

January 2016 Release Overview

1. Introduction

This document provides an overview of USPS® product and service changes in support of the Competitive Price change, scheduled for January 17, 2016. The changes are effective on the January 17, 2016 release with a *PostalOne!* implementation date of January 3, 2016.

The material in this document is preliminary and provided in order to prepare for upcoming changes that impact the Mail.dat, Mail.XML and Shipping Services File specifications.

This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its printing and any direction found herein is subject to change prior to the release.

For additional resources and documentation, refer to Appendix A and B at the end of this document.

1.1 Postage Statement Changes

Drafts of the new postage statements, minus actual prices, are available on Postal Explorer beginning October 16, 2015: <http://pe.usps.com/tbd>

1.2 Technical Specification Documentation Changes

The Mail.dat 15-1 and 16-1, and Mail.XML 17-0 and 18.0 specifications for eDoc and Postage Statement Functionality and the Shipping Services File versions 1.6, 1.7 and 2.0 are impacted by these changes.

USPS Mail.dat and Mail.XML technical specifications updates for the January 2016 release are to be published on RIBBS as they become available:

https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2016/releases/jan2016/tbd

Publication 205 Revision, Electronic Verification System updates for the January 2016 release are to be published on RIBBS as they become available

<https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=evs/tbd>

Publication 199, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode updates for the January 2016 release are to be published on RIBBS as they become available

<https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail/tbd>

1.2.1 Mail.dat and Mail.XML Specifications

Changes for the Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications include, but are not limited to discontinued USPS products, validations for valid rate ingredient combinations and support for new incentive.

Changes include discontinuation USPS products.

Eliminate First-Class Package Service Commercial Plus Pricing [337]

- Elimination of Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C [351]
- Elimination of Critical Mail [416]
- Elimination of Parcel Select - ONDC Presort and NDC Presort [343]

Changes to validations

- Add IMpb non-compliance criteria [438]
- Extend First-Class Package Service Commercial Base Pricing weight breaks to 15.999 oz. [337]

Change to add Support

- Add new incentive enumeration [336]

Non Price Change Mail.XML only Changes

- BundleID in the MailPieceCreateRequest message
- Support ECAN Barcode in the postage statement create responses

For detailed information for the changes to the Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications, specific fields and values, refer to Appendix A: IDEAlliance Change Requests.

1.2.2 Shipping Services File (SSF) eVS Rate Ingredients

The USPS will update the eVS rate ingredients in the SSF versions 1.6, 1.7 and 2.0. These changes include, but are not limited to validations and remapping for discontinued USPS products, introduction of new Service Type Codes (STCs), and specification updates to add support for new products.

https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2016/releases/jan2016/tbd

Changes include, but are not limited to discontinuation USPS products

- Eliminate First-Class Package Service Commercial Plus Pricing [337]
- Eliminate of Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C. Default setting to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to a manifest error. [351]
- Eliminate of Priority Mail International Regional Rate Box C. Default setting to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to a manifest error. [467]
 - Eliminate of Critical Mail [416]
- Eliminate Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Box [339]
- Eliminate Priority Mail International Express Flat Rate Box [466]
- Elimination of Parcel Select - ONDC Presort and NDC Presort [343]
- Eliminate Parcel Return Service NDC [330]

Changes to validations

- Add IMpb non-compliance criteria [438]

- Extend First-Class Package Service Commercial Base Pricing weight breaks to 15.999 oz. [337]
- Support new Country Codes in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). [380]
- Realign country rate price groups to new one price structure [BNS 377]

For detailed information regarding specific eVS rate ingredient changes, refer to the *Publication 205, Appendix G: Service Type Code and Rate Ingredient Tables for the January 2016*

2 Changes by Mail Class

2.1 Changes to First-Class Package Service

2.1.1 Eliminate the First-Class Package Service Commercial Plus Pricing (BNS 337)

Commercial Plus Pricing (CPP) for First-Class Package Service (FCPS) will be eliminated in its entirety. FCPS Commercial Base pricing will be extended to support weight breaks from 14 to 15.999 ounces. This pricing will be available to all commercial mailers. No additional minimums will apply and an agreement will not be required.

FCPS Commercial Base pricing categories for 5-digit, 3-digit and ADC sortation will be eliminated. FCPS will only support single-piece pricing. Only a single-piece commercial base price will be applied (for such pieces they will not be sealed against inspection). Irregular parcels would continue to be charged a surcharge. IMpb Non-compliance surcharges also still apply. Mail preparation and separation rules remain the same.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

Shipping Services File changes include eliminating rate ingredients for 5-digit, 3-digit and ADC and Mixed ADC map to only single piece prices. Mailers who continue to use the invalid rates will be charged single piece prices based on weight up to 15.999 ounces.

2.1.2 Eliminate First-Class Mail Repositional Notes (BNS 426)

The USPS will eliminate Repositional Notes from the First-Class Mail postage statement; mailers may still attach Repositional Notes to mailpieces.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

2.2 Changes to Priority Mail

2.2.1 Eliminate Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C (BNS 351)

The USPS will discontinue the Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C.

