§ 233.11 Mail reasonably suspected of being dangerous to persons or property.

(a) Screening of mail. When the Chief Postal Inspector determines that there is a credible threat that certain mail may contain a bomb, explosives, or other material that would endanger life or property, including firearms which are not mailable under Section C024 of the Domestic Mail Manual, the Chief Postal Inspector may, without a search warrant or the sender’s or addressee’s consent, authorize the screening of such mail by any means capable of identifying explosives, nonmailable firearms, or other dangerous contents in the mails. The screening must be within the limits of this section and without opening mail that is sealed against inspection or revealing the contents of correspondence within mail that is sealed against inspection. The screening is conducted according to these requirements.

(1) Screening of mail authorized by paragraph (a) of this section must be limited to the least quantity of mail necessary to respond to the threat.

(2) Such screening must be done in a manner that does not avoidably delay the screened mail.

(3) The Chief Postal Inspector may authorize screening of mail by postal employees and by persons not employed by the Postal Service under such instruction that require compliance with this part and protect the security of the mail. No information obtained from such screening may be disclosed unless authorized by this part.

(4) Mail of insufficient weight to pose a hazard to air or surface transportation, or to contain firearms which are not mailable under Section C024 of the Domestic Mail Manual, and international transit mail must be excluded from such screening.

(5) After screening conducted under paragraph (a) of this section, mail that is reasonably suspected of posing an immediate and substantial danger to life or limb, or an immediate and substantial danger to property, may be treated by postal employees as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.
§ 233.12 Civil penalties.

(a) Issuance. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3005, the Judicial Officer of the Postal Service, acting upon a satisfactory evidentiary basis, may issue a mail return and/or a cease and desist order against anyone engaged in conducting a scheme or device for obtaining money or property through the mail by means of a false representation, including the mailing of matter which is non-mailable, or engaged in conducting a lottery, gift enterprise, or scheme for the distribution of money or of real or personal property, by lottery, chance, or drawing of any kind.

(b) Enforcement. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3012, any person:

(1) Who, through the use of the mail, evades or attempts to evade the effect of an order issued under 39 U.S.C. 3005(a)(1) or 3005(a)(2);

(2) Who fails to comply with an order issued under 39 U.S.C. 3005(a)(3); or

(3) Who (other than a publisher described by 39 U.S.C. 3007(b)) has actual knowledge of any such order, is in privity with any person described by paragraph (b) (1) or (2) of this section, and engages in conduct to assist any such person to evade, attempt to evade, or fail to comply with such order, as the case may be, through the use of the mail:

shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed $11,000 for each day that such person engages in conduct described by this paragraph (b). A separate penalty may be assessed under this paragraph (b) with respect to the conduct described by paragraphs (b) (1), (2), or (3) of this section.

[61 FR 56450, Nov. 1, 1996]

PART 235—DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LIAISON

Sec. 235.1 Postal Service to the Armed Forces.

235.2 Civil preparedness.

§ 235.1 Postal Service to the Armed Forces.

(a) Publication 38, Postal Agreement with the Department of Defense, defines the Postal Service’s responsibilities for providing postal service to the Armed Forces.

(b) The Chief Inspector is responsible for military liaison.

(c) Postal inspectors provide liaison between postmasters and military commanders, visit military installations as required, and make any necessary recommendations.


[38 FR 26193, Sept. 9, 1973]

§ 235.2 Civil preparedness.

(a) Mission. The prime objective of postal emergency preparedness planning is to maintain or restore essential postal service in a national emergency, natural disaster, or disruptive domestic crisis.