

MAIL MANAGEMENT BULLETIN
FY 2012
October 11 – November 11

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Hello,

We're back with more exciting news and information for USPS mailing and shipping!

Your contacts for NOAA's mail management functions:

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Special thanks to Richard Jackson of NWS Honolulu, HI for his suggestion to minimize the number of employees who handle a suspicious mail piece. You should quarantine the mail and the area as quickly as possible. And immediately follow the emergency notification procedures for your office.

Hats off and thanks also go to Raymond Edwards of OMAO Honolulu, HI. Raymond reminded us that employees should not do a change of address for work with the post office when changing duty or work locations. It's ok to change home addresses but not the work address!

Any ideas that you would like to suggest? Don't hesitate we are looking for fresh and interesting topics.

All postage meter machine users need to contact us to update their location, machine (serial and postage #), and contact information. Please do this now!

USPS NEWS & UPDATES

Safety and Security

9/11 and Anthrax Anniversary

This month, Americans commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 and the anthrax attacks. We looked at both events to see what we could learn and found surprising similarities, and one stark conclusion.

In both 9/11 and the anthrax attacks, a system that we once assumed was familiar and safe was turned against us. With 9/11 it was airplanes -- the 9/11 attacks took advantage of flaws in US counterterrorism procedures, where passengers have been told to obey hijackers and wait for

authorities to resolve the situation. The anthrax attacks exploited our trust in opening white envelopes.

Disrupting terrorists is another major departure. In the case of 9/11, the screening response is to closely control those boarding aircraft, and deal with the terrorists before they board. In contrast, the approach to the anthrax attacks is to concentrate on mail detection upon delivery, only *after* it has entered the mail flow. As a result, both mail facilities and co-located, unrelated, mail can be contaminated, if not fully secured. In Amerithrax, 35 postal facilities and commercial mailrooms were contaminated and the presence of anthrax detected in seven of 26 buildings tested on Capitol Hill. Of the five anthrax-related deaths, two were USPS personnel who worked at the Brentwood mail facility in DC, and at least two others died of anthrax without having received an anthrax-dosed letter.

Perhaps, the most important lesson we can draw from these events is that, while we've made great strides in improving our security, our last, best, line of defense remains our own vigilance. Once they understood that their only hope lay in taking action, the passengers of Flight 93 fought back to deny their hijackers a complete victory. Since then, passengers have successfully defended their lives from the Shoebomber late 2001 and the Underwear Bomber in 2009.

Three thousand people died teaching us this lesson. There is no better way to honor their memory than to heed it. Your vigilance is directly tied to your survival!

Mailing and Shipping

REPLY RIDES FREE

We recently began participating in the Reply Rides Free Program. The Reply Rides Free program provides an incentive for customers to include more content in their automation First-Class Mail letters by providing a postage credit for the extra weight. This comes at a great time for NOAA because we recently implemented the Intelligent Mail barcode (IMb). Now your office can include more information with business reply mail and the cost of the extra weight will be discounted.

Here's how it works...

- The credit applies to First-Class Mail automation letters weighing more than 1 oz up to 2 oz effective September 1st 2011. As of May 1, 2011, all of these mail pieces must have a basic or a full-service Intelligent Mail barcode.

- **Letters must include a reply card or envelope, either Courtesy Reply Mail or Business Reply Mail.** The reply piece may be in the format of a reusable envelope. **Permit reply mail is not eligible** for this program.
- **At the time of mailing, customers will pay the applicable 2-oz price for these mailed pieces.** The postage credit will be for the amount paid for the second ounce and will be provided for those pieces mailed during the 2011 calendar year when the mailer's volume of commercial presorted automation letter-size First-Class Mail meets a pre-determined volume threshold. All First-Class Mail presorted and automation letter-size volume counts towards meeting volume threshold; however, only First-Class automation letters mailed under basic or full-service Intelligent Mail will be eligible for postage credit.

The Future of the Postal Service

On September 15, 2011 at a national media event in Washington, D.C., the postal service proposed sweeping changes to its nationwide infrastructure and adjustments to service standards. The actions are to reduce costs and bring the size of its infrastructure into alignment with reduced customer demand. These proposed changes , if implemented, will impact all of us in some way.

We will make every effort to keep you informed and suggest that you become involved with your local Postal Customer Council (PCC) for reliable and current information . The PCC's serve as an essential communications link in keeping mailers at the local level informed about how the Postal Service is responding to the challenges it faces.

To make accessing information pertaining to these proposals as easy as possible, the USPS has created a web page specifically for industry mailers at:

<http://about.usps.com/news/facility-studies/welcome.htm>

The web page contains:

- Frequently asked questions
- Fact sheets
- List of processing plants to be studied
- A video from the Postmaster General

Postage Meter Machines

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Your Mail Management Team

Questions About NOAA Mail or Meters Who Do You Call?

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