

ORDER NO. 206

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Dan G. Blair, Chairman;
Nanci E. Langley, Vice Chairman;
Mark Acton;
Ruth Y. Goldway; and
Tony L. Hammond

Modification of Mail Classification Schedule
for International Mail Sealed and Unsealed
Against Inspection

Docket No. MC2009-23

NOTICE AND ORDER OF CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

(Issued April 24, 2009)

On April 20, 2009, the Postal Service filed notice with the Commission of several classification changes concerning whether certain international mail is (or is not) sealed against inspection.¹ More specifically, in what it characterizes as a substantive change, the Postal Service proposes to treat International Surface Airlift (ISAL) and Global Bulk Economy (GBE) as sealed against inspection. The Postal Service indicates that the content of such mail is essentially the same as First-Class Mail International and thus should receive similar treatment. *Id.* at 1. In addition, for Global Direct service, which involves mail prepared according to destination country requirements, the Postal

¹ See Notice of the United States Postal Service of Classification Change, April 20, 2009 (Notice). The Notice is available on the Commission's website, www.prc.gov, under Daily Listings for April 20, 2009.

Service would advise the mailer whether such mail is (or is not) sealed against inspection.

The Postal Service also proposes non-substantive changes to the text of the Mail Classification Schedule (MCS). These changes include: (a) removing the term “postal” when modifying the term “inspection” for consistency with 39 U.S.C. 404(c), Postal Service regulations, and the MCS; (b) clarifying that items mailed as Free for the Blind or Handicapped is not sealed against inspection when sent as First-Class Mail International, Priority Mail flat rate envelope or small flat rate box; and (c) revising the text in the MCS to state that M-Bags within the GBE, ISAL and International Priority Airmail products are not sealed against inspection. *Id.* at 2.

The Postal Service states the proposed changes to the MCS do not alter the current application of 39 U.S.C. 404(c), but merely clarify whether this mail is sealed against inspection.

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3020.91, the Postal Service indicates that these changes are to be effective May 11, 2009.²

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3020.92, the Commission provides notice of the Postal Service filing, affording interested persons an opportunity to express views and offer comments on whether the planned changes are inconsistent with 39 U.S.C. 3642. Comments are due on May 4, 2009. Consistent with rule 3020.92, notice shall be posted on the Commission’s website.

The Commission appoints Paul L. Harrington as Public Representative to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.

² *But see* 74 FR 18297 (April 22, 2009) amending 39 CFR part 233 to revise definitions of mail sealed and unsealed against inspection to be effective June 1, 2009.

It is Ordered:

1. Docket No. MC2009-23 is established to consider matters raised by the Postal Service Notice referred to in the body of this Order.
2. Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 505, the Commission appoints Paul L. Harrington as Public Representative to represent the interests of the general public in this proceeding.
3. Comments by interested persons in this proceeding are due no later than May 4, 2009.

By the Commission.

Steven W. Williams
Secretary