POSTAL SERVICE

Special Services Reform; Changes in Domestic Mail Classifications and Fees

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice of implementation of changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and accompanying fee changes.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the accompanying fee changes to be implemented as a result of the May 5, 1997 Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on Special Services Fees and Classifications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 8, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Rubin, (202) 268–2986.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 7, 1996, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. 3621, *et seq.*, the Postal Service filed with the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) a request for a recommended decision on several special service reform proposals. The PRC designated the filing as Docket No. MC96–3. The PRC published a notice of the filing, with a description of the Postal Service's proposals, on June 21, 1996, in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 31968–31979).

On April 2, 1997, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. 3624, the PRC issued its Recommended Decision on the Postal Service's Request to the Governors of the Postal Service. The PRC recommended most of the proposed mail classification changes and some of the fee changes requested by the Postal Service.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3625, the Governors of the United States Postal Service acted on the PRC's recommendations on May 5, 1997. Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on Special Services Fees and Classifications, Docket No. MC96–3. The Governors determined to approve the PRC's recommendations, and the Board of Governors set an implementation date of June 8, 1997, for those fee and classification changes to take effect. A copy of the attachments to that Decision, setting forth the classification and fee changes approved by the Governors, is set forth below.

Also on May 5, 1997, the Board of Governors of the Postal Service, pursuant to their authority under 39 U.S.C. 3625(f), determined to make the fee and classification changes approved by the Governors effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 8, 1997 (Resolution No. 97–7).

In accordance with the Decision of the Governors and Resolution No. 97–7, the Postal Service hereby gives notice that the classification and fee changes set forth below will become effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 8, 1997. Implementing regulations also become effective at that time, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

BILLING CODE 7710–12–P

ATTACHMENT A TO THE
DECISION OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ON THE RECOMMENDED DECISION OF THE POSTAL RATE COMMISSION ON SPECIAL SERVICES FEES AND CLASSIFICATIONS, DOCKET NO. MC96-3
(MAY 5, 1997)
CHANGES IN THE DOMESTIC MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

The following material represents changes in the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule (DMCS) approved by the Governors of the United States Postal Service in response to the Commission's Recommended Decision in Docket No. MC96-3. Changes are generally identified by underlining additions to the DMCS, striking deletions, or substituting new text for old. Certain editorial revisions that do not affect the substance of the recommendations are included without special notation.

Amend the Expedited Mail Classification Schedule by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

EXPEDITED MAIL CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

110 DEFINITION

Expedited Mail is mail matter entered as Express Mail in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule. Any matter eligible for mailing may, at the option of the mailer, be mailed as Express Mail. Insurance is either included in Express Mail postage or is available for an additional charge, depending on the value and nature of the item sent by Express Mail.

* * * * *

160 ANCILLARY SERVICES

The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of applicable fees:

	Service	Schedule
a.	Address correction	SS-1
b.	Return receipts	SS-16
c.	COD	SS-6
d.	Express Mail Insurance	SS-9

* * * * *

~~180 INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY~~

~~181 Insurance Coverage~~

~~Express Mail is insured against loss, damage or rifling at no additional charge.~~

~~182 Indemnity Coverage~~

~~182.1 **Payment of Indemnity.** Indemnity will be paid by the Postal Service as follows:~~

~~a. For document reconstruction the maximum liability is $50,000 per piece, up to $500,000 per occurrence regardless of the number of claimants, to be paid under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.~~

~~b. For merchandise the maximum liability is $500 to be paid under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.~~

~~c. For mailings valued at $15 or less, for negotiable items, or currency or bullion, the indemnity is $15 to be paid under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.~~

~~182.2 **Indemnity Not Available.** Indemnity will not be paid by the Postal Service for loss, damage or rifling:~~

~~a. Of nonmailable matter;~~

~~b. Due to improper packaging;~~

~~c. Seizure by any agency of government; or,~~

~~d. Due to war, insurrection or civil disturbances.~~

~~183 **Insurance Claims And Procedures**~~

180 **Refunds**

181 **Procedure**

Claims for refunds of postage ~~or insurance~~ must be filed within the period of time and under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

~~184 **Refunds**~~

182 **Availability**

~~184.1~~ 182.1 **Same Day Airport.** The Postal Service will refund the postage for Same Day Airport Express Mail not available for claim by the time specified, unless the delay is caused by:

a. Strikes or work stoppage;

b. Delay or cancellation of flights; or

c. Governmental action beyond the control of Postal Service or air carriers.

~~184.2~~ 182.2 **Custom Designed**. Except where a service agreement provides for claim, or delivery, of Custom Designed Express Mail more than 24 hours after scheduled tender at point of origin, the Postal Service will refund postage for such mail not available for claim, or not delivered, within 24 hours of mailing, unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage.

~~184.3~~ 182.3 **Next Day.** Unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage, the Postal Service will refund postage for Next Day Express Mail not available for claim or not delivered:

a. By 10:00 a.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the next delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Post Office service;

b. By 3:00 p.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the next delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Addressee service.

~~184.4~~ 182.4 **Second Day.** Unless the item was delayed by strike or work stoppage, the Postal Service will refund postage for Second Day Express Mail not available for claim or not delivered:

a. By 10:00 a.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the second delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Post Office service;

b. By 3:00 p.m., or earlier time(s) prescribed by the Postal Service, of the second delivery day in the case of Post Office-to-Addressee service.

Amend the First-Class Mail Classification Schedule by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

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222 ~~**Postal and**~~ **Stamped Cards and Post Cards Subclass**

222.1 **Definition**

222.11 ~~**Postal**~~ **Stamped Card.** A ~~postal~~ Stamped Card is a card with postage imprinted or impressed on it and supplied by the Postal Service for the transmission of messages.

222.12 **Post Card.** A post card is a privately printed mailing card for the transmission of messages. To be eligible to be mailed as a First-Class post card, a card must be of uniform thickness and must not exceed any of the following dimensions:

a. 6 inches in length;

b. 4¼ inches in width;

c. 0.016 inch in thickness.

222.13 **Double Cards.** Double ~~postal~~ Stamped Cards or post cards may be mailed as ~~postal~~ Stamped Cards or post cards. A double ~~postal~~ Stamped Card or post card consists of two attached cards, one of which may be detached by the receiver and returned by mail as a single ~~postal~~ Stamped Card or post card.

222.2 **Restriction.** A mailpiece with any of the following characteristics is not mailable as a ~~postal~~ Stamped Card or post card unless it is prepared as prescribed by the Postal Service:

a. Numbers or letters unrelated to postal purposes appearing in the address portion of the card;

b. Punched holes;

c. Vertical tearing guide;

d. An address portion which is smaller than the remainder of the card.

222.3 **Regular Rate Categories**

222.31 **Single Piece Rate Category.** The single piece rate category applies to regular rate ~~Postal~~ Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail not mailed under section 222.32.

222.32 **Presort Rate Category.** The presort rate category applies to ~~Postal~~ Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

c. Meets the addressing and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

222.4 **Automation Rate Categories**

222.41 **General.** The automation rate categories consist of ~~Postal~~ Stamped Cards and Post Cards subclass mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 500 pieces;

b. Is presorted, marked, and presented as specified by the Postal Service;

c. Bears a barcode representing not more than 11 digits (not including "correction" digits) as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

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260 ANCILLARY SERVICES

First-Class Mail, except as otherwise noted, will receive the following additional services upon payment of the fees prescribed in the corresponding schedule:

	Service	Schedule
a.	Address correction	SS-1
b.	Business reply mail	SS-2
c.	Certificates of mailing	SS-4
d.	Certified mail	SS-5
e.	COD	SS-6
f.	Insured mail	SS-9
g.	Registered mail	SS-14
~~h.~~	~~Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~
~~i.~~ h.	Return receipt (limited to merchandise sent by Priority Mail ~~only~~)	SS-16
~~j.~~ i.	Merchandise return	SS-20

