

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

RECEIVED

FEB 1 11 13 AM '02

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL

Before Commissioners:

George A. Omas, Chairman;
Ruth Y. Goldway, Vice Chairman;
and Dana B. Covington

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2001-1

NOTICE OF INQUIRY NO. 1
CONCERNING PROPOSED DMCS CHANGES

(Issued February 1, 2002)

The proposed Stipulation and Agreement of January 17, 2002 incorporates the Postal Service proposal to eliminate from the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS) the listings of combinations of special services that either must be used together, or may be used in conjunction with each other. See USPS-T-36, at 87-96. This proposal is similar to a Postal Service proposal rejected by the Commission in Docket No. R2000-1. See Docket No. R2000-1, USPS-T-39, at 165-166.

The DMCS is a legal document that plays a major role in the relationship between the Postal Service and the Commission. The inclusion of the listing of special service combinations in the DMCS raises legal issues involving both jurisdiction over the composition of the DMCS, and jurisdiction over reviewing changes to allowable special service combinations. Eliminating the special service combinations from the DMCS reduces the ability of the Commission to exercise review jurisdiction over possible special service combinations, and infringes on the Commission's jurisdiction over the DMCS contents. At this time, the Commission sees no benefit in ceding jurisdiction over these issues.

In Docket No. R2000-1, the Commission rejected the proposal to narrow the scope of DMCS special services descriptions because it perceived a benefit to the public from retaining complete and accurate combination listings in the DMCS. PRC Op. R2000-1, paras. 6161-6166. However, the Commission acknowledged that it did not have sufficient confidence in the available record information to verify the accuracy

of the currently published listings at that time. Thus, the existing listings were retained until this subject matter could be thoroughly reviewed.

In this docket, R2001-1, the Postal Service renewed its proposal to modify the DMCS language to eliminate the combination listings. Witness Mayo alleges the need for “the flexibility and discretion to make changes quickly to the special services combinations” and the “flexibility to react quickly to these customers needs, particularly as they relate to new combinations of special services.” USPS-T-36 at 88. However, witness Mayo has not provided even one example of an instance where the combinations listings has hindered the ability of the Postal Service to respond quickly to the needs of Postal Service customers.

Witness Mayo suggests that “the Postal Service and its customers would prefer to quickly implement new special services combinations that customers request.” USPS-T-36 at 88. However, this statement does not factor in the benefits of the open public process in evaluating potential additions to and subtractions from customer options. The assumed preference for quick implementation must be balanced against the protections provided to both the Postal Service and its customers by a Commission review of proposed service changes.

Review of Postal Service proposals for changes to special services is an important statutory function of the Commission. See *National Association of Greeting Card Publishers v. United States Postal Service*, 569 F.2d 570, 594-598 (1976); § 3623(c). A Commission review of proposed changes protects the interests of all parties. Ceding this important function from the jurisdiction of the Commission would not be consistent with the complementary functions of the Postal Service and the Commission.

Witness Mayo asserts that the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) now provides the public with complete information about special service combinations. While the DMM is a valuable source of information, the public is well served by having access to independent, legally binding, accurate descriptions of available postal services. The necessity for this became self-evident when the Commission attempted, but failed, to

reconcile the available Postal Service sources of information when attempting to assure the accuracy of special service combinations listings at the end of Docket No. R2000-1.

The proposed Stipulation and Agreement in this docket, R2001-1, would eliminate thorough public discussion and consideration of Postal Service proposals to modify the availability of special services. It would also eliminate Commission consideration of whether such proposals were consistent with public policy. The record developed through the pending, proposed Stipulation and Agreement does not justify such a change.

If the proposed Stipulation and Agreement forms the basis of a Recommended Decision in this case, the Commission intends to retain the current special services combination listings, and not make changes to the DMCS that reduce the amount of information that it contains. See *Newsweek, Inc. v. United States Postal Service*, 663 F.2d 1186, 1206 [one postal “partner” may not prevent another from disregarding “improper recommendations which would encroach upon its independent . . . reviewing powers.”] (1981). This expressed intent does not affect rates in any way, and does not affect classification proposals in the proposed Stipulation and Agreement that concern the substance of any special service. The only intent is to retain the current scope of descriptions of special services in the DMCS.

Proposal to consider revisions to the DMCS. An accurate list of the available class(es) or subclass(es) of mail that a special service may be used with should be delineated for each special service. In addition, prerequisites to using or purchasing a special service that affect the availability of a special service should also be clearly explained in the DMCS. Prerequisites include, among other things, the requirement to use or purchase another special service in conjunction with the underlying special service. This is important information for the public to understand when contemplating the use or purchase of a special service. There are also prohibitions, limitations, and mandatory usage requirements that affect the availability of a special service. This information also should be included in the DMCS. These items may appropriately be included under an “Availability” subheading for each special service.

In addition to a description of the availability requirements for use or purchase of each special service that should be included under the "Availability" subheadings, each special service description in the DMCS should include an accurate listing of additional special services that may be combined with the subject special service. Instances where use or purchase of a different special service is required before use or purchase of the subject special service also should be clearly indicated in the DMCS by explicitly stating such requirements in each applicable special service section. Both items could appropriately be included under an "Other Services" subheading for each special service.

Retaining the existing information in the DMCS special services section, other than proposals made in this docket that affect the substance of a special service, is a conservative course of action that is most likely to avoid unintended results. However, this approach is flawed in that it will not resolve any potential inaccuracies contained within the existing DMCS, and does nothing to improve the value to the public of the DMCS as a useful source of information. Because the intended approach is not necessarily the best approach, the Commission is proposing an alternative solution, and offering several ideas that should be considered potential ways to revise the DMCS in the future.

Participants are invited to comment on each set of proposals that are discussed below. At this time, the Commission does not intend to implement the alternate solution, which appears in Attachment A. However, the Commission would reconsider this position if participants express support for the alternative solution, and if there is no substantive objection to its implementation. The second proposal, that includes ideas for future DMCS special service section revisions, is meant to start the process of revising the DMCS to make this document more valuable to the public.

The record developed to date in this case does not explore whether the existing DMCS Special Services Classification Schedule accurately reflects the combinations of special services that can be used in conjunction with each other. It also does not explore whether the existing DMCS succinctly describes the prerequisites for using particular special services. This applies both to when another special service must be

used as a prerequisite to using a particular special service, and to the available classes/subclasses of mail that may be used with a particular special service. Furthermore, the DMCS may not accurately identify every instance where a special service fulfills the prerequisite requirement for another service. Rectifying these deficiencies requires corrective action. Unfortunately, the procedural stance of this case may preclude developing a complete record on these issues. This places the Commission in an undesirable position similar to the one that it was in at the conclusion of Docket No. R2000-1. Then, the Commission retained the current DMCS combination listings, even though their accuracy was questionable.

The Commission has started the process of developing a more consistent and easily understood format for accurate combination listings, and standardizing the special services language. Several sources of information have been reviewed.¹ The first effort in this process is to propose language for DMCS sections that directly affect the Commission's ability to exercise review jurisdiction over the special services. A draft of the proposed language is included as Attachment A. This attachment sets forth possible changes to the DMCS special services sections that would simplify, clarify, and otherwise improve the value of the DMCS to the public.²

The Postal Service proposal to eliminate the special services combination listings that appear under the "Other Services" special services subheadings negatively affects the Commission's ability to exercise review jurisdiction over special services. To counter this potential problem, the Commission's preference is to develop accurate combination listings, and retain this information under the Other Services subheadings.

¹ Sources include: Domestic Mail Classification Schedule, November 16, 2001; Domestic Mail Manual, January 7, 2001; Request of the United States Postal Service for a Recommended Decision on Changes in Rates of Postage and Fees for Postal Services and Request for Expedition, September 24, 2001; United States Postal Service notice of Filing Errata to the Proposed Changes in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the Proposed Rate and Fee Schedules, November 7, 2001; Direct Testimony of Susan W. Mayo on Behalf of United States Postal Service, USPS-T-36, September 24, 2001 (with emphasis on Exhibits B and C); Direct Testimony of Samuel J Koroma on Behalf of the United States Postal Service, USPS-T-37, September 24, 2001; Response of United States Postal Service to Interrogatories of Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA/USPS-114-137 and 139-141), 2001 (specifically OCA/USPS-116 Exhibit 1).

