First-Class Mail

Combine First-Class Mail Commercial Automation Automated Area
Distribution Center (AADC) and 3-Digit Sortations for Letters and Cards
Into One Combined Sortation Level Known as AADC

Currently, there are four presort levels for First-Class Mail
Commercial Automation Letters and Cards: Mixed AADC Automation Letters
(Cards), AADC Automation Letters (Cards), 3-Digit Automation Letters
(Cards), and 5-Digit Automation Letters (Cards). To help simplify the
pricing structure, the Postal Service implemented the same price for
AADC Automation Letters and 3-Digit Automations Letters in Docket No.
R2012-3. In Docket No. R2013-1, the similar change was made for
Automation Cards. The Postal Service is now proposing to combine AADC
and 3-Digit presort levels into one sortation. The new sortation name
will be AADC. The existing labeling List 801 will drive the FCM AADC
separations and the L003 list will become obsoleted. Origin entry
separations, based on labeling List 002, will be modified to reflect
origin entry AADC separations.

Increase the Weight Standard for First-Class Mail (FCM) Commercial
Automation and Machinable Letters and Cards From uP to 3.3 Ounces to Up

to 3.5 Ounces

Currently, the ``up to'' weight standard for FCM Commercial Machinable Letters is 3.3 ounces. This lower weight break of up to 3.3 ounces is being increased due to mail processing improvements. Since machinable letters must follow the standards for Automation Letters (except for IMb), the same weight maximum should apply. Based on this, the Postal Service is proposing to increase the weight maximum from 3.3 ounces to 3.5 ounces. This change does not apply to the maximum weight of Booklets which are capped at 3.0 ounces.

One Price for Up to 3.5 Ounces for First-Class Mail (FCM) Commercial Automation Letters

Currently, the same price applies for one and two ounce pieces for each individual mail sortation level for First-Class Mail (FCM) Commercial Automation Letters. The Postal Service is proposing one price for up to 3.5 ounces for each individual mail sortation level for FCM Commercial Automation Letters. The weight increase will encourage mailers to insert additional information or sales offers, and will increase the value of the FCM brand. This proposal will also apply to mixed-weight FCM Residual mailings up to 3.5 ounces. The current preparation requirements for non-blended trays, such as one ounce, up to two ounces, and now extending to 3.5 ounces will continue if this proposal is adopted. This change does not include FCM Single-Piece Letters (non-Residual) or FCM Flats.

Simplification and Renaming FCM Alternate Postage to FCM Share Mail

The Postal Service is proposing to rename Alternate Postage to Share Mail. This Federal Register notice reiterates the content of a previous announcement of this proposal published in the June 9, 2016 Postal Bulletin issue #22443. Share Mail allows Postal Service customers to distribute single-piece First-Class Mail letters or cards to consumers, who may in turn mail those pieces to any domestic address, without having to affix postage. Share Mail pieces are permitted to weigh up to one ounce each. Payment is collected electronically from the customer's Postage Due and Centralized Accounting Postage System (CAPS) Account. Invoicing is performed manually, by the Postal Service's Share Mail Program Office in Marketing.

Share Mail has proven to be a viable option for senders to share information with numerous recipients. To continue the Postal Service's efforts to simplify its product line, the Share Mail payment tiers will be collapsed into one, and upfront postage payment requirements will be eliminated. Unique Intelligent Mail barcodes are no longer required nor is a signed Marketing Agreement. Picture Permit will no longer be available in order to help expedite its approval process. A customer who wishes to participate must submit a request to the Share Mail Program Office along with production pieces to ensure readability for postal processing. Share Mail relies on Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb) technology and scan data collected as the mailpiece travels through the

mailstream to determine piece counts, so readability is paramount.