

## PACKAGE LABELS—SORTATION CHARACTERS AND COLORS

Sortation level	Label color	Approximate pantone equivalent	Presort character
Firm (Periodicals use only) .....	Blue .....	PMS 306 .....	F
5-digit .....	Red .....	PMS 811 .....	5
3-digit .....	Green .....	PMS 373 .....	3
ADC .....	Pink .....	PMS 224 .....	A
Mixed ADC .....	Tan .....	PMS 727 .....	X

The new label design would allow the APPS equipment to find and read the necessary information much more quickly, and the redundant information appearing on the redesigned labels would ensure a higher read rate and lower false positive rate as well as accommodate incidental label damage. The label could be placed anywhere on the address side of the package or the parcel for proper recognition, provided that opaque banding or strapping is not placed over the labels.

The proposed pressure-sensitive package labels would be the same color as the current labels. Besides the label shape, slightly smaller label size, and barcode, the only other changes would be the following:

- The alpha character “D” that appears on the current red labels for the 5-digit sortation level would be replaced with the numeric “5.”
- The alpha characters “MXD” that appear on the current tan labels for the mixed ADC sortation level would be replaced with the single alpha character “X.”

#### Label Availability and Use

The scheduled availability of the new pressure-sensitive package labels from the Postal Service (through existing procurement and supply sources) would be in late September 2003. Mailers would be permitted to begin using the new package labels as soon as they become available from their local post office. Effective January 1, 2004, however, mailers not using OELs would be required to use only the barcoded pressure-sensitive package labels rather than the nonbarcoded labels.

#### Editorial and Organizational Changes

This proposed rule also includes minor editorial revisions that clarify and standardize the text of mailing standards related to package preparation as follows:

- *Unit M031.* Clarification of label format used for the destination line (Line 1) for overseas military mail is made to the section on tray and sack labels and the section on pallet labels. Other sections throughout module M in the DMM for nonautomation mail now

reference this section on overseas military mail.

- *Unit M032.* Clarification of label format used for the destination line (Line 1) for overseas military mail is made to the section on barcoded tray and sack labels. Other sections throughout module M in the DMM for automation rate mail now reference this section on overseas military mail. For the content identifier for presorted Standard Mail machinable and irregular parcels (content identifier number 603), the human-readable content line “STD MACH & IRREG 5D” is changed to “STD MACH-IRREG 5D.”

- *Section M073.1.6.* Presentation of sacking and labeling requirements for combined mailings of Standard Mail and Package Services parcels is standardized for simplicity and editorial consistency. Line 2 (content line) label information is now incorporated with requirements for preparation sequence, minimum sack size, and Line 1 labeling.

- *Unit M130.* Presentation of packaging, tray, sacking, and labeling requirements for Presorted First-Class Mail is standardized for simplicity and editorial consistency. Packaging requirements and exceptions to those requirements are also clarified.

- *Part M210.2.0.* Presentation of packaging and labeling requirements for presorted Periodicals mail is standardized for editorial consistency.

- *Unit M610.* Packaging requirements for presorted Standard Mail are clarified, and the mailing standards for flat-size pieces and irregular parcels are separated. Additional organizational changes are made for editorial consistency.

- *Unit M722.* Presentation of packaging, sacking, and labeling requirements for Bound Printed Matter is standardized throughout this unit.

- *Unit M730.* Presentation of packaging and labeling requirements for Media Mail is standardized for editorial consistency.

- *Unit MM740.* Presentation of packaging and labeling requirements for Library Mail is standardized for editorial consistency.

Although exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the

Administrative Procedure Act [5 U.S.C. of 553(b), (c)] regarding proposed rulemaking by 39 U.S.C. 410(a), the Postal Service invites public comment on the following proposed revisions to the *Domestic Mail Manual*, incorporated in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. See 39 CFR 111.1.

#### List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

#### PART 111—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 414, 416, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Amend the following sections of the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) as set forth below:

#### Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)

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#### M Mail Preparation and Sortation

M000 General Preparation Standards

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#### M030 Containers

##### M031 Labels

#### 1.0 SACK AND TRAY LABELS

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[Revise heading of 1.2 to read as follows:]

#### 1.2 Line 1 (Destination Line)

[Revise 1.2 to read as follows:]

Line 1 (destination line) must meet these standards:

- Placement.* Line 1 must be the first visible line on the label. It must be completely visible and legible when placed in the label holder. This visibility is ensured if the top line is no less than 1/8 (0.125) inch below the top of the label when the label is cut and prepared.

- Information.* Line 1 must contain only the information specified by standard, including the appropriate destination facility prefix (e.g., “ADC”). Two zeros may follow 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes used as required by labeling standards.