



CMS News and Updates

Jan. 14, 2016

DES offers new, improved process to review mail equipment needs

Under [RCW 43.19.720](#), DES is responsible for reviewing current and prospective needs of state agencies for any equipment to process state government mail. Reviews are helpful to determining your needs, and to ensure you're making the most cost-effective and performance-rewarding choice for the activities your agency values.

DES recently streamlined the review process with active participation from customers, subject matter experts, and contracts specialists to be as open, fair and expedient as possible. New tools are now available for use with the two mail equipment contracts. The Mail Equipment Notification form and a set of FAQs are attached to the contracts awarded to Pitney Bowes ([02713](#)) and Neopost and FP Mailing Solutions ([03415](#)). Customers can expect to see a more standardized review process with better communication along the way. If you are unfamiliar with the review requirement or need more information, contact Contract Manager [Breann Aggers](#), (360) 407-9416.

USPS price increase

For the first time in three years, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is raising rates on commercial Priority Mail products, as well as for other Shipping Services products. The rate change is effective January 17, 2016. First Class and Standard mail rates will remain the same.

The Postal Service's average rate changes to specific products include:

- **Priority Mail Express:** 15.6 percent
- **Priority Mail:** 9.8 percent
- **First-Class Package Service:** 12.8 percent
- **Parcel Select Destination Entry:** 4.9 percent
- **Parcel Select Ground:** 1.9 percent
- **Parcel Select Lightweight:** 23.5 percent
- **Parcel Return Service:** 5 percent
- **Standard Post:** 10 percent

If you have questions, please contact CMS Customer Service at (360) 586-0457.

Keep your documents safe in a campus envelope

Using campus envelopes can protect your important documents from damage and helps ensure your interoffice mail gets to the right place. [Learn more about using campus mail](#). If you're running low on envelopes, [order more online](#). If you have too many and want to recycle some, send them to mail stop 41050.

CMS customer training and tour

Consolidated Mail Services offers a half day Customer training and tour that will answer your mailing questions and provide great cost savings opportunities for the many different classes and types of mail you send and receive. Space is limited so please call (360) 586-0457 to register if you would like to attend. Upcoming dates are:

- February 18, 2016 from 9 am to noon
- April 21, 2016 from 9 am to noon

Discounted postage rates for more than just letters

Consolidated Mail Services offers discounted postage on your First Class flat-size mailings. Similar to how you're able to save by having us presort your one, two or three ounce letters, our presort flats option offers savings on qualifying material. Your flat-size mail might already qualify or be just one or two quick adjustments away from discounts. [Learn more.](#)

Fun CMS facts from calendar year 2015

Did you know Consolidated Mail Services handled nearly 118 million pieces mail through our facility and save the state \$2,327,586 by presorting qualified letters and flats? If you would like more information on our Presort services please call (360) 664-9507.

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