

# **January 2017 Proposed Structural Changes**

## **Pre Release Document**

**This document describes potential changes under review for the next structural implementation. This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its publication and any direction found herein is subject to change prior to the release.**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.0 CREATE UP TO 3.5 OUNCE FREE FOR COMMERCIAL LETTERS.....	1
3.0 COMBINE 3 DIGIT AND AADC SORTATION INTO “AADC” .....	1
4.0 FLATS SEQUENCING SYSTEM (FSS) .....	2
5.0 ELIMINATE PERMIT RELATED FEES.....	3
6.0 ELIMINATE QBRM PERMIT RELATED FEES.....	4
7.0 ONE PERMIT FOR OUTBOUND AND RETURNS PACKAGE SHIPMENTS.....	4
8.0 UPDATE WEIGHT LIMIT FOR PIECE PRICING FOR STANDARD MAIL LETTERS AND FLATS .....	6
9.0 STANDARD MAIL HEAVY LETTER SIMPLIFICATION.....	6
10.0 REDUCE SIMPLE SAMPLE PRICING TIERS.....	6
11.0 ALTERNATE POSTAGE NAME CHANGE TO SHARE MAIL AND PRICE TIER CHANGES.....	6
12.0 INFORMED DELIVERY EDOC ENHANCEMENT .....	7
13.0 FIRST-CLASS PACKAGE SERVICE AREA DISTRIBUTION CENTER LABELING LIST .....	7
14.0 ADJUST FORWARDED FEE TO TWO DECIMAL PLACES .....	7
15.0 PREMIUM FORWARDING SERVICE COMMERCIAL ENHANCEMENT .....	8
16.0 MAILING PROMOTIONS FOR 2017.....	8
17.0 CHANGE NAME OF STANDARD MAIL TO USPS MARKETING MAIL .....	8
18.0 COLLECT ON DELIVERY WITH HOLD FOR PICKUP .....	8
19.0 APPLICABLE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS .....	9

## 1.0 Introduction

Included in this document are the changes that are under consideration for the next Structural Release scheduled for January 22, 2017. This document describes potential changes under review for the next structural implementation. This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its publication and any direction found herein is subject to change prior to the release.

The following sections will outline the changes to Mail.dat, Mail.XML, Shipping Services File and the Postage Statements. Draft postage statements will be posted on Postal Explorer, <http://pe.usps.com>.

## 2.0 Create up to 3.5 ounce free for commercial letters

The USPS is considering having one price for commercial letters up to 3.5 ounces. This includes First-Class Mail (FCM) Residual letters. This proposal does not include single-piece First-Class Mail retail letters.

Mail.dat changes will include updates to the description field name for FCM letter Residual Preparation Indicator to include three point five ounces free.

Mail.XML changes will include updates to the description field name for residualPrepType to include three point five ounces free.

The following postage statements will be updated: First-Class Mail PS Form 3600-FCM.

This change is applicable to First-Class Mail Commercial letters, and Residual Single-Piece letters.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 3.0 Combine 3 Digit and AADC Sortation into “AADC”

The USPS is considering combining 3 digit and automated area distribution center (AADC) presorts into “AADC” presort level for commercial First-Class Mail Letters and Cards and Standard Mail letters. Mail preparation changes will include combining 3 Digit (L003) and AADC (L801) into the L801 AADC sortation and removing the L003 labeling list. This change is applicable to Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit) Automation letters, First-Class Mail Automation Postcards, Automation letters and Roundtrip DVD, CD, or Other Disc Mail Automation letters.

The labeling lists will be published and updated according to the following schedule:

- November 1, 2016: Initial draft of revised L801. Distributed on Postal Pro and through MTAC
- December 1, 2016: Publish update to L801 as part of the December labeling list product within FAST. Effective January 1, 2017 for mailer use. L003 may not be used after February 1, 2017.
- January 1, 2017: Publish update to L801 as part of the January labeling list product within FAST. L003 will not be in January labeling list. Mailers may still use L003 published in December label list product.
- February 1, 2017: Mailers must use the labeling lists published on January 1, 2017

There will be no structure changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

**Note:** A new error code will be implemented to notify mailers that 3 digit price is no longer supported. The Drop Ship product file containing the updated labeling lists and Mail Direction Files will be made available at the FAST application under Resources link.