270 RATES AND FEES

The rates and fees for First-Class Mail are set forth in the following ~~rate~~ schedules:

		Schedule
a.	Letters and Sealed Parcels	221
b.	~~Postal~~ Stamped Cards and Post Cards	222
c.	Priority Mail	223
d.	Fees	SS-19A and 1000

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Amend the Standard Mail Classification Schedule by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

STANDARD MAIL
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

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360 **ANCILLARY SERVICES**

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362 **Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Subclasses**

Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library subclass mail will receive the following additional services upon payment of the appropriate fees:

	Service	Schedule
a.	Certificates of mailing	SS-4
b.	COD	SS-6
c.	Insured mail	SS-9
~~d.~~	~~Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~
~~e.~~ d.	Special handling	SS-18
~~f.~~ e.	Return receipt (merchandise only)	SS-16
~~g.~~ f.	Merchandise return	SS-20

Insurance, ~~special delivery,~~ special handling, and COD services may not be used selectively for individual pieces in a multi-piece Parcel Post subclass mailing unless specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed.

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Amend the Periodicals Classification Schedule by deleting the text that is stricken:

PERIODICALS
CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

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~~460 **ANCILLARY SERVICES**~~

~~Periodicals class mail will receive the following additional service upon payment of the appropriate fee:~~

~~**Service**~~	~~**Schedule**~~
~~Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~

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Amend the General Definitions, Terms and Conditions section of the DMCS by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

GENERAL DEFINITIONS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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3000 **POSTAGE AND PREPARATION**

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3080 **Refund of Postage**

When postage and special service fees have been paid on mail for which no service is rendered for the postage or fees paid, or collected in excess of the lawful rate, a refund may be made. There shall be no refund for registered, COD, ~~and insured~~ general insurance, and Express Mail Insurance fees when the article is later withdrawn by the mailer. In cases involving returned articles improperly accepted because of excess size or weight, a refund may be made.

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–3, Caller Service, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-3--CALLER SERVICE

3.01 **Definition**

3.010 Caller service is a service which permits a customer to obtain ~~his~~ mail addressed to ~~a~~ the customer's box number through a call window or loading dock.

3.02 **Description of Service**

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3.022 Caller service is provided to customers on the basis of mail volume received~~,~~ and number of post office boxes ~~rented~~ used at any one facility.

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–4, Certificate of Mailing, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-4--CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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4.03 **Other Services**

4.030 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification Schedule
a. Parcel airlift	SS-13
~~b. Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~
~~c.~~ b. Special handling	SS-18

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–5, Certified Mail, by deleting the text that is stricken.

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-5--CERTIFIED MAIL

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5.04 **Other Services**

5.040 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification Schedule
a. Restricted delivery	SS-15
b. Return receipt	SS-16
~~c. Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~

Amend Classification Schedule SS–6, Collect on Delivery Service, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-6--COLLECT ON DELIVERY SERVICE

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6.06 **Other Services**

6.060 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fee:

	Classification Schedule
a. Registered mail, if sent as First-Class	SS-14
b. Restricted delivery	SS-15
~~c. Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~
~~d.~~ c. Special handling	SS-18

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Delete Classification Schedule SS–9, Insured Mail, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-9--INSURED MAIL

Part a - Express Mail Insurance

9a.01 **Definition**

9a.010 Express Mail Insurance is a service that provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to items sent by Express Mail.

9a.02 **Description of Service**

9a.020 Express Mail Insurance is available only for Express Mail.

9a.021 Insurance coverage is provided, for no additional charge, up to $500 per piece for document reconstruction, up to $5,000 per occurrence regardless of the number of claimants. Insurance coverage is also provided, for no additional charge, up to $500 per piece for merchandise. Insurance coverage for merchandise valued at more than $500 is available for an additional fee, as set forth in Rate Schedule SS-9. The maximum liability for merchandise is $5,000 per piece. For negotiable items, currency, or bullion, the maximum liability is $15.

