

- *Estimated number of respondents per year:* 1,684.
- *Estimated frequency of responses per year:* This is a one-time collection.
- *Estimated average burden per response:* 10 minutes.
- *Estimated total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden:* VA estimates the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden to be 280.6667 hours (1,684 respondents × 10 minutes/60 minutes).
- *Estimated cost to respondents per year:* VA estimates the annual cost to respondents to be \$8352.64. Using VA's average annual number of 1,684 respondents, VA estimates the total information collection burden cost to be \$8352.64 per year (280.6667 burden hours (1,684 respondents × 10 minutes/60 minutes) × \$29.76 mean hourly wage).

* To estimate the respondents' total information collection burden cost, VA uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) mean hourly wage for "All Occupations" of \$29.76. This information is available at https://www.bls.gov/oes/2022/may/oes_nat.htm#00-0000.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 38

Administrative practice and procedure, Cemeteries, Claims, Veterans.

Signing Authority

Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, signed and approved this document on November 13, 2023, 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.

Luvenia Potts,

Regulation Development Coordinator Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 38 CFR part 38 is proposed to be amended as follows:

PART 38—NATIONAL CEMETERIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- 1. The authority citation for part 38 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 107, 501, 512, 531, 2306, 2400, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2407, 2408, 2411, 7105.

- 2. Amend § 38.600 by revising the definition of *Interment* to read as follows:

§ 38.600 Definitions.

(a) * * *

Interment means the burial or entombment of casketed or cremated remains, including the placement of cremated remains in a columbarium niche.

* * * * *

- 3. Add § 38.634 to read as follows:

§ 38.634 Commemorative urns and plaques.

(a) *General.* (1) In lieu of furnishing a headstone, marker, or medallion under this part, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will furnish, when requested—

- (i) A commemorative urn; or
(ii) A commemorative plaque.

(2) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section:

(i) *Commemorative urn* means a container that signifies the deceased individual's status as a veteran, in which the individual's cremated remains may be placed at private expense.

(ii) *Commemorative plaque* means a tablet that signifies the deceased individual's status as a veteran.

(3) If VA furnishes a commemorative plaque or a commemorative urn for an individual under this section, VA may not provide for such individual—

(i) A headstone, marker, or medallion; or

(ii) Any burial benefit under 38 U.S.C. 2402.

(4) Any commemorative plaque or commemorative urn furnished under this section shall be the personal property of the applicant.

(5) The Federal Government shall not be liable for any damage to a commemorative plaque or urn furnished under this section that occurs after the date on which the commemorative plaque or urn is furnished. VA will not replace a commemorative plaque or urn unless it was damaged during shipping or contains a manufacturing deficiency or inscription error.

(b) *Eligible individuals to be commemorated.* An eligible individual for purposes of this section is a deceased individual:

(1) Who served in the Armed Forces on or after April 6, 1917;

(2) Who is eligible for, but has not received, a headstone, marker, or medallion under 38 U.S.C. 2306(d) (or would be so eligible but for the date of the death of the individual); and

(3) Whose remains were cremated and not interred (see § 38.600 for definition of interment).

(c) *Application process—(1) Applicant.* An applicant for a

commemorative plaque or urn must be a member of the veteran's family, which includes the veteran's spouse or individual who was in a legal union as defined in § 3.1702(b)(1)(ii) of this chapter with the veteran; a child, parent, or sibling of the veteran, whether biological, adopted, or step relation; and any lineal or collateral descendant of the veteran.

(2) *Application.* An applicant must submit a completed VA Form 40–1330UP, Claim for Commemorative Urn or Commemorative Plaque for Veteran's Remains Not Interred in a Cemetery. The National Cemetery Administration will verify the decedent's eligibility for a commemorative plaque or urn. Applicants must certify that they have read a statement about other benefits to which the veteran will lose benefit rights, that the decedent's remains were cremated and are not interred at the time of application, that the applicant is a member of the decedent's family authorized to make decisions about the disposition of the decedent's remains, and that the applicant is in possession of the entirety of the cremains. Other required claim information will include documentation of the decedent's eligibility and the applicant's contact information and mailing address. VA's duty to notify claimants of necessary information or evidence under § 3.159(b) of this chapter and duty to assist claimants in obtaining evidence under § 3.159(c) of this chapter will apply.

