

**United States Postal Service**

**§ 121.1**

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**§ 111.4 Approval of the Director of the Federal Register.**

Incorporation by reference of the publication now titled the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual was approved by the Director of the Federal Register under 5 U.S.C 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51 on June 4, 2010.

(5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 407, 408, 3001-3011, 3201-3218, 3403-3405, 3601, 3621; 42 U.S.C. 1973cc-13, 1973cc-14)

[49 FR 47389, Dec. 4, 1984, as amended at 70 FR 14535, Mar. 23, 2005; 73 FR 25509, May 7, 2008; 75 FR 31702, June 4, 2010]

**§ 111.5 [Reserved]**

**PART 121—SERVICE STANDARDS FOR MARKET-DOMINANT MAIL PRODUCTS**

- Sec.
- 121.1 First-Class Mail.
- 121.2 Periodicals.
- 121.3 Standard mail.
- 121.4 Package services.

**APPENDIX A TO PART 121—SERVICE STANDARD DAY RANGE TABLES**

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C., 101, 401, 403, 404, 1001, 3691.

SOURCE: 72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 121.1 First-Class Mail.**

(a) For all intra-Sectional Center Facility (SCF) domestic First-Class Mail® pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, the service standard is 1-day (overnight), except for mail between the ter-

ritories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and intra-SCF mail originating and destinating in the following 3-digit ZIP Code™ areas in the state of Alaska or designated portions thereof: 995 (5-digit ZIP Code areas 99540 through 99591) 996, 997, 998, and 999. First-Class Mail pieces addressed to a destination 3-digit ZIP Code area outside of an origin intra-SCF service area may be considered for overnight delivery from that origin SCF, if that mail is accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, if sufficient customer need exists [the destination SCF receives at least 1.5 percent of the total annual First-Class Mail volume originating from the origin Processing & Distribution Center/Facility (OPDC/F)], and if operational and transportation feasibility permit.

(b) A 2-day service standard is established for all domestic First-Class Mail pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin if a 1-day service standard is not required, and if the origin PDC/F to Area Distribution Center surface transportation drive time is 12 hours or less, unless the origin and destination are within the state of Alaska; or if the origin and delivery address are separately in the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands; or if the mail is intra-SCF and originating from or destinating to one of the following 3-digit ZIP Code areas in Alaska or designated portions thereof: 995 (5-digit ZIP Code areas 99540 through 99591), 996, 997, 998, and 999.

(c) A 3-day service standard is established for all remaining domestic First-Class Mail pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, if neither a 1-day nor a 2-day service standard is required and

(1) Both the origin SCF and the delivery address are within the contiguous 48 states;

(2) The origin SCF is in the contiguous 48 states, and the delivery address is in either of the following: the 995 3-digit ZIP Code area in the state of Alaska, or the 968 3-digit ZIP Code area in the state of Hawaii, or in the 006, 007, or 009 3-digit ZIP Code areas of the territory of Puerto Rico;

(3) The origin is in the 006, 007 or 009 3-digit ZIP Code areas of the territory

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of Puerto Rico and the delivery address is in the contiguous 48 states;

(4) The origin SCF is in the state of Hawaii and the delivery address is in the territory of Guam; the origin is in the territory of Guam and the delivery address is in the state of Hawaii; or

(5) Both the origin SCF and the delivery address are within the state of Alaska.

(d) A 4-day service standard is established for all remaining First-Class Mail pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, if either a 1-day, 2-day, or 3-day service standard is not required, and if:

(1) The origin SCF is in the contiguous 48 states and the delivery address is in either of the following: any portion of the state of Alaska not in the 995 3-digit ZIP Code area; or any portion of the state of Hawaii not in the 968 3-digit ZIP Code area; or the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(2) The delivery address is in the contiguous 48 states and the origin is in either of the following: the state of Alaska, the state of Hawaii, or the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands;

(3) The origin and delivery address are in different states or territories, excluding mail to and from the territory of Guam and mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(e) A 5-day service standard is established for all remaining domestic First-Class Mail pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, if those pieces originate in the territory of Guam but are not destined for Guam or the state of Hawaii, or if those pieces originate other than in Guam or Hawaii and are destined for Guam.