There will be changes to the postage statements. The following postage statements will be updated: First-Class Mail PS Form 3600-FCM, Standard Mail PS Form 3602-R and Nonprofit Standard Mail PS Form 3602-N.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 4.0 Flats Sequencing System (FSS)

The USPS is considering eliminating the Flats Sequencing System (FSS) pricing cells from price tables and postage statements. Postage prices for flats will be driven through virtual sortation levels at 3 digit and 5 digit, for both barcoded and non-barcoded and Carrier Route (CR) (BPM only) CR Basic, CR High Density Plus (Std M only), CR High Density, and Saturation (Periodicals only) prices. USPS will manage FSS mail preparation through existing mailing standards and labeling lists as outlined in Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) sections 705 and 708. Every piece in an FSS bundle must be properly marked (OEL) to determine price and class eligibility.

### **FSS Scheme bundle prep:**

- There are no changes to current FSS bundle prep rules. All presorted and basic carrier route Standard Mail, presorted and carrier route Bound Printed Matter (BPM), and Periodicals flats must be sorted to FSS schemes.

### **FSS per Piece Price:**

- There will be changes to FSS per Piece Prices. FSS Scheme per piece price cells will be eliminated. Per piece prices will be determined by piece pre-sort prior to placing in an FSS Scheme bundle.

### **FSS Scheme pallet prep:**

- There will be no changes to current FSS Scheme pallet prep rules. An FSS scheme pallet, or approved alternate container, must be made when 250 pounds or more of bundles are available for an individual FSS scheme.

### **FSS Scheme pallet/Destination prices:**

- There will be changes to FSS Scheme pallet destination prices. DFSS price cells will be eliminated. Destination per piece prices will now be determined by entry location (DNDC, DSCF).

**Note:** Pieces prepared in FSS Scheme bundles, placed on FSS Scheme pallets and entered at an FSS location will be eligible for DSCF prices.

### **FSS Facility pallet prep:**

- There will be no changes to current FSS Facility pallet prep rules. Permitted only for FSS Scheme Bundles prepared for FSS sort plans processed within the same facility. (L006)

### **FSS Facility pallet/Destination prices:**

- There will be changes to FSS Facility pallet destination prices. DFSS price cells will be eliminated. Destination per piece prices will now be determined by entry location (DNDC, DSCF).

**Note:** Pieces prepared in FSS Scheme bundles, placed on FSS Facility pallets and entered at an FSS location will be eligible for DSCF prices.

### **FSS Bundle Prices for Periodicals:**

- There will be changes to FSS Bundle prices for Periodicals. FSS price cells for Periodical bundle charges will be eliminated. FSS Scheme bundles placed on FSS Scheme pallets will pay bundle level Carrier Route prices. FSS Scheme bundles placed on FSS Facility pallets will pay bundle level 3-Digit/SCF prices.

### **FSS Sack and Tray Prices for Periodicals:**

- There will be changes to FSS Sack and Tray prices for Periodicals. FSS price cells for Periodical sack and tray prices will be eliminated. Sacks and trays prepared as FSS Scheme or FSS Facility sacks and trays will pay 3-Digit/SCF tray/sack prices. Entry sack and tray prices for Periodicals will be determined by entry location (DSCF, DADC, DNDC, and Origin).

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**FSS Pallet prices for Periodicals:**

- There will be changes to FSS pallet prices for Periodicals. FSS price cells for Periodical pallet prices will be eliminated. Periodical FSS Scheme containers will pay the Carrier Route pallet price. Periodical FSS Facility pallets will pay 3-Digit/SCF pallet prices. Entry pallet prices will be determined by entry location (DSCF, DADC, DNDC, and Origin).

Mail.dat changes will include removal/dagging of the FSS rate categories, zone and destination entry discounts. FSS container level, FSS container entry facility types, and FSS bundle level will continue to be supported. Mailers will be required to identify the FSS facility type when entering mail at an FSS facility.

Mail.XML changes will include removal of the FSS rate categories, zone and destination entry discounts. FSS container level, FSS container entry facility types, and FSS bundle level will continue to be supported. Mailers will be required to identify the FSS facility type when entering mail at an FSS facility.

The following postage statements will be updated: Periodicals PS Form 3541, Standard Mail PS Form 3602-R, Nonprofit Standard Mail PS Form 3602-N, and Package Services PS Form 3605.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

**5.0 Eliminate Permit Related Fees**

The USPS is considering eliminating the one time permit imprint application fee and annual presort/destination entry mailing fees for the following products: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select, Parcel Select Lightweight, Library Mail, Media Mail and Bound Printed Matter (parcels).

