

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

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Mark Acton, Vice Chairman;  
Dan G. Blair;  
Tony L. Hammond; and  
Nanci E. Langley

Modification of Mail Classification Schedule for  
Country-Specific Restrictions for Global Express  
Guaranteed and Dimensional Options for Priority  
Mail Large Flat Rate Box and Outbound Priority Mail  
International Large Parcel Flat Rate Box

Docket No. MC2011-24

ORDER APPROVING MAIL CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

(Issued May 4, 2011)

On April 8, 2011, the Postal Service filed a notice of two classification changes pursuant to 39 CFR §§ 3020.90 and 3020.91 concerning Global Express Guaranteed (GXG), Priority Mail, and Outbound Priority Mail International competitive mail services.<sup>1</sup> The Commission accepts the classification changes described in the Postal Service's Notice and shall make conforming modifications to the draft Mail Classification Schedule (MCS).

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<sup>1</sup> Notice of United States Postal Service of Classification Changes, April 8, 2011, at 1 (Notice).

*Description of classification changes.* First, the Postal Service proposes a classification change that modifies the size and weight limitation table for GXG in the draft MCS with the addition of a note to reflect that country-specific restrictions may apply as designated in the International Mail Manual. The Postal Service states that this is a minor change proposed to reflect modifications to country-specific size and weight restrictions imposed by the Postal Service's delivery carrier. *Id.* It explains that similar restrictions are applicable to Express Mail International (EMI), and the change for GXG is intended to parallel the EMI restrictions. *Id.* The Postal Service states that it intends to publish the country-specific restrictions in the *Postal Bulletin* on June 2, 2011, with an effective date of June 6, 2011. *Id.*

The second change amends the draft MCS to add a new dimensional option to the large Flat Rate Box for Priority Mail and Outbound Priority Mail International services of 11.875 x 3.125 x 24.0625. *Id.* at 1-2. The Postal Service maintains that the cubic volume of the new large Flat Rate Box is not changed. It indicates that inadvertently it did not notify the Commission of this change, and that the new dimensional option is currently available on <http://www.usps.com>. Therefore, it proposes that the change to the draft MCS reflecting this change be effective as soon as possible. *Id.*

The Postal Service asserts these classification changes are consistent with the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3642, and further proposes conforming MCS language. *Id.*

*Comments.* Comments were filed by the Public Representative.<sup>2</sup> No other interested person submitted comments. The Public Representative endorses the changes, concluding that the Postal Service has complied with the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 3642 and with applicable Commission rules. *Id.* at 1-2. He states that the changes appear to be minor and do not constitute a modification of the competitive product list. *Id.* at 2. The Public Representative notes that changes to the dimension size of the Flat Rate Box for Priority Mail and Outbound Priority Mail International

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<sup>2</sup> Comments of the Public Representative, April 22, 2011 (PR Comments).

services were not filed within 15 days before the effective date, but concludes that the change should be accepted since the availability of the option on the Postal Service's website does not appear to negatively impact its financial position. *Id.* at 3.

*Commission analysis.* Rule 3020.90 provides that the Postal Service is to ensure that product descriptions in the MCS accurately represent its current offerings. Notices filed pursuant to rule 3020.90 *et seq.* are limited to changes in the MCS that are relatively minor in nature and that do not entail modifying either the market dominant or the competitive product list.

The Postal Service's proposals do not constitute modifications of the product lists. Rather, both classification changes appear to be minor. The first change merely adds a note to the size and weight limitation table for GXG service to indicate that country-specific restrictions may apply due to restrictions imposed by the Postal Service's delivery carrier. A similar provision is already in place for EMI service. The proposed change is accepted.

The second change adds a new dimensional option for the large Flat Rate Box for Priority Mail and Outbound Priority Mail International services. The Postal Service failed to provide timely notice of the dimensional change, which is currently available on its website. The omission was inadvertent; the change is minor; and no comments were filed objecting to the untimeliness of the Notice. Given these facts and no indication that any person has been prejudiced, the Commission accepts the change. To avoid any difficulties that may arise if minor classification changes take effect prematurely, the Postal Service should take care to adhere to the requirements of rules 3020.90 *et seq.*

In conclusion, upon review of the proposal and the comments received, the Commission finds that the proposed changes are in accordance with 39 CFR § 3020.90 *et seq.*, and are consistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642. The Commission accepts the classification changes specified in the Postal Service's Notice, and shall make conforming modifications to the draft MCS.

*It is ordered:*

The Commission finds that the proposed changes are in accordance with 39 CFR § 3020.90 *et seq.* and are not inconsistent with 39 U.S.C. § 3642.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary