

Postal Regulatory Commission

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Press Release

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Postal Regulatory Commission Verifies Competitive Products Price Changes for 2009

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission today issued its review of price adjustments sought by the U.S. Postal Service for competitive postal products. Chairman Dan G. Blair announced the Commission's unanimous decision that the increases sought for competitive products were not unlawful.

Price adjustments sought by the Postal Service for its competitive products in the domestic arena will affect rates for Express Mail, Priority Mail, Parcel Select and Parcel Return Service. In the international arena, products affected are Global Express Guaranteed, Express Mail International, Priority Mail International and International Direct Sacks—M-Bags. The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act (Public Law 109-435) requires that rates for competitive products must produce sufficient revenues to ensure competitive products are not subsidized by market dominant products. Each competitive product must cover its attributable costs. In addition, competitive products, as a group, must pay their share of institutional costs, which currently is 5.5 percent. The Commission determined that the proposed domestic and international competitive product price increases appear to satisfy these requirements.

The planned adjustments are scheduled to take effect on January 18, 2009. The Commission's determination and summary may be found on its website, www.prc.gov. Listed below are the percentage increases:

Domestic Products	Rate Change (%)
Express Mail	5.7
Priority Mail	3.9
Parcel Select	5.9
Parcel Return Service (PRS)	5.3
International Products	
Global Express Guaranteed	11.2
Express Mail International	8.6
Priority Mail International	8.5
International Direct Sacks (M-Bags)	8.0

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The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency comprised of five Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commissioners, each serving terms of six years. The Chairman is designated by the President. In addition to Chairman Blair, the other Commissioners are Vice-Chairman Nanci Langley, Ruth Goldway, Tony Hammond and Mark Acton.