(f) The service standard for Outbound Single-Piece First-Class Mail International™ pieces properly accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin is equivalent to the service standard for domestic First-Class Mail from the same origin 3-digit ZIP Code to the 3-digit ZIP Code area in which that origin's designated International Service Center is located.

(g) The service standard for Inbound Single-Piece First-Class Mail International is equivalent to the service standard for domestic First-Class Mail

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pieces from the 3-digit ZIP Code area in which that inbound mail's designated International Service Center is located to the 3-digit ZIP Code of the delivery address.

### § 121.2 Periodicals.

(a) *End-to-End.* (1) For all SCF turnaround Periodicals properly accepted before the established and published day-zero Critical Entry Time at origin, where the origin P&DC/F and SCF are in the same building, the service standard is 1-day (overnight), except for mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and mail originating or destinating in the following 3-digit ZIP Code areas within the state of Alaska or designated portions thereof: 995 (5-digit ZIP Code areas 99540 through 99591), 996, 997, 998, and 999.

(2) The Periodicals service standard is the sum of the applicable (1-to-3-day) First-Class Mail service standard plus one day, for each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair for which Periodicals are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at origin and merged with First-Class Mail pieces for surface transportation (as defined by the Periodicals Origin Split and First-Class Mail mixed Area Distribution Center/Automated Area Distribution Center (ADC/AADC) Domestic Mail Manual (incorporated by reference; see § 111.2) label list L201).

(3) The Periodicals service standard for mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands is 3 days.

(4) The Periodicals service standard for mail between the state of Hawaii and the territory of Guam is 4 days.

(5) The Periodicals service standard for intra-Alaska mail that is not overnight is 2 to 4 days for the following 3-digit ZIP Code areas or designated portions thereof: 995 (5-digit ZIP Code areas 99540 through 99591), 996, 997, 998, and 999.

(6) The Periodicals service standard for each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within the 48 contiguous states, for which Periodicals are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at origin, is the sum of 4 or 5 days, plus the number of additional days (from 1 to 4) required for

surface transportation between each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair.

(7) The Periodicals service standard for each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair, for which Periodicals are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at origin, is the sum of 4 or 5 days, plus the number of additional days (from 4 to 15) required for intermodal (highway, boat, air-taxi) transportation outside of the 48 contiguous states for each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair.

(b) *Destination Entry.* (1) Periodicals that qualify for a Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) or Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) rate, and that are accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DDU or DSCF, have a 1-day (overnight) service standard, except for mail dropped at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico and destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and intra SCF mail in the following 3-digit ZIP Code areas in the state of Alaska or designated portions thereof: 995 (5-digit ZIP Code areas 99540 through 99591), 996, 997, 998 and 999.

(2) Periodicals that qualify for a Destination Area Distribution Center (DADC) rate, and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DADC, unless the ADC is located with the 48 contiguous states and the destination is not, and where the DADC and DSCF are not the same building, have a 2-day service standard, unless the destination is the Alaska 997 3-digit ZIP Code area. Mail that qualifies for a Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) rate has a 2-day service standard, if it is accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time, and the mail is dropped at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico and is destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands; or if the mail is intra-SCF in the following 3-digit ZIP Code areas of the state of Alaska: 996, 998 and 999. Periodicals that qualify for a DADC rate, and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the Alaska 997 DADC have a 3-day service standard.

(3) Periodicals that qualify for a Destination Network Distribution Center containerized rate, that are accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry

Time at the proper destination NDC in the contiguous 48 states, and that are addressed for delivery in the contiguous 48 states, have a service standard of 1 or 2 days, corresponding to the standard for mail qualifying for the destination ADC rate, based on whether the destination ADC and SCF are in the same building.

(4) Periodicals that qualify for a Destination Network Distribution Center containerized rate, that are accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper destination NDC in the 48 contiguous states, and that are addressed for delivery in the states of Alaska or Hawaii, or the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a service standard of 5 to 8 days, corresponding to the standard for mail qualifying for the destination ADC rate, which is based on the number of days required for transportation outside of the 48 contiguous states and whether the destination ADC and SCF are in the same building.