The USPS is considering eliminating the annual Returns Services permit fee and the annual account maintenance fee for the following products; Merchandise Return Services, USPS Returns (Scan Based Payment) and Parcel Return Service, regardless of the number of pieces shipped using the permit.

- The USPS is considering eliminating the annual permit fees for BRM High-Volume parcel Invoicing.
  - o BRM Sub-Accounts will be able to pay their annual Maintenance Fee without their Master having paid their annual permit fee.
  - o Basic BRM parcel invoicing will not require any fees when using a PI/OI Permit defined as a Shipping Products Permit.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

There will be no changes to the postage statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2017				
Outbound	Eliminate Permit Imprint Application Fee	Eliminate Annual Mailing Fee	Eliminate Annual Account Maintenance Fee	New Customer Shipping Products Permit
Bound Printed Matter <sup>1</sup> Parcels	X	X		X
First-Class Package Service <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Library Mail <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Media Mail <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Parcel Select <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Parcel Select Lightweight <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Priority Mail <sup>1</sup>	X			X
Priority Mail Express <sup>1</sup>	X			X
Returns				
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>2</sup> Basic Parcels (only)	X		X	
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>2</sup> High Volume Parcels (only)	X			
BRM <sup>2</sup> Bulk Weight Averaging (parcels)	X			
Merchandise Return Service (MRS) <sup>2</sup>	X		X	
Parcel Return Service (PRS) <sup>2</sup>	X		X	X
USPS Returns <sup>2</sup>	X		X	X
1. Annual Account Maintenance fee not applicable. 2. Annual Mailing fee not applicable.				

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EFFECTIVE MARCH 2017				
Returns	Eliminate Permit Imprint Application Fee	Eliminate Annual Mailing Fee	Eliminate Annual Account Maintenance Fee	New Customer Shipping Products Permit
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>1</sup> Parcels (only)				X
BRM <sup>1</sup> Bulk Weight Averaging (parcels)				X
Merchandise Return Service (MRS) <sup>1</sup>				X
1. Annual Mailing fee not applicable.				

## 6.0 Eliminate QBRM Permit Related Fees

The USPS is considering eliminating the annual permit fees for BRM customers who use only Qualified Basic Qualified Business Reply Mail and High Volume Qualified Business Reply Mail (QBRM) for letters and cards.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

There will be no changes to the postage statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 7.0 One Permit For Outbound and Returns Package Shipments

The USPS is considering allowing mailers to utilize one permit for both outbound and return products. Mailers will be allowed to use an existing Permit Imprint (PI) permit type for returns products. The following package products are included in this proposal; Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Services, Bound Printed Matter (parcels only), Media Mail, Library Mail, Parcel Select, Parcel Select Lightweight, Business Reply Mail (Parcels only), Merchandise Return Services, and USPS Returns (Scanned Based Payment) and Parcel Returns Service.

Customers wishing to utilize the Shipping Products Permit in January must use either USPS Returns (Scan Based) or Parcel Return Service product. Customers currently using Business Reply Mail for parcels or Merchandise Return Service labels will be able to utilize the Shipping Products Permit in late March.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.




There will be no changes to postage statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2017				
Outbound	Eliminate Permit Imprint Application Fee	Eliminate Annual Mailing Fee	Eliminate Annual Account Maintenance Fee	New Customer Shipping Products Permit
Bound Printed Matter <sup>1</sup> Parcels	X	X		X
First-Class Package Service <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Library Mail <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Media Mail <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Parcel Select <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Parcel Select Lightweight <sup>1</sup>	X	X		X
Priority Mail <sup>1</sup>	X			X
Priority Mail Express <sup>1</sup>	X			X
Returns				
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>2</sup> Basic Parcels (only)	X		X	
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>2</sup> High Volume Parcels (only)	X			
BRM <sup>2</sup> Bulk Weight Averaging (parcels)	X			
Merchandise Return Service (MRS) <sup>2</sup>	X		X	
Parcel Return Service (PRS) <sup>2</sup>	X		X	X
USPS Returns <sup>2</sup>	X		X	X
1. Annual Account Maintenance fee not applicable. 2. Annual Mailing fee not applicable.				

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2017				
Returns	Eliminate Permit Imprint Application Fee	Eliminate Annual Mailing Fee	Eliminate Annual Account Maintenance Fee	New Customer Shipping Products Permit
Business Reply Mail (BRM) <sup>1</sup> Parcels (only)				X
BRM <sup>1</sup> Bulk Weight Averaging (parcels)				X
Merchandise Return Service (MRS) <sup>1</sup>				X
1. Annual Mailing fee not applicable.				

