Commercial Flats
Standard Mail Automation Flats

Related QSGs	201d, Designing Flats for Automated Processing 703, Standard Mail Nonprofit Eligibility
Physical Standards (201)	Maximum weight: less than 16 ounces. For an overview of the physical standards for commercial flats, see Quick Service Guide 201c.
Prices and Fees (243.1.0)	For a complete list of commercial Standard Mail prices, see Notice 123–Price List. Destination discounts apply to mail prepared as prescribed by USPS and addressed for delivery within service area of destination NDC/ASF, SCF or delivery unit (DDU) (246.2.0). Annual presort mailing fee applies.
Content (243.2.0)	Flats containing mailable items not required to be sent using First-Class Mail can be sent using Standard Mail. Standard Mail is typically used for advertisements, flyers, and catalogs. Additional content restrictions must be met for authorized nonprofit mailers (703.1.0).
Eligibility Standards (243.8.0)	Mailings of 200 or more addressed pieces (or 50 pounds of addressed pieces) must be automation compatible (201.6.0), bear an Intelligent Mail barcode (708.4.0), and be sorted and marked as described below. Pieces are eligible if not required to be mailed at First-Class Mail prices or not eligible for Periodicals prices. Nonprofit prices require specific authorization (703.1.0). Each piece must also include a complete delivery address with correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. For address standards, see 243.8.4; for barcode quality standards, see 708.4.0; and for CASS/MASS standards, see 708.3.0. Addresses must be matched using a CASS/MASS-certified process within 180 days before mailing date. All letter-size reply cards and envelopes (Business Reply Mail, Courtesy Reply Mail, and metered reply mail) provided as enclosures must meet the standards in 201.3.17. Rigid, nonrectangular, and pieces that are not uniformly thick must be prepared as parcels pieces and pay parcel prices (243.3.2.1). Mailers can apply Repositionable Notes for an additional charge. See 202.7.0. Addresses on all pieces must be updated within 95 days before mailing through a USPS-approved address update method (e.g., ACS, NCOA^{Link}, or the appropriate ancillary service endorsement (except Forwarding Service Requested) under 507.1.5.3). For an overview of the Move Update standards, see Quick Service Guide 602a.
Postage Payment and Documentation (244)	Precanceled stamp (604.3.0), meter (604.4.0), or permit imprint (604.5.0). Additional standards apply to mailings of nonidentical-weight pieces. Documentation: ■ Postage statement: **Regular:** PS Form 3602-R or approved facsimile. **Nonprofit:** PS Form 3602-N or approved facsimile. ■ PS Form 3553 must be retained by mailer for 1 year (708.3.5.2). ■ Supporting documentation: required unless correct price is affixed to each piece or unless each piece is of identical weight and separated by price when presented for acceptance; documentation generated by PAVE-certified software (or printed in standardized format).
Mail Preparation (245.10.0)	Marking on each piece in the postage area (202.3.0): ■ **Regular:** "Presorted Standard" or "PRSRT STD," "Standard" or "STD." ■ **Nonprofit:** "Nonprofit Organization" or "NONPROFIT ORG." or "NONPROFIT." Marking on each piece prepared to FSS zones (705.14.0) Use of the "AUTO" marking is optional. Barcoded sack labels required (245.4.0). Palletization is preferred (see Quick Service Guide 705d). Any mailing job that contains comailed bundles of Presorted flats and bundles of automation flats must be prepared using 705.9.0 or 705.11.0. Mailpieces intended for delivery to FSS zones must be prepared under 705.14.0.
Enter and Deposit (246)	Mailing entered at an acceptance point designated by USPS.

Preparation

Bundling and Sacking Sequence (245.7.0)

5-Digit/Scheme[1]

Bundles: Scheme bundles required for 5-digit ZIP Codes in L007*. Required with 15 or more pieces for mailings containing pieces weighing 5 ounces or less. Required with 10 or more pieces for mailings containing pieces weighing more than 5 ounces. Fewer pieces in a bundle not permitted.[2]

Labels: Red Label 5 SCH, Red Label 5, or optional endorsement line (OEL) (708.7.0).

Price: 5-Digit

3-Digit/Scheme[1]

Bundles: Scheme bundles required for 3-digit ZIP Codes in L008*. Required if 10 or more pieces to the same 3-digit/scheme; fewer than 10 pieces in a bundle not permitted.[2]

Labels: Green Label 3 SCH, Green Label 3, or OEL.

