

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

International Mail Manual; Incorporation by Reference

AGENCY: Postal Service.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service announces the issuance of Issue 31 of the International Mail Manual (IMM), and its incorporation by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective on November 23, 2005. The incorporation by reference of Issue 31 of the IMM is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of November 23, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obataiye B. Akinwole, (202) 268-7262.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Issue 31 of the International Mail Manual was issued on May 31, 2005. It replaced the previous issue of the IMM, and contained all IMM revisions from August 5, 2004 through May 12, 2005.

The International Mail Manual is available to the public on a subscription basis only from: New Orders, Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. The subscription price for one issue is currently \$36 to addresses in the United States, and \$50.40 to all foreign addresses. The IMM is also published and available to all users on the Internet at <http://pe.usps.gov>.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20

Foreign relations; Incorporation by reference.

■ In view of the considerations discussed above, the Postal Service hereby amends 39 CFR Part 20 as follows:

PART 20—INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE

■ 1. The authority citation for part 20 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 401, 404, 407, 408.

■ 2. Sections 20.1 and 20.2 are revised to read as follows:

§ 20.1 International Mail Manual; incorporation by reference.

(a) Section 552(a) of Title 5, U.S.C., relating to the public information requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, provides in pertinent part that “* * * matter reasonably available to the class of persons affected thereby is deemed published in the **Federal Register** when incorporated by

reference therein with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register.” In conformity with that provision, with 39 U.S.C. section 410(b)(1), and as provided in this part, the U.S. Postal Service hereby incorporates by reference its International Mail Manual (IMM), Issue 31, dated May 31, 2005. The Director of the Federal Register approves this incorporation by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

(b) The current Issue of the IMM is incorporated by reference in paragraph (a) of this section. Successive Issues of the IMM are listed in the following table:

International Mail Manual	Date of issuance
Issue 1	November 13, 1981.
Issue 2	March 1, 1983.
Issue 3	July 4, 1985.
Issue 4	September 18, 1986.
Issue 5	April 21, 1988.
Issue 6	October 5, 1988.
Issue 7	July 20, 1989.
Issue 8	June 28, 1990.
Issue 9	February 3, 1991.
Issue 10	June 25, 1992.
Issue 11	December 24, 1992.
Issue 12	July 8, 1993.
Issue 13	February 3, 1994.
Issue 14	August 4, 1994.
Issue 15	July 9, 1995.
Issue 16	January 4, 1996.
Issue 17	September 12, 1996.
Issue 18	June 9, 1997.
Issue 19	October 9, 1997.
Issue 20	July 2, 1998.
Issue 21	May 3, 1999.
Issue 22	January 1, 2000.
Issue 23	July 1, 2000.
Issue 24	January 1, 2001.
Issue 25	July 1, 2001.
Issue 26	January 1, 2002.
Issue 27	June 30, 2002.
Issue 28	January 1, 2003.
Issue 29	July 1, 2003.
Issue 30	August 1, 2004.
Issue 31	May 31, 2005.

§ 20.2 Effective date of the International Mail Manual.

The provisions of the International Mail Manual Issue 31, effective May 31, 2005 are applicable with respect to the international mail services of the Postal Service.

Neva R. Watson,
Attorney, Legislative.
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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 20

International Mail: New Postal Rates and Fees

AGENCY: Postal Service.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service™ is adopting new international mail postage rates and fees. The total international rate increase is 5.9 percent. To the extent possible, the targeted increase is 5.4 percent, consistent with our domestic rate filing with the Postal Rate Commission. We are implementing this international pricing change at the same time as our domestic pricing change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12:01 a.m., Sunday, January 8, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Obataiye B. Akinwole at 202-268-7262, or Thomas P. Philson at 202-268-7355.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 15, 2005, the Postal Service published in the **Federal Register** (70 FR 54493) a notice of proposed changes in international postage rates. We requested comments by October 17, 2005, and received one comment from a private individual.

The private individual asked why the 1-ounce airmail letter-post rate is less than the rate for aerogrammes to Canada and Mexico. He envisions situations where customers might purchase aerogrammes at the full rate and alter them into airmail letter-post to secure the lower price. His solution is to print another aerogramme at the letter-post rate.

We agree that aerogramme users could possibly alter their aerogrammes to receive the lower rate. Because of the relatively low volume of aerogrammes worldwide and the relatively low potential cost savings on each altered aerogramme, however, we do not believe this practice will be common or will result in serious revenue loss. In fact, the letter-post rate to Canada and Mexico is currently below the aerogramme rate, and this rate relationship has not caused the problem noted by the private individual. In addition, printing and stocking two aerogrammes with different postage rates would be costly. We note that enclosures are not permitted in aerogrammes. We have been advised by the private individual that mailers may try to send aerogrammes with enclosures, and we will monitor the situation and take action if necessary.