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Michael P. Shores,

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

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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 the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual (IMM®) dated January 21, 2024, and its incorporation by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations.

DATES: This rule is effective March 4, 2024. The incorporation by reference of certain material listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 4, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Kennedy, (202) 268-6592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The International Mail Manual (IMM) provides our standards for all international mailing services and references for the applicable prices. It was issued on January 21, 2024, and was updated with Postal Bulletin revisions through December 28, 2023. It replaces all previous editions.

The IMM continues to enable the Postal Service to fulfill its long-standing mission of providing affordable, universal mail service. It continues to: (1) increase the user's ability to find information; (2) increase the user's confidence that he or she has found the information they need; and (3) reduce the need to consult multiple sources to locate necessary information. The provisions throughout this issue support the standards and mail preparation changes implemented since the version of July 10, 2022. The International Mail Manual is available to the public on the Postal Explorer® internet site at https://pe.usps.com.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 20

Administrative practice and procedure, 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); 13 U.S.C. 301-307; 18 U.S.C. 1692-1737; 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 407, 414, 416, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3622, 3626, 3632, 3633, and 5001.

■ 2. Amend § 20.1 by revising paragraphs (a)(3) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 20.1 Incorporation by reference; Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, International Mail Manual.

(a) * * *

(3) Inspection—NARA. You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

(b) The Director of the Federal Register approved the IMM, updated January 21, 2024, for incorporation by reference as of March 4, 2024.

■ 3. Revise § 20.2 to read as follows:

§ 20.2 Effective date of the International Mail Manual.

The provisions of the International Mail Manual issued January 21, 2024 (incorporated by reference, see § 20.1), are applicable with respect to the international mail services of the Postal Service.

■ 4. Amend § 20.4 by adding an entry for "IMM" at the end of table 1 to read as follows:

§ 20.4 Amendments to the International Mail Manual.

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TABLE 1 TO § 20.4—INTERNATIONAL MAIL MANUAL

Table with 2 columns: International mail manual, Date of issuance. Row 1: IMM, January 21, 2024.

Sarah E. Sullivan,

Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024-04420 Filed 3-1-24; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Domestic Mail Manual; Incorporation by Reference

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service announces the issuance of the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) dated January 21, 2024, and its incorporation by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations.

DATES: This rule is effective March 4, 2024. The incorporation by reference of certain material listed in this rule is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of March 4, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dale Kennedy (202) 268-6592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) provides the United States Postal Service's official prices and standards for all domestic mailing services. The most recent issue of the DMM is dated January 21, 2024. This issue of the DMM contains all Postal Service domestic mailing standards and continues to: (1) increase the user's ability to find information; (2) increase confidence that users have found all the information they need; and (3) reduce the need to consult multiple chapters of the Manual to locate necessary information. The issue dated January 21, 2024, sets forth specific changes, including new standards throughout the DMM to support the standards and mail preparation changes implemented since the version issued on July 10, 2022.

Changes to mailing standards will continue to be published through Federal Register documents and the Postal Bulletin and will appear in the next online version available via the Postal Explorer® website at: https://pe.usps.com.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Administrative practice and procedure, Incorporation by reference.

In view of the considerations discussed above, the Postal Service hereby amends 39 CFR part 111 as follows:

PART 111—GENERAL INFORMATION ON POSTAL SERVICE

■ 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. Amend § 111.1 by revising paragraphs (a)(3) and (b) to read as follows:

§ 111.1 Incorporation by reference; Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual.

(a) * * *

(3) *Inspection*—NARA. You may view this material at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, visit www.archives.gov/federal-register/cfr/ibr-locations or email fr.inspection@nara.gov.

(b) The Director of the Federal Register approved DMM, updated

January 21, 2024, for incorporation by reference as of March 4, 2024.

■ 3. Amend § 111.3 by adding an entry for “DMM” to the end of table 1 to read as follows:

§ 111.3 Amendments to the Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual.

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TABLE 1 TO § 111.3—DOMESTIC MAIL MANUAL

Transmittal letter for issue	Dated	Federal Register publication
*	*	*
DMM	January 21, 2024	[Insert Federal Register citation for this final rule].

Sarah E. Sullivan,
Attorney, Ethics and Legal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024–04421 Filed 3–1–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

45 CFR Part 305

RIN 0970–AC95

Modifications to Performance Standards During Natural Disasters and Other Calamities

AGENCY: Office of Child Support Services (OCSS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS or the Department).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: OCSS issues this final rule to provide temporary relief to states from certain child support program performance requirements and penalties during natural disasters and other calamities which have a negative impact on state child support program operations. The rule allows OCSS to modify performance measure requirements when natural disasters and other calamities affect, or are expected to affect, the state child support program’s ability to achieve performance standards for paternity establishment, support order establishment, and current collections. The rule enables states to avoid the imposition of penalties due to adverse data reliability audit findings during, and after, natural disasters and other calamities, including pandemics and declared public health emergencies.

DATES: This rule is effective on March 4, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia John, Policy Specialist, Division of Policy and Training, OCSS, telephone (202) 260–7143. Email inquiries to ocss.dpt@acf.hhs.gov. Deaf and hearing-impaired individuals may call the Federal Dual Party Relay Service at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Eastern Time.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Statutory Authority

This rule is published under the authority granted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services by section 1102 of the Social Security Act (the Act) (42 U.S.C. 1302). Section 1102 of the Act authorizes the Secretary to publish regulations, not inconsistent with the Act, as may be necessary for the efficient administration of the functions with which the Secretary is responsible under the Act. The authority to modify the paternity establishment percentage (PEP) performance measure and data reliability audit requirements is based on section 452(g)(3)(A) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 652(g)(3)(A)), which provides the Secretary with discretionary authority to modify the PEP and program audit requirements taking into account additional variables as identified by the Secretary that affect the ability of a state to meet the PEP and audit requirements. The authority to modify, waive or suspend the support order establishment and current collections performance measures is based on section 409(a)(8)(A)(i)(I) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 609(a)(8)(A)(i)(I)), which provides the Secretary with discretion regarding the establishment of other state child support program performance measures.

Background

The purpose of this rule is to authorize the Secretary to provide targeted and time-limited relief to states from certain performance penalties when natural disasters and other calamities impact state child support program operations, preventing the state from achieving the required program performance measures.

This rule allows OCSS to modify the requirements for states to meet the following performance standards: the PEP performance standard of 90 percent under 45 CFR 305.40(a)(1), the support order establishment standard of 40 percent under 45 CFR 305.40(a)(2), and the current collections performance standard of 35 percent under 45 CFR 305.40(a)(3). This rule sets forth the process by which states may request, and OCSS may adjust these performance standards to a lower level to avoid imposing financial penalties on states and modify the requirements to avoid the imposition of penalties due to adverse data reliability audit findings. The rule permits time-limited modification of performance requirements during, and subsequent to, natural disasters and other calamities. We note that the rule only addresses modifications to penalty performance measures and levels under 45 CFR 305.40; it does not change the requirements related to incentive payments under section 458 of the Act and 45 CFR part 305.

The need for OCSS to establish a process for states to request relief from penalties during natural disasters and calamities became apparent during the COVID–19 pandemic. During the COVID–19 pandemic, states experienced significant workload burdens and service backlogs due to disruptions to state child support program operations and court closures.