

## **USPS CONTINUES TO IRRADIATE GOVERNMENT MAIL**

The U.S. Postal Service will continue for the foreseeable future to irradiate letters, flats, Express and Priority Mail with stamps for postage and other packages with stamps for postage destined to government agencies in the ZIP Code ranges 202-205.

Mail from known mailers - such as Express with meter strips or corporate accounts, Priority mail with meter strips or permit indicia and registered mail - is not irradiated. At this time, irradiation is the only process used by the Postal Service to sanitize the mail.

Mail that is irradiated may exhibit a discolored (tan-colored) quality, as well as be brittle, show spots on envelopes and make address labels unreadable. Documents bound with glue may have loose pages and some mail may have fused pages. If tape is affixed to address labels, the address will likely not be readable after being irradiated. The type of damage depends on the fiber content of the paper.

Customers and businesses sending mail to ZIP Codes 202-205 can avoid the irradiation process by affixing postage meter strips or permit indicia instead of postage stamps to Express or Priority Mail. The use of corporate accounts for Express Mail or registered mail also is another way to avoid the irradiation process.