

The agency has received a large volume of responses to the proposed rule thus far; and therefore, has decided to provide the public additional time to comment. In seeking public comment on this proposal to amend the roadless rule, the agency is fulfilling part of the Department's obligations under the June 10, 2003 settlement agreement for *State of Alaska v. USDA*, while maintaining the ecological values of inventoried roadless areas in the Tongass National Forest. Public comment is invited and will be considered in the development of the final rule.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked by the new deadline of September 2, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to: Roadless TNF, Content Analysis Team, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 22810, Salt Lake City, UT 84122; by electronic mail to roadlesstnf@fs.fed.us; or by facsimile to (801) 880-2808. If you intend to submit comments in batched e-mails from the same server, please be aware that electronic security safeguards on Forest Service and Department of Agriculture computer systems intended to prevent commercial spamming may limit batched e-mail access. The Forest Service is interested in receiving all comments on this proposed rule, however, so please call (801) 517-1020 to facilitate transfer of comments in batched e-mail messages. Please note that all comments, including names and addresses when provided, will be placed in the record and will be available for public inspection and copying. The agency cannot confirm receipt of comments. Individuals wishing to inspect the comments should call Jody Sutton at (801) 517-1023 to schedule an appointment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: In Washington, DC contact: Dave Barone, Planning Specialist, Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff, Forest Service, USDA, (202) 205-1019; and in Juneau, Alaska contact: Jan Lerum, Regional Planner, Forest Service, USDA, (907) 586-8796.

Dated: August 14, 2003.

Dale N. Bosworth,
Chief.

[FR Doc. 03-21209 Filed 8-14-03; 2:29 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Revised Format for Pressure-Sensitive Presort Destination Package Labels

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule contains minor changes to the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) that would implement the use of redesigned pressure-sensitive package labels. The redesigned labels, similar to the current labels that mailers affix to the top mailpiece in packages of mailpieces (bundles of individual mailpieces secured together) instead of using optional endorsement lines (OELs), would continue to indicate the presort level of all the pieces banded into individual presort destination packages.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 17, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver comments to the Manager, Mailing Standards, ATTN: Neil Berger, U.S. Postal Service, 1735 N. Lynn Street, Room 3025, Arlington, VA 22209-6038. Written comments may also be submitted by facsimile transmission to (703) 292-4058. Copies of all written comments will be available for inspection and photocopying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Postal Service Headquarters Library, 11th Floor North, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil Berger at (703) 292-3645, Mailing Standards, U.S. Postal Service; or Jamie Gallagher at (202) 268-4031, P&DC Operations, U.S. Postal Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In recent years, numerous automated advances in mail processing developed by the Postal Service have led to faster, more efficient methods of sorting individual letter-size and flat-size pieces. A new system, to be designated as the Automated Package Processing System (APPS), would extend similar benefits of automated processing to small, lightweight parcels and to letter-size pieces and flat-size pieces such as magazine and catalogs prepared in packages (several mailpieces presorted and secured together into a single unit). The APPS equipment represents the next generation of the Small Parcel and Bundle Sorter (SPBS) currently used by the Postal Service.

Barcoded pressure-sensitive package labels would be one method to support the use of the APPS, which the Postal Service plans to deploy beginning in 2004 in major processing and distribution centers to improve operational efficiency and increase workhour productivity. The use of these new labels would have no significant effect, however, on mail preparation standards and processes or on current mailer operations, especially mailer

operations using optional endorsement lines (OELs) for designating the presort level of packages containing letter-size pieces or flat-size pieces. This proposed change would not replace OELs. In fact, mailers currently using OELs should continue using these cost-efficient information lines rather than converting to the use of pressure-sensitive package labels.

Automated Package Processing

With its large processing capacity, the APPS will replace current labor-intensive methods with more efficient automated methods that improve the sortation of parcels, Priority Mail envelopes, and presort destination packages of letter-size and flat-size mailpieces. The APPS contains several advanced features, including an integrated optical character/barcode reader with four-sided image capture. With this feature, the APPS can read and interpret information from properly prepared parcels and presort destination packages and automatically direct the parcels and presort packages to the appropriate bins.

Applying a pressure-sensitive package label to the top mailpiece in a presort package of banded mailpieces is one method that mailers use to indicate the sortation level for certain letter-size mail, flat-size mail, and small parcels that are required to be packaged before being placed into a tray or sack or placed onto a pallet. The proposed design changes to these presort labels would ensure that presort packages could be scanned and sorted automatically on the APPS.

Label Format Changes

The proposed changes affect the five pressure-sensitive package labels that mailers currently use. The size of the proposed rectangular labels would measure 3/4 inch wide by 1/2 inch high. Current scalloped-shaped pressure-sensitive package labels measure 7/8 inch wide and 1/2 inch high. A width-modulated barcode would appear on the right side of each label as a unique indicator of the sortation level. The bars of the barcode are 0.02 inch wide and 0.50 inch high. The rightmost bar ends 0.04 inch from the right edge of the label. Each new label would also contain a human-readable single alpha or numeric character to the left of the barcode, corresponding to the sortation level of the package as shown in the following table.