrate envelope would be tied to the 1-pound rate because of the proposed rezoning of all rates from 2 to 5 pounds. The 1 -pound rate would increase from $\$ 3.50$ to $\$ 3.85$ and remain an unzoned rate. As a result, the rate for the flat-rate envelope would decrease from the current $\$ 3.95$ to the proposed rate of $\$ 3.85$.

## Express Mail

Overall, Express Mail rates would increase an average of 9.4\%.

## Flat Rate Envelope Priced at 1/2-Pound Rate

The most significant change to the Express Mail rate structure would be to the flat-rate envelope. Currently, the rate for the Express Mail flat-rate envelope is the same as the applicable 2 -pound rate. The proposed rate for the flat-rate envelope would be the 1/2-pound rate, which is the lowest available rate for each Express Mail service offering. The rate for the flatrate envelope would decrease for Post Office to Addressee service from $\$ 16.25$ to $\$ 13.65$, but the size of the envelope would remain the same.

## Indemnity Reduced

The indemnity included in the price of Express Mail would be reduced from $\$ 500$ to $\$ 100$ for both merchandise and document reconstruction. This adjustment would more closely align with general industry practice. The fee for every $\$ 100$ increment of additional merchandise insurance desired above the standard $\$ 100$ and up to $\$ 5,000$ would be $\$ 1.00$.

## Periodicals

The overall proposed average increase for Periodicals would be 10\%. Outside-County postage would increase on average $10.4 \%$, while InCounty postage would increase on average $1.7 \%$.

Automation discounts would increase at the 5 -digit (from $\$ 0.025$ to $\$ 0.03$ ), 3-digit (from \$0.035 to \$0.041), and basic (from $\$ 0.042$ to $\$ 0.048$ ) presort levels. The destination delivery unit (DDU) discount would increase (from $\$ 0.017$ to $\$ 0.018$ ), while the destination sectional center facility (DSCF) discount would remain at $\$ 0.008$. The Ride-Along rate would increase from $\$ 0.10$ to $\$ 0.124$ per piece. Original entry and additional entry application fees are proposed to increase from $\$ 350$ to $\$ 375$ and from $\$ 50$ to $\$ 60$, respectively, while the fees for reentry and news agent registry would remain at $\$ 40$.

## New Destination Area Distribution Center (DADC) Discount

The proposed new destination area distribution center (DADC) discount would be $\$ 0.002$. The destination delivery unit (DDU) discount would increase (from \$0.017 to \$0.018), while the destination sectional center facility (DSCF) discount would remain at \$0.008.

## New Per Piece Pallet Discount

A new $\$ 0.005$ per piece discount for each addressed nonletter-size piece (flat-size and irregular parcel) prepared in packages on nondestination entry pallets. This discount would apply to all pallet levels. The discount would not apply to pieces in sacks on pallets or in trays on pallets.

## New Destination Entry Per Piece Pallet Discount

A new destination entry $\$ 0.015$ per piece pallet discount would apply to each addressed piece of nonletter-size mail (flat-size and irregular parcel) prepared in packages on any destination entry pallet of at least 250 pounds of mail (except overflow
pallets). The discount is not available for pieces in sacks or trays on pallets.

## Standard Mail

Overall, Standard Mail rates would increase an average of $7.3 \%$. On average, within each subclass, rates for flat-size mail would increase more than rates for letter-size mail. Regular rates would increase an average of $8 \%$ and nonprofit rates would increase an average of $6.7 \%$. As proposed, greater destination entry discounts would provide an incentive for mailers to use their own or third-party transportation to move Standard Mail closer to the point of delivery.

## Automation Basic Rate Split Into Two New Rates

For automation letter-size pieces, the current rate structure contains a 5 -digit, 3-digit, and basic rate. The proposed rate structure would split the basic rate into an AADC rate and a mixed AADC rate.

## Nonmachinable Surcharge

A nonmachinable surcharge is proposed for Standard Mail letter-size pieces; the definition would include any physical criteria that could make a mailpiece nonmachinable. Unlike FirstClass Mail, where the nonmachinable surcharge would also apply to flats, the Postal Service is not proposing to
automate) option. This proposed change is consistent with the proposed nonmachinable surcharge for First-Class Mail.

