

SUBCHAPTER G—POSTAGE PROGRAMS

PART 501—AUTHORIZATION TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE POSTAGE EVIDENCING SYSTEMS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 410, 2601, 2605; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95-452, as amended); 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

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§ 501.1 Definitions.

(a) *Postage Evidencing Systems* regulated by part 501 produce evidence of prepayment of postage by any method other than postage stamps and permit imprints. A Postage Evidencing System is a device or system of components that a customer uses to generate and print evidence that postage required for mailing has been paid. Postage Evidencing Systems print indicia, such as meter imprints or information-

based indicia to indicate postage payment. They include but are not limited to postage meters and PC Postage systems.

(b) A *postage meter* is a Postal Service-approved Postage Evidencing System that uses a device to account for postage purchased and printed. The term *meter* as used in this part refers to a postage meter.

(c) *PC Postage products* are Postal Service-approved Postage Evidencing Systems that use a personal computer as an integral part of the system. PC Postage products may use the Internet to download postage to a mailer's computer from which the postage indicia may then be printed.

(d) A *provider* is a person or entity authorized under this section to manufacture and/or distribute Postage Evidencing Systems to customers.

(e) A *manufacturer* of postage meters produces postage meters.

(f) A *distributor* of postage meters may be a manufacturer who leases postage meters directly to end-user customers or may be an independent entity who leases postage meters to end-user customers on behalf of the manufacturer.

(g) A *customer* is a person or entity authorized by the Postal Service to use a Postage Evidencing System in accordance with *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) 604 Postage Payment Methods, 4.0 Postage Meters and PC Postage Products (Postage Evidencing Systems).

§ 501.2 Postage Evidencing System provider authorization.

(a) The Postal Service considers Postage Evidencing Systems and their respective infrastructure to be essential to the exercise of its specific powers to prescribe postage and provide evidence of payment of postage under 39 U.S.C. 404(a)(2) and (4).

(b) Due to the potential for adverse impact upon Postal Service revenue, the following activities may not be engaged in by any person or entity without prior, written approval of the Postal Service: