United States Postal Service

§ 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 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 (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, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, have a service standard of 3 to 7 days, corresponding to the standard for mail qualifying for the destination ADC rate, which is based on the number of days required for transportation of the mail 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 Network Distribution Center (DADC) rate and that are accepted before the day zero Critical Entry Time at the proper DADC in the contiguous 48 states, unless the destination is the Alaska 997 3-digit ZIP Code area, have a service standard of 7 days.


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 mailings 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 Critical Entry Time.
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 2 days when the origin Processing & Distribution Center/Facility (OPD&C/F) and the SCF are the same building, except for mail dropped at the SCF in the territory of Puerto Rico and 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 contiguous 48 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.