## Heavier Letters Are Eligible for Automation Rates

The maximum weight limit for automation letters would increase from 3.3 ounces to 3.5 ounces (inclusive). These pieces would be charged postage equal to the automation piece/ pound rate for that piece and receive a discount equal to the automation nonletter piece rate ( 3.3 ounces or less) minus the corresponding automation letter piece rate (3.3 ounces or less) for the appropriate sort level. This change applies to regular and nonprofit automation letters and to regular and nonprofit ECR saturation and high density letters.

## Barcode Requirement for ECR Letter-Size Pieces

Enhanced Carrier Route (ECR) letter-size pieces mailed at highdensity and saturation per piece rates would be required to meet the physical standards for automation-compatible mail and would be required to have a delivery point barcode.

This change would apply to both ECR and Nonprofit ECR. Requiring high density and saturation letters to be barcoded would give the Postal Service operational flexibility.

## Abbreviations

AADC Automated area distribution center
ADC Area distribution center
BMC Bulk mail center
SCF Sectional center facility
DU Delivery unit
add a nonmachinable surcharge to Standard Mail flats. The nonmachinable surcharge would be $\$ 0.04$ per piece for regular rate pieces and $\$ 0.02$ per piece for nonprofit rate pieces. The nonmachinable surcharge also would apply to Presorted rate letter-size pieces for which the mailer has chosen the "manual only" (do not

## Residual Shape Surcharge Increases

The residual shape surcharge would increase by $\$ 0.05$ for items that are prepared as parcels or are not letter- or flat-sized. This would better reflect the actual cost of handling those items.

## Package Services

There are four subclasses of Package Services: Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail.

## Parcel Post Highlights

Parcel Post rates would increase an average of $10 \%$. The nonmachinable surcharge for Inter-BMC Parcel Post would increase from $\$ 2.00$ to $\$ 2.75$ per parcel. The Intra-BMC and DBMC nonmachinable surcharges would remain at their current levels: $\$ 1.35$ for Intra-BMC parcels and $\$ 1.45$ for DBMC parcels. The Parcel Post Origin BMC Presort and BMC Presort discounts would increase from $\$ 0.90$ to $\$ 1.17$ and $\$ 0.23$ to $\$ 0.28$ per piece, respectively. The barcoded discount for qualifying Parcel Post (including Parcel Select) machinable parcels would remain at $\$ 0.03$ per piece. The proposal also calls for a separate 1-pound rate.

Two changes are proposed. First, Parcel Select pieces would be eligible for no-fee electronic Delivery Confirmation. The other change would create a DSCF rate for nonmachinable parcels sorted to 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes and entered at destination SCFs. The pieces would be charged a surcharge of $\$ 1.09$ per parcel in addition to the applicable DSCF rate.

## Bound Printed Matter Highlights

The Bound Printed Matter (BPM) rates would increase an average of $9.1 \%$. Destination entry mailings would be eligible for discounts that encourage the deposit of mail at the destination BMC, SCF, or delivery unit. The parcel barcoded discount for presorted rate BPM single-piece and presorted rate machinable parcels would remain at $\$ 0.03$ per piece.

There are two major changes to BPM rates: Separate rates for BPM flats and parcels, and a new POSTNET barcoded discount for single-piece rate and presorted rate BPM flats.

Rates for flat-size BPM would be lower than the rates for BPM parcels in
all three rate categories (single-piece, presorted, and carrier route) and in the three available destination entry rates (DDU, DSCF, and DBMC).

A $\$ 0.03$ discount would be available for single-piece and presorted rate BPM flats prepared with a POSTNET barcode.

## Media Mail and Library Mail Highlights

Media Mail rates would increase an average of $4 \%$. Library Mail rates would increase an average of $3.3 \%$.

There would be two fundamental changes to the Media Mail and Library Mail structure. First, the 5-digit rate would be retained, but the BMC rate would be renamed the basic rate. This change would allow the Postal Service to adjust the presort requirements for Media Mail and Library Mail to reflect current processing. The other change would eliminate the requirement for separate minimum volumes for each presort level and would reduce the minimum volume requirement for a mailing from 500 to 300 pieces.

## Special Services

## Bulk Parcel Return Service

The annual accounting fee for bulk parcel return service (BPRS) would increase from $\$ 375$ to $\$ 475$. The annual permit fee would increase from $\$ 125$ to $\$ 150$ and the per piece charge would increase from $\$ 1.62$ to $\$ 1.80$.

## Business Reply Mail

The per piece charge for high volume Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM) with the optional quarterly fee would decrease from $\$ 0.01$ to $\$ 0.008$. The QBRM quarterly fee of $\$ 1,800$ for that category would remain the same. The basic QBRM per piece charge for the category without the optional quarterly fee would increase from $\$ 0.05$ to $\$ 0.06$. The annual permit fee for all business reply mail (BRM) would increase from \$125 to \$150. The monthly fee for bulk weight averaged nonletter-size BRM would increase from $\$ 600$ to $\$ 750$, while the per piece charge would remain the same. The
annual accounting fee for advanced deposit accounts would increase from $\$ 375$ to $\$ 475$. The regular BRM per piece charge without an annual accounting fee would increase from $\$ 0.35$ to $\$ 0.60$ per piece.

## Certificate of Mailing

Certificate of mailing fees would increase. For individual pieces, the original certificate would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to \$0.90, the firm mailing book (Form 3877) would increase from $\$ 0.25$ to $\$ 0.30$ for each piece listed, and the charge for a duplicate copy would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to $\$ 0.90$. For bulk pieces (Form 3606), the fee for the first 1,000 pieces or fraction thereof would increase from $\$ 3.50$ to $\$ 4.50$. Each additional 1,000 pieces or fraction thereof would increase from $\$ 0.40$ to $\$ 0.50$, and the charge for a duplicate copy would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to \$0.90.

## Certified Mail

The certified mail fee would increase from $\$ 2.10$ to $\$ 2.30$. A new service enhancement would be introduced to allow mailers to access delivery information for certified mail over the Internet by providing the certified article number.

## Collect on Delivery

There would be no change to the current collect on delivery (COD) fees.

## Delivery Confirmation

Retail (manual) and electronic Delivery Confirmation options would be extended to First-Class Mail parcels. For Package Services, Delivery Confirmation would be restricted to parcels only and would no longer be available for flat-size mail.

For First-Class Mail parcels, the fee would be $\$ 0.13$ for the electronic option and $\$ 0.55$ for the retail option. The fee for the retail option for Priority Mail would increase from $\$ 0.40$ to $\$ 0.45$. For Standard Mail parcels, the fee for the electronic option would increase from \$0.12 to \$0.13.

For Parcel Select, the electronic option would be included in postage. For all other Package Services, the fee would increase from $\$ 0.12$ to $\$ 0.13$ for the electronic option and from $\$ 0.50$ to $\$ 0.55$ for the retail option.

## Express Mail Insurance

Insurance coverage included with Express Mail service would be lowered from $\$ 500$ to $\$ 100$. Incremental fees would be applied at $\$ 1.00$ per each $\$ 100$ of desired merchandise insurance coverage over $\$ 100$. Document reconstruction maximum liability would decrease from $\$ 500$ to \$100.

## Insurance

The fee for unnumbered insurance of up to $\$ 50$ (no insured number applied) would increase from $\$ 1.10$ to $\$ 1.30$.
The fee for numbered insurance service over $\$ 50$ and up to $\$ 100$ (insured number applied) would increase from $\$ 2.00$ to $\$ 2.20$. The incremental fee of $\$ 1.00$ for each $\$ 100$ in value over $\$ 100$ and up to $\$ 5,000$ would remain the same.

## Merchandise Return Service

The annual accounting fee for merchandise return service would increase from $\$ 375$ to $\$ 475$. The annual permit fee would increase from \$125 to \$150.

## Money Orders

There would be two classification changes for money orders. The first change would increase the maximum amount from $\$ 700$ to $\$ 1,000$ for both domestic and APO/FPO money orders. The second change would introduce a two-level fee structure for domestic money orders. The fee for amounts of $\$ 0.01$ to $\$ 500$ would be $\$ 0.90$, and the fee for amounts of $\$ 500.01$ to $\$ 1,000$ would be $\$ 1.25$. The inquiry fee would increase from $\$ 2.75$ to $\$ 3.00$. The fee for APO/FPO money orders would remain the same.

