

analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

**Executive Orders 12866 and 13563**

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866. The Regulatory Impact Analysis associated with this rulemaking can be found as a supporting document at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**Assistance Listing**

There are no Assistance Listing numbers and titles for the programs affected by this document.

**Congressional Review Act**

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this rule as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

**Unfunded Mandates**

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any one year. This final rule will have no such effect on State, local, and tribal governments, or on the private sector.

**List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 14**

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Courts, Foreign relations, Government employees, Lawyers, Legal services, Organization and functions (Government agencies), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Surety bonds, Trusts and trustees, Veterans.

*Signing Authority:*

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on October 11, 2022, and authorized the undersigned to sign and

submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Jeffrey M. Martin,**

*Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

For the reasons set out in the preamble, the Department of Veterans Affairs amends 38 CFR part 14 as follows:

**PART 14—LEGAL SERVICES, GENERAL COUNSEL, AND MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 14 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 301; 28 U.S.C. 2671–2680; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 512, 515, 5502, 5901–5905; 28 CFR part 14, appendix to part 14, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Amend § 14.600 by revising paragraphs (c)(1), (2), and (3) and (d)(1) and (2) and the parenthetical authority citation at the end of the section to read as follows:

**§ 14.600 Federal Tort Claims Act—general.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) \* \* \*

(1) To the Under Secretary for Health, the Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Directors, and VA Medical Facility Directors; with respect to any non-medical malpractice claim for \$5,000 or less that arises out of the operations of the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) To the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group or those authorized to act for them with respect to any claim; provided that any award, compromise, or settlement in excess of \$500,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his or her designee; provided further that whenever a settlement is effected in an amount in excess of \$200,000 a memorandum fully explaining the basis for the action taken shall be sent to the Department of Justice.

(3) To the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group or those authorized to act for them with respect to any claim, provided that:

(i) Any award, compromise, or settlement in excess of \$300,000 but not more than \$500,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, or Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group; provided further that whenever a settlement is effected in an amount in

excess of \$200,000, a memorandum fully explaining the basis for the action taken shall be sent to the Department of Justice; and

(ii) Any award where, for any reason, the compromise of a particular claim, as a practical matter, will, or may control the disposition of a related claim in which the amount to be paid may exceed \$300,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, or Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group; and

(iii) Any award, compromise, or settlement in excess of \$500,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, or Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group; and with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his or her designee.

(d) \* \* \*

(1) To the Torts Law Group, with respect to any claim for \$5,000 or less that arises out of the operations of the Veterans Health Administration.

(2) To the General Counsel, Deputy General Counsel, and Chief Counsel, Torts Law Group with respect to any claim; provided that any award, compromise, or settlement in excess of \$500,000 shall be effected only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his or her designee; provided further that whenever a settlement is effected in an amount in excess of \$200,000, a memorandum fully explaining the basis for the action taken shall be sent to the Department of Justice.

(Authority: 28 U.S.C. 1291, 1346, 1402, 2401, 2402, 2411, 2412, 2671–80; 38 U.S.C. 512, 515; 28 CFR part 14, appendix to part 14)

[FR Doc. 2022–22559 Filed 10–19–22; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

**POSTAL SERVICE**

**39 CFR Part 111**

**USPS Connect Local Mail**

**AGENCY:** Postal Service™.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Postal Service is amending *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) in various sections to add a new price category designed to enhance access to our delivery network at the local level to deliver envelopes the same-day or the next-day.

**DATES:** *Effective date:* January 22, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Krista Becker at (202) 268-7345 or Garry Rodriguez at (202) 268-7281.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Currently, when business mailers who send documents locally with regular frequency wish to send documents for same-day or next-day delivery, they are directed to use a variety of services that were designed for end-to-end mailing over long distances and are priced accordingly.

The Postal Service initiated a Market Test, USPS Connect Local Mail™, (Docket No. MT2022-1, PRC Order No. 6038) on January 9, 2022, to offer improved access to the Postal Service network for local mailers that leveraged the Postal Service’s “last-mile” infrastructure to create an economical new solution for customers.

USPS Connect Local Mail is a new commercial First-Class Mail® price category offering, designed to deliver items the same-day or the next-day via a designated delivery unit to every address served by that delivery unit where available.