(5) Periodicals that qualify for a Destination Area Distribution Center (DADC) rate and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DADC in the contiguous 48 states for delivery to addresses in the state of Alaska, or the territories of Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a service standard of 7 days.

[72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 9344, Mar. 2, 2010]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 76 FR 37659, June 28, 2011, § 121.2 was amended by revising paragraph (c), effective Jan. 22, 2012. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

**§ 121.2 Periodicals.**

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(c) *Combined Periodicals/Standard Mail mailing.* The Postal Service handles combined mailings of Periodicals flats and Standard Mail flats as Standard Mail. Periodicals flats included within mailings of combined Standard Mail flats and Periodicals flats are subject to the service standards applicable to Standard Mail in § 121.3.

**§ 121.3 Standard Mail.**

(a) *End-to-End.* (1) The service standard for Sectional Center Facility (SCF) turnaround Standard Mail® pieces accepted at origin before the day zero

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Critical Entry Time is 3 days when the origin Processing & Distribution Center/Facility (OPD&C/F) and the SCF are the same building, except for mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(2) The service standard for Area Distribution Center (ADC) turnaround Standard Mail pieces accepted at origin before the day zero Critical Entry Time is 4 days when the OPD&C/F and the ADC are the same building, unless the ADC is in the contiguous 48 states and the delivery address is not, or when the mail is between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(3) The service standard for intra-Network Distribution Center (NDC) Standard Mail pieces accepted at origin before the day-zero Critical Entry Time is 5 days for each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within the same Network Distribution Center service area if the origin and destination are within the contiguous 48 states; the same standard applies to mail that is intra-Alaska, intra-Hawaii, or between the state of Hawaii and the territory of Guam.

(4) For each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within the 48 contiguous states, the service standard for Standard Mail pieces accepted at origin before the day zero Critical Entry Time is the sum of 6 days plus the number of additional days (from 1 to 4) required for surface transportation between each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair.

(5) For each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair, the service standard for Standard Mail pieces accepted at origin before the day zero Critical Entry Time is the sum of 5 or 6 days plus the number of additional days (from 4 to 16) required for intermodal (highway, boat, air-taxi) transportation outside of the 48 contiguous states for each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair.

(b) *Destination Entry.* (1) Standard Mail pieces that qualify for a Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DDU have a 2-day service standard.

(2) Standard Mail pieces that qualify for a Destination Sectional Center Fa-

cility (DSCF) rate and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DSCF have a 3-day service standard, except for mail dropped at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico and destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(3) Standard Mail pieces that qualify for a Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) rate, and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico, have a 4-day service standard if destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(4) Standard Mail pieces that qualify for a Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) rate, and that are accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DNDC have a 5-day service standard, if both the origin and the destination are in the 48 contiguous states.

(5) Standard Mail pieces that qualify for a Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) rate, and that are accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DNDC in the contiguous 48 states for delivery to addresses in the states of Alaska or Hawaii or the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a service standard of either 9 or 10 days, depending on the 3-digit origin-destination ZIP Code pair. For each such pair, the applicable day within the range is based on the number of days required for transportation outside of the 48 contiguous states.

[72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 9344, Mar. 2, 2010]

### § 121.4 Package Services.

(a) *End-to-End.* (1) The service standard for Sectional Center Facility (SCF) turnaround Package Services mail accepted at the origin SCF before the day zero Critical Entry Time is 2 days when the origin Processing & Distribution Center/Facility and the SCF are the same building, except for mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(2) The service standard for intra-Network Distribution Center (NDC) Package Services mail accepted at origin before the day-zero Critical Entry Time is 3 days, for each remaining

(non-intra-SCF) 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within a Network Distribution Center service area, where the origin and destination are within the contiguous 48 states and are not served by an Auxiliary Service Facility; and for mail between the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(3) The service standard for intra-Network Distribution Center (NDC) Package Services mail accepted at origin before the day-zero Critical Entry Time is 4 days for each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within a Network Distribution Center service area, where the destination delivery address is served by an Auxiliary Service Facility; the same standard applies to all remaining intra-Alaska mail and mail between the state of Hawaii and the territory of Guam.