² A notable exception to this process is section 981 Netpost Mailing Online. Because of the experimental status of this service, proposals for standardizing the related DMCS language will not be made at this time.

Upon review of the existing DMCS, it became evident that complementary changes also are required under the "Availability" subheadings to accurately reflect the special services relationships. Proposed changes designed to correct and clarify the Other Services and Availability subheadings are reflected in Attachment A.

Two sets of information are proposed to be included under the Other Services subheadings for each special service. The first set of information contains an accurate listing of the additional special services that may be used or purchased in conjunction with the underlying special service. This is essentially the same information presented under the Other Services subheadings in the existing DMCS. In this docket, however, the Commission has reviewed the existing special services listings and compared the listings with information that is publicly available and information provided in this docket by the Postal Service. This review has culminated in the proposal to update the Other Services listings for each special service as shown in Attachment A.

The second set of information proposed to be included under the Other Services subheadings is an indication of where the underlying special service fulfills a prerequisite requirement for purchase of an additional special service. This information is not included in the existing DMCS. However, making the customer aware of prerequisite relationships could alleviate customer confusion when contemplating the purchase of the second service, and is thus useful information for the public to consider. The services included in the second set of information are a subset of the services listed in the additional services listing discussed above. Consideration was given to including the prerequisite relationships within the additional services listings, but for clarity it is proposed that this information be presented separately.

The Commission's consideration of what information should be presented under the Other Services subheadings revealed inconsistencies in the information presented under the Availability subheadings in the existing DMCS. For example, the Return Receipt and the Restricted Delivery sections in the existing DMCS present information under the Availability subheadings that would more appropriately be presented in combination listings under the Other Services subheadings. This prompted a comparison of the various special services to consider what information should be

presented under the Availability subheadings. The result of this review is to propose that three sets of information, concerning classes of mail, prerequisites, and limitations, be presented under the Availability subheadings. The proposed changes to each Availability section is also shown in Attachment A.

The first set of information proposed to be included under the Availability subheadings identifies the eligible class(es) or subclass(es) of mail required for use with each special service. In the majority of cases, this is the same information presented in the existing DMCS. The notable exceptions are corrections to the Return Receipt and the Restricted Delivery sections to move listings of additional services from the Availability sections to the Other Services sections.

The second set of information proposed to be presented under the Availability subheadings concerns prerequisites for use of each special service. Several of the special services require the use or purchase of another special service as a prerequisite to using the primary special service. These conditions affect the availability of the special service and generally are not indicated in the existing DMCS. Therefore, the prerequisites for use of the special service are appropriately listed under the Availability subheadings.

The third and final set of information proposed to be presented under the Availability subheadings is an indication of the instances where restrictions, limitations, or mandatory use of a special service are placed on the availability of a special service. For example, Signature Confirmation service has limitations for use with mail addressed to APO/FPO destinations. This information also is appropriate for separate inclusion under the Availability subheadings.

In summary, the proposed information to be presented under the Availability subheadings are a listing of the classes/subclasses of mail that the special service may be used with, along with any prerequisite required for a particular class/subclass, and any restrictions for use of the special service. In addition, any mandatory use of the special service with a specific class/subclass of mail shall be noted.

The proposed information to be presented under the Other Services subheadings are a listing of other special services that may be used in conjunction with

the specified special service, and a separate listing of where the specified special service acts as a prerequisite for another special service. Again, the proposed changes are reflected in Attachment A.

DMCS proposals that improve the value of the DMCS to the public. The organization of the DMCS special services sections is inconsistent from section to section. This detracts from a postal customer's ability to utilize the DMCS as a valuable source of information. For example, various combinations of sixteen different subheadings are used, sometimes in differing order, throughout the special services sections. See Table 1. Furthermore, some of the different subheadings in fact describe the same types of material, for example, "Mailer Requirements" and "Requirements of Customer," or "Other Services" and "Other Special Services." These examples of excess complexity and inconsistency detract from the DMCS being a clear and concise source of information to the public. Changes to eliminate inconsistencies or improve the organization of the DMCS are not being proposed at this time. However, these comments are offered so that modifications may be considered in the future to improve the value of this document to the public.

The special services sections should be reorganized with several goals in mind. First, the presentation of information should be consistent from one special service to the next except when variation is necessary. This requires developing a standard framework for the presentation of information that could consistently be used for each special service with a minimum number of exceptions. This should include the use of standard subheadings within each special service section to organize the presentation of information. The majority of special services currently use the following DMCS subheadings: Definition, Availability, Included Services, Mailer Requirements, Other Services, and Fees. These subheadings might appropriately be used as the starting point for a general framework. This will require consideration of eliminating the sporadically used subheadings, and the incorporation of the material previously contained under these subheadings into the material contained under the new format.

Table 1 – DMCS Special Services Section Headings

Special Services Sub-Headings (in order of appearance)	DMCS Special Services Classification Schedule Section Numbers																								
	911	912	921.1	921.2	931	932	933	935	936	941	942	943.1	943.2	944	945	946	947	948	949	951	952	961	962	971	981
Definition	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Description of Services		X																							
Limitations			X																					X	
Availability	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Included Services										X	X		X	X	X	X	X							X	
Limitations																	X								
Mailer Requirements	X				X	X		X	X	X	X								X	X	X	X			X
Requirements of Customer		X																							
Limitations and Mailer Requirements												X	X	X											
Forwarding and Return																				X	X				
Other Services	X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Other Special Services																									X
Fees	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Applicable Rates and Fees								X																	
Authorizations and Licenses					X	X		X																	
Functionally Equivalent Systems																									X
Duration of Experimental Service Period																									X

Concurrent with developing the overall framework must be the consideration of what material should be included under each subheading. In most cases, the determination of what material is appropriately included under each subheading is obvious. However, on occasion, variations occur that unnecessarily complicate the system. This added to the complexity of the document. Therefore, general guidelines should be developed that describe the material appropriate for inclusion in each of the major subheadings under a new general framework. The guidelines should then be used to make the existing DMCS conform to the new framework.

Finally, all special service sections should be reviewed for accuracy and informative content. Some of the special service sections might need revision to improve the value of the information presented to the public. Mailing List Services,

which is comprised of four separate sub-services, is an example of one special service section in need of revision. The information presented about each sub-service is exceptionally sparse, and confusing without careful reading. Postal customers would benefit from a revision of this section to include a description of which mailers are eligible to use each of the individual sub-services.


Overall, this effort should simplify and improve the clarity of the special services DMCS sections for use by the public. As stated above, the suggestions for improving the value of the DMCS to the customer have not been incorporated into the proposals depicted in Attachment A. The purpose of this discussion is to solicit comments for improving the DMCS such that modifications can be made in the future.

Conclusion. Participants are invited to comment on the approach that the Commission intends to follow in this proceeding concerning the special services section of the DMCS.³ Participants also are invited to comment on the proposed changes to the DMCS that affect the Commission's review jurisdiction over the special services included as Attachment A. That attachment contains the complete text for each applicable special service, including proposed modifications to the substance of any special service contained in the proposed Stipulation and Agreement. In light of ambiguities or apparent discrepancies between the sources, the Postal Service, and other interested parties, are invited to review and verify the accuracy of information displayed in the proposed new format before possible implementation. The Postal Service and other interested parties are also invited to comment on the specific language, and propose alternatives, if appropriate.

³ Section II paragraph 6 of the proposed Stipulation and Agreement states in part: "The undersigned parties agree that they will file no pleadings or testimony that opposes this agreement, or that proposes or advocates terms other than those embodied in it." The Commission does not view providing a response to this NOI as violating this provision of the proposed Stipulation and Agreement.

Finally, comments are being solicited at this time on future modifications to simplify, clarify, and otherwise improve the value of the DMCS descriptions of special services. Responses to this NOI shall be filed by February 21, 2002.

By the Commission
(S E A L)


Steven W. Williams
Secretary

SPECIAL SERVICES CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

910 **ADDRESSING**

911 **ADDRESS CORRECTION SERVICE**

911.1 **Definition**

911.11 Address Correction Service provides a mailer both an addressee's former and current address, if the correct address is known to the Postal Service. If the correct address is not known to the Postal Service, Address Correction Service provides the reason why the Postal Service could not deliver the mailpiece as addressed.