9a.022 Indemnity claims for Express Mail must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

9a.023 Indemnity will be paid under terms and conditions prescribed by the Postal Service.

9a.024 Among other limitations prescribed by the Postal Service, indemnity will not be paid by the Postal Service for loss, damage or rifling:

a. Of nonmailable matter;
b. Due to improper packaging;
c. Due to seizure by any agency of government; or,
d. Due to war, insurrection or civil disturbances.

9a.03 **Fees**

9a.030 The fees for Express Mail Insurance service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS-9.

Part b - General Insurance

9b.01 **Definition**

9b.010 General Insurance is a service that provides the mailer with indemnity for loss of, rifling of, or damage to mailed items.

9b.02 **Description of Service**

9b.020 The maximum liability of the Postal Service under this part is $5000.

9b.021 General Insurance is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

a. First-Class Mail, if containing matter which may be mailed as Standard Mail
b. Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Standard Mail

9b.022 This service is not available for matter offered for sale, addressed to prospective purchasers who have not ordered or authorized their sending. If such matter is received in the mail, payment will not be made for loss, rifling, or damage.

9b.023 The mailer is issued a receipt for each item mailed. For items insured for more than $50, a receipt of delivery is obtained by the Postal Service.

9b.024 For items insured for more than $50, a notice of arrival is left at the mailing address when the first attempt at delivery is unsuccessful.

9b.025 A claim for complete loss may be filed by the mailer only. A claim for damage or for partial loss may be filed by either the mailer or addressee.

9b.026 A claim for damage or loss on a parcel sent merchandise return (SS-20) may only be filed by the purchaser of the insurance.

9b.027 Indemnity claims must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

9b.028 Additional copies of the original mailing receipt may be obtained by the mailer, upon payment of the applicable fee set forth in Rate Schedule SS-9.

9b.03 **Deposit of Mail**

9b.030 Mail insured under this part must be deposited in a manner specified by the Postal Service.

9b.04 **Forwarding and Return**

9b.040 By insuring an item, the mailer guarantees forwarding and return postage unless instructions on the piece mailed indicate that it not be forwarded or returned.

9b.041 Mail undeliverable as addressed sent under this part will be returned to the sender as specified by the sender or by the Postal Service.

9b.05 **Other Services**

9b.050 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this part upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification Schedule
a. Parcel Airlift	SS-13
b. Restricted delivery (for items insured for more than $50)	SS-15
c. Return receipt (for items insured for more than $50)	SS-16
d. Special handling	SS-18
e. Merchandise return (shippers only)	SS-20

9b.06 **Fees**

9b.060 The fees for General Insurance are set forth in Rate Schedule SS-9.

Amend Classification Schedule SS–10, Post Office Box Service, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-10--POST OFFICE BOX SERVICE

10.01 **Definition**

10.010 Post office box service is a service which provides the customer with a private, locked receptacle for the receipt of ~~his~~ mail during the hours when the lobby of a postal facility is open.

10.02 **Description of Service**

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10.021 A post office box holder may ~~request~~ ask the Postal Service to deliver to the post office box all mail properly addressed to the holder. ~~him through the post office box.~~ If the post office box is located at the post office indicated on the piece, it will be transferred without additional charge, in accordance with existing regulations.

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10.03 **Fees**

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10.031 In postal facilities primarily serving academic institutions or the students of such institutions, ~~periods of rental and~~ fees for post office boxes are administered as follows:

~~Period for~~ of box ~~rentals~~ use	Fee
95 days or less	½ semi-annual fee
96 to 140 days	¾ semi-annual fee
141 to 190 days	Full semi-annual fee
191 to 230 days	1¼ semi-annual fee
231 to 270 days	1½ semi-annual fee
271 days to full year	Full annual fee

10.032 No refunds will be made for ~~boxes rented~~ post office box fees paid under section 10.031. For purposes of this classification schedule SS-10, the full annual fee is twice the amount of the semi-annual fee.