(4) For each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair within the 48 contiguous states, the service standard for Package Services mail accepted at origin before the day zero Critical Entry Time is between 5 and 8 days. For each such 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair, this is the sum of 4 days, plus the number of additional days (from 1 to 4) required for surface transportation between each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair, plus an additional day if the destination delivery address is served by an Auxiliary Service Facility.

(5) For each remaining 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair for which either the origin or the destination is outside of the 48 contiguous states, the service standard for Package Services mail accepted at origin before the day zero Critical Entry Time is between 7 and 20 days. For each such 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair, this represents the sum of 3 to 4 days, plus the number of days (ranging from 4 to 16) required for intermodal (highway, boat, air-taxi) transportation between each 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair.

(6) The service standard for Inbound Surface Parcel Post® pieces (subject to Universal Postal Union rates) is the same as the service standard for domestic Package Services mail from the 3-digit ZIP Code area in which the International Service Center is located

to the 3-digit ZIP Code in which the delivery address is located.

(b) *Destination Entry.* (1) Package Services mail that qualifies for a Destination Delivery Unit (DDU) rate, and that is accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DDU, has a 1-day (overnight) service standard.

(2) Package Services mail that qualifies for a Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) rate, and that is accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DSCF, has a 2-day service standard, except for mail dropped at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico and destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(3) Package Services mail that qualifies for a Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) rate, which is accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DNDC or Destination Auxiliary Service Facility, and that originates and destinations in the contiguous 48 states, has a 3-day service standard. Mail that qualifies for a Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) discount, and that is accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico, has a 3-day service standard if it is destined for the territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

(4) Package Services mail that qualifies for a Destination Network Distribution Center (DNDC) rate, and that is accepted before the day-zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DNDC in the contiguous 48 states for delivery to addresses in the states of Alaska or Hawaii, or the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands has a service standard of either 7 or 8 days, depending on the 3-digit ZIP Code origin-destination pair. For each such pair, the applicable day within the range is based on the number of days required for transportation outside of the 48 contiguous states.

[72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 9344, Mar. 2, 2010]

#### APPENDIX A TO PART 121—TABLES DEPICTING SERVICE STANDARD DAY RANGES

The following tables reflect the service standard day ranges resulting from the application of the business rules applicable to

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the market-dominant mail products referenced in §§ 121.1 through 121.4:

Table 1. End-to-end service standard day ranges for mail originating and destinating within the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

Mail class	End-to-end range (days)
First-Class Mail .....	1-3
Periodicals .....	1-9

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Mail class	End-to-end range (days)
Standard Mail .....	3-10
Package Services .....	2-8

Table 2. End-to-end service standard day ranges for mail originating and/or destinating within the states of Alaska and Hawaii, and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mail class	End-to-End								
	Intra state / territory			To / From 48 contiguous states			To / from states of Alaska and Hawaii, and the Territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands		
	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI
First-Class Mail .....	1-3	1-3	1-2	3-4	3-5	3-4	4-5	4-5	4-5
Periodicals .....	1-4	1-4	1-3	9-15	9-16	8-12	17-20	17-20	17-20
Standard Mail .....	3-5*	3-5	3-4	10-16	10-18	9-13	19-21	18-22	18-22
Package Services .....	2-4	2-4	2-3	8-14	8-15	7-12	16-20	16-20	16-18

Excluding bypass mail.