## Parcel Airlift

Parcel Airlift (PAL) fees would increase. For parcels weighing not
more than 2 pounds, the fee would increase from $\$ 0.40$ to $\$ 0.45$. For parcels not more than 3 pounds, the fee would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to $\$ 0.85$. For parcels not more than 4 pounds, the fee would increase from $\$ 1.15$ to $\$ 1.25$. For parcels over 4 pounds but not more than 30 pounds, the fee would increase from \$1.55 to \$1.70.

## Permit Imprint

The permit imprint application fee would increase from $\$ 125$ to $\$ 150$.

## Registered Mail

A new service enhancement would be introduced to allow mailers to access delivery information for registered mail over the Internet by providing the registered article number.

All registered mail fees would increase. The fee for registered mail without insurance would increase from $\$ 7.25$ to $\$ 7.50$. The incremental fee for registered mail with insurance per declared value level would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to $\$ 0.85$. The handling charge per $\$ 1,000$ in value or fraction thereof for items valued over $\$ 25,000$ also would increase from $\$ 0.75$ to \$0.85.

## Return Receipt

The fee for regular return receipt service would increase from $\$ 1.50$ to $\$ 1.75$. The fee for return receipt after mailing would decrease from $\$ 3.50$ to $\$ 3.25$. A new service option would offer an electronic return receipt that includes delivery information and a copy of the signature to mailers who furnish an e-mail address at the point of purchase or preregister on the Internet (available Fall 2002). Mailers would also have the option to purchase a return receipt after mailing over the Internet using a credit card (available Fall 2002).

## Return Receipt for Merchandise

The fee for return receipt for merchandise would increase from $\$ 2.35$ to $\$ 3.00$.

## Signature Confirmation

Retail (manual) and electronic Signature Confirmation options would be extended to First-Class Mail parcels. For Package Services, Signature Confirmation would be restricted to parcels only and would no longer be available for flat-size mail. For First-Class Mail parcels, the fee would be $\$ 1.30$ for the electronic option and $\$ 1.80$ for the retail option. The fee for the retail option for Priority Mail would increase from $\$ 1.75$ to $\$ 1.80$. For Package Services parcels, the fee would increase from $\$ 1.25$ to $\$ 1.30$ for the electronic option and from $\$ 1.75$ to $\$ 1.80$ for the retail option.

## Shipper Paid Forwarding

The accounting fee would increase from $\$ 375$ to $\$ 475$.

## Special Handling

The fees for special handling would increase from $\$ 5.40$ to $\$ 5.95$ for pieces weighing up to 10 pounds and from $\$ 7.50$ to $\$ 8.25$ for pieces weighing over 10 pounds.

## Address Correction Service

The fee for manual address correction service (ACS) notices would increase from $\$ 0.60$ to $\$ 0.70$. The fee for automated ACS would remain the same at $\$ 0.20$.

## Address Sequencing Service

The fee for carrier sequencing of address cards service would increase from $\$ 0.25$ to $\$ 0.30$ per card.

## Mailing List Service

The charge for correction of mailing lists would increase from $\$ 0.25$ to $\$ 0.30$ per correction. The minimum per list charge also would increase from $\$ 7.50$ to $\$ 9.00$ per list. The charge for sortation of mailing lists on cards into groups labeled by 5 -digit ZIP Code would increase from $\$ 73$ to $\$ 100$. The charge for address changes for election boards would increase from $\$ 0.23$ to $\$ 0.27$.

## Meter Service

The fee for on-site meter service (per employee, per visit) would increase from $\$ 31$ to $\$ 35$. The fee for meter resetting and/or examination would increase from $\$ 4.00$ to $\$ 5.00$ per meter. The fee for check in/out of service (per meter) would remain the same.

## Pickup Service

The fee for pickup service, available for Express Mail, Priority Mail, and Parcel Post, would increase from $\$ 10.25$ to $\$ 12.50$ (per pickup).

