

# Direct Insight

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Courtesy of Transcontinental Direct

## *Express*

### **USPS governors accept revised PRC recommendation**

The governors of the U.S. Postal Service yesterday voted to accept the PRC's recommendation to reconsider the Priority Mail flat rate and the non-machineable surcharge on First-Class letters.

When the new rates become effective on May 14, the Priority Mail flat rate will be \$8.95, not \$9.15 as previously announced, and the non-standard surcharge of 17¢ will apply to all First Class mail up to 3.5 oz., not just pieces under 1 oz. as originally approved. We will soon be providing updated rate charts reflecting these changes.

The PRC is still studying the rates for Standard Mail letters and flats. Because a decision is not anticipated for at least two weeks, some mailers have petitioned the Postal Service to defer implementation of these rates until a recommendation is issued by the PRC and approved by the governors.

However, the PRC has not indicated when such a recommendation might be forthcoming, and the Postal Service has not responded to requests to defer rate implementation. As a result, direct marketers should continue to use previously announced rates in their planning until the new rates become effective.