911.2 **Availability**

[911.21 Address Correction service is available to mailers of postage prepaid mail of all classes, except for mail addressed for delivery by military personnel at any military installation. Address Correction Service is mandatory for Periodicals class mail.]

911.21 Address Correction Service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Express Mail</u>	<u>110</u>
b. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
c. <u>Standard Mail</u>	<u>310</u>
d. <u>Periodicals</u>	<u>410</u>
e. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

911.22 Address Correction Service is mandatory for Periodicals class mail.

911.23 Address Correction Service is not available for mail addressed for delivery by military personnel at any military installation.

911.[22]24 Automated Address Correction Service is available to mailers who can receive computerized address corrections and meet the requirements specified by the Postal Service.

911.3 **Mailer Requirements**

911.31 Mail, other than Periodicals class mail, sent under this section must bear a request for Address Correction [s]Service.

911.4 **Other Services**

[911.41 Address Correction Service serves as a prerequisite for Shipper Paid Forwarding.]

911.41 The following additional services may be combined with Address Correction Service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

a. <u>Shipper Paid Forwarding</u>	<u>936</u>
-----------------------------------	------------

911.42 Address Correction Service serves as a prerequisite for:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

a. <u>Shipper Paid Forwarding</u>	<u>936</u>
-----------------------------------	------------

911.5 **Fees**

911.51 The fees for Address Correction Service are set forth in Fee Schedule 911. These fees do not apply when the correction is provided incidental to the return of the mailpiece to the sender.

912 **MAILING LIST SERVICES**

912.1 **Definition**

912.11 Mailing List services enable an eligible mailer to obtain the following services:

- a. Correction of Mailing Lists;
- b. Change-of-Address Information for Election Boards and Registration Commissions;
- c. ZIP Coding of Mailing Lists; and
- d. Sequencing of Address Cards.

912.2 **Description of Services**

- a. Correction of Mailing Lists. This service provides current information

concerning name and address mailing lists or correct information concerning occupant mailing lists. New names will not be added to a name and address mailing list, and street address numbers will not be added or changed for an occupant mailing list.

- (1) The Postal Service provides the following corrections to name and address lists:
 - i. deletion of names to which mail cannot be delivered or forwarded;
 - ii. correction of incorrect house, rural, or post office box numbers; and
 - iii. furnishing of new addresses, including Zip Codes, when permanent forwarding orders are on file for customers who have moved.

This service does not include the addition of new names.

- (2) The Postal Service provides the following corrections to occupant lists:
 - i. deletion of numbers representing incorrect or non-existent street addresses;
 - ii. identification of business addresses and rural route addresses, to the extent known; and
 - iii. grouping of corrected cards or sheets by route.
 - b. Change-of-Address Information for Election Boards and Registration Commissions. This service provides election boards and voter registration commissions with the current address of a resident addressee, if known to the Postal Service.
 - c. ZIP Coding of Mailing Lists. This service provides sortation of addresses to the finest possible ZIP Code level.
 - d. Sequencing of Address Cards. This service provides for the removal of incorrect addresses, notation of missing addresses and addition of missing addresses.

912.3 **Requirements of Customer**

912.31 Correction of Mailing List service is available only to the following owners of name and address or occupant mailing lists:

- a. Members of Congress

- b. Federal agencies
- c. State government departments
- d. Municipalities
- e. Religious organizations
- f. Fraternal organizations
- g. Recognized charitable organizations
- h. Concerns or persons who solicit business by mail

912.32 A customer desiring correction of a mailing list or arrangement of address cards in sequence of carrier delivery must submit the list or cards as specified by the Postal Service.

912.33 Gummed labels, wrappers, envelopes, Stamped Cards, or postcards indicative of one-time use will not be accepted as mailing lists.

912.4 **Fees**

912.41 The fees for Mailing List services are set forth in Fee Schedule 912.

920 **DELIVERY ALTERNATIVES**

921 **POST OFFICE BOX AND CALLER SERVICE**

921.1 **Post Office Box Service**

921.11 **Definition**

921.111 Post Office Box service provides the customer with a private, locked receptacle for the receipt of mail during the hours specified by the Postal Service.

921.12 **Limitations**

921.121 The Postal Service may limit the number of post office boxes occupied by any one customer.

921.122 Post Office Box service is not available to a customer whose sole purpose for using this service is to obtain free forwarding or transfer of mail by filing change-of-address orders.

921.13 **Fees**

921.131 Fees for Post Office Box service are set forth in Fee Schedule 921.

921.132 In postal facilities primarily serving academic institutions or the students of such institutions, fees for post office boxes are:

Period of box use	Fee
95 days or less	½ semiannual fee
96 to 140 days	¾ semiannual fee
141 to 190 days	Full semiannual fee
191 to 230 days	1¼ semiannual fee
231 to 270 days	1½ semiannual fee
271 days to full year	Twice semiannual fee

921.133 No refunds will be made for post office box fees paid under section 921.132.

921.134 Two box keys are available upon payment of a refundable deposit, as specified by the Postal Service. Additional keys, including replacement keys, will be provided, as specified by the Postal Service, only upon payment of the key fee set forth in Fee Schedule 921. Changing the lock on a box is available upon request of the primary box customer and payment of the lock replacement fee set forth in Fee Schedule 921.

921.2 **Caller Service**

921.21 **Definition**

921.211 Caller service provides a means for receiving mail, and enables an eligible customer to have properly addressed mail delivered through a call window or loading dock.

921.22 **Availability**

921.221 Caller service is provided to customers at the discretion of the Postal Service, based on mail volume received and capacity and utilization of post office boxes at any one facility.

921.222 Caller service is not available to a customer whose sole purpose for using this service is to obtain free forwarding or transfer of mail by filing change-of-address orders.

921.23 **Fees**

921.231 Fees for Caller service are set forth in Fee Schedule 921.

930 **PAYMENT ALTERNATIVES**

931 **BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

931.1 **Definitions**

931.11 Business Reply Mail service enables a Business Reply Mail permit holder, or the permit holder's authorized representative, to distribute Business Reply Mail cards, envelopes, cartons and labels, which can then be used by mailers for sending First-Class Mail without prepayment of postage to an address chosen by the distributor. The permit holder guarantees payment on delivery of postage and fees for the Business Reply Mail pieces that are returned to the addressee, including any pieces that the addressee refuses.

931.2 **Availability**

931.21 Business Reply Mail service is available for mail to be entered under the following classification schedule:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
---	------------

931.[2]3 **Mailer Requirements**

931.[21]31 Business reply cards, envelopes, cartons and labels must meet the addressing and preparation requirements specified by the Postal Service. Qualified Business Reply Mail must in addition meet the requirements presented in sections 221.24 or 222.34 for the First-Class Mail Qualified Business Reply Mail rate categories.

931.[22]32 To qualify for the advance deposit account per piece fees, the customer must maintain sufficient money in an advance deposit account to cover postage and fees due for returned Business Reply Mail.

931.[23]33 To qualify for the nonletter-size weight-averaging per piece and monthly fees set forth in Fee Schedule 931, the permit holder must be authorized for weight averaging, and receive Business Reply Mail pieces that meet the addressing and other preparation requirements specified by the Postal Service, but do not meet the machinability requirements specified by the Postal Service for mechanized or automation letter sortation.

931.[3]4 **Other Services**

931.[31]41 **Reserved**

931.[4]5 **Fees**

931.[41]51 The fees for Business Reply Mail are set forth in Fee Schedule 931.

931.[42]52 [The]To qualify for any service level except regular (no accounting fee) Business Reply Mail, the annual accounting fee set forth in Fee Schedule 1000 must be paid each year for each business reply advance deposit account at each facility where the mail is to be received.

931.[43]53 The nonletter-size weight averaging monthly fee set forth in Fee Schedule 931 must be paid each month during any part of which the permit holder is authorized to use the weight averaging fees.

931.[5]6 **Authorizations and Licenses**

931.[51]61 In order to distribute business reply cards, envelopes, cartons or labels, the distributor must obtain a license or licenses from the Postal Service and pay the appropriate fee as set forth in Fee Schedule 1000.

931.[52]62 Except as provided in section 931.53, the license to distribute business reply cards, envelopes, cartons, or labels must be obtained at each office from which the mail is offered for delivery.

931.[53]63 If the Business Reply Mail is to be distributed from a central office to be returned to branches or dealers in other cities, one license obtained from the post office where the central office is located may be used to cover all Business Reply Mail.