Amend Classification Schedule SS–11, Mailing List Services, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-11--MAILING LIST SERVICES

11.01 **Definition**

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11.02 **Description of Service**

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11.0221 Gummed labels, wrappers, envelopes or ~~postal~~ Stamped Cards or post cards indicative of one-time use will not be accepted as mailing lists.

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–13, Parcel Airlift, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-13--PARCEL AIRLIFT (PAL)

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13.07 **Other Services**

13.070 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification Schedule
a. Certificate of mailing	SS-4
b. Insured mail	SS-9
c. Restricted delivery (if insured for more than ~~$25~~ $50)	SS-15
d. Return receipt (if insured for more than ~~$25~~ $50)	SS-16
~~e. Special delivery (if mailed for delivery within the 48 contiguous states)~~	~~SS-17~~
~~f.~~ e. Special handling	SS-18

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–14, Registered Mail, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-14--REGISTERED MAIL

14.01 **Definition**

14.010 Registered mail is a service which provides added protection to mail sent under this Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and ~~optional~~ indemnity in case of loss or damage.

14.02 **Description of Service**

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14.021 Registered mail service provides ~~optional~~ insurance up to a maximum of $25,000~~.~~, depending upon the actual value at the time of mailing, except that insurance is optional for articles valued $100 or less.

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14.026 Indemnity claims for registered mail on which insurance is provided, or for articles valued $100 or less on which optional insurance has been elected, must be filed within a specified period of time from the date the article was mailed.

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14.06 **Other Services**

14.060 The following services may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of applicable fees:

	Classification schedule
a. Collect on delivery	SS-6
b. Restricted delivery	SS-15
c. Return receipt	SS-16
~~d. Special delivery~~	~~SS-17~~
~~e.~~ d. Merchandise return (shippers only)	SS-20

14.07 **Fees**

14.070 The fees for registered mail ~~and related optional indemnity purchase~~ are set forth in Rate Schedule SS-14.

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Amend Classification Schedule SS–16, Return Receipts, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-16--RETURN RECEIPTS

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16.02 **Description of Service**

16.020 Return receipt service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:

	Classification Schedule
a. Certified mail	SS-5
b. COD mail	SS-6
c. Insured mail (if insured for more than $50)	SS-9
d. Registered mail	SS-14
e. Express Mail	
f. ~~First-Class~~ Priority Mail (merchandise only)	
g. Standard Mail (limited to merchandise ~~only~~ sent by Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Subclasses)	

16.021 Return receipt service is available at the time of mailing or, when purchased in conjunction with certified, COD, insured (if for more than $50), registered, or Express Mail, after mailing.

16.0211 Mailers requesting return receipt service at the time of mailing will be provided, as ~~appropriate:~~ appropriate,

~~a. The~~ the signature of the addressee or ~~his~~ addressee's agent, ~~and~~ the date delivered, ~~or~~
~~b. The signature of the addressee or his agent, the date delivered~~ and the address of delivery, if different from the address on the mailpiece.

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*Amend Schedule SS-17, Special Delivery, by deleting the text in its entirety:

*This effectively eliminates Special Delivery from the Service's offerings.

~~CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-17 SPECIAL DELIVERY~~

~~17.01 Definition~~

~~17.01 Special delivery service is a service that provides for preferential handling in dispatch and transportation, and delivery of mail as soon as practicable after arrival at the addressee's post office.~~

~~17.02 Description of Service~~

~~17.020 Special delivery service is available for mail sent under the following classification schedules:~~

~~a. First Class Mail~~
~~b. Periodicals~~
~~c. Single Piece, Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Special, and Library Standard Mail~~

~~17.021 Special delivery is made only to addresses where it is known that such delivery can be made.~~

~~17.022 Special delivery mail is delivered during prescribed hours in addition to regular carrier delivery hours.~~

~~17.023 If delivery cannot be made a notice of arrival is left at the address.~~

~~17.03 Requirements of the Mailer~~

~~17.030 Mail sent under this classification schedule must be identified as prescribed by regulation.~~

~~17.04 Deposit of Mail~~

~~17.040 Special delivery mail must be deposited in a manner prescribed by the Postal Service.~~

~~17.05 Forwarding and Return~~

17.050 Special delivery mail which is forwarded or returned does not receive special delivery service unless the special delivery fee has been guaranteed, or if a forwarding order had been given by the addressee at the office of original address in advance of the arrival of the mail.

