

These operational inefficiencies also affect the Postal Service when these partially palletized loads are unloaded from vehicles at entry or downstream postal facilities.

In order to provide mailers with additional opportunities to eliminate split production lines (for example, packages on pallets and packages in sacks), the new proposed rule allows mailers to palletize trays of residual letter-size mail and to place SDC, state, and mixed-states packages of flats meeting the package preparation standards for packages onto pallets.

Trays of residual mail from automation mailings may be placed onto the appropriate level of pallet where possible (for example, AADC trays on ADC or BMC pallets). Trays of working mail and SDC, state, and mixed-states packages may be placed onto working pallets labeled to the origin BMC or SDC or to the plant serving the office where mailings are entered.

As noted above, working pallets must not exceed 10 percent of the total number of pallets for a single mailing or job. These working pallets must be loaded to the maximum to minimize pallet handlings.

When placing mail onto pallets, if there is a conflict between the labeling lists (service area ZIP Codes) of the container (for example, tray or sack) and the pallet on which it is placed (for example, the range of ZIP Codes assigned to a single SCF or a single AADC may be assigned (split) to two or more BMCs), mailers must place the container onto the pallet for the facility serving the ZIP Code on the destination (top) line of the container. Any applicable destination entry discounts may be claimed for mail properly palletized in this manner.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b), 553(c)) regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites comments on the following proposed revisions of the Domestic Mail Manual, incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations. See 39 CFR part 111.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

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, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Revise the following units of the Domestic Mail Manual as noted below:

E—Eligibility

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E300 THIRD-CLASS MAIL

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E333 CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

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3.0 PRESORT

[Introductory paragraph 3.1 previously revised in Postal Bulletin 21888, March 2, 1995, as follows:]

3.1 Qualifying Mail

Each qualifying piece must be part of a group of 10 or more addressed pieces correctly packaged to the same carrier route that is, in turn, correctly placed in a carrier route, 5-digit carrier routes, or 3-digit carrier routes tray or sack. Such trays must be full; sacks must contain at least 125 addressed pieces or 15 pounds of addressed pieces. Qualifying mail also includes:

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[Add new 3.1c as follows:]

c. Correctly presorted carrier route packages correctly sorted to the appropriate level of pallet.

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E350 Destination Entry Discounts

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3.0 Deposit

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[Revise the heading and introductory paragraph of 3.8 as follows:]

3.8 Unloading

The unloading of vehicles is subject to these conditions:

[Add new 3.8a and redesignate current 3.8a through 3.8c as 3.8b through 3.8d, respectively.]

a. Properly prepared containerized loads (e.g., pallets) are unloaded by the USPS at BMCs, ASFs, and SCFs. The USPS does not unload or permit a mailer/mailer agent to unload containerized loads that have not maintained their integrity in transit. [Amend redesignated 3.8b by deleting the second sentence as follows:]

b. At delivery units, the driver must unload containerized drop shipments within 1 hour of arrival.

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E400 FOURTH-CLASS MAIL

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E416 Special Fourth-Class Rates

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2.0 SPECIAL FOURTH-CLASS PRESORT

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[Revise the first sentence of the introductory paragraph of 2.6 (previously revised and redesignated from 2.5 to 2.6 in Postal Bulletin 21884, January 5, 1995) as follows:]

2.6 Level A

To qualify for the special fourth-class presort level A rate, a piece must be in a mailing of at least 500 pieces receiving identical service, properly prepared and presorted under M404 in full 5-digit sacks or under M044 on 5-digit pallets. These conditions also apply:

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[Revise the first sentence of 2.7 (previously revised and redesignated from 2.6 to 2.7 in Postal Bulletin 21884, January 5, 1995) as follows:]

2.7 Level B

To qualify for the special fourth-class presort level B rate, a piece must be in a mailing of at least 500 pieces receiving identical service, properly prepared and presorted under M404 in full or substantially full bulk mail center (BMC) sacks or under M044 on destination BMC pallets. Mailings of at least 500 nonmachinable outside parcels may qualify for presort level B if made up to preserve presort by BMC as prescribed by the mailing office postmaster. The postmaster may require up to a 24-hour notice before the mailing is presented.

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E450 DESTINATION BMC/ASF DISCOUNT

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3.0 DEPOSIT

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[Revise the introductory paragraph of 3.8 as follows:]

3.8 Unloading

The unloading of DBMC mailings is subject to these conditions:

[Revise 3.8a as follows:]

a. Properly prepared containerized loads (e.g., pallets) are unloaded by the USPS. The USPS does not unload or permit a mailer/mailer agent to unload containerized loads that have not maintained their integrity in transit.

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L—Labeling Lists

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[Revise the heading of L101 as follows:]

L101 ADCs—PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS, ALL ZIP+4 BARCODED FLAT-SIZE MAILINGS, AND ALL ADC PALLETS

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