931.[54]64 The license to mail Business Reply Mail may be canceled for failure to pay business reply postage and fees when due, and for distributing business reply cards or envelopes that do not conform to prescribed form, style or size.

931.[55]65 Authorization to pay nonletter-size weight-averaging Business Reply Mail fees as set forth in Fee Schedule 931 may be canceled for failure of a Business Reply Mail advance deposit trust account holder to meet the standards specified by the Postal Service for the weight averaging accounting method.

932 **MERCHANDISE RETURN SERVICE**

932.1 **Definition**

932.11 Merchandise Return service enables a Merchandise Return service permit holder to authorize its customers to return a parcel with the postage paid by the permit holder.

932.2 **Availability**

932.21 Merchandise Return service is available for the return of any parcel entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
b. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

932.[21]22 Merchandise Return service is available to all Merchandise Return service permit holders who guarantee payment of postage and fees for all returned parcels.

[932.22 Merchandise Return service is available for the return of any parcel under the following classification schedules:]

- [a. First-Class Mail
- b. Standard Mail
- c. Package Services]

932.3 **Mailer Requirements**

932.31 Merchandise return labels must be prepared as specified by the Postal Service, and be made available to the permit holder's customers.

932.4 **Other Services**

[932.41 The following services may be purchased in conjunction with Merchandise Return Service:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Certificate of Mailing	947
b. Insurance	943
c. Registered Mail	942
d. Special Handling	952]

932.41 The following additional services may be combined with Merchandise Return service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>

b.	<u>Insurance</u>	<u>943</u>
c.	<u>Certificate of Mailing</u>	<u>947</u>
d.	<u>Delivery Confirmation</u>	<u>948</u>
e.	<u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

932.5 **Fees**

932.51 The permit holder must pay the accounting fee specified in Fee Schedule 1000 once each 12-month period for each advance deposit account.

932.6 **Authorizations and Licenses**

932.61 A permit fee as set forth in Schedule 1000 must be paid once each 12-month period by shippers utilizing Merchandise Return service.

932.62 The merchandise return permit may be canceled for failure to maintain sufficient funds in a trust account to cover postage and fees on returned parcels or for distributing merchandise return labels that do not conform to Postal Service specifications.

933 **ON-SITE METER SERVICE**

933.1 **Definition**

933.11 On-Site Meter service enables a mailer or meter manufacturer to obtain the following meter-related services from the Postal Service at the mailer's or meter manufacturer's premises:

- a. checking a meter in or out of service; and
- b. setting or examining a meter.

933.2 **Availability**

933.21 On-Site Meter service is available on a scheduled basis, and meter setting may be performed on an emergency basis for those customers enrolled in the scheduled on-site meter setting or examination program.

933.3 **Fees**

933.31 The fees for On-Site Meter service are set forth in Fee Schedule 933. The basic meter service fee is charged whenever a postal employee is available to provide a meter-related service in section 933.11 at the mailer's or meter manufacturer's premises, even if no particular service is provided.

934 **Reserved**

935 **BULK PARCEL RETURN SERVICE**

935.1 **Definition**

935.11 Bulk Parcel Return Service provides a method whereby high-volume parcel mailers may have machinable Standard Mail parcels returned to designated postal facilities for pickup by the mailer at a predetermined frequency specified by the Postal Service or delivered by the Postal Service in bulk in a manner and frequency specified by the Postal Service. Such parcels are being returned because they:

- a. are undeliverable-as-addressed;
- b. have been opened, resealed, and redeposited into the mail for return to the mailer using the return label described in section 935.36 below; or
- c. are found in the mailstream, having been opened, resealed, and redeposited by the recipient for return to the mailer, and it is impracticable or inefficient for the Postal Service to return the mailpiece to the recipient for payment of return postage.

935.2 **Availability**

[935.21 Bulk Parcel Return Service is available only for the return of machinable parcels, as defined by the Postal Service, initially mailed under the following Standard Mail subclasses: Regular and Nonprofit.]

935.21 Bulk Parcel Return Service is available for postage prepaid mail initially entered under the following classification schedule:

Classification Schedule

Fee Schedule

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a. <u>Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit only)</u> | <u>310</u> |
|--|------------|

935.22 Bulk Parcel Return Service is available only for the return of machinable parcels, as defined by the Postal Service.

935.3 **Mailer Requirements**

935.31 Mailers must receive authorization from the Postal Service to use Bulk Parcel Return Service.

935.32 To claim eligibility for Bulk Parcel Return Service at each facility through which the mailer requests Bulk Parcel Return Service, the mailer must demonstrate receipt of 10,000 returned machinable parcels at a given

delivery point in the previous postal fiscal year or must demonstrate a high likelihood of receiving 10,000 returned parcels in the postal fiscal year for which the service is requested.

- 935.33 Payment for Bulk Parcel Return Service is made through advance deposit account, or as otherwise specified by the Postal Service.
- 935.34 Mail for which Bulk Parcel Return Service is requested must bear endorsements specified by the Postal Service.
- 935.35 Bulk Parcel Return Service mailers must meet the documentation and audit requirements of the Postal Service.
- 935.36 Mailers of parcels endorsed for Bulk Parcel Return Service may furnish the recipient a return label, prepared at the mailer's expense to specifications set forth by the Postal Service, to authorize return of opened, machinable parcels at the expense of the original mailer. There is no additional fee for use of the label.

935.4 **Other Services**

935.41 [The following services may be purchased in conjunction with Bulk Parcel Return Service:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Address Correction Service	911
b. Certificate of Mailing	947
c. Shipper-Paid Forwarding	936]

935.41 The following additional services may be combined with Bulk Parcel Return Service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Shipper-Paid Forwarding</u>	<u>936</u>

935.5 **Fees**

- 935.51 The per return fee for Bulk Parcel Return Service is set forth in Fee Schedule 935.
- 935.52 The permit holder must pay the accounting fee specified in Fee Schedule 1000 once each 12-month period for each advance deposit account.

935.6 **Authorizations and Licenses**

935.61 A permit fee as set forth in Schedule 1000 must be paid once each 12-month period by mailers utilizing Bulk Parcel Return Service.

935.62 The Bulk Parcel Return Service permit may be canceled for failure to maintain sufficient funds in an advance deposit account to cover postage and fees on returned parcels or for failure to meet the specifications of the Postal Service, including distribution of return labels that do not conform to Postal Service specifications.

936 **SHIPPER-PAID FORWARDING**

936.1 **Definition**

936.11 Shipper-Paid Forwarding enables mailers to have undeliverable-as-addressed machinable Standard Mail parcels forwarded at applicable First-Class Mail[or Package Service mail] rates for up to one year from the date that the addressee filed a change-of-address order. If Shipper-Paid Forwarding is elected for a parcel that is returned, the mailer will pay the applicable First-Class Mail[or Package Service mail] rate, or the Bulk Parcel Return Service fee, if that service was elected.

936.2 **Availability**

[936.21 Shipper-Paid Forwarding is available only for the forwarding of machinable parcels, as defined by the Postal Service, initially mailed under the following Standard Mail subclasses: Regular and Nonprofit.]

936.21 Shipper Paid Forwarding service is available for the forwarding of machinable parcels initially entered under the following classification schedule:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit only)</u>	<u>310</u>

936.22 Shipper-Paid Forwarding is available only if automated Address Correction Service, as described in section 911, is used.

936.3 **Mailer Requirements**

936.31 Mail for which Shipper-Paid Forwarding is purchased must meet the preparation requirements of the Postal Service.

936.32 Payment for Shipper-Paid Forwarding is made through advance deposit

account, or as otherwise specified by the Postal Service.

936.33 Mail for which Shipper-Paid Forwarding is requested must bear endorsements specified by the Postal Service.

936.4 **Other Services**

[936.41 The following services may be purchased in conjunction with Shipper-Paid Forwarding:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Certificate of Mailing	947
b. Bulk Parcel Return Service	935]

936.41 The following additional services may be combined with Shipper-Paid Forwarding service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Address Correction Service</u>	<u>911</u>
b. <u>Bulk Parcel Return Service</u>	<u>935</u>

936.5 **Applicable Rates and Fees**

936.51 Except as provided in section 935, single-piece rates under the Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass or the Priority Mail subclass of First-Class Mail, [or the Parcel Post subclass of Package Services,]as set forth in Rate Schedules 221, and 223[, and 521.2A, and 521.2B] apply to pieces forwarded or returned under this section.

