

US Postal Laws & Regulations

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Weather reports



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be too short at any post-office, the postmaster should apply to the Second Assistant Postmaster-General for an enlargement. On railroad and steamboat routes there is to be no more delay than is necessary to receive and deliver the mails.

Sec. 511. Who to Have Access to Mails.—Postmasters will permit no person, except his duly sworn assistant, clerks, letter carriers, and post-office inspectors to have access to any mail matter in his office, or to the mail locks or keys. This prohibition extends especially to mail contractors and their drivers. Mails should not be made up or handled within reach of persons not authorized to handle them; and such persons should be excluded from the room appropriated to the use of a post-office while the mails are being opened or made up.

Sec. 512. Postmasters Cannot Remit Overcharges on Mail Matter.—A postmaster has no authority to remit penalties or overcharges on mail matter. In cases where the observance of this rule would seem to work injustice, he will advise the party aggrieved to appeal to the Third Assistant Postmaster-General, keeping, if possible, such memorandum of the facts that he may make report thereon if required. Pending appeal the mail matter involved should remain in the post-office awaiting instructions of the Department. (See section 561.)

Sec. 513. Postmasters must Collect and Examine Waste Paper.—The postmaster, or one of his assistants, before the post-office is swept or cleared, should collect and examine the waste paper which has accumulated therein, in order to guard against the possibility of loss of letters or other mail matter which may have fallen on the floor or have been intermingled with such waste paper during the transaction of business. (See section 484.)

Sec. 514. Signal Service Weather Reports.—Signal Service weather reports are to be treated in all respects like letter mail, whether sent by officers of the Service under penalty envelopes, or sent by private persons and prepaid by stamps. Postmasters and railway postal clerks will use the utmost care to forward them promptly. Postmasters receiving them for posting should immediately post them up in a conspicuous place.

Sec. 515. No Mail Matter to be Solicited.—Every postmaster at a fourth-class office is forbidden, on pain of removal, to solicit from any person residing or doing business within the delivery of any other post-office, or from any agent of such person, the deposit for mailing at his office of any mail matter, or to enter into any agreement, or to have any understanding, with any person whatever, whereby, either for or without consideration, matter to be sent through the mails is procured to be mailed at the office of such postmaster.