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Contract Post Offices

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State weights and measures officials search for enforcement guidelines and contacts when they encounter United States Postal Service (USPS) contract post offices operating in retail businesses. The USPS Government Relations Office headquartered in Washington, D.C. reports that Community Post Offices (CPO) or Contract Postal Units (CPU) have operated for over 200 years throughout the United States.

USPS contract post offices provide mail service that is commercial, but falls outside of weights and measures authority. USPS scales supplied to contract post offices are intended for USPS business only, although the operator may use other devices to provide commercial shipping services for various private carriers.

USPS contract post offices use postage meters and/or scales that fall under the jurisdiction of the local postmaster. The local postmaster maintains records on contract post offices (contract, operator, equipment, etc.) in their area. Information on postmasters for approximately 12,000 post offices is available on the USPS web site at www.usps.com/postmasterfinder.