Table 3. Destination entry service standard day ranges for mail to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

**TABLE 3—DESTINATION ENTRY SERVICE STANDARD DAY RANGES FOR MAIL TO THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Mail class	Destination entry (at appropriate facility)			
	DDU (days)	SCF (days)	ADC (days)	NDC (days)
<b>CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES</b>				
Periodicals .....	1	1	1-2	1-2
Standard Mail .....	2	3	5	
Package Services .....	1	2	3	

Table 4. Destination entry service standard day ranges for mail to the states of Alaska and Hawaii, and the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**TABLE 4—DESTINATION ENTRY SERVICE STANDARD DAY RANGES FOR MAIL TO THE STATES OF ALASKA AND HAWAII, AND THE TERRITORIES OF GUAM, PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Mail class	Destination entry (at appropriate facility)									
	DDU (days)	SCF (days)			ADC (days)			NDC (days)		
		Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI
<b>ALASKA, HAWAII &amp; GUAM, PUERTO RICO &amp; USVI</b>										
Periodicals .....	1	1-2	1	1-2	1-3 (AK) 7 (JNU) 7 (KTN)	1 (HI) ... 7 (GU)	1-2	1-2	6-7	5-6
Standard Mail .....	2	3	3	3-4	10	10	9			

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**TABLE 4—DESTINATION ENTRY SERVICE STANDARD DAY RANGES FOR MAIL TO THE STATES OF ALASKA AND HAWAII, AND THE TERRITORIES OF GUAM, PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—Continued**

Mail class	Destination entry (at appropriate facility)									
	DDU (days)	SCF (days)			ADC (days)			NDC (days)		
		Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI	Alaska	Hawaii & Guam	Puerto Rico & USVI
Package Services .....	1	2	2	2-3	8 .....	8 .....	7 .....	.....	.....	.....

AK = Alaska 3-digit ZIP Codes 995-997; JNU = Juneau AK 3-digit ZIP Code 998; KTN = Ketchikan AK 3-digit ZIP Code 999; HI = Hawaii 3-digit ZIP Codes 967 and 968; GU = Guam 3-digit ZIP Code 969.

[72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, as amended at 75 FR 9344, Mar. 2, 2010]

**PART 122—SERVICE STANDARDS FOR MARKET-DOMINANT SPECIAL SERVICES PRODUCTS**

- Sec.
- 122.1 Ancillary special services.
- 122.2 Stand-alone special services.

AUTHORITY: 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 1001, 3691.

SOURCE: 72 FR 72228, Dec. 19, 2007, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 122.1 Ancillary special services.**

(a) For the market-dominant mail products identified above in part 121, mailers may purchase various ancillary special services products, which are designed to provide electronic access to information regarding delivery-related events or forwarding addresses for individual mailpieces.

(1) For the following special services, the service standard for the electronic provision of delivery-related information is that it be made available to the sender no later than 24 hours after the time of the recorded delivery-related scan performed by the Postal Service on mail for which the following special services have been purchased: Domestic Certified Mail™ service, domestic Delivery Confirmation™ service, domestic and inbound international Registered Mail™ service, domestic Collect On Delivery, domestic electronic Return Receipt, and domestic Signature Confirmation™ scans.

(2) For domestic electronic Address Correction Service, the service standard for the electronic provision of address change information is that it be made available to the sender no later

than 24 hours after the time of the scan of the mailpiece by the Postal Automated Redirection System.

(b) For the market-dominant mail products identified above in part 121, mailers may purchase insurance from the Postal Service™ to provide indemnity against loss or damage to the contents of a mailpiece. The service standard for the administrative resolution of domestic insurance claims is that a final agency decision must be transmitted to the claimant no later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the Postal Service has received all information from the claimant necessary for analysis of the claim.

**§ 122.2 Stand-alone special services.**

(a) The service standard for P. O. Box™ service is that mail be available for pickup at the box each delivery day no later than the daily “up-time” publicly posted at the Post Office™ location that includes the box section.

(b) The service standard for completion of Address List Services (change-of-address information for election boards and registration commissions, correction and ZIP Code placement of mailing lists, and address sequencing) is transmission of the corrected addresses within 15 business days of receipt to the requester, except for the period from November 16 through January 1.

(c) For the domestic market-dominant mail products identified above in part 121, CONFIRM® service allows subscribing customers to obtain electronic information regarding when and where mailpieces undergo barcode scans in mail processing operations. The service standard for the electronic provision of CONFIRM service scan information is