

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

MODIFICATION OF MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE FOR
RESTRICTIONS ON CURRENT AND PERSONAL
CORRESPONDENCE CONTAINED IN INTERNATIONAL PARCELS

Docket No.
MC2010-10

**NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES**

November 5, 2009

Pursuant to 39 C.F.R. §§ 3020.90 and 3020.91, the United States Postal Service (Postal Service) hereby gives notice of changes in classification governing the following international mail services: Inbound Surface Parcel Post at Universal Postal Union (UPU) rates, Outbound Priority Mail International, Inbound Air Parcel Post, and Inbound Surface Parcel Post (at non-UPU rates). The changes modify the requirements regarding the mailing of certain types of correspondence in international postal parcels. Currently, each of the above referenced services prohibits the mailing of any written correspondence or documents having the nature of current and personal correspondence. This is consistent with the current text of the Universal Postal Convention, which provides that:

5 Insertion of correspondence in parcels

5.1 the insertion of the articles mentioned below shall be prohibited in postal parcels:

5.1.1 documents having the character of current and personal correspondence;

5.1.2 correspondence of any kind exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them.

When implemented, the minor changes in classification will change the restrictions on the inclusion of documents having the nature of current and personal correspondence.

The minor changes regarding correspondence in parcels are designed to conform to the text of the Universal Postal Convention, which will enter into force on January 1, 2010. The text of Article 15 of the Convention was revised in 2008 at the Universal Postal Union Congress in Geneva to permit the inclusion of current and personal correspondence in international parcels under certain circumstances.

Specifically, the text of Article 15 was revised in pertinent part to read as follows:

The insertion of the articles mentioned below shall be prohibited in postal parcels: correspondence, with the exception of archived materials, exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them.

To give effect to the upcoming changes in Convention text, the Postal Service submits that the existing restrictions on the inclusion of correspondence in parcels may be deleted from the Mail Classification Schedule (MCS). Because the MCS is not designed for the inclusion of more detailed product descriptions, the Postal Service intends to incorporate in the International Mail Manual the continuing restriction on the exclusion of correspondence (other than archived materials) not exchanged between the sender and the recipient. In the Postal Service's view, such a minor content restriction need not be reflected in the MCS text once the new Universal Postal Convention text enters into force. This would parallel the treatment of a similar restriction on the exclusion of personal and current correspondence not exchanged between the sender and recipient, which also applies to all categories of mail, including letter post, according to Article 15 paragraph 2.1.6 of the Universal Postal Convention. This restriction is not reflected in the draft MCS, presumably due to its minor impact on eligibility.

The Postal Service hereby submits to the Commission the attached conforming changes in the Mail Classification Schedule. Changes to the International Mail Manual to give effect to the new Convention text are scheduled to be published in the Postal Bulletin on January 4, 2010. The Postal Service believes that the change is consistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642 and should be incorporated by the Commission into the MCS.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

PART A MARKET DOMINANT PRODUCTS

1410 Inbound Surface Parcel Post (at UPU rates)

~~***Documents having the character of current and personal correspondence generally are prohibited in parcel post. ***~~

PART B COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

2200 Priority Mail International

2215 Outbound Priority Mail International

2215.1 Description

d. ~~***Written correspondence having the nature of current and personal correspondence is not permitted. ***~~

2220 Inbound Air Parcel Post

2220.1 Description

~~b. Written correspondence having the nature of current and personal correspondence is not permitted in Inbound International Air Parcel Post.~~

eb. Inbound International Air Parcel Post service is not sealed against inspection.

ec. Single-Piece inbound air parcel post is subject to the provisions of the Universal Postal Union Convention and the Parcel Post Regulations. Inbound air parcel post may also be covered under bilateral or multilateral agreements.

ed. Unless otherwise specified, reciprocal indemnity based on the weight of the parcel, is included. Limits of indemnity based on weight correspond to the outbound limitations for Priority Mail International specified in the International Mail Manual.

2245 Inbound Surface Parcel Post (at non-UPU rates)

2245.1 Description

~~b. Documents having the character of current and personal correspondence generally are prohibited in Inbound Surface Parcel Post.~~

eb. Inbound Surface Parcel Post is not sealed against inspection.

ec. Ordinary Inbound surface parcels may weigh up to 70 pounds and include reciprocal indemnity based on the weight of the parcel. Limits of indemnity based on weight correspond to the outbound limitations for Priority Mail International as specified in the International Mail Manual.
