

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS SCHEDULE 12:  
COMMUNICATIONS RECORDS

06/17/02

The principal records documenting communication functions include messenger service data; telecommunications service control and operational records; long distance telephone reports; postal records, consisting of post office forms and supporting papers; mail control records and supporting and related papers; agency copies of penalty mail reports; and records relating to private delivery service (such as United Parcel Service).

This schedule covers the records described below, wherever located in an Department. In addition, item 4, telephone use records, has been reserved pending development of disposition standards acceptable to both the General Services Administration and the General Accounting Office.

Other than those covered by item 3, all records described in this schedule are authorized for disposal in both hard copy and electronic formats.

See ADM-18, item 42.1 for Communications Security (COMSEC) records retention requirements. Retirement of noncurrent records to inactive storage is authorized.

**1. Messenger Service Files.** (GRS 12, item 1)

Daily logs, assignment records and instructions, dispatch records, delivery receipts, route schedules, and related records.

Destroy when 2 months old.

**2. Communication General Files.** (GRS 12, item 2).

a. Correspondence and related records pertaining to internal administration and operation.

Destroy when 2 years old.

b. Telecommunications general files, including plans, reports, and other records pertaining to equipment requests, telephone service, and like matters.

Destroy when 3 years old.

- c. Telecommunications statistical reports including cost and volume data.  
[See also Administrative Schedule 3, item 10]

Destroy when 1 year old.

- d. Telecommunications voucher files.  
[See also Administrative Schedule 3, item 10]

- (1) Reference copies of vouchers, bills, invoices, and related records.

Destroy when 1 fiscal year old.

- (2) Records relating to installation, change, removal, and servicing of equipment.

Destroy 1 year after audit or when 3 years old, whichever is sooner.

- e. Copies of agreements with background data and other records relating to agreements for telecommunications services.

Destroy 2 years after expiration or cancellation of agreement.

### **3. Telecommunications Operational Files. (GRS 12, item 3)**

- a. Message registers, logs, performance reports, daily load reports, and related and similar records.

Destroy when 6 months old.

- b. Copies of incoming and original copies of outgoing messages, including SF 14, Telegraphic Message maintained by communications offices or centers, and EXCLUDING the copies maintained by the originating program office.

Destroy when 2 years old.

#### **3.1 Telecommunications Master Files and Data Bases. (N1-434-98-15)**

Master files and data bases created to supplement or replace the records covered by item 3 are not authorized.

Destroy/delete when 3 years old.

**4. Telephone Use Records.** (GRS 12, item 4)

**RESERVED**

**5. Post Office and Private Mail Company Records.** (GRS 12, item 5)

Post Office and private mail company forms and supporting papers.

- a. Records relating to incoming or outgoing registered mail pouches, registered, certified, insured, overnight, express, and special delivery mail including receipts and return receipts.

Destroy when 1 year old.

- b. Application for registration and certification of declared value mail.

Destroy when 1 year old.

- c. Report of loss, rifling, delayed or late delivery, wrong delivery, or other improper treatment of mail.

Destroy when 1 year old.

**6. Mail and Delivery Service Control Files.** (GRS 12, item 6)

- a. Records of receipt and routing of incoming and outgoing mail and items handled by private delivery companies such as United Parcel Service, EXCLUDING both those covered by item 5 and those used as indexes to correspondence files.

Destroy when 1 year old. (GRS 12, item 6a)

- b. Statistical reports of postage used on outgoing mail and fees paid for private deliveries (special delivery, foreign, registered, certified, and parcel post or packages over 4 pounds).

Destroy when 6 months old. (GRS 12, item 6b)

- c. Requisition for stamps (exclusive of copies used as supporting documents to payment vouchers).

Destroy when 6 months old. (GRS 12, item 6c)

- d. Statistical reports and data relating to handling of mail and volume of work performed.

Destroy when 1 year old. (GRS 12, item 6d)

- e. Records relating to checks, cash, stamps, money orders, or any other valuables remitted to the agency by mail.

Destroy when 1 year old. (GRS 12, item 6e)

- f. Records of and receipts for mail and packages received through the Official Mail and Messenger Service.

Destroy when 6 months old. (GRS 12, item 6f)

- g. General files including correspondence, memoranda, directives, and guides relating to the administration of mail room operations.

Destroy when 1 year old or when superseded or obsolete, whichever is applicable. (GRS 12, item 6g)

- h. Locator cards, directories, indexes, and other records relating to mail delivery to individuals.

Place record in inactive file upon separation or transfer of individual or when obsolete. Cut off inactive file annually. Destroy 75 years after cutoff. (N1-434-98-15, Item 2)

**7. Penalty Mail Reports.** (GRS 12, item 7)

Official penalty mail reports and all related papers.

Destroy when 6 years old.

**8. Postal Irregularities File.** (GRS 12, item 8)

Memoranda, correspondence, reports and other records relating to irregularities in the handling of mail, such as loss or shortage of postage stamps or money orders, or loss or destruction of mail.

Destroy 3 years after completion of investigation.

**9. Electronic Mail and Word Processing System Copies. (N1-434-98-15)**

Electronic copies of records that are created on electronic mail and word processing systems and used solely to generate a recordkeeping copy of the records covered by the other items in this schedule. Also includes electronic copies of records created on electronic mail and word processing systems that are maintained for updating, revision, or dissemination.

- a. Copies that have no further administrative value after the recordkeeping copy is made. Includes copies maintained by individuals in personal files, personal electronic mail directories, or other personal directories on hard disk or network drives, and copies on shared network drives that are used only to produce the recordkeeping copy.

Destroy/delete within 180 days after the recordkeeping copy has been produced.

- b. Copies used for dissemination, revision, or updating that are maintained in addition to the recordkeeping copy.

Destroy/delete when dissemination, revision, or updating is completed.