[FR Doc. 2023–25595 Filed 11–17–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 501

Authorization To Manufacture and Distribute Postage Evidencing Systems

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is amending its Postage Evidencing Systems regulations to ensure compliance for Automated Clearinghouse or ACH payment transactions and to clarify obligations related to all payments. These changes require the applicable resetting company (RC) and PC Postage provider to comply with the latest NACHA rules published by the North American Clearing House Association for ACH transactions. These responsibilities include providing a written statement signed by an executive officer of the

company attesting to that compliance at least annually. These changes also require the applicable RC and PC Postage provider to obtain and store an agreement with each customer utilizing ACH debit as a payment method. Failure to comply may result in revocation of access to applicable Postal Service ACH programs.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before December 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Mail or deliver comments to the Banking Manager, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, RM. 8134, Washington, DC 20260. You may inspect and photocopy all written comments at USPS® Headquarters Library, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, 11th Floor N, Washington, DC by appointment only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday by calling 1-202-268-2906 in advance. Email comments, containing the name and address of the commenter, to: *PCFederalRegister@usps.gov*, with a subject line of "[Date], Authorization to Manufacture and Distribute Postage Evidencing Systems." Faxed comments are not accepted. All submitted comments and attachments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose any material in your comments that you consider to be confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Douglas Graham, Banking Manager, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, RM. 8134, Washington, DC 20260, (202) 268-2188.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 39 U.S.C. 416(e)(2), the Postal Service invites public comment on the following proposed amendments to the Code of Federal Regulations.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 501

Administrative practice and procedure, Postal Service.

PART 501—AUTHORIZATION TO MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTE POSTAGE EVIDENCING SYSTEMS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 501 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 410, 2601, 2605; Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (Pub. L. 95-452, as amended); 5 U.S.C. App. 3.

■ 2. Amend § 501.15 by revising paragraph (g) to read as follows:

§ 501.15 Computerized Meter Resetting System.

* * * * *

(g) The RC must reimburse the Postal Service for returned payments

promptly, comply with NACHA rules, and maintain customer ACH debit agreements.

(1) *Financial responsibility for returned payments.* The RC is required to reimburse the Postal Service upon request for any returned payments. The RC must, upon first becoming aware of a returned payment, immediately lock the customer's CMRS account to prevent a meter reset until the RC receives confirmation of payment for the returned payment. If a fee, penalty or fine is assessed against the Postal Service for returned payments from an RC's customer, the Postal Service may request reimbursement for such fee, penalty or fine from the RC. The RC is required to remit the amount of the returned payment to the Postal Service plus the reimbursement request, to the extent applicable, within ten (10) banking days. Invoices will be created monthly for returns and/or applicable penalties or fines incurred for the previous month. The ten (10) banking days will start once the invoice is mailed. The RC has discretion to decide whether to charge its customer for any such reimbursement costs (of fees, penalties, or fines) the RC pays to the Postal Service in connection with the customer's returned payment.

(2) *Responsibility to comply with NACHA rules.* The RC is required to comply with the latest NACHA rules published by the North American Clearing House Association. Each RC must provide a written statement signed by an executive officer of the company attesting to that compliance at least annually. If the RC cannot provide that written statement attesting to compliance due to identified areas of non-compliance, the RC must provide to the USPS within 30 days a written plan describing its prioritized approach, including milestone dates, toward achieving compliance within a mutually agreed period. USPS will provide specific written guidance separately if requested. Failure to comply may result in revocation of access to applicable USPS ACH programs.

(3) *Responsibility to maintain customer ACH agreements.* The RC must obtain and store an agreement with each and every customer utilizing ACH debit as a payment method. The customer agreement must authorize the RC to debit the designated bank account identified to pay for postage through the USPS account of its choice. The agreement must have at least the following elements: Company Name (if applicable), Name and Title and Address of the person entering into the agreement, Contact Information (Phone Number, Fax Number and eMail

Address as applicable), Date and Signature (or appropriate electronic signature evidence) of Agreement, Customer's Bank Name and Address, Bank Routing Number, Account Number and Account Type (Checking or Savings, Business or Personal) being agreed to transact upon, an Attestation that the person submitting the form is authorized to act on behalf of the account, and Termination Date and Signature (or appropriate electronic signature evidence) of the Agreement (if applicable). The agreement must be stored for at least two years after termination of the agreement, must be easily reproducible, and must be provided electronically to the Postal Service within three business days of electronic written request by the Postal Service in a format that can be easily and readily used for all NACHA and ACH related purposes including, without limitation, audit and defense of claims. USPS will provide specific written guidance separately if requested. Failure to comply may result in revocation of access to applicable Postal Service ACH programs.