Mail.dat changes include discontinuing support for Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C. File submissions will experience Client Errors if mailers use the discontinued values. IDEAlliance CR 1605

Shipping Services File for eVS changes include eliminating rate ingredients for Priority Mail International Regional Rate Box C and defaulting to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to a manifest error if a mailer continues to use obsolete rate ingredients.

2.2.2 Eliminate Critical Mail (BNS 416)

The USPS will discontinue Critical Mail for both letters and flats categories for Priority Mail Critical Mail and for Priority Mail Critical Mail with Signature

Mail.dat and Mail.XML changes include discontinuing support for Priority Mail Critical Mail and Priority Mail Critical Mail – with Signature. File submissions will experience Client Errors if mailers use the discontinued values. IDEAlliance CR 1606/1806

Shipping Services File for eVS changes include eliminating rate ingredients for Critical Mail related to Critical Mail and remapping to Priority Mail Commercial Plus Flat Rate Envelope if a mailer continues to use obsolete rate ingredients.

2.3 Changes to Priority Mail Express

2.3.1 Eliminate Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Box (BNS 339)

The USPS will discontinue the Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Box.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

Shipping Services File for eVS changes include eliminating rate ingredients for PME Flat Rate Box, default to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to manifest errors that are resolved manually if a mailer continues to use obsolete rate ingredients.

2.4 Changes to Parcel Select

2.4.1 Rename Parcel Select Nonpresort (BNS 341)

The USPS will rename Parcel Select® Nonpresort as Parcel Select Ground™ and add Balloon Pricing. This is a name change only; mail preparation and other requirements will remain intact.\

Mail.dat changes include changing the description for Par Select (nonpresort) to for Parcel Select Ground. Mail.XML changes require no change in specification Mail.XML requires a description change. IDEAlliance CRs 1502, 1603, 1701, 1803

Shipping Services File for eVS changes require a documentation change only. Balloon Pricing is currently implemented.

2.4.2 Eliminate Parcel Select ONDC Presort and NDC Presort (BNS 343)

The USPS will discontinue Parcel Select ONDC Presort and Parcel Select NDC Presort. Mail.dat and Mail.XML changes include discontinuing support for Parcel Select (NDC Sort) and Parcel Select (ONDC Sort. File submissions will experience Client Errors if mailers use the discontinued values. IDEAlliance CR 1604/1701/1804

Shipping Services File for eVS include eliminating rate ingredients for Parcel Select ONDC and NDC and remapping to Parcel Select Ground rate ingredients.

2.5 Changes to Returns Services

2.5.1 Eliminate RNDC for Parcel Return Service (BNS 330)

The USPS will discontinue the Return Network Distribution Center (RNDC) as a pickup point for Parcel Return Service. When Parcel Return Service (PRS) is entered at an RNDC, the USPS will apply the Parcel Select Ground Return Service prices.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specification require no changes.

Shipping Services File for eVS include eliminating rate ingredients for RNDC PRS prices and remapping to Parcel Select Ground rate ingredients (Note that USPS is changing the name from Parcel Select Nonpresort to Parcel Select Ground).

2.6 Changes to Global Products

2.6.1 Include International Insurance (BNS 357)

USPS plans to insure Priority Mail International (PMI) single piece, Medium Flat-Rate and Large Flat-Rate boxes against loss, damage or missing contents at no additional charge according to the rules below:

- \$200 of insurance will be included at no additional charge for shipments containing merchandise (non-document shipments).
- \$100 of insurance will be included at no additional charge for non-negotiable document shipments.
- Free insurance will not be included for Flat-Rate Envelopes, including padded, legal, window and gift card envelopes, nor for Small Flat Rate boxes, including the DVD and video boxes

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no change.

Shipping Services File require no change.

2.6.2 Eliminate Priority Mail International Regional Rate Box C (BNS 467)

The USPS will discontinue the Priority Mail International Regional Rate Box C.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes. Note that for Mail.XML, E4 will continue to be used for Regional Rate Boxes, but Box C weighing over 20 pounds will not be supported.

Shipping Services File changes include eliminating the rate ingredients for Priority Mail International Regional Rate Box C and defaulting to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to a manifest error that is resolved manually if a mailer continues to use obsolete rate ingredients.

2.6.3 Eliminate Priority Mail Express International Flat-Rate Boxes (BNS 466)

The USPS will discontinue the Priority Mail Express International Flat-Rate Boxes.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML require no changes.

Shipping Services File changes include eliminating the rate ingredients for Priority Mail Express International Flat-Rate Boxes and defaulting to the single piece price when weight is included; when weight is not included default to a manifest error that is resolved manually if a mailer continues to use obsolete rate ingredients.

2.6.4 Eliminate Global Direct Canada (BNS 301)

The USPS will discontinue Global Direct Canada offerings. Sections of the PS Form 3700 will be removed: I (Global Direct-Canada Admail—Permit Imprint), J (Global Direct—Canada Publications Mail—Permit Imprint), and K (Global Direct—Canada Letter mail—Permit Imprint) in Postage Statement 3700.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

Shipping Services File require no changes.

