

United States Postal Service

# INDUSTRY ALERT

## Request for an Advisory Opinion Concerning Load Leveling (December 27, 2013)

Today the Postal Service requested an advisory opinion from the Postal Regulatory Commission concerning its plan to level out the delivery volume of advertising mail throughout the week. Under the current service standards, a disproportionate amount of that mail is delivered on Mondays, and that imbalance often results in late delivery of mail on Monday, inconvenience to mail recipients, and increased costs to the Postal Service.

The Postal Service is proposing to revise the service standards for a limited segment of Standard Mail (pieces that qualify for a DSCF rate and are accepted before the day zero CET at the proper DSCF on Friday or Saturday), to encourage a more balanced distribution of Standard Mail volume across all of our delivery days.

For those Standard Mail pieces entered on Friday or Saturday at the DSCF rate, the Postal Service is proposing to change the current three-day delivery expectation to a four-day delivery expectation. And for pieces entered at the SCF in San Juan, PR and destined for the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as all DSCF entry pieces destined for American Samoa, the delivery expectation for pieces entered on Friday or Saturday would change from four days to five days.

The Postal Service is not proposing any other revisions to its service standards at this time.

To learn more about this proposal, please see the *United States Postal Service Request for an Advisory Opinion on Changes in the Nature of Postal Services* (<http://prc.gov/prc-pages/library/dockets.aspx?activeview=DocketView&docketType=Single&docketid=N2014-1>) that was filed today with the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The Postal Service is also seeking comments on the proposed change to its current service standards, and has submitted the proposed rule to the Federal Register ([see attachment](#)). Comments on the proposed rule may be sent to [IndustryFeedback@usps.gov](mailto:IndustryFeedback@usps.gov) within 30 days of the notice being published.

Changes to DSCF Standard Mail service standards would go into effect no earlier than March 28, 2014.

The table below summarizes the impact on DSCF Standard Mail with delivery in the continental United States.

DSCF Standard Mail Dropped before 4 pm* on	Delivery Days Meeting Service Standard Current	Delivery Days Meeting Service Standard Proposed
Thursday	Friday, Saturday, Monday	Friday, Saturday, Monday
Friday	Saturday, Monday	Saturday, Monday, Tuesday
Saturday	Monday, Tuesday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Sunday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

\*The current Critical Entry Time (CET) for Standard Mail is 4 pm

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