

or where adequate surface transportation is not available”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 92-469, §1, added subsec. (b)(2). Former subsec. (b)(2) redesignated subsec. (b)(1)(C).

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 92-469, §1, substituted “15” for “5” after “pounds”.

Subsecs. (c) to (f). Pub. L. 92-469, §2, added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsecs. (c) to (e) as (d) to (f), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-405 effective Oct. 1, 2008, see section 2(c) of Pub. L. 110-405, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-443 effective Jan. 1, 1985, see section 9(v) of Pub. L. 98-443, set out as a note under section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-70 effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

OPERATION DESERT SHIELD

Section 631(b) of Pub. L. 101-509 provided that: “This section [amending this section] shall apply to military personnel participating in ‘Operation Desert Shield.’”

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11255

Ex. Ord. No. 11255, Nov. 1, 1965, 30 F.R. 14135, which designated Vietnam and certain waters adjacent thereto as an overseas combat area where the Armed Forces of the United States are engaged in military operations involving armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, for purposes of sections 4169 and 4303 of former Title 39, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 12553, Feb. 25, 1986, 51 F.R. 7237.

EX. ORD. NO. 12556. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Ex. Ord. No. 12556, Apr. 16, 1986, 51 F.R. 13205, provided:

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3 of the United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

SECTION 1. *Delegation of Functions.* The function conferred upon the President by section 3401(a) of title 39 of the United States Code, of designating an area for free mailing privileges, is delegated to the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 2. *Interagency Consultation.* In performing the function delegated by this Order, the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of State and the United States Postal Service, and with the heads of other Executive agencies as appropriate. The Secretary of Defense shall provide timely notice to the United States Postal Service of any designations or terminations of designations made under this Order.

RONALD REAGAN.

[§ 3402. Repealed. Pub. L. 96-70, title I, § 1331(e)(3)(A), Sept. 27, 1979, 93 Stat. 482]

Section, Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 757, related to mailing privileges of members of Armed Forces of the United States and of friendly foreign nations in the Canal Zone.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 3304 of Pub. L. 96-70, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3601 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

§ 3403. Matter for blind and other handicapped persons

(a) The matter described in subsection (b) of this section (other than matter mailed under section 3404 of this title) may be mailed free of postage, if—

(1) the matter is for the use of the blind or other persons who cannot use or read conventionally printed material because of a physical impairment and who are certified by competent authority as unable to read normal reading material in accordance with the provisions of sections 135a and 135b of title 2;

(2) no charge, or rental, subscription, or other fee, is required for such matter or a charge, or rental, subscription, or other fee is required for such matter not in excess of the cost thereof;

(3) the matter may be opened by the Postal Service for inspection; and

(4) the matter contains no advertising.

(b) The free mailing privilege provided by subsection (a) of this section is extended to—

(1) reading matter and musical scores;

(2) sound reproductions;

(3) paper, records, tapes, and other material for the production of reading matter, musical scores, or sound reproductions;

(4) reproducers or parts thereof, for sound reproductions; and

(5) braille writers, typewriters, educational or other materials or devices, or parts thereof, used for writing by, or specifically designed or adapted for use of, a blind person or a person having a physical impairment as described in subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 757.)

§ 3404. Unsealed letters sent by blind or physically handicapped persons

Unsealed letters sent by a blind person or a person having a physical impairment, as described in section 3403(a)(1) of this title, in raised characters or sightsaving type, or in the form of sound recordings, may be mailed free of postage.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 758.)

§ 3405. Markings

All matter relating to blind or other handicapped persons mailed under section 3403 or 3404 of this title, shall bear the words “Free Matter for the Blind or Handicapped”, or words to that effect specified by the Postal Service, in the upper right-hand corner of the address area.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 758.)

§ 3406. Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

(a) Balloting materials under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (individually or in bulk)—

(1) shall be carried expeditiously and free of postage; and

(2) may be mailed at a post office established outside the United States under section 406 of this title, unless such mailing is prohibited by treaty or other international agreement of the United States.

