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All U.S. ports including the Great Lakes and Hudson River North of George Washington Bridge.	Report before departing the port or place of departure if voyage is less than 24 hours, or at least 24 hours before arrival at the port or place of destination if the voyage exceeds 24 hours; and submit the required information to the National Ballast Information Clearinghouse (NBIC) by one of the following means: Via the Internet at <a href="http://invasions.si.edu/ballast.htm">http://invasions.si.edu/ballast.htm</a> ; E-mail to <a href="mailto:ballast@serc.si.edu">ballast@serc.si.edu</a> ; Fax to 301-261-4319; or Mail to U.S. Coast Guard, c/o SERC, PO Box 28, Edgewater, MD 21037-0028.

**If any information changes, send an amended form before the vessel departs the waters of the United States.**

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The Coast Guard estimates that the average burden for this report is 35 minutes. You may submit any comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate or any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Commandant (G-MSO), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second St. SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001, or Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2115-0598), Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: December 23, 2002.

**Thomas H. Collins,**

*Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commandant.*

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## POSTAL SERVICE

### 39 CFR Part 111

#### Standards Governing the Design of Apartment House Mailboxes

**AGENCY:** Postal Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to establish a Consensus Committee and notice of first meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service intends to establish a Consensus Committee to develop recommendations for revision of USPS STD 4B, which governs the design of apartment house mailboxes. The committee will develop and adopt its recommendations through a consensus process. The committee will consist of persons who represent the interests affected by the proposed rule, including apartment house type mailbox manufacturers, mailbox distributors, mailbox installers and servicers, postal customers, and apartment house builders, owners and managers. The purpose of this Notice is to apprise the

public of the intent to establish the committee; provide the public with information regarding the committee; solicit public comment on the proposal to establish the committee and the proposed membership of the committee; explain how persons may apply or nominate others for membership on the committee; and announce the approximate date of the first committee meeting.

**DATES:** The Postal Service must receive written comments, requests for representation or membership on the committee, and nominations for membership on the committee no later than February 5, 2003. The first committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for some time during the first two weeks of February 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** The first committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Washington, DC 20260. Mail comments and all other communications regarding the committee to Jeffery W. Lewis, Room 7142, at the same address. Comments transmitted by fax or email will not be accepted. Committee documents will be available for public inspection and copying between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays on the 11th floor at the address above.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeffery W. Lewis (202) 268-4757.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Background

U.S. Postal Service Standard 4B (USPS STD 4B), *Receptacles, Apartment House, Mail*, governs the design of apartment house mailboxes. The current standard, adopted in 1975, prescribes design limitations in terms that are no longer consistent with the operational requirements of the Postal Service. Primary issues to be addressed by the committee will include increasing design flexibility within the Postal Service's operational requirements; improving safety and mail security; and replacing existing mailboxes that do not

satisfy the requirements of the new standard. The committee may also consider other issues at its discretion and within the scope set forth in paragraph II.

#### II. Scope of the Rule

The contents of the new standard will consist of regulations on apartment house and office building mailbox design characteristics and the replacement of existing mailboxes that do not satisfy the requirements of the new standard.

#### III. New and Pending Applications

Beginning on February 5, 2003, the Postal Service will take no further action on new or pending applications for approval of apartment house type mailbox designs, or on applications for modifications to approved apartment house type mailbox designs, until the revision of the standard is complete. This action is consistent with past practice, and is necessary to avoid approving designs under the current standard that may not be permissible under the new standard, or disapproving applications under the current standard that would be approved under the new standard.

#### IV. Consensus Process

In a consensus process, representatives of interests that would be substantially affected by the new rule meet as an advisory committee to negotiate among themselves and with the agency to reach a consensus on a proposed rule. As part of the consensus process, the agency agrees to use the committee's recommendation as the basis of the proposed rule, and each private interest agrees to support the committee's recommendation and the proposed rule to the extent that it reflects the recommendation.

A feasibility study, performed by a neutral convenor, and using the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, 5 U.S.C. 561 *et seq.* as a guide, recommended that the Postal Service initiate a consensus process. In reaching this