

PART 146—[REMOVED]

■ Accordingly, by the authority of 10 U.S.C. 301, 32 CFR part 146 is removed.

Dated: February 17, 2006.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 06-1730 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****32 CFR Part 343**

[DoD Directive 5124.02]

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document removes part 343, "Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R))" in Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This part has served the purpose for which it was intended in the CFR and is no longer necessary.

DATES: *Effective Date:* February 24, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: L.M. Bynum, (703) 696-4970.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This part 343 is removed to as a part of a DoD exercise to remove organizational charters from the CFR. The revised DoD Directive 5124.04 is available at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/htm/512402.htm>

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 343

Organizations.

PART 343—[REMOVED]

Accordingly, by the authority of 10 U.S.C. 301, 32 CFR part 343 is removed.

Dated: February 17, 2006.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 06-1731 Filed 2-23-06; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE**39 CFR Part 111****Bundling Flat-Size and Irregular Parcel Mail**

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule requires mailers to use two bands to secure all bundles of presorted flat-size mail and irregular parcels when those bundles are not shrinkwrapped.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 30, 2006.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Chatfield, 202-268-7278.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

We published a proposal in the *Federal Register* (70 FR 66314; November 2, 2005) to require mailers to use at least two bands—one band around the length and one around the width—when only banding is used to secure bundles of flat-size and irregular parcel mailpieces. This requirement eliminates the current option to place only one band around bundles 1-inch thick or less.

Bundle integrity—the ability of bundles to remain intact—is crucial for our new, high-speed Automated Package Processing System (APPS). When bundles break open, we lose the value of mailers' presort, and we must handle individual pieces manually. Manual handling of mailpieces from broken or loose bundles results in delayed delivery and increases our processing costs.

Comments Received

We received two comments on our proposal. One commenter said it may be difficult to use two bands and maintain visible address and presort information on the top piece of each bundle. Secure bundles with visible addresses and presort designations are key APPS requirements. Mailers may use clear, smooth strapping or place the address on an unobscured part of the mailpiece (for example, in the center of one of the quadrants on the face of the mailpiece). Mailers may avoid banding altogether by shrinkwrapping bundles.

The commenter also said that the new address visibility requirement should have been published together with the new bundling standards. While we changed the standards for address visibility on October 27, 2005, mailers were given a 6-month grace period to comply. We encourage mailers to meet those standards as soon as possible, but mailers are not required to comply until April 30, 2006. The April 30, 2006, implementation date for the new bundling standards matches the compliance date for address visibility.

The second commenter disagreed that bundles prepared with only banding should be required to have bands around the length and width. The commenter stated that, in some cases,

using two parallel bands around the width of the bundle is sufficient.

The standards that require at least one band around the length and one around the width for most bundles are not new standards and help ensure that bundles maintain their integrity. Mailers may use two parallel bands around the width when it can increase the integrity of the bundle, but these bands must be in addition to a third band around the length. The new standard requiring at least one band around the length and one around the width for all bundles that are not shrinkwrapped will prevent even small bundles from falling apart.

Effective Date

Mailers must prepare presort bundles of flat-size mail and irregular parcels according to the new standards beginning April 30, 2006, but we encourage mailers to follow the new standards immediately.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

■ Accordingly, 39 CFR part 111 is amended as follows:

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

■ 2. Amend the following sections of *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)* as follows:

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300 Discount Flats

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330 First-Class Mail

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335 Mail Preparation

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2.0 BUNDLES

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2.4 Securing Bundles

■ [Add new item b as follows. Make an identical change in 345.2.5 (for Standard Mail flats), 365.2.5 (for Bound Printed Matter flats), 375.2.5 (for Media Mail flats), 385.2.5 (for Library Mail flats), 435.2.5 (for First-Class Mail parcels), 465.2.5 (for Bound Printed Matter parcels), 475.2.5 (for Media Mail parcels), 485.2.5 (for Library Mail parcels), and 707.19.4 (for Periodicals).]

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