

### 7.3 Package Preparation

Package size for all presort levels: two-piece minimum, 20-pound maximum. Presort sequence and labeling of packages are subject to 5.0.

### 7.4 Bundle Preparation

Bundle size for all presort levels: two packages/20 pounds/1,000 cubic inches minimum, 40 pounds maximum; smaller bundles not permitted. Presort sequence is subject to 5.0. Five-digit bundles must contain pieces with the correct optional endorsement line or have a red Label D. Other bundles must be labeled with facing slips that have similar information to that required for sack labels. Packages too large to be placed in a bundle do not require a facing slip.

### 7.5 Physical Characteristics

Bundles must be machinable by USPS sack-sorting equipment, unless they consist of pieces for entry and delivery in the same SCF service area. Machinability might be improved by cross-strapping and using heavy-gauge shrinkwrap or stretchwrap on each bundle. Bundles entered and delivered in the same SCF service area must be securely bound to withstand normal handling without breakage or injury to USPS employees or damage to mechanized sorting systems. Binding material must be applied at least once around both the length and girth. Wire and metal strapping are prohibited.

### *M620 Enhanced Carrier Route Standard Mail (A)*

## 1.0 BASIC STANDARDS

### 1.1 All Mailings

All Enhanced Carrier Route rate mailings are subject to these general standards:

- a. Each mailing must meet the applicable standards in E632 and M010 through M030.
- b. All pieces must be in the same processing category.
- c. All pieces must be presorted together and prepared under M620, unless palletized under M045.
- d. Sortation determines rate eligibility; pieces not claimed at or not eligible for the High Density or Saturation rates must be claimed at the Basic Carrier Route rate.
- e. Subject to M012, all pieces must be marked "STD" (or "Standard"), "ECR" (or "Enhanced Carrier Route"). In addition, Basic, High Density, and Saturation rate pieces must each be marked "LOT," "WSH," or "WSS," respectively, after the ECR marking (e.g., "ECRWSS"), in the correct optional endorsement line under M013, or in the

correct carrier route information line under M014. Pieces not claimed at the corresponding rate must not bear the "LOT," "WSH," or "WSS" marking.

f. Subject to 1.2, letter-size pieces must be prepared in trays and, unless palletized, flat-size pieces must be prepared in sacks.

g. Postmasters may authorize preparation of small volume mailings in nonpostal containers if they consist primarily of packages for local ZIP Codes, do not exceed 20 pounds, and do not require postal transportation for processing.

### 1.2 Preparation Category

Pieces of Standard Mail (A) that, by size, could qualify for an Automation rate as either a letter or a flat, and that are prepared as palletized flats at Enhanced Carrier Route rates, may be prepared as palletized flats at Regular nonletter rates as well if the number of Regular nonletter rate pieces does not exceed 10% of the total number of pieces in the entire mailing job (regardless of rate).

### 1.3 High Density and Saturation Rates

Mailpieces for which the High Density or Saturation rate is claimed must be prepared as a carrier route mailing under this section and the walk-sequencing standards in M050. Pieces prepared with a simplified address must also meet the corresponding standards.

### 1.4 Documentation

Documentation is subject to the general standards in P012. At the time a mailing is submitted for presort and postage verification, the mailer must submit a list of the number of pieces qualifying for each Enhanced Carrier Route rate claimed by 5-digit ZIP Code and, within each, by carrier route. Additional documentation is required under M050 for the High Density and Saturation rates. After the first mailing, the postmaster may authorize the mailer to keep the records and submit them on request. The mailer must keep these records for 90 days after the mailing date, or until any action pending on the recalculation of postage is resolved to the USPS's satisfaction.

## 2.0 PACKAGE PREPARATION

### 2.1 General

Only carrier route packages are prepared. "Carrier route" includes city carrier routes, rural routes, highway contract routes, post office box sections, and general delivery units. Packages are not required in full carrier route trays.

### 2.2 Package Size and Labeling

Package size: carrier route; required (10-piece minimum, fewer not permitted). Carrier route package labels are based on the level of sack or tray in which placed:

a. No label is required if the package is placed in a correctly labeled carrier route tray or sack.

b. Packages in 5-digit carrier routes trays and sacks must have a facing slip unless the pieces in the package show a carrier route information line. Optional endorsement lines may be used instead of carrier information lines or facing slips.

### 2.3 Walk-Sequence Mail

A facing slip with the phrase "WALK-SEQUENCED CARRIER ROUTE MAIL" may be placed on the top of each package of walk-sequence mail. It may be an address label with the required information placed on a sample mailpiece that is the top piece in the package, or a separate piece of paper affixed to the top of the package. A facing slip does not satisfy the marking on each piece required by 1.1e.

## 3.0 TRAY PREPARATION—LETTER-SIZE PIECES

### 3.1 Tray Size, Presort, and Labeling

Tray size, presort sequence, and labeling:

a. Carrier route: required full tray; no overflow; use 5-digit ZIP Code destination of packages for Line 1, preceded for military mail by the correct prefixes under M031.

b. 5-digit carrier routes: required (no minimum); use 5-digit ZIP Code destination of packages for Line 1, preceded for military mail by the correct prefixes under M031.

### 3.2 Line 2

Line 2: STD LTRS and:

- a. Basic Carrier Route trays: ECRLOT, route type and number.
- b. High Density trays: ECRWSH, route type and number.
- c. Saturation trays: ECRWSS, route type and number.
- d. 5-digit carrier routes trays: CR-RTS.

## 4.0 SACK PREPARATION—OTHER PIECES

### 4.1 When to Sack

A sack must be prepared when the quantity of mail for a required presort destination reaches either 125 pieces or 15 pounds of pieces, whichever occurs first, subject to these conditions:

a. For identical-weight pieces, a single-piece weight of 1.92 ounces (0.12 pound) results in 125 pieces weighing 15 pounds. Identical-weight pieces