The flat price is the same for the two USPS-produced envelopes offered by the Postal Service and a customer’s own envelope. The USPS Connect Local Mail price category is intended to be used for documents and paper-based content only. USPS Click-N-Ship® or USPS API will be the required payment methods, providing the shipping label with a trackable Intelligent Mail® package barcode (IMpb®) and postage payment.

There are no extra services available with USPS Connect Local Mail. USPS Tracking Plus® additional mailing service will be available for USPS Connect Local Mail.

On October 11, 2022, the Postal Service filed a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to make the USPS Connect Local Mail price category a permanent offering. Documents pertinent to the request are available in Docket No. MC2023-12.

The Postal Service believes this new offering will provide customers with a service that will enhance their mailing experience.

The Postal Service adopts the following changes to *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), incorporated by reference in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. See 39 CFR 111.1.

We will publish an appropriate amendment to 39 CFR part 111 to reflect these changes.

**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); 13 U.S.C. 301-307; 18 U.S.C. 1692-1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401-404, 414, 416, 3001-3018, 3201-3220, 3401-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3629, 3631-3633, 3641, 3681-3685, and 5001.

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

**Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM)**

\* \* \* \* \*

**200 Commercial Letters, Flats, and Parcels**

\* \* \* \* \*

**202 Elements on the Face of a Mailpiece**

\* \* \* \* \*

**3.0 Placement and Content of Mail Markings**

\* \* \* \* \*

**3.5 First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail Markings**

Mailpieces must be marked under the corresponding standards to show the class of service and/or price paid:

- a. Basic Marking. The basic required marking that indicates the class or subclass which must be printed or produced as part of; directly below; or to the left of the permit imprint, meter imprint, or stamp as follows:

\* \* \* \* \*

[Renumber items a2 through a4 as items a3 through a5 and add new item a2 to read as follows:]

- 2. “USPS Connect Local Mail”

\* \* \* \* \*

**230 Commercial Mail First-Class Mail**

**233 Prices and Eligibility**

**1.0 Prices and Fees**

**1.1 Price Application**

[Revise the text of 1.1 to read as follows:]

Except for USPS Connect Local Mail under 1.2.3, postage is based on the price that applies to the weight of each addressed piece.

**1.2 Price Computation for First-Class Mail Letters and Flats**

\* \* \* \* \*

**1.2.2 Flats**

[Revise the text of 1.2.2 to read as follows:]

Except for USPS Connect Local Mail under 1.2.3, First-Class Mail flats prices are charged per ounce up to the maximum of 13 ounces. Any fraction of an ounce is considered a whole ounce. For example, if a piece weighs 1.2 ounces, the weight (postage) increment is 2 ounces.

[Add new 1.2.3 to read as follows:]

**1.2.3 USPS Connect Local Mail**

USPS Connect Local Mail price is not based on weight, but is charged a flat price regardless of actual weight (up to 13 ounces) of the mailpiece.

[Revise the heading and text of 1.3 to read as follows:]

**1.3 First-Class Mail Prices**

For prices of all First-Class Mail price categories under 1.2, see Notice 123—Price List.

[Delete 1.4 in its entirety and renumber 1.5 through 1.7 as 1.4 through 1.6.]

\* \* \* \* \*

**2.0 Content Standards for First-Class Mail**

**2.1 General**

[Revise the text of 2.1 to read as follows:]

Except for restricted material as described in 601.8.0 or USPS Connect Local Mail under 7.0, any mailable item may be mailed as First-Class Mail.

\* \* \* \* \*

**3.0 Basic Eligibility Standards for First-Class Mail**

**3.1 Description of Service**

**3.1.1 Service Description**

[Revise the text of 3.1.1 by adding a new second sentence to read as follows:]

\* \* \* USPS Connect Local Mail is a price category of First-Class Mail with an expected same-day or next day delivery service. \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

[Add new 7.0 to read as follows:]

**7.0 USPS Connect Local Mail**

USPS Connect Local Mail mailings are subject to the following criteria:

- a. No minimum volume requirement.
- b. Pieces must not exceed flat-size dimensions under 201.4.1.
- c. USPS Connect Local Mail price category is designed to be used for documents and paper-based contents only.
- d. Two USPS-produced USPS Connect Local Mail envelopes are offered by the Postal Service or a customer may use their own envelope.
- e. Postage must be paid under 234.1.2.
- f. Pieces are subject to specific marking requirements under 202.3.5.

g. Mailings must be addressed and entered at the designated entry unit by the critical entry time for same day delivery.

h. There are no extra services available with USPS Connect Local Mail.

i. USPS Tracking Plus® additional mailing service will be available for USPS Connect Local Mail.