936.52 The accounting fee specified in Fee Schedule 1000 must be paid once each 12-month period for each advance deposit account.

940 **ACCOUNTABILITY AND RECEIPTS**

941 **CERTIFIED MAIL**

941.1 **Definition**

941.11 Certified Mail service provides a mailer with evidence of mailing and, upon request, electronic confirmation that an article was delivered or that a delivery attempt was made, and guarantees retention of a record of delivery by the Postal Service for a period specified by the Postal Service.

941.2 **Availability**

[941.21 Certified Mail service is available for matter mailed as First-Class Mail.]

941.21 Certified Mail service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedule:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>

941.3 **Included Services**

941.31 If requested by the mailer, the Postal Service will indicate the time of acceptance on the mailing receipt. A mailer may obtain a copy of the mailing receipt on terms specified by the Postal Service.

941.32 If the initial attempt to deliver the mail is not successful, a notice of attempted delivery is left at the mailing address, and the date and time of the attempted delivery is made available to the mailer.

941.33 [A mailer may obtain a copy of the mailing receipt on terms specified by the Postal Service.]The date and time of delivery is made available to the mailer electronically.

941.4 **Mailer Requirements**

941.41 Certified Mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

941.42 The mailer must mail the article at a post office, branch, or station, or give the article to a rural carrier, in order to obtain a mailing receipt.

941.5 **Other Services**

[941.51 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of the applicable fees:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Restricted Delivery	946
b. Return Receipt	945]

941.51 The following additional services may be combined with Certified Mail service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u> | <u>945</u> |
| b. <u>Restricted Delivery</u> | <u>946</u> |

941.52 Certified Mail service serves as a prerequisite for purchasing:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u> | <u>945</u> |
| b. <u>Restricted Delivery</u> | <u>946</u> |

941.6 **Fees**

941.61 The fee for Certified Mail service is set forth in Fee Schedule 941.

942 **REGISTERED MAIL**

942.1 **Definition**

942.11 Registered Mail service provides added protection to mail sent under this section and indemnity in case of loss or damage. The amount of indemnity depends upon the actual value of the article at the time of mailing, up to a maximum of \$25,000, and is not available for articles of no value.

942.2 **Availability**

[942.21 Registered Mail service is available for prepaid First-Class Mail of any value, if the mail meets the minimum requirements for length and width specified by the Postal Service.]

942.21 Registered Mail service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedule:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

- | | |
|---|------------|
| a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u> | <u>210</u> |
|---|------------|

942.22 Registered Mail must meet the minimum requirements for length and width as specified by the Postal Service.

942.[22]23 Registered Mail service is not available for:

- a. All delivery points because of the high security required for Registered Mail; in addition, liability is limited in some geographic areas;
- b. Mail of any class sent in combination with First-Class Mail;

- c. Two or more articles tied or fastened together, unless the envelopes are enclosed in the same envelope or container.

942.3 **Included Services**

942.31 The following services are provided as part of Registered Mail service at no additional cost to the mailer:

- a. A mailing receipt;
- b. Electronic confirmation, upon request, that an article was delivered or that delivery attempt was made;
- [b]c. A record of delivery, retained by the Postal Service for a specified period of time;
- [c]d. A notice of attempted delivery, left at the mailing address if the initial delivery attempt is unsuccessful; and
- [d]e. A notice of nondelivery, when Registered Mail is undeliverable-as-addressed and cannot be forwarded.

942.32 Registered Mail is forwarded and returned without additional registry charge.

942.4 **Mailer Requirements**

942.41 Registered Mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

942.42 Indemnity claims for Registered Mail must be filed within a period of time, specified by the Postal Service, from the date the article was mailed. A claim concerning complete loss of registered articles may be filled by the mailer only. A claim concerning damage to or partial loss of registered articles may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

942.5 **Other Services**

[942.51 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of applicable fees:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Collect on Delivery	944
b. Restricted Delivery	946
c. Return Receipt	945

d. Merchandise Return (shippers only) 932]

942.51 The following additional services may be combined with Registered Mail service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Merchandise Return</u>	<u>932</u>
b. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
c. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
d. <u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>
e. <u>Delivery Confirmation</u>	<u>948</u>
f. <u>Signature Confirmation</u>	<u>949</u>

942.52 Registered Mail service serves as a prerequisite for purchasing:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
b. <u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>

942.6 **Fees**

942.61 The fees for Registered Mail are set forth in Fee Schedule 942.

942.62 There are no additional Registered Mail fees for forwarding and return of Registered Mail.

943 **INSURANCE**

943.1 **Express Mail Insurance**

943.11 **Definition**

943.111 Express Mail Insurance provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to items sent by Express Mail.

943.12 **Availability**

[943.121 Express Mail Insurance is available only for Express Mail.]

943.121 Express Mail Insurance is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedule:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

a. Express Mail 110

943.13 **Limitations and Mailer Requirements**

943.131 Insurance coverage is provided, for no additional charge, up to [~~\$500~~]\$100 per piece for document reconstruction, up to \$5,000 per occurrence, regardless of the number of claimants. Insurance coverage for merchandise is also provided, for no additional charge, up to \$100 per piece. Additional merchandise insurance coverage may be purchased for a fee. The maximum liability for merchandise is \$5,000 per piece. For negotiable items, currency, or bullion, the maximum liability is \$15.

943.132 Indemnity claims for Express Mail must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

943.133 Indemnity will be paid under terms and conditions specified by the Postal Service.

943.134 Among other limitations specified by the Postal Service, indemnity will not be paid by the Postal Service for loss, damage or rifling:

- a. Of nonmailable matter;
- b. Due to improper packaging;
- c. Due to seizure by any agency of government; or
- d. Due to war, insurrection or civil disturbances.

[913]943.14 **Other Services**

[943.141 **Reserved]**

943.141 The following additional services may be combined with Express Mail Insurance service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u> | <u>945</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

943.142 Express Mail Insurance service serves as a prerequisite for purchasing:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u> | <u>945</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------|

943.15 **Fees**

943.151 The fees for Express Mail Insurance service are set forth in Fee Schedule 943.

943.2 **General Insurance**

943.21 **Definition**

943.211 General Insurance provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to mailed items. General Insurance provides a bulk option for mail meeting the conditions described below and specified further by the Postal Service.

943.22 **Availability**

[943.221 General Insurance is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

- a. First-Class Mail, if containing matter that may be mailed as Standard Mail or Package Services;
- b. Package Services;
- c. Regular and Nonprofit subclasses of Standard Mail, for Bulk Insurance only, for mail subject to residual shape surcharge.]

943.221 General Insurance is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail (if containing matter that may be mailed as Standard Mail or Package Services)</u>	<u>210</u>
b. <u>Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit only, for mail subject to the residual shape surcharge using Bulk Insurance)</u>	<u>310</u>
c. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

943.222 General Insurance is not available for matter offered for sale, addressed to prospective purchasers who have not ordered or authorized their sending. If such matter is received in the mail, payment will not be made for loss, rifling, or damage.

943.223 The Bulk Insurance option of General Insurance service is available for mail

entered in bulk at designated facilities and in a manner specified by the Postal Service, including the use of electronic manifesting.

943.23 Included Services

943.231 For General Insurance, the mailer is issued a receipt for each item mailed. For items insured for more than \$50, a record of delivery is retained by the Postal Service for a specified period.

943.232 For items insured for more than \$50, a notice of attempted delivery is left at the mailing address when the first attempt at delivery is unsuccessful.

943.233 Mail undeliverable as addressed will be returned to the sender as specified by the sender or by the Postal Service.

943.24 Limitations and Mailer Requirements

943.241 Mail insured under section 943.2 must be deposited as specified by the Postal Service.

943.242 Bulk Insurance must bear endorsements and identifiers specified by the Postal Service. Bulk Insurance mailers must meet the documentation requirements of the Postal Service.

943.243 By insuring an item, the mailer guarantees forwarding and return postage.

943.244 General Insurance, other than Bulk Insurance, provides indemnity for the actual value of the article at the time of mailing. Bulk Insurance provides indemnity for the lesser of (1) the actual value of the article at the time of mailing, or (2) the wholesale cost of the contents to the sender.