17.06 Other Services

17.060 The following services, if applicable to the class of mail, may be obtained in conjunction with mail sent under this classification schedule upon payment of the applicable fees:

	Classification Schedule
a. Certificate of mailing	SS-4
b. Certified mail	SS-5
c. COD mail	SS-6
d. Insured mail	SS-9
e. Parcel airlift	SS-13
f. Registered mail	SS-14

17.07 Fees

17.070 The fees for special delivery service are set forth in Rate Schedule SS-17.

Amend Classification Schedule SS–18, Special Handling, by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS-18--SPECIAL HANDLING

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18.02 **Description of Service**

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18.021 Special handling ~~(or special delivery)~~ service is mandatory for matter which requires special attention in handling, transportation and delivery.

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Amend the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule by inserting the following:

CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE SS–19A — STAMPED CARDS

19A.01 **Definition**

19A.010 **Stamped Cards.** Stamped Cards are cards with postage imprinted or impressed on them and supplied by the Postal Service for the transmission of messages.

19A.011 **Double Stamped Cards.** Double Stamped Cards consist of two attached cards, one of which may be detached by the receiver and returned by mail as a single Stamped Card.

19A.020 **Description of Service.** Stamped Cards are available for First-Class Mail.

19A.030 **Fees.** The fees for Stamped Cards are set forth in Rate Schedule SS-19A.

ATTACHMENT B TO THE
DECISION OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
ON THE RECOMMENDED DECISION OF THE POSTAL RATE COMMISSION ON
SPECIAL SERVICES FEES AND CLASSIFICATIONS, DOCKET NO. MC96-3
(MAY 5, 1997)
CHANGES TO DOMESTIC RATES AND FEES

The following material represents changes in the domestic rate and fee schedules approved by the Governors of the United States Postal Service in response to the Commission's Recommended Decision in Docket No. MC96-3. Changes are generally identified by underlining additions and striking deletions, or substituting new text for old.

Amend Rate Schedule 222 by deleting the text that is stricken and inserting the text that is underlined.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
RATE SCHEDULE 222
~~Postal~~ STAMPED CARDS and POST CARDS

* * * * *

Delete Schedule SS–5, Certified Mail, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Schedule SS-5 — Certified Mail

Description	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
Service (per mailpiece)	$1.35

Delete Schedule SS–9, Insured Mail, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Schedule SS-9 — Insured Mail

Part a — Express Mail Insurance

Document Reconstruction

Coverage	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
$0.01 to $500	no charge

Merchandise

Declared Value	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
$ 0.01 to $ 500	no charge
500.01 to 5000	$0.90 for each $100 (or fraction thereof) over $500 in value

Part b —General Insurance

Declared Value	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
$ 0.01 to $ 50	$0.75
50.01 to $ 100	1.60
100.01 to $5000	1.60 ***plus*** $0.90 for each $100 (or fraction thereof) over $100 in declared value

Delete Schedule SS-10, Post Office Boxes and Caller Service, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Schedule SS-10 — Post Office Boxes and Caller Service

I. Semi-annual Box Fees[1]

	Fee Group			
Box Size[2]	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D and E**[3]
1	$24	$22	$20	$6.00
2	37	33	29	10.00
3	64	56	52	18.00
4	121	109	86	26.50
5	209	186	144	41.50

[1] A customer ineligible for carrier delivery may obtain a post office box at no charge, subject to administrative decisions regarding customer's proximity to post office.