Sample Labels Below:

<b>P</b>	U.S. POSTAGE PAID SHIPPING PRODUCTS PERMIT NO. CITY, STATE	JOHN DOE 1258 RETURN LN BETHESDA MD 20817	NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES
	<b>PRIORITY MAIL 1-DAY™</b>	<b>PARCEL RETURN SERVICE</b> ABC RETURNS SHIPPING PRODUCTS PERMIT NO. 77999	
INTERNET SALES DEPT FAST AND EFFICIENT SUPPLY CO. 10474 COMMERCE BLVD DUPLEX B SILVER SPRING MD 20910-9999		AGENT / CLIENT NAME PARCEL RETURN SERVICE 56999	
RONALD RECEIVER C/O RICK RECIPIENT INTERNET PURCHASING OFFICE BIG AND GROWING BUSINESS CO. 8403 LEE HIGHWAY MERRIFIELD VA 22082-9999		<b>ZIP - USPS PARCEL RETURN SERVICE</b>	
USPS TRACKING #			
 9205 5912 3456 7803 2394 01		9202 3912 3456 7806 1500 09	
		RMA# 	<b>X01</b>

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## **8.0 Update Weight Limit for Piece Pricing For Standard Mail Letters and Flats**

The USPS is considering changing the weight for piece pound pricing from 3.3 oz. to 4.0 oz. Piece/price pound prices will apply to pieces four ounces and greater.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML. USPS will map the pieces from eDoc to the correct Postage Statement line based on the new weight ranges and pound based price weight requirements.

The following Postage Statements will be updated: Standard Mail PS Form 3602-R and Nonprofit Standard Mail PS Form 3602-N. This change is applicable to Nonautomation Nonmachinable letters, Carrier Route Nonautomation letters, Nonautomation flats, Carrier Route flats, EDDM flats and Carrier Route EDDM flats.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## **9.0 Standard Mail Heavy Letter Simplification**

The USPS is considering simplifying pricing for Standard Mail heavy letters:

The USPS is considering eliminating the 3.3 - 3.5 oz. weight break and remove the respective price cells for standard mail automation letters. In addition, this change updates the weight break for presort letters from 3.3 to 3.5 oz. The per piece weight limit will change from 3.3 oz. to 3.5 oz. This change is applicable to Automation letters, Nonautomation Machinable letters, Carrier Route Automation letters and Carrier Route EDDM letters only

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML. USPS will map the pieces from eDoc to the correct Postage Statement line based on the new weight ranges.

The following Postage Statements will be updated: Standard Mail PS Form 3602-R and Nonprofit Standard Mail PS Form 3602-N

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## **10.0 Reduce Simple Sample Pricing Tiers**

The USPS is considering simplifying the pricing for Simple Sample volume.

The USPS is considering reducing Simple Sample volume based pricing tiers from six tiers to two tiers. The two tiers will be up to 200,000 and 200,001 and above.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

The following Postage Statements will be updated: Standard Mail PS Form 3602-R and Nonprofit Standard Mail PS Form 3602-N

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## **11.0 Alternate Postage name change to Share Mail and price tier changes**

The USPS is considering renaming Alternate Postage to Share Mail. This product is limited to letters and postcards and prefunding is no longer necessary with the Share Mail product.

Share Mail customers who wish to participate must provide a pre-approved mailpiece with a FIM E (Facing Identification Mark E pattern), Indicia and IMb. The USPS is considering removing the prefunding pricing tiers for Share Mail and instead will have one price for letters (\$0.57) and one price for postcards (\$0.42) which will be charged post processing.

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The customer pays for 100% of postage based on the number of IMb scans received to determine piece count. Automated invoicing process will deducts the funds from the mailers CAPS account.

IMba will automatically send transactions to *PostalOne!*

## 12.0 Informed Delivery eDoc Enhancement

The USPS is considering creating a process by which mailers can provide additional supporting content (in the form of digital addresses or URLs) that can then be associated and displayed with the scanned images of mail pieces on the USPS Informed Delivery application dashboard, enhancing the customer's experience. This applies to letters and flats of all classes. Mailers can submit their eDoc with supporting URLs for Informed Delivery dashboard. In order to participate in Informed Delivery via eDoc, the Mail Owner MID information must be provided by the mailer.

Mail.dat changes include additions to support the new referenceable mail records to