



POSTAL NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2003

Contact: Media Relations
202-268-2155
Release No. 066
www.usps.com

NEW POSTAL MERCHANDISE RETURN OFFERING

WASHINGTON, DC -- Customers who take advantage of the Postal Service's Parcel Select Service will soon receive discounts for their merchandise return items if they pick them up at the same locations. Effective October 19, the enhanced service will allow Parcel Select customers to pick-up merchandise return items while dropping off packages for delivery.

"We believe that the new services complement our outbound services and help streamline the mail handling process for everyone," said Jim Cochrane, Manager, Package Services. To take advantage of the discounts, merchants will have to pick-up the returned parcels at a designated postal facility, rather than have the Postal Service deliver the returns to the merchant. The merchant will pay the postage, which makes the new service particularly consumer friendly, according to Cochrane.

The new Return Service is available for Parcel Select and Bound Printed Matter. The price for parcels picked up at the post office nearest the consumer is \$2. Prices for pieces picked up at the Bulk Mail Center are higher, and depend on the weight of the piece and the distance traveled. Picking up the parcels at the BMC can save the merchant from 24 cents to \$1.51 per parcel.

The Postal Service Board of Governors approved the new offering during its monthly meeting here.

Since 1775, the U.S. Postal Service has connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that makes deliveries to about 140 million addresses every day and is the only service provider to deliver to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of more than \$66 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mail and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world.

The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 43 percent of the world's mail volume - some 203 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year - and serves seven million customers each day at its 38,000 retail locations nationwide.