\* \* \* \* \*

234 Postage Payment and Documentation

1.0 Basic Standards for Postage Payment

[Revise the text of 1.0 by renumbering the current text as 1.1 and adding a new 1.2 to read as follows:]

1.1 General

First-Class Mail presorted and automation postage must be paid with precanceled stamps, metered postage, or permit imprints. All pieces in a mailing must be paid with the same method unless otherwise permitted by standard or Business Acceptance Solutions authorization. Permit imprints may be used for mailings of nonidentical-weight pieces only if authorized by the director, Business Acceptance Solutions (see 608.8.0 for address).

1.2 USPS Connect Local Mail

USPS Connect Local Mail mailings must be paid with USPS Click-N-Ship or USPS API.

\* \* \* \* \*

235 Mail Preparation

1.0 General Definition of Terms

\* \* \* \* \*

[Add new 1.6 to read as follows:]

1.6 USPS Connect Local Mail

There are no sorting requirements for USPS Connect Local Mail pieces.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Add a new 9.0 to read as follows:]

9.0 Preparing USPS Connect Local Mail

USPS Connect Local Mail envelopes provided by the USPS must be used only for USPS Connect Local Mail priced pieces.

\* \* \* \* \*

236 Enter and Deposit

1.0 Deposit

\* \* \* \* \*

1.2 Time and Location of Deposit

[Revise the text of 1.2 by renumbering the current text as 1.2.1 and adding new 1.2.2 to read as follows:]

1.2.1 General

First-Class Mail paid at Presorted or any automation prices must be deposited at locations and times designated by the postmaster. Metered mail must be deposited in locations under the jurisdiction of the licensing Post Office except as permitted in 604.4.6.3. Permit imprint mail must be deposited under 604.5.0 or 705.

1.2.2 USPS Connect Local

USPS Connect Local Mail pieces must be mailed at the designated entry unit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Index

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U

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[Add "USPS Connect Local Mail, 233" alphabetically under "U".]

\* \* \* \* \*

Notice 123, Price List

[Add USPS Connect Local Mail price category under the commercial First-Class Mail section.]

\* \* \* \* \*

Ruth B. Stevenson,

Chief Counsel, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2022-22726 Filed 10-19-22; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0412; FRL-9818-02-R9]

Determinations of Attainment by the Attainment Date, California Areas Classified as Serious for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards and Marginal for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing a determination that the Nevada County (Western part) and Ventura County areas in California, both classified as Serious for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), attained the 2008 ozone NAAQS by the July 20, 2021 attainment date. The EPA is also finalizing a determination that six areas in California classified as Marginal for the

2015 ozone NAAQS, attained the 2015 ozone NAAQS by the August 3, 2021 attainment date. These six areas are: Butte County, Calaveras County, San Luis Obispo (Eastern part), Sutter Buttes, Tuolumne County, and Tuscan Buttes. Our final determination of attainment is based on the exclusion of exceedances of the 2008 and 2015 ozone NAAQS that occurred on multiple days in 2018 and 2020, because the exceedances were due to exceptional events. We are also finalizing our determination that the requirement for the State to have contingency measures for Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) and attainment for the 2008 ozone NAAQS for the Nevada County (Western part) and Ventura nonattainment areas will no longer apply, because the contingency measures will never be needed given the attainment of the NAAQS by the attainment date. This action fulfills the EPA's statutory obligation to determine whether these ozone nonattainment areas attained the NAAQS by the relevant attainment dates.

DATES: The effective date of this rule is November 21, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The EPA has established a docket for this action under Docket ID No. EPA-EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0412. All documents in the docket are listed on the https://www.regulations.gov website. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the internet and will be publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available through https://www.regulations.gov, or please contact the person identified in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section for additional availability information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Lawrence, Air Planning Office (AIR-2), EPA Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105; By phone: (415) 972-3407 or by email: lawrence.laura@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Throughout this document "we," "us," or "our" means the EPA.

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