* * * * *

■ 3. Amend § 501.16 by revising paragraph (d) to read as follows:

§ 501.16 PC postage payment methodology.

* * * * *

(d) The provider must reimburse the Postal Service for returned payments promptly, comply with NACHA rules, and maintain customer ACH agreements.

(1) *Financial responsibility for returned payments.* The provider must reimburse the Postal Service upon request for any returned payments. The provider must, upon first becoming aware of a returned payment, immediately lock the customer account to prevent resetting the account until the provider receives confirmation of payment for the returned payment. If a fee, penalty or fine is assessed against the Postal Service for returned payments from a provider's customer, the Postal Service may request reimbursement for such fee, penalty or fine from the provider. The provider is required to remit the amount of the returned payment plus the amount of the reimbursement request, to the extent applicable, to the Postal Service within ten (10) banking days. Invoices will be created monthly for returns and/or applicable penalties or fines incurred for the previous month. The ten (10) banking days will start once the invoice is mailed. The provider has discretion to decide whether to charge its customer for any such reimbursement costs (of

fees, penalties or fines) the provider pays to the Postal Service in connection with the customer's returned payment.

(2) *Responsibility to comply with NACHA rules.* The provider is required to comply with the latest NACHA rules published by the North American Clearing House Association. Each provider must provide a written statement signed by an executive officer of the company attesting to that compliance at least annually. If the provider cannot provide that written statement attesting to compliance due to identified areas of non-compliance, the PC provider must provide to the Postal Service within 30 days a written plan describing its prioritized approach, including milestone dates, toward achieving compliance within a mutually agreed period. The Postal Service will provide specific written guidance separately if requested. Failure to comply may result in revocation of access to applicable Postal Service ACH programs.

(3) *Responsibility to maintain customer ACH agreements.* The provider must obtain and store an agreement with each and every customer utilizing ACH debit as a payment method. The customer agreement must authorize the provider to debit the designated bank account identified to pay for postage through the Postal Service account of its choice. The agreement must have at least the following elements: Company Name (if applicable), Name and Title and Address of the person entering into the agreement, Contact Information (Phone Number, Fax Number and eMail Address as applicable), Date and Signature (or appropriate electronic signature evidence) of Agreement, Customer's Bank Name and Address, Bank Routing Number, Account Number and Account Type (Checking or Savings, Business or Personal) being agreed to transact upon, an Attestation that the person submitting the form is authorized to act on behalf of the account, and Termination Date and Signature (or appropriate electronic signature evidence) of the Agreement (if applicable). The agreement must be stored for at least two years after termination of the agreement, must be easily reproducible, and must be provided electronically to the Postal Service within three business days of electronic written request by the Postal Service in a format that can be easily and readily used for all NACHA and ACH related purposes including, without limitation, audit and defense of claims. The Postal Service will provide specific written guidance separately if requested. Failure to comply may result

in revocation of access to applicable Postal Service ACH programs.

(4) *Credit cards.* Unless otherwise established in a written agreement between the Postal Service and the provider, the provider is fully responsible for its own credit card compliance.

* * * * *

Sarah Sullivan,

Attorney, Ethics & Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2023-25628 Filed 11-17-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[EPA-R01-OAR-2023-0187; FRL-11554-03-R1]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to approve the Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by New Hampshire on May 5, 2022, as satisfying applicable requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA) and EPA's Regional Haze Rule for the program's second implementation period. New Hampshire's SIP submission addresses the requirement that states must periodically revise their long-term strategies for making reasonable progress towards the national goal of preventing any future, and remedying any existing, anthropogenic impairment of visibility, including regional haze, in mandatory Class I Federal areas. The SIP submission also addresses other applicable requirements for the second implementation period of the regional haze program. The EPA is taking this action pursuant to sections 110 and 169A of the Clean Air Act.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before December 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA- at <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). For either manner

of submission, the EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be confidential business information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (*i.e.*, on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, please contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section. For the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Rackauskas, Air Quality Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Region 1, 5 Post Office Square—Suite 100, (Mail code 5-MI), Boston, MA 02109-3912, tel. (617) 918-1628, email rackauskas.eric@epa.gov.

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