## Post Office Box Service

Overall, post office (PO) box fees would increase. A new PO box fee
category would be introduced for PO box service in the lowest-cost cities and highest-cost rural areas. This new fee group would provide a bridge to eventually move high-cost and low-cost ZIP Codes toward more appropriate fee assignments. PO box key duplication or replacement (after first two keys) would increase from $\$ 4.00$ to $\$ 4.40$ each. PO box lock replacement would increase from $\$ 10$ to $\$ 11$. There would be no change to no-fee PO box service (Group E).

## Caller Service

The caller service fee for each separation provided per semiannual period would increase from $\$ 375$ to $\$ 412$. The fee for each reserved call
number per calendar year would increase from \$30 to \$32.

## Stamped Cards and Stamped Envelopes

The fee for stamped cards would remain the same. Special stamped envelopes (i.e., those with holograms or patch-in stamps) are no longer offered. The fees for the other types of available stamped envelopes would remain the same.
-Pricing and Classification

#  

## An easy-to-use mailing tool that can save you time and money

## Overview

Postal Explorer lets you view and search the Domestic Mail Manual, Quick Service Guides, International Mail Manual, and related publications from one location. The powerful, easy-touse search feature lets you search one or all publications.

## Audience

Medium to large mailers or anyone who needs access to official USPS mailing standards for domestic or international mail.

## Rate Calculators

The Business Rate Calculator computes rates for volume mailings of all classes of mail and worksharing discounts. The International Rate Calculator provides fast and easy access to
 all foreign mailing destinations. The Domestic Rate Calculator calculates rates for single-piece letters, flats, and packages.

## Customer Benefits

Postal Explorer is an easy-to-use information tool that can save you time and money by providing access to accurate, up-to-date mailing information. Postal Explorer displays and prints information as it appears in the printed publications, complete with graphics and charts.

## Customer Comments

"I've been in the mailing business for about 25 years and your Web site is one of the best "tools of the trade" that I've ever encountered. I probably hit the site at least twice a week."

## Domestic Mail Manual

The following announcements, reminders, and revisions to the Domestic Mail Manual will be incorporated into the printed version of DMM 57 and into the monthly update of the online DMM available via Postal Explorer at http://pe.usps.gov.

## DMM Revision

## Products Mailable at Nonprofit Standard Mail Rates

Effective January 1, 2002, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) E670.5.11 is revised to reflect an increase from $\$ 7.60$ to $\$ 7.90$ for low-cost products mailable at Nonprofit Standard Mail rates. Under statutory restrictions implemented in DMM E670, products may not be mailed at the Nonprofit

Standard Mail rates unless the products meet at least one of three exceptions. Under the Internal Revenue Code, a low-cost item is one of these exceptions.

The value of a low-cost item-the actual cost to the authorized organization-is determined each year
by the Internal Revenue Service, based on cost of living. For 2002, the maximum limit for the value of a low-cost item has been adjusted to \$7.90.

- Mail Preparation and Standards


## DMM Reminder

## Upcoming Mail Preparation Changes

The table below summarizes recent and upcoming mail preparation changes that have been published in the Postal Bulletin or are currently included in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM). Customers with questions about these changes should contact their district manager of business mail entry.

As a reminder, the DMM is updated online once a month and is available via the Postal Explorer Web site (http://pe.usps.gov).

- Mail Preparation and Standards

| Effective Date | Type of Mail | Mail Preparation Change | DMM Reference |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| January 1, 2002 | Media Mail | Discontinued the use of "Special Standard Mail" (or <br> "SPEC STD") marking. All mailers must use "Media <br> Mail." | M012.3.1 |
| January 1, 2002 | Library Mail | Discontinued the use of "Library Rate" marking. All <br> mailers must use "Library Mail." | M012.3.1 |
| January 1, 2002 | Presorted Bound <br> Printed Matter | Discontinued the use of "Presorted Standard" (or <br> "PRSRT STD") marking. All mailers must use <br> "Presorted" (or "PRSRT"). | M012.3.3 |