943.245 For General [i]Insurance, other than Bulk Insurance, a claim for complete loss may be filed by the mailer only, and a claim for damage or for partial loss may be filed by either the mailer or addressee. For Bulk Insurance, all claims must be filed by the mailer.

943.246 Indemnity claims must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

943.25 Other Services

[943.251 The following services, if applicable to the subclass of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of the applicable fees:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Parcel Airlift	951
b. Restricted Delivery (for items insured for more than \$50)	946
c. Return Receipt (for items insured for more than \$50)	945
d. Special Handling	952
e. Merchandise Return (shippers only)	932]

943.251 The following additional services may be combined with General Insurance service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Merchandise Return</u>	<u>932</u>
b. <u>Return Receipt (Regular if insured for more than \$50, Merchandise if insured for less than \$50)</u>	<u>945</u>
c. <u>Restricted Delivery (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>946</u>
d. <u>Delivery Confirmation</u>	<u>948</u>
e. <u>Signature Confirmation</u>	<u>949</u>
f. <u>Parcel Airlift</u>	<u>951</u>
g. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

943.252 General Insurance service serves as a prerequisite for purchasing:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>945</u>
b. <u>Restricted Delivery (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>946</u>

943.26 **Fees**

943.261 The fees for General Insurance are set forth in Fee Schedule 943.

944 **COLLECT ON DELIVERY**

944.1 **Definition**

944.11 Collect on Delivery (COD) service allows a mailer to mail an article for which full or partial payment has not yet been received and have the price, the

cost of postage and fees, and anticipated or past due charges collected by the Postal Service from the addressee when the article is delivered.

944.2 **Availability**

[944.21 COD service is available for collection of \$1,000 or less upon the delivery of postage prepaid mail sent under the following classification schedules:

- a. Express Mail
- b. First-Class Mail
- c. Package Services]

944.21 COD Service is available for collection of \$1,000 or less upon the delivery of postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Express Mail</u>	<u>110</u>
b. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
c. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

944.22 Service under this section is not available for:

- a. Collection agency purposes;
- b. Return of merchandise about which some dissatisfaction has arisen, unless the new addressee has consented in advance to such return;
- c. Sending only bills or statements of indebtedness, even though the sender may establish that the addressee has agreed to collection in this manner; however, when the legitimate COD shipment consists of merchandise or bill of lading, the balance due on a past or anticipated transaction may be included in the charges on a COD article, provided the addressee has consented in advance to such action;
- d. Parcels containing moving-picture films mailed by exhibitors to moving-picture manufacturers, distributors, or exchanges;
- e. Goods that have not been ordered by the addressee.

944.3 **Included Services**

944.31 COD service provides the mailer with insurance against loss, rifling and damage to the article as well as failure to receive the amount collected from the addressee. This provision insures only the receipt of the instrument

issued to the mailer after payment of COD charges, and is not to be construed to make the Postal Service liable upon any such instrument other than a Postal Service money order.

944.32 A receipt is issued to the mailer for each piece of COD mail. Additional copies of the original mailing receipt may be obtained by the mailer.

944.33 Delivery of COD mail will be made in a manner specified by the Postal Service. If a delivery to the mailing address is not attempted or if a delivery attempt is unsuccessful, a notice of attempted delivery will be left at the mailing address.

944.34 The mailer may receive a notice of nondelivery if the piece mailed is endorsed appropriately.

944.35 The mailer may designate a new addressee or alter the COD charges by submitting the appropriate form and by paying the appropriate fee as set forth in Fee Schedule 944.

944.4 **Limitations and Mailer Requirements**

944.41 The mailer must identify COD mail as COD mail, as specified by the Postal Service.

944.42 COD mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

944.43 A mailer of COD mail guarantees to pay any return postage, unless otherwise specified on the piece mailed.

944.44 For COD mail sent as Package Services mail, postage at the applicable rate will be charged to the addressee:

- a. When an addressee, entitled to delivery to the mailing address under Postal Service regulations, requests delivery of COD mail that was refused when first offered for delivery;
- b. For each delivery attempt, to an addressee entitled to delivery to the mailing address under Postal Service regulations, after the second such attempt.

944.45 A claim for complete loss may be filed by the mailer only. A claim for damage or for partial loss may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

944.46 COD indemnity claims must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed, and meet the requirements specified by the Postal Service.

944.5 **Other Services**

[944.51 The following services, if applicable to the subclass of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of the applicable fee:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Registered Mail, if sent as First-Class	942
b. Restricted Delivery	946
c. Special Handling	952]

944.51 The following additional services may be combined with COD service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
b. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
c. <u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>
d. <u>Delivery Confirmation (not available with Express Mail COD)</u>	<u>948</u>
e. <u>Signature Confirmation</u>	<u>949</u>
f. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

944.52 COD service serves as a prerequisite for purchasing:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
b. <u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>

944.6 **Fees**

944.61 Fees for COD service are set forth in Fee Schedule 944.

945 **RETURN RECEIPT**

945.1 **Regular Return Receipt**

945.11 **Definition**

945.[11]111 Return Receipt service provides evidence to the mailer that an article has been received at the delivery address, including an original or copy of the recipient's signature. Mailers requesting Return Receipt service at the time

of mailing will be provided, as appropriate, an original or copy of the signature of the [addressee or addressee's agent]recipient, the date delivered, and the address of delivery, if different from the address on the mailpiece. Mailers requesting Return Receipt service after mailing will be provided a copy of the recipient's signature, the date of delivery, and the name of the person who signed for the article.

945.[2]12 Availability

[945.21 Return Receipt service is available for mail sent under the following sections or classification schedules:

Service	Fee Schedule
a. Certified Mail	941
b. COD Mail	944
c. Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)	943
d. Registered Mail	942
e. Express Mail	
f. Priority Mail (merchandise only)	
g. Standard Mail (limited to merchandise subject to residual shape surcharge and sent by Regular and Nonprofit subclasses)	
h. Package Services]	

945.121 Return Receipt service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Express Mail</u>	<u>110</u>
b. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail, if purchased at the time of mailing with one of the following services:</u>	<u>210</u>
i. <u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
ii. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
iii. <u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
iv. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
c. <u>Package Services, if purchased at the time of mailing with one of the following services:</u>	<u>510</u>
i. <u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
ii. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
iii. <u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>

iv. Collect on Delivery 944

[945.22 Return Receipt service is available at the time of mailing or, when purchased in conjunction with Certified Mail, COD, Insurance (if for more than \$50), Registered Mail, or Express Mail, after mailing.]

945.122 Return Receipt is available at the time of mailing or after mailing, for mail entered in compliance with section 945.121.

945.[3]13 **Included Services**

945.[31]131 If the mailer does not receive a return receipt within a specified period of time from the date of mailing, the mailer may request evidence of delivery from the delivery record, at no additional fee.

945.[4]14 **Other Services**

[945.41 **Reserved]**

945.141 The following additional services may be combined with Return Receipt service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a.	<u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
b.	<u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
c.	<u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
d.	<u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
e.	<u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>
f.	<u>Delivery Confirmation (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail)</u>	<u>948</u>
g.	<u>Signature Confirmation</u>	<u>949</u>
h.	<u>Parcel Airlift (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50)</u>	<u>951</u>
i.	<u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

[945.5 **Fees]**

[945.51 The fees for Return Receipt service are set forth in Fee Schedule 945.]

945.2 **Return Receipt For Merchandise**

945.21 **Definition**

945.221 Return Receipt for Merchandise service provides evidence to the mailer that an article has been received at the delivery address. A Return Receipt for Merchandise also supplies the recipient's actual delivery address if it is different from the address used by the sender. A Return Receipt for Merchandise may not be requested after mailing.

945.22 **Availability**

945.221 Return Receipt for Merchandise service is available for merchandise entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
b. <u>Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit only, for mail subject to the residual shape surcharge)</u>	<u>310</u>
c. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

945.23 **Mailer Requirements**

945.231 Return Receipt for Merchandise must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

945.232 Return Receipt for Merchandise mail may be addressed for delivery only in the United States and its territories and possessions, through Army/Air Force (APO) and Navy (FPO) post offices, or through the United Nations Post Office, New York.