(b) As used in this section, the term “balloting materials” has the meaning given that term in section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(Added Pub. L. 99-410, title II, §201(a), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 928.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 99-410, Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 924, as amended, which is classified principally to subchapter I-G (§1973ff et seq.) of chapter 20 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. Section 107 of that Act is classified to section 1973ff-6 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1986 Amendment note set out under section 1971 of Title 42 and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as a note under section 1973ff of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

CHAPTER 36—POSTAL RATES, CLASSES, AND SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER I—PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARKET-DOMINANT PRODUCTS

- Sec.
- 3621. Applicability; definitions.
- 3622. Modern rate regulation.
- [3623. Repealed.]
- [3624. Repealed.]
- [3625. Repealed.]
- 3626. Reduced Rates.¹
- 3627. Adjusting free rates.
- [3628. Repealed.]
- 3629. Reduced rates for voter registration purposes.

SUBCHAPTER II—PROVISIONS RELATING TO COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS

- 3631. Applicability; definitions and updates.
- 3632. Action of the Governors.
- 3633. Provisions applicable to rates for competitive products.
- 3634. Assumed Federal income tax on competitive products.¹

SUBCHAPTER III—PROVISIONS RELATING TO EXPERIMENTAL AND NEW PRODUCTS

- 3641. Market tests of experimental products.
- 3642. New products and transfers of products between the market-dominant and competitive categories of mail.

SUBCHAPTER IV—REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND RELATED PROVISIONS

- 3651. Annual reports by the Commission.
- 3652. Annual reports to the Commission.
- 3653. Annual determination of compliance.
- 3654. Additional financial reporting.

SUBCHAPTER V—POSTAL SERVICES, COMPLAINTS, AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

- 3661. Postal Services.¹
- 3662. Rate and service complaints.
- 3663. Appellate review.
- 3664. Enforcement of orders.

¹ So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

Sec.

SUBCHAPTER VI—GENERAL

- 3681. Reimbursement.
- 3682. Size and weight limits.
- 3683. Uniform rates for books; films, other materials.¹
- 3684. Limitations.
- 3685. Filing of information relating to periodical publications.
- 3686. Bonus authority.

SUBCHAPTER VII—MODERN SERVICE STANDARDS

- 3691. Establishment of modern service standards.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-435, title II, §206, Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3217, added chapter heading and analysis and struck out former chapter heading “POSTAL RATES, CLASSES, AND SERVICES” and analysis consisting of items for subchapters I to V and items 3601 to 3604, 3621 to 3629, 3641 and 3642, 3661 to 3663, and 3681 to 3685.

1998—Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(h) [title VI, §648(b)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-480, 2681-528, added item 3663.

1993—Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §704(a)(3)(B)(ii), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1270, substituted “free rates” for “free and reduced rates” in item 3627 and added item 3642.

Pub. L. 103-31, §8(h)(4), May 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 86, added item 3629.

SUBCHAPTER I—PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARKET-DOMINANT PRODUCTS

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior subchapter I of this chapter consisted of sections 3601 to 3604, prior to amendment by Pub. L. 109-435, title VI, §601(a)(2), (3), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3238, 3239, which struck out the subchapter heading “POSTAL RATE COMMISSION” and sections 3601 and 3602 and renumbered sections 3603 and 3604 as sections 503 and 504 of this title, respectively, and transferred those sections to chapter 5 of this title.

Section 3601, Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759; Pub. L. 94-421, §3(a), Sept. 24, 1976, 90 Stat. 1304; Pub. L. 103-123, title VII, §708(c), Oct. 28, 1993, 107 Stat. 1273, related to establishment of the Postal Rate Commission.

Section 3602, Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 759, related to terms of office of the Commissioners of the Postal Rate Commission.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-435, title II, §201(c), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3205, redesignated subchapter II of this chapter as this subchapter and substituted “PROVISIONS RELATING TO MARKET-DOMINANT PRODUCTS” for “PERMANENT RATES AND CLASSES OF MAIL” in subchapter heading.

§ 3621. Applicability; definitions

(a) **APPLICABILITY.**—This subchapter shall apply with respect to—

- (1) first-class mail letters and sealed parcels;
- (2) first-class mail cards;
- (3) periodicals;
- (4) standard mail;
- (5) single-piece parcel post;
- (6) media mail;
- (7) bound printed matter;
- (8) library mail;
- (9) special services; and
- (10) single-piece international mail,

subject to any changes the Postal Regulatory Commission may make under section 3642.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Mail matter referred to in subsection (a) shall, for purposes of this subchapter, be considered to have the mean-