## DMM Reminder

## Postage Evidencing System Inspection and Examination

The licensee must, upon request, make immediately available for examination and audit by the provider or by the USPS any postage evidencing system or PSD in the licensee's possession and any corresponding transaction records (DMM P030.3.7). The USPS can perform physical or remote examination of any postage evidencing system or PSD. The licensee must meet the requirements for provider inspections and USPS examinations. All postage evidencing systems are inspected in accordance with the Postage Evidencing Systems Inspection and Examination Schedule below.

| Security Level | Postage Evidencing System | Provider Inspection | USPS Examination Requirements |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Manually reset postage meter | Every 6 months | Must bring to post office for examination when not reset within 3 months |
| 2 | Remotely reset postage meter with letterpress or digital indicia, but without self-disabling feature | Annually or every 6 months when there is no setting activity in 6 months | Examinations in special circumstances |
| 3 | Remotely reset meter with letterpress indicia and self-disabling feature | Every 2 years or every 6 months when there is no setting activity in 6 months | Examinations in special circumstances |
| 4 | Remotely reset postage meter with digital indicia and self-disabling feature | Every 2 years or enhanced inspection process when approved by USPS | Examinations in special circumstances |
| 5 | PSD meter, IBI meter, or a PC Postage system | Inspections in special circumstances | Examinations in special circumstances |

## DMM Reminder

## Last Line on the Pallet Label - Last but Not Least

It may be the last line of postal information on a pallet label, but sometimes it can be the first to cause confusion. So let's clarify what is suppose to appear there.

DMM M031.4.7 was amended last July to state that the office of mailing or mailer information line, the bottom line of required information on a pallet label, must show either the city and state of the entry post office OR the
mailer's name and the city and state of the mailer's location.

By "entry post office" we mean the postal facility where the mailer enters the mail. If a mailer drop ships pallets to a bulk mail center (BMC) or sectional center facility (SCF), the city and state of the BMC or SCF is considered the entry office, because that is where the mail enters the mail stream.

The city and state of the mailer's location, on the other hand, is usually the location where the mail is verified by business mail entry and where the postage is paid. The bottom line is, the mailers may use either of these options as the last line on their pallet labels.

- Chicago Rates and

Classification Service Center

## DMM Reminder

## Publishers Submission of Form 3510 for Action on Additional Entry

When submitting Form 3510, Application for Additional Entry, Reentry, or Special Rate Request for Periodicals Publication, to open and/or close an additional entry for your
publication, please review the additional entries that are currently open for the publication. Check to see if all are active additional entries. If they are not active, please close these
additional entries on the same Form 3510 you are submitting.

- New York Rates and

Classification Service Center

## Ask Dr. Goodbarcode

Q. When a ZIP Code is required to appear in a company permit imprint, should it be my own or that of the post office where my mail is entered?
A. It is the location where your records are either kept or can be made available for USPS review.

A company permit imprint is one in which the exact name of the company or individual holding the permit is shown in the indicia in place of the city, state, and permit number.

Each mailpiece must bear a complete domestic return address. If the return address is not the physical location (i.e., where they are kept or
can be made available) at which the USPS may review the records or is not a point of contact from which such a physical location can be readily determined then the mailer must include in the indicia the 5-digit ZIP Code of the physical location at which the records listed are either kept or can be made available for USPS review. These requirements are spelled out in DMM P040.3.4.

PRSRTSTD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
GOODBARCODE
COMPANY
Customer Permit Imprint

## Dr. Goodbarcode



Send questions regarding mail preparation, standards, or regulations to "Ask Dr. Goodbarcode" via email to jnagla@email.usps.gov or fax to
703-292-3876. The good doctor will select one or two of the most challenging questions for publication

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## MAILERS COMPANION

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## MAILERS COMPANION

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MEMPHIS TN 38188-0001

```
PRSRT STD
POSTAGE & FEES
PAID
USPS
PERMIT NO. G-10
```


## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED


[^0]:    Contents
    Settlement Agreement .....  .1
    R2001-1 Highlights ..... 5
    Postal Explorer .....  .9
    DMM Revisions and Reminders ..... 10
    Ask Dr. Goodbarcode back cover

[^1]:    1. Letter-rate pieces that weigh up to 3.5 ounces receive a discount that equals the difference between the applicable nonletter piece rate (3.3 ounces or less) and the applicable letter piece rate (3.3 ounces or less).