[2] Box Size 1 = under 296 cubic inches; 2 = 296-499 cubic inches; 3 = 500-999 cubic inches; 4 = 1000-1999 cubic inches; 5 = 2000 cubic inches and over.

[3] Group E post office box customers subject to these fees are those eligible for carrier delivery.

II. Semi-annual Caller Service Fees

Fee Group	*Fee*
A	$250
B	$240
C	$225
D	$225

III. Annual Call Number Reservation Fee

(all applicable Fee Groups)	$ 30

Delete Schedule SS–14, Registered Mail, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Schedule SS-14 — Registered Mail

Declared Value of Article[1]	*Fees*[2] *(in addition to postage)*	*Handling Charge*
$0.00 to $100	$4.85 *(without insurance)*	None
0.00 to 100	4.95 *(with insurance)*	"
100.01 to 500	5.40	"
500.01 to 1,000	5.85	"
1,000.01 to 2,000	6.30	"
2,000.01 to 3,000	6.75	"
3,000.01 to 4,000	7.20	"
4,000.01 to 5,000	7.65	"
5,000.01 to 6,000	8.10	"
6,000.01 to 7,000	8.55	"
7,000.01 to 8,000	9.00	"
8,000.01 to 9,000	9.45	"
9,000.01 to 10,000	9.90	"
10,000.01 to 11,000	10.35	"
11,000.01 to 12,000	10.80	"
12,000.01 to 13,000	11.25	"
13,000.01 to 14,000	11.70	"
14,000.01 to 15,000	12.15	"
15,000.01 to 16,000	12.60	"
16,000.01 to 17,000	13.05	"
17,000.01 to 18,000	13.50	"
18,000.01 to 19,000	13.95	"
19,000.01 to 20,000	14.40	"
20,000.01 to 21,000	14.85	"
21,000.01 to 22,000	15.30	"
22,000.01 to 23,000	15.75	"
23,000.01 to 24,000	16.20	"
24,000.01 to 25,000	16.65	"

Schedule SS– 14 — Registered Mail
(continued)

25,000.01 to $1 million	16.65	*plus* 45 cents for each $1,000 (or fraction thereof) over $25,000
Over $1 million to $15 million	455.40	*plus* 45 cents for each $1,000 (or fraction thereof) over $1 million
Over $15 million	6,755.40	*plus* amount determined by the Postal Service based on weight, space and value

[1] Articles with a declared value of more than $25,000 can be registered, but compensation for loss or damage is limited to $25,000.
[2] Fees for articles with declared values of more than $100 include insurance.

Delete Schedule SS–16, Return Receipts, in its entirety and replace it with the following:

Schedule SS-16 — Return Receipts

Description	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
Receipt Issued at Time of Mailing[1]	
Items other than Merchandise	$1.10
Merchandise (without another special service)	$1.20
Receipt Issued after Mailing[2]	$6.60

[1] This receipt shows the signature of the person to whom the mailpiece was delivered, the date of delivery and the delivery address, if such address is different from the address on the mailpiece.

[2] This receipt shows to whom the mailpiece was delivered and the date of delivery.

Delete Schedule SS–17, Special Delivery, in its entirety:

SCHEDULE SS-17
Special Delivery

	Fee (in addition to postage)
First-Class and Priority Mail	
Not more than 2 pounds	9.95
Over 2 pounds but not over 10 pounds	10.35
Over 10 pounds	11.15
All Other Classes	
Not more than 2 pounds	10.45
Over 2 pounds but not over 10 pounds	11.25
Over 10 pounds	12.10

Amend Schedule SS-19, Stamped Envelopes, by inserting the underlined text:

Schedule SS-19 — Stamped Envelopes

Description	***Fee (in addition to postage)***
Single Sale	$0.06

* * * * *

Amend the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule by inserting the following:

Schedule SS-19A — Stamped Cards

Description	*Fee (in addition to postage)*
Stamped Card	$0.00
Double Stamped Card	0.00

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