Price: 3-Digit

ADC

Bundles: Required if 10 or more pieces to same ADC (see L004*); fewer than 10 pieces in a bundle not permitted.[2]
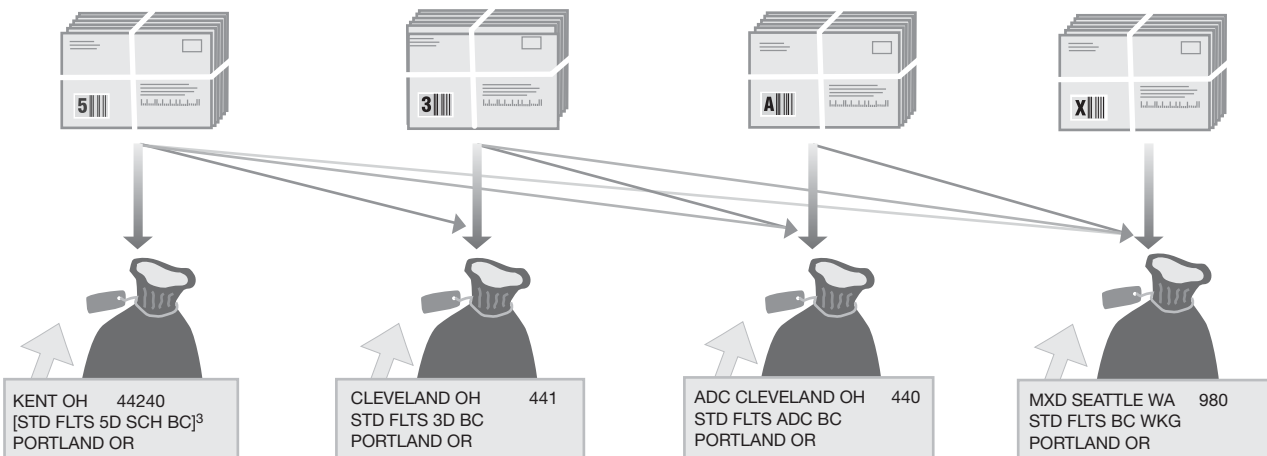
Labels: Pink Label A or OEL.

Price: ADC

Mixed ADC

Bundles: Any remaining pieces must be bundled in mixed ADC bundles.

Labels: Tan Label X or OEL.

Price: Mixed ADC


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KENT OH       44240
[STD FLTS 5D SCH BC][3]
PORTLAND OR
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CLEVELAND OH         441
STD FLTS 3D BC
PORTLAND OR
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```
ADC CLEVELAND OH    440
STD FLTS ADC BC
PORTLAND OR
```

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MXD SEATTLE WA      980
STD FLTS BC WKG
PORTLAND OR
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5-Digit/Scheme[3]

Sacks: Required at 125 pieces or 15 pounds to the same 5-digit/scheme; smaller quantities not permitted.

Barcoded Labels: Line 1: For 5-digit scheme sacks, use L007*, Column B; For 5-digit sacks, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail. Line 2: For 5-digit scheme sacks, use "STD FLTS 5D SCH BC." For 5-digit sacks, "STD FLTS 5D BC."

3-Digit

Sacks: Required at 125 pieces or 15 pounds of pieces to the same 3-digit ZIP Code; smaller quantities not permitted.

Exception: After preparing all required sacks, prepare a sack for any remaining bundles for each 3-digit ZIP Code of SCF serving Post Office where mail is verified.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use L002*, Column A, for destination facility.

ADC

Sacks: Required at 125 pieces or 15 pounds to the same ADC; smaller quantities not permitted.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use L004*, Column B, for destination facility.

Mixed ADC

Sacks: Required for any remaining bundles placed in mixed ADC sacks.

Barcoded Labels: For Line 1, use L009*, Column B.

Price is based on type of bundle regardless of sack in (or pallet on) which it is placed.

1. Mailers must prepare all possible 5-digit scheme bundles and 5-digit scheme sacks before preparing 5-digit bundles and 5-digit sacks. Mailers must prepare all possible 3-digit scheme bundles before preparing 3-digit bundles and 3-digit sacks.
2. Bundles may contain less than the 10 or 15 piece minimums when there are at least the minimum number of pieces to a destination and the bundle size would exceed the maximum size (203.3.12).
3. Use "STD FLTS 5D SCH BC" on 5-digit scheme sacks; use "STD FLTS 5D BC" on 5-digit sacks.

*http://fast.usps.com (Click "Resources," then "Labeling List File Download.")