

Parcels must be retrieved on a regular schedule. From BMCs, a minimum of every 48 hours excluding Sundays and Postal Service holidays, and from designated delivery units, a minimum of once every seven days. Permit holders or their agents would be required to set up a recurring or standing appointment to retrieve PRS parcels. If the permit holder (or agent) already has existing appointments to deliver Parcel Select parcels to a BMC or DDU, the same appointment can be used for retrieving PRS parcels.

Participation in the first year of the experiment will be limited to 20 approved participants (permit holders). An additional 10 participants may be added during the second year. Participants will pay one annual PRS permit fee and one annual PRS advance deposit accounting fee of \$150.00 and \$475.00, respectively, at the post office where the PRS permit is held. Only one permit and accounting fee is required for each participant (permit holder). Payment of these fees allows the permit holder to retrieve both Parcel Select and BPM PRS parcels for their clients, as well as their own parcels, at all approved locations. Permit holders must use the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) electronic postage payment system to fund postage payments for all returns through all locations. Information on CAPS can be found at <http://caps.usps.gov>.

The PRS permit may be canceled by the Postal Service for failure to maintain sufficient funds in a trust account to cover postage and fees on returned parcels, for distributing labels that do not conform to Postal Service specifications, or for several other reasons set out in this rule.

Because of the purpose and limited scope of this experiment, the Postal Service finds no need to solicit comments on the standards for Parcel Return Services or to delay implementation of this experiment.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

■ For the reasons discussed above, the Postal Service hereby adopts the following amendments to the *Domestic Mail Manual*, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 39 CFR part 111).

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, 3001–3011, 3201–3219, 3403–3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

■ 2. Revise the following sections of the DMM as set forth below:

G General Information

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G900 Experimental Classification and Rate Filings

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G990 Experimental Classifications and Rates

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[Add new G993 to read as follows:]

G993 Parcel Return Services

Summary G993 describes the eligibility, standards, physical characteristics, markings, and rates that apply to the experimental Parcel Return Services classification.

1.0 BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Description

The standards in G993 apply to parcels that are retrieved in bulk by authorized permit holders or their agents who are approved participants in the Parcel Return Services (PRS) experiment. The permit holder guarantees payment of postage and retrieval of all PRS parcels mailed with a PRS label. The permit holder has the option of retrieving returned parcels at a designated delivery unit (DDU) (the post office where PRS parcels are mailed by a customer)—or at the bulk mail center (BMC) that serves the post office where returned parcels are deposited by a customer. Payment for parcels returned under PRS is deducted from a separate advance deposit (postage due) account that is funded through the Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS).

1.2 Applicability

Parcels may use PRS when all of the following conditions apply:

- Parcels contain merchandise being returned to the merchant.
- Parcels bear a PRS label that meets the standards in 4.0.
- The parcel shows the permit number, and the permit holder has paid the annual PRS permit fee and the annual PRS accounting fee.

1.3 Services

Package Services pieces using Parcel Return Services are not eligible for ancillary or special services.

1.4 Customer Mailing Options

Returned parcels must be mailed within the service area of the post office shown in the return address on the label. They may be deposited at:

- The main post office or any associated office, station, or branch.
- In any collection box (except an Express Mail box).
- With any rural carrier.
- On business routes during regular mail delivery if prior arrangements are made with the carrier.
- As part of a collection run for other mail (special arrangements may be required).
- At any place designated by the postmaster for the receipt of mail.

1.5 Participation

Companies who wish to participate in this experiment must send a request, on company letterhead, to the manager, Mailing Standards (see G043 for address). Requests also may be sent via e-mail to sherry.s.freda@usps.gov; or by fax to 703–292–4058. The request must contain the following information:

- Company name and address.
- Individual contact name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.
- The rate category or categories to be used; proposed retrieval locations (delivery units and bulk mail centers); and individual contact information for the company contact or agent at each location.
- A list of clients, if the applicant is not the merchant (required for mailer identification number assignment).
- Projected volume per quarter for each RDU and/or RBMC.
- Label and instruction examples that comply with 4.0.
- Date(s) label distribution will begin for each client.
- Description of the electronic returns manifesting system to be used to document returns, by location and rate eligibility.
- Current Parcel Select and BPM parcel profile (volumes and weights).

1.6 Evaluation

The electronic returns manifesting system will be subject to approval by the manager, Business Mailer Support (BMS). BMS can provide applicants information for developing and receiving approval for a parcel returns system, electronic file transfer requirements, and certification process. Once approved, participants must comply with the terms of the PRS Service Agreement and pay the annual fees in 2.2 and 2.3. The manager, Mailing Standards may request additional data and a visit to the applicant's plant. In selecting participants, the manager, Mailing Standards uses the following additional criteria: