

pallets is not more than 2,200 pounds; the heavier pallet is on the bottom; the pallets are banded together with appropriate strapping material to maintain their integrity during transportation and handling; and the combined height of the stacked pallets is not more than 77 inches. Pallets of sacks not placed in fiberboard boxes must not be double-stacked.

b. Pallets holding MM or EMM trays of letter-size mail or bricklayered parcels may be triple-stacked if the combined gross weight of the stacked pallets is not more than 2,200 pounds. No other type of pallet may be triple-stacked. The heaviest pallet must be on the bottom and the lightest on the top; the pallets must be banded together with appropriate strapping material to maintain their integrity during transportation and handling; and the combined height of the stacked pallets must not be more than 77 inches.

[Redesignate current 4.0 as 5.0; add new 4.0 as follows:]

4.0 PALLET BOXES

4.1 Use

Mailers may use pallet boxes constructed of single-, double-, or triple-wall corrugated fiberboard placed on pallets to hold sacks or parcels prepared under M042, M043, or M044. The box must protect the mail and maintain the integrity of the pallet load throughout transportation, handling, and processing.

4.2 Maximum Height

The combined height of the pallet, pallet box, and mail must not be more than 84 inches. The USPS may restrict the use of pallet boxes more than 60 inches high at non-BMC postal facilities that do not have equipment for handling or unloading such containers.

4.3 Securing

A pallet box must be secured to the pallet base with strapping, banding, stretchable plastic, shrinkwrap, or by any other means that ensures that the pallet can be safely unloaded from vehicles (and reloaded, if necessary) and processed as a single unit to the point where the contents are distributed. The mail must be evenly distributed within the pallet box so that the load remains intact and does not shift in transit causing the box to break, topple, or fall off the pallet in transit or during processing.

4.4 Nonconforming Mailers

Nonconforming mailers (see 1.6) may use pallet boxes only if constructed of triple-wall corrugated fiberboard (C and/

or B flute) material with a maximum height of 77 inches.

[Revise the heading of redesignated 5.0 as follows:]

5.0 PALLET PREPARATION

[Revise redesignated 5.1 as follows:]

5.1 Presort

Pallet preparation and sortation is subject to the specific standards in M042 through M048. Pallet sortation is intended to presort the palletized portion of a mailing to at least the finest extent required for the rate claimed. Generally, pallet sortation is sequential from the lowest (finest) level to the highest and must be completed at each required level before the next optional or required level is prepared. As applicable, presort levels and standard preparation terms for pallets are defined in M020, M042, M043, M044, and M048.

[Revise redesignated 5.2 as follows:]

5.2 Minimum Load

In a single mailing, the minimum load per pallet is 250 pounds (of second-, third-, and fourth-class packages, parcels, and sacks); or three layers of MM or EMM trays (of second- or third-class letter-size mail).

[Renummer redesignated 5.3 as 5.7; add new 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 as follows:]

5.3 Required Preparation

Pallets are prepared as follows:

a. A pallet must be prepared to a required level of sortation whenever there are 500 pounds of mail (for second-, third-, and fourth-class packages, sacks, and parcels) or six layers of MM or EMM trays (for second- and third-class letter-size mail).

b. Up to 10 percent of the total pallets in any mailing or job may be working pallets labeled to the BMC (third- or fourth-class mail) or SDC (second-class mail) serving the post office where mailings are entered (accepted) into the mailstream. The processing and distribution manager may issue a written authorization to the mailer to label working pallets to the post office or processing and distribution center serving the post office where mailings are entered. For non-PVDS mailings, the 10 percent limit may be exceeded when finer levels of pallets could not be prepared.

5.4 Maximum Weight

The maximum weight is 2,200 pounds (mail and pallet) for all pallets.

5.5 Maximum Height

The combined height of a single pallet and its load must not exceed the following:

- a. 84 inches for a fiberboard pallet box and its contents (sacks or parcels) on a pallet.
- b. 77 inches for packages, bundles, parcels, or sacks on pallets.
- c. 12 layers of MM or EMM trays.

5.6 Nonconforming Mailers

For nonconforming mailers (see 1.6) the combined height of a pallet and its load must not exceed 77 inches for sacks, packages, bundles, parcels, and full-size fiberboard pallet boxes; or five layers of EMM trays; or six layers of MM trays.

5.7 Mixed Rates

Regular rate and special rate mail may be placed on the same pallet, subject to the terms of the mailer's pallet authorization and the standards applicable to the rates claimed. [Add new 6.0 as follows:]

6.0 ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRAYS (LETTER MAIL), PACKAGES, BUNDLES, AND SACKS ON PALLET'S

6.1 Other Standards

Trays of letter mail, packages, bundles, and sacks must be prepared under the respective standards for the class of mail and rate claimed.

6.2 Trays—Second- and Third-Class Mail

Trays from automation rate mailings must not be placed on 5-digit pallets with trays from non-automation rate mailings.

6.3 Records—Second- and Third-Class Mail

When two or more mailings are placed together on pallets, the mailer must maintain records for each mailing as required by standard.

6.4 Packages, Bundles, and Sacks

Subject to the applicable standards, mailers must sack mail that is not prepared as packages or bundles on pallets. For second-class mail, mailers must separately sack packages of each second-class publication not palletized under M042 or excluded from palletization; however, packages of each publication and edition may be sacked together if adequate documentation is provided. Sacks (including sacks of packages not placed on pallets) containing packages remaining after all pallets are prepared may be presented with the palletized mail (on the same mailing statement) if segregated from the palletized portion of the mailing.