

[Federal Register Volume 81, Number 200 (Monday, October 17, 2016)]

[Proposed Rules]

[Pages 71428-71444]

Combine AADC and 3 Digit Automation Sorts for Letters Into One Sort level

Currently there are four presort levels for Standard Mail and Standard Mail Nonprofit Automation Letters: Mixed AADC Automation Letters, AADC Automation Letters, 3-Digit Automation Letters, and 5-Digit Automation Letters. To help simplify the pricing structure, the Postal Service implemented the same price for AADC Automation Letters and 3-Digit Automations Letters in Docket No. R2013-1. The Postal Service is now proposing to combine these two presort levels (AADC and 3-Digit) into one sortation. The new sortation name will be AADC if this proposal is adopted.

Increase the Weight Standard for Standard Mail and Standard Mail Nonprofit Nonautomation Machinable Letters From Up to 3.3 Ounces to Up to 3.5 Ounces

Currently, the "up to" weight standard for Standard Mail and Standard Mail Nonprofit Machinable Letters is 3.3 ounces. This lower weight break of up to 3.3 ounces is no longer needed due to improvements in mail processing equipment. Since machinable letters

must follow the standards for Automation Letters (except for the IMb standards), the weight maximum should also follow. Thus the Postal Service is proposing to increase the weight maximum from 3.3 ounces to 3.5 ounces. This change does not include Standard Mail Ride-Along mailpieces which are capped at 3.3 ounces and are inserted into a host Periodicals mailpiece.

It's important for both the Industry and the Postal Service to evaluate the effects of higher weight breaks for First-Class Mail automation letters and cards along with Standard Mail letters. Collaboration and feedback throughout calendar year 2017 will be critical in helping to determine whether higher weights cause processing and/or address quality metrics to be put at risk.