

This notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Stacy L. Ruble,
Secretary.

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POSTAL SERVICE

Product Change—Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, & First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule's Competitive Products List.

DATES: *Date of notice required under 39 U.S.C. 3642(d)(1):* July 26, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth A. Reed, 202-268-3179.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service® hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), on July 20, 2017, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *Request of the United States Postal Service to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, & First-Class Package Service Contract 20 to Competitive Product List*. Documents are available at www.prc.gov, Docket Nos. MC2017-159, CP2017-223.

Stanley F. Mires,
Attorney, Federal Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2017-15620 Filed 7-25-17; 8:45 am]

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POSTAL SERVICE

Revision to Mailing Standards for Lithium Batteries

AGENCY: Postal Service™.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service is revising Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail*, in various sections to provide new mailing standards for lithium batteries. Publication 52 was developed to provide expanded requirements for the mailing of hazardous, restricted, and perishable materials.

DATES: *Anticipated date of publication in the Postal Bulletin:* August 17, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michelle Lassiter 202-268-2914, or Kevin Gunther (202) 268-7208.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

Pursuant to the *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service*, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®) 601.8.2, Publication 52 provides mailing standards specific to hazardous, restricted and perishable items and materials, including lithium batteries. Publication 52 is provided in its entirety on the Postal Explorer® Web site at <http://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/welcome.htm>.

Background

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) published Addendum No. 3 to its Technical Instructions (TI) on January 15, 2016, and Addendum No. 4 on February 23, 2016 (<http://www.icao.int/safety/DangerousGoods/Pages/default.aspx>). In these addenda, ICAO announced new regulations for lithium batteries in international air transportation. The ICAO revisions, with an effective date of April 1, 2016, detailed a number of new provisions including:

- The prohibition of lithium-ion (and lithium-ion polymer) batteries, shipped separately from the equipment they are intended to operate (categorized as identification number UN3480), on passenger aircraft.
- The restriction of UN3480 batteries and cells shipped via cargo aircraft to a maximum state of charge (SOC) of no more than 30 percent.
- The limitation of section II, UN3480 batteries and cells to a single package, when sent as a part of a consignment or overpack via cargo aircraft.
- The required use of an approved Cargo Aircraft Only (CAO) label on all packages of UN3480 batteries and cells transported via cargo aircraft.

On September 7, 2016 (81 FR 61742), the Department of Transportation (DOT), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a notice of proposed rulemaking [Docket Number 2015-0273 (HM-215N)] titled *Hazardous Materials: Harmonization with International Standards (RRR)* with the intention to maintain consistency with international regulations and standards by incorporating various amendments, including changes to proper shipping names, hazard classes, packing groups, special provisions, packaging authorizations, air transport quantity limitations, and vessel stowage requirements.

On February 22, 2017 (82 FR 11372), the Postal Service published a **Federal Register** notice, including invitation to comment, titled *Revision to Mailing Standards for the Transport of Lithium Batteries*. In this notice, the Postal Service announced its intent to revise Publication 52 to align with the ICAO Technical Instructions for the Safe Transport of Dangerous Goods by Air (ICAO TI) with regard to the transportation of lithium batteries by air. Specifically, the Postal Service conveyed its intent to:

- Prohibit UN3480 lithium-ion and lithium polymer batteries in Postal Service air-eligible products.
- Revise its quantity limitations for UN3480 lithium-ion and lithium polymer batteries in surface transportation to align with those for lithium metal batteries, changing from the previous 8 cells or 2 batteries to an aggregate mailpiece limit of 5 pounds (while retaining its previous battery capacity limitations of 20 Wh/cell and 100 Wh/battery).

The Postal Service also expresses its intent to revise Publication 52 to align with lithium battery regulations described in PHMSA's proposed rule of September 7, 2016. At that time, the Postal Service proceeded with its **Federal Register** notice, expecting the publication of PHMSA's final rule to occur shortly thereafter with few significant changes to its proposed regulations for lithium batteries. With respect to PHMSA's expected revisions to its lithium battery regulations, the Postal Service announced its intent to make the following changes to its mailing standards:

- Eliminate the current text marking option for mailpieces required to bear, or optionally permitted to bear, lithium battery markings, and to limit markings to DOT-approved lithium battery handling labels only. Mailpieces restricted to surface transportation only, including those containing UN3090, *lithium metal batteries* shipped separately, will continue to be required to bear the current text marking in addition to a DOT-approved lithium battery handling label.
- Eliminate the requirement for accompanying documentation with mailings of lithium batteries.
- Add the new DOT class 9 hazard warning label for lithium batteries to Publication 52, Exhibit 325.1, *DOT Hazardous Materials Warning Labels: PROHIBITED IN THE MAIL*. Packages containing lithium batteries that are required to bear this label are prohibited in Postal Service networks.
- Align with PHMSA regarding the requirement for outer packaging used to