

## Flats Sequencing System (FSS)--Overview of Changes

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[Proposed Rules]

[Pages 71428-71444]

As background, the Postal Service required bundle and pallet preparation of flat-size Standard Mail<sup>[supreg]</sup>, Periodicals, and Bound Printed Matter mailpieces for delivery within ZIP Codes<sup>TM</sup> served by FSS processing in the December 18, 2013 Federal Register final rule [78 FR 76533-76548] which was incorporated into the DMM on January 26, 2014. Subsequently, on May 31, 2015, the Postal Service introduced FSS-specific price structures for flat-sized Bound Printer Matter, Standard Mail, and Periodicals mailpieces, pursuant to PRC Order no. 2472, issued on May 7, 2015. This current Federal Register proposal if adopted, removes all FSS-specific pricing structures from Periodicals, Standard Mail and Bound Printed Matter but leaves mail preparation requirements intact with a few updated requirements. One change, for example, requires mailers to add necessitate optional endorsement lines (OEL) on each FSS scheme mailpiece.

Again, FSS preparation rules remain intact for Standard Mail, Periodicals and Bound Printed Matter for applicable FSS zones as defined by Labeling List L006. The required carrier route separation is new for Standard Mail High Density and High Density Plus and for Saturation bundles. As a reminder, all presorted and carrier route Bound Printed Matter (BPM) , and Periodicals flats meeting the standards in 201.6.2 must be sorted to FSS schemes, properly bundled

and placed on or in pallets, trays, sacks or approved containers, for FSS scheme ZIP Code combinations within the same facility. Mailings (excluding saturation mailings of Standard Mail) with non presorted BPM flats may be included in FSS preparation, but will not be eligible for presorted, or carrier route prices.

To reiterate, all mailpieces in a 5-digit scheme FSS bundle must be identified with an optional endorsement line (OEL), as described in DMM 708.7.0. Mailpieces entered under a combined mailing of Standard Mail and Periodicals flats (DMM 705.15.0) still include class and price markings, applicable to the price paid, in addition to the OEL.

Periodicals, Standard Mail, and Bound Printed Matter flats properly included in a FSS scheme pool qualify for the piece price applied prior to inclusion in the FSS scheme pool with the following exceptions for Standard Mail: (1) A carrier route mailpiece in a FSS bundle on a FSS scheme pallet will receive the Basic CR-Bundles/Pallet price and (2) a carrier route mailpiece in a FSS bundle on a FSS facility pallet will receive the Basic CR price. Additional information on each mail class affected is under the Bound Printed Matter, Periodicals, and Standard Mail sections in this proposal.