945.24 **Other Services**

945.241 The following additional services may be combined with Return Receipt for Merchandise service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Insurance (for up to \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
b. <u>Delivery Confirmation</u>	<u>948</u>
c. <u>Parcel Airlift</u>	<u>951</u>
d. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

945.3 **Fees**

945.31 The fees for Return Receipt service are set forth in Fee Schedule 945.

946 **RESTRICTED DELIVERY**

946.1 **Definition**

946.11 Restricted Delivery service enables a mailer to direct the Postal Service to limit delivery to the addressee or to someone authorized by the addressee to receive such mail.

946.2 **Availability**

[946.21 This service is available for mail sent under the following sections:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Certified Mail	941
b. COD Mail	944
c. Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)	943
d. Registered Mail	942]

946.21 Restricted Delivery service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail, if purchased at the time of mailing with one of the following services:</u>	<u>210</u>
i. <u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
ii. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
iii. <u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
iv. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
b. <u>Package Services, if purchased at the time of mailing with one of the following services:</u>	<u>510</u>
i. <u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
ii. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
iii. <u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
iv. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>

946.22 Restricted Delivery is available to the mailer at the time of mailing or after mailing.

946.23 Restricted Delivery service is available for delivery only to natural persons specified by name.

946.3 **Included Services**

946.31 A record of delivery will be retained by the Postal Service for a period specified by the Postal Service.

946.4 **Other Services**

[946.41 **Reserved]**

946.41 The following additional services may be combined with Restricted Delivery service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Certified Mail</u>	<u>941</u>
b. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
c. <u>Insurance (if insured for more than \$50)</u>	<u>943</u>
d. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
e. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
f. <u>Delivery Confirmation (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail)</u>	<u>948</u>
g. <u>Signature Confirmation (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail)</u>	<u>949</u>
h. <u>Parcel Airlift (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50)</u>	<u>951</u>
i. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

946.5 **Fees**

946.51 The fee for Restricted Delivery service is set forth in Fee Schedule 946.

946.52 The fee (or communications charges) will not be refunded for failure to provide restricted delivery service when requested after mailing, due to prior delivery.

947 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

947.1 **Definition**

947.11 Certificate of Mailing service furnishes evidence that mail has been presented to the Postal Service for mailing.

947.2 **Availability**

[947.21 Certificate of Mailing service is available for matter sent using any class of mail.]

947.21 Certificate of Mailing service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
b. <u>Standard Mail</u>	<u>310</u>
c. <u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

947.3 **Included Service**

947.31 The mailer may obtain a copy of a Certificate of Mailing on terms specified by the Postal Service.

947.4 **Limitations**

947.31 The service does not entail retention of a record of mailing by the Postal Service and does not provide evidence of delivery.

947.5 **Other Services**

[947.51 The following services, if applicable to the subclass of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. Parcel Airlift	951
b. Special Handling	952]

947.51 The following additional services may be combined with Certificate of Mailing service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Merchandise Return</u>	<u>932</u>
b. <u>Parcel Airlift</u>	<u>951</u>
c. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

947.6 **Fees**

947.61 The fees for Certificate of Mailing service are set forth in Fee Schedule 947.

948 **DELIVERY CONFIRMATION**

948.1 **Definition**

948.11 Delivery Confirmation service provides, upon request, electronic confirmation to the mailer that an article was delivered or that a delivery attempt was made.

948.2 **Availability**

[948.21 Delivery Confirmation service is available for Priority Mail and Package Services mail, as well as mail subject to the residual shape surcharge in the Regular and Nonprofit subclasses of Standard Mail.]

948.21 Delivery Confirmation service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail (except for Priority Mail, parcel-shaped mail only)</u>	<u>210</u>
b. <u>Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit only, for mail subject to the residual shape surcharge using the electronic option)</u>	<u>310</u>
c. <u>Package Services (parcel-shaped only)</u>	<u>510</u>

948.3 **Mailer Requirements**

948.31 Delivery Confirmation service may be requested only at the time of mailing.

948.32 Mail for which Delivery Confirmation service is requested must meet preparation requirements specified by the Postal Service, and bear a Delivery Confirmation barcode specified by the Postal Service.

948.33 Matter for which Delivery Confirmation service is requested must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

948.4 **Other Services**

[948.41 **Reserved]**

948.41 The following additional services may be combined with Delivery Confirmation service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
----------------	---------------------

a. <u>Merchandise Return</u>	<u>932</u>
b. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
c. <u>Insurance</u>	<u>943</u>
d. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
e. <u>Return Receipt (Regular if purchased with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail, and Merchandise)</u>	<u>945</u>
f. <u>Restricted Delivery (if purchased with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail)</u>	<u>946</u>
g. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

948.5 **Fees**

948.51 The fees for Delivery Confirmation service are set forth in Fee Schedule 948.

949 **SIGNATURE CONFIRMATION**

949.1 **Definition**

949.11 Signature Confirmation service provides, upon request, electronic confirmation to the mailer that an article was delivered or that a delivery attempt was made, and a copy of the signature of the recipient.

949.2 **Availability**

[949.21 Signature Confirmation is available for Priority Mail and Package Services mail.]

949.21 Signature Confirmation service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
--------------------------------	---------------------

a. <u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail (except for Priority Mail, parcel-shaped mail only)</u>	<u>210</u>
c. <u>Package Services (parcel-shaped only)</u>	<u>510</u>

949.22 Signature Confirmation is not available for mail addressed to APO/FPO destinations, or to United States territories, possessions, and freely associated states (not including Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, to which service is available).

949.3 **Mailer Requirements**

949.31 Signature Confirmation service may be requested only at the time of mailing.

949.32 Mail for which Signature Confirmation service is requested must meet preparation requirements specified by the Postal Service, and bear a Delivery Confirmation barcode specified by the Postal Service.

949.33 Matter for which Signature Confirmation is requested must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

949.4 **Other Services**

[949.41 **Reserved]**

949.41 The following additional services may be combined with Signature Confirmation service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
b. <u>Registered Mail</u>	<u>942</u>
c. <u>Insurance</u>	<u>943</u>
d. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
e. <u>Return Receipt (Regular)</u>	<u>945</u>
f. <u>Restricted Delivery (if purchased with Insurance for more than \$50, COD, or Registered Mail)</u>	<u>946</u>
g. <u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

949.5 **Fees**

949.51 The fees for Signature Confirmation service are set forth in Fee Schedule 949.

950 **PARCEL HANDLING**

951 **PARCEL AIRLIFT (PAL)**

951.1 **Definition**

951.11 Parcel Airlift service provides for air transportation of parcels on a space available basis to or from military post offices outside the contiguous 48 states.

951.2 **Availability**

[951.21 Parcel Airlift service is available for mail sent under the Package Services Classification Schedule.]

952.21 Parcel Airlift service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedule:

Classification Schedule

Fee Schedule

a. Package Services

510

951.3 **Mailer Requirements**

951.31 The minimum physical limitations established for the mail sent under the classification schedule for which postage is paid apply to Parcel Airlift mail. In no instance may the parcel exceed 30 pounds in weight, or 60 inches in length and girth combined.

951.32 Mail sent under this section must be endorsed as specified by the Postal Service.

951.33 Parcel Airlift mail must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

951.4 **Forwarding and Return**

951.41 Parcel Airlift mail sent for delivery outside the contiguous 48 states is forwarded as set forth in section 2030 of the General Definitions, Terms and Conditions. Parcel Airlift mail sent for delivery within the contiguous 48 states is forwarded or returned as set forth in section 353 as appropriate.

951.5 **Other Services**

[951.51 The following services, if applicable to the subclass of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of the applicable fees:]

[Service

Fee Schedule

a. Certificate of Mailing	947
b. Insurance	943
c. Restricted Delivery (if insured for more than \$50)	946
d. Return Receipt (if insured for more than \$50)	945
e. Special Handling	952]

951.51 The following additional services may be combined with Parcel Airlift service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

	<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a.	<u>Insurance</u>	<u>943</u>
b.	<u>Return Receipt (Regular if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50, and Merchandise)</u>	<u>945</u>
c.	<u>Restricted Delivery (if purchase with Insurance for more than \$50)</u>	<u>946</u>
d.	<u>Certificate of Mailing</u>	<u>947</u>
e.	<u>Special Handling</u>	<u>952</u>

951.6 **Fees**

951.61 The fees for Parcel Airlift service are set forth in Fee Schedule 951.

952 **SPECIAL HANDLING**

952.1 **Definition**

952.11 Special Handling service provides preferential handling to the extent practicable during dispatch and transportation.

