

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Michael Kubayanda, Chairman;
Ashley E. Poling, Vice Chairwoman;
Mark Acton;
Ann C. Fisher; and
Robert G. Taub

Transfer of Bound Printed Matter
Parcels to the Competitive Product List

Docket No. MC2021-78

COMMISSION INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued August 19, 2021)

To clarify the Postal Service's request to transfer Bound Printed Matter Parcels (BPM Parcels) to the competitive product list, filed March 26, 2021,¹ the Postal Service is requested to provide written responses to the following questions. The responses should be provided as soon as they are developed, but no later than August 26, 2021. When answering the following questions, please do not cite to any filing for which a motion for leave to file remains pending.

¹ United States Postal Service Request to Transfer Bound Printed Matter Parcels to the Competitive Product List, March 26, 2021 (Request).

The Postal Service notes that preparation requirements are among the characteristics to be examined when determining the relevant market segment for parcel transfer cases.² Scholastic, Inc. states that the Postal Service handles a substantial volume of non-containerized parcels whereas neither FedEx Corporation nor United Parcel Service, Inc. will accept non-containerized parcels.³ Please answer the following questions concerning containerized and non-containerized parcels.

1. Please confirm that the Postal Service accepts non-containerized volume as BPM Parcels. If confirmed, please provide the percentage of BPM Parcels volume that is not containerized. If reliable data are unavailable, please provide the best available estimate and indicate the source of that estimate.
2. Please indicate which of the competing products identified in the Request accept non-containerized parcels. For each such competing product identified, please also indicate whether that product accepts dropshipped parcels.
3. Please indicate whether the Postal Service considers containerized and/or non-containerized parcels to be “subclasses or other subordinate units” of BPM Parcels within the meaning of 39 U.S.C. § 3642(c), and please fully explain the Postal Service’s rationale for that position.
4. Did the Postal Service consider “mandatory containerization” as a preparation requirement germane to the determination of the relevant market segment for purposes of the requested transfer? Please fully explain the Postal Service’s rationale for that position.

² Request at 5 (citing Docket No. MC2015-7, Order Conditionally Approving Transfer, July 20, 2017 (Order No. 4009)).

³ See Comments of Scholastic, Inc. Opposing the Transfer of Bound Printed Matter Parcels to the Competitive Product List, May 17, 2021, at 3, 26.

5. Please provide revised draft Mail Classification Schedule language that would facilitate a partial transfer of containerized BPM Parcels to the competitive product list should the Commission find that non-containerized BPM Parcels are not eligible to be transferred.

By the Commission.

Erica A. Barker
Secretary