2.6.5 Priority Mail Intl and Priority Mail Express Intl Flat Rate Item Price Groups (BNS 377)

The USPS will restructure the country rate price groups for Priority Mail International and Priority Mail Express International Flat Rate to better align with the existing eight price groups currently used for the Regional Rate Box zone structure. These Flat Rate products will be moving from their current two-price system, one price for Canada and one price for all other countries, to a revised pricing structure based on price groups. New pricing will be calculated similarly to domestic and international Regional Rate boxes with pricing based not on weight but solely on destination with destination countries assigned to one of eight defined price groups

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

Shipping Services File changes involve realignment of the country rate price groups for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express International for flat rate items.

2.6.6 New Designated Operator for Bonaire, St. Eustatius, Saba (BNS 380)

The USPS will support a new designated operator for Bonaire, Sint. Eustatius, and Saba. As of 1 January 2014, Flamingo Express Dutch Caribbean N.V. has become operational with an office of exchange on Bonaire Regulatory change based on Universal Postal Union (UPU) IB circulars #214 dated December 16, 2013 and #14 dated January 27, 2014.

Postal items addressed to Bonaire, Sint. Eustatius and Saba will need to be sent to Bonaire (BQBONB) office of exchange.

The parent/child relationship listing in the index of the International Mail Manual (IMM) will also be updated to reflect that these islands are not connected. The Alpha 2-Code for Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba will also be changed to BQ.

In the IMM, a new Individual Country Listing (ICL) will be created for Bonaire, Sint. Eustatius, and Saba, no longer a under the Curacao Listing. The observations, prohibitions, restrictions, groups, and limits for Bonaire, Sint. Eustatius and Saba will remain the same as Curacao. For IPA and ISAL, BON will be the Foreign Office of Exchange code for Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require no changes.

Shipping Services File require no changes. eVS will support new Country Codes in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

2.7 Changes to Multiple Mail Classes

2.7.1 IMpb Barcode, Address Barcode and Shipping Services File Quality (BNS 438)

Currently mailers are assessed IMpb compliance fees based on three factors: an IMpb on the mail piece, timely transmission of a Shipping Services File version 1.6 or greater, and inclusion of required address elements in the Shipping Services File. Effective with the January 2016 price change, additional criteria will be verified as part of IMpb compliance validations for Priority Mail Parcels, Priority Mail Express, Metro Post, First-Class Mail Package Service, Parcel Select and Parcel Select Lightweight packages.

- **Manifest Quality:** This new compliance logic will require customers to provide accurate information within the Manifest File. The Product Tracking Reporting (PTR) system has identified existing warnings and errors that are generated in the SSF ingest process to trigger this new manifest quality compliance.
- **Address Quality:** This new compliance logic will validate the delivery address received for each mail piece. The street addresses included in the Shipping Services File will be verified to insure they are Delivery Point Validated. Mailers must provide a Destination Delivery Address that validates to the 11 digit DPV or the 11 Digit Delivery Point validates to the Delivery Address; this information can be provisioned in the SSF or Shipping Partner.
- **Barcode Quality:** This new compliance logic will validate the readability of barcodes (print quality) as well as barcode construction. The compliance logic will also take in account if a label had to be manually keyed or if there was a Duplicate Event (46) prior to the Arrival at Unit Event (07) that is processed by PTR.

For detailed technical information such as the specific Field Name and Warning Error, refer to the **Product Tracking & Reporting, Release 6.0, January 2016 Price Change** document for validations that will cause a mail piece to generate a manifest, address or barcode quality IMpb non-compliance.

For detailed technical information specific to eVS, refer to the **eVS® Shipping Service File Rate Ingredient Changes** document for validations that will cause a mail piece to generate an IMpb non-compliance fee. Shipping Services File require no changes. eVS will require new validations.

For Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications no changes are required, and no upfront client or server validations will occur. Downstream verification processes will assess compliance against new barcode quality related criteria.

2.7.2 Incentive to reward Direct Mail Campaigns

In the future, the USPS may incent mailers to optionally track direct mail campaigns. To help evaluate outcomes, a new content characteristic to track mailpiece content is required.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications require support of new content characteristic. IDEAlliance CRs 1501/1608/1702/1808.

Shipping Services File require no changes.

3 Appendix B: Additional Resources

3.1 eVS® Shipping Service File Rate Ingredient Changes

- <https://ribbs.usps.gov>

3.2 Product Tracking & Reporting, Release 6.0, January 2016 Price Change

- <https://ribbs.usps.gov>

Available now: Highly recommended to read review.

3.3 Intelligent Mail Package Barcode, Publication 199

- https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf

3.4 USPS Mail.dat and Mail.XML technical specifications

□ https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_schedule2016/releases/jan2016/techspecs.cfm

3.5 Publication 205 Revision, Electronic Verification System

□ <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=evs>