952.2 **Availability**

[952.21 Special Handling service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

- a. First-Class Mail
- b. Package Services]

952.21 Special Handling service is available for postage prepaid mail entered under the following classification schedules:

	<u>Classification Schedule</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a.	<u>First-Class Mail, including Priority Mail</u>	<u>210</u>
b.	<u>Package Services</u>	<u>510</u>

952.3 **Mailer Requirements**

952.31 Mail sent under this section must be identified as specified by the Postal

Service.

952.32 Mail sent under this section must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

952.33 Special Handling service is mandatory for matter that requires special attention in handling, transportation and delivery.

952.4 **Forwarding and Return**

952.41 If undeliverable as addressed, Special Handling mail that is forwarded to the addressee is given special handling without requiring payment of an additional handling fee. However, additional postage at the applicable Standard Mail rate is collected on delivery.

952.5 **Other Services**

[952.51 The following services, if applicable to the subclass of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this section upon payment of the applicable fees:]

[Service	Fee Schedule
a. COD Mail	944
b. Insurance	943
c. Parcel Airlift	951
d. Merchandise Return (shippers only)	932]

952.51 The following additional services may be combined with Special Handling service if the applicable standards for the service are met and the additional service fees are paid:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fee Schedule</u>
a. <u>Merchandise Return</u>	<u>932</u>
b. <u>Insurance</u>	<u>943</u>
c. <u>Collect on Delivery</u>	<u>944</u>
d. <u>Return Receipt (Regular and Merchandise)</u>	<u>945</u>
e. <u>Restricted Delivery</u>	<u>946</u>
f. <u>Certificate of Mailing</u>	<u>947</u>
g. <u>Delivery Confirmation</u>	<u>948</u>
h. <u>Signature Confirmation</u>	<u>949</u>
i. <u>Parcel Airlift</u>	<u>951</u>

952.6 **Fees**

952.61 The fees for Special Handling service are set forth in Fee Schedule 952.

960 **STAMPED PAPER**

961 **STAMPED ENVELOPES**

961.1 **Definition**

961.11 Plain Stamped Envelopes and printed Stamped Envelopes are envelopes with postage thereon offered for sale by the Postal Service.

961.2 **Availability**

961.21 Stamped Envelopes are available for:

- a. First-Class Mail within the first rate increment.
- b. Standard Mail mailed at a minimum per piece rate as specified by the Postal Service.

961.22 Printed Stamped Envelopes may be obtained by special request.

961.3 **Fees**

961.31 The fees for Stamped Envelopes are set forth in Fee Schedule 961.

962 **STAMPED CARDS**

962.1 **Definition**

962.11 Stamped Cards are cards with postage imprinted or impressed on them, and supplied by the Postal Service for the transmission of messages. Double Stamped Cards consist of two attached cards, one of which may be detached by the receiver and returned by mail as a single Stamped Card.

962.2 **Availability**

962.21 Stamped Cards are available for First-Class Mail.

962.3 **Fees**

962.31 The fees for Stamped Cards are set forth in Fee Schedule 962.

970 **POSTAL MONEY ORDERS**

971 **MONEY ORDER SERVICE**

971.1 **Definition**

971.11 Money Order service provides the customer with an instrument for payment of a specified sum of money.

971.2 **Limitations**

971.21 The maximum value for which a domestic postal money order may be purchased is [~~\$700~~]\$1,000. Other restrictions on the number or dollar value of postal money order sales, or both, may be imposed by law or under regulations prescribed by the Postal Service.

971.3 **Included Services**

971.31 A receipt of purchase is provided at no additional cost.

971.32 The Postal Service will replace money orders that are spoiled or incorrectly prepared, regardless of who caused the error, without charge if replaced on the date originally issued.

971.33 If a replacement money order is issued after the date of original issue because the original was spoiled or incorrectly prepared, the applicable money order fee may be collected from the customer.

971.34 Inquiries or claims may be filed by the purchaser, payee, or endorsee.

971.4 **Other Services**

971.41 **Reserved**

971.5 **Fees**

971.51 The fees for Money Order service are set forth in Fee Schedule 971.

980 **ACCEPTANCE ALTERNATIVES**

981 **NETPOST MAILING ONLINE**

981.1 **Definition**

Netpost Mailing Online is a service that allows mailers to submit electronic documents, with address lists, for subsequent conversion into hard copy form, entry as mail, and delivery.

981.2 **Availability**

981.21 Netpost Mailing Online is available for documents submitted in an electronic

form, along with an address list, to be entered under the following classification schedules:

- a. Express Mail;
- b. First-Class Mail;
- c. Regular and Nonprofit subclasses of Standard Mail.

981.22 Except as provided in section 981.23, documents presented through Netpost Mailing Online are eligible for only the following rate categories:

- a. Express Mail Next Day Service and Second Day Service
- b. First-Class Mail Letters and Sealed Parcels Automation Letters [Basic]Mixed AADC
- c. First-Class Mail Letters and Sealed Parcels Automation Flats [Basic]Mixed ADC
- d. First-Class Mail Cards Automation [Basic]Mixed AADC
- e. First-Class Mail Single-Piece Priority Mail
- f. Standard Mail Regular Automation [Basic]Mixed AADC Letters
- g. Standard Mail Regular Automation Basic Flats
- h. Standard Mail Nonprofit Automation [Basic]Letters Mixed AADC (starting on a date to be specified by the Postal Service)
- i. Standard Mail Nonprofit Automation Basic Flats (starting on a date to be specified by the Postal Service)

981.23 That portion of a Netpost Mailing Online mailing consisting of pieces with addresses that cannot be made to meet Postal Service addressing requirements is not eligible for any Automation [Basic] rate categories, but instead may be sent, at the option of the Netpost Mailing Online customer, at the applicable single-piece rates for First-Class Mail Letters and Sealed Parcels, First-Class Mail Cards, or Priority Mail.

981.3 **Mailer Requirements**

981.31 Documents and address lists must be presented in electronic form, as specified by the Postal Service, through the Internet site specified by the Postal Service. Documents must be prepared using application software approved by the Postal Service.

981.4 **Other Special Services**

Other special services [that are] may be available in conjunction with[the subclass of mail chosen by the] Netpost Mailing Online[customer are available for Mailing Online pieces only], as specified by the Postal Service.

981.5 **Fees**

981.51 The fees for Netpost Mailing Online are described in Fee Schedule 981.

981.6 **Functionally Equivalent Systems**

981.61 **General.** Mailpieces created by a system certified by the Postal Service to be functionally equivalent to Netpost Mailing Online are eligible for the same rate categories as Netpost Mailing Online mailpieces. Mailpieces created by a certified, functionally equivalent service are in no case eligible for rate categories providing larger discount than Netpost Mailing Online mailpieces would receive.

981.62 **Definition.** A functionally equivalent system is one which is capable of all of the following, comparable to Netpost Mailing Online, as specified by the Postal Service:

- a. accepting documents and mailing lists from remote users in electronic form, such as via the Internet or converting documents and mailing lists to electronic form;
- b. using the electronic documents, mailing lists, and other software including sortation software certified by the Postal Service that sorts to the finest level of sortation possible, to create barcoded mailpieces meeting the requirements for automation category mail, with 100 percent standardized addresses on all pieces claiming discounted rates;
- c. commingling mailpieces from all sources without diversion to any other system and batching them according to geographic destination prior to printing and mailing; and
- d. generating volumes that exceed on average any otherwise applicable volume minimums.

981.63 **Certification**

981.631 **General.** Functionally equivalent systems must meet the requirements for certification specified by the Postal Service.

981.632 **Fee.** Functionally equivalent systems are subject to the annual certification fee set forth in Fee Schedule 1000.

981.633 **Cancellation.** Certification can be cancelled by the Postal Service for failure to continue to meet the requirements of this section and those specified by the Postal Service.

981.7 **Duration of Experimental Service Period**

981.71 The provisions of section 981 expire the later of:

- a. three years after the implementation date specified by the Postal Service Board of Governors, or
- b. if, by the expiration date specified in (a), a proposal to make Netpost Mailing Online permanent is pending before the Postal Rate Commission, the later of:
 - i. three months after the Commission takes action on such proposal under section 3624 of Title 39, or
 - ii. —if applicable—on the implementation date for a permanent Netpost Mailing Online.