

III. PERIODICALS

The classification reform proposal changes the name for second-class mail to Periodicals. Second-class regular rate mail will be split into two subclasses: Publications Service and Regular Periodicals. Preferred second-class mail preparation rules and rates, including those for in-county mail, will not change as a result of the pending classification reform case.

A. GENERAL

1. Basic Requirements

The requirements listed below represent no change to current standards governing eligibility for second-class rates.

- Must qualify as General Publication, Requester Publication, Publication of Institution and Society, or Publication of a State Department of Agriculture (411.1).
- Must be mailable matter consisting of newspapers and other periodical publications (411.2).
- Must be regularly issued at stated intervals at least four times a year, bear a date of issue, and be numbered consecutively (411.3).
- Must have a known office of publication (411.4).
- Must be formed of printed sheets (411.5).
- No size or weight limits (430).
- Postage must be paid in accordance with 441 (441).
- Must be presorted as prescribed by the Postal Service (442).
- Must be identified as prescribed by the Postal Service (444).
- May have certain attachments and enclosures (443).
- Must file certain information (445).
- May contain enclosures and supplements as prescribed by the Postal Service (446).
- Must be deposited at places and times designated by the Postal Service (451).

2. General Publications

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

- Must be for the purpose of disseminating information of a public character or must be devoted to literature, the sciences, art, or some special industry (412.2).
- Must have at least 50 percent paid circulation (412.31).
- Must have a legitimate list of subscribers (412.32).
- Must meet tests to ensure that it is not designed primarily for advertising purposes (for example, advertising may not exceed 75 percent in more than one-half of its issues during any 12-month period) (412.4).

3. Requester Publications

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

- Must contain at least 24 pages (413.2).
- Must contain at least 25 percent nonadvertising (413.31).
- Must meet ownership and control test for advertising purposes (413.32).
- Must have a legitimate list of requesters, with at least a 50 percent distribution to requesters (413.41).

4. Publications of Institutions and Societies

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

- Must meet General Publications advertising requirements (414.1).
- Must contain only publisher advertising unless certain conditions are met (414.1, 414.2).
- Must be published by an institution or society (414.1).

5. Publications of State Departments of Agriculture

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

- Must be issued by a state department of agriculture (415).
- Must contain no advertising and must further the objective of the department (415).

6. Foreign Publications

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

- Must have same character as domestic Periodicals (416).

B. REGULAR SUBCLASS

1. General Requirements

With the exception of the change in the description of rate categories, and possible presort changes explained below, the requirements for the Regular subclass have not changed from those currently applicable to regular second-class mail.

- Must be presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service (421.1).
- Mail must meet current requirements in DMM M010, M020, M030, M041, M042, M200, M800, D200.
- Must meet machinability, addressing, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service (421.1).
- Mail must meet current requirements in DMM A200, A800, C200, C800.

2. Regular Subclass Pound-Rate Category

These requirements are the same as current standards for second-class mail.

• An unzoned pound rate applies to nonadvertising portion of the publication (421.2).

• A zoned pound rate (rates are based on 9 zones) applies to the advertising portion (421.2).

3. Regular Piece-Rate Categories (421.3)

—Regular piece-rate categories include basic, 3- and 5-digit, and carrier route. These proposed categories eliminate the rate levels A, B, and C, making the presortation structure for Periodicals more consistent with other classes. The new 3- and 5-digit rate category replaces the current B3 and B5 rates. Mail presorted to all 3-digit destinations (not just to unique 3-digit destinations) will qualify for the 3- and 5-digit rate. This represents a change from today's regular second-class rate structure.

—Industry members of the Periodicals Implementation Advisory Group have suggested that the presort requirements for Regular and Publications Service rates be made the same for simplicity. Although the Postal Service did not anticipate making changes, except as noted to the current presort requirements for Regular Periodicals, it agrees that a single presort scheme would make sense and will evaluate the suggestion. Such changes would include eliminating the optional city, SCF, state, and SDC sortation levels. The Publications Service chart at the end of this section contains additional information on the proposed sortation scheme. The Postal Service is interested in the comments from publishers and other parties on whether the sortation requirements for Regular Periodicals should be the same as those for Publications Service.

4. Basic Rate Category (421.31)

a. Three- and Five-Digit Rate Category

• Must be presorted to single or multiple 3- and 5-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service (421.32).

—In nonautomation rate mailings, rates apply to pieces in 5-digit, optional city, and 3-digit packages of six or more addressed pieces each that are correctly sorted to 5-digit, optional city, or 3-digit sacks.

—In packaged-based automation-rate letter-size mailings, rates apply to pieces in 5-digit packages of 10 or more pieces, and in optional city and 3-digit packages of 50 or more pieces, that are placed in 5-digit, optional city, 3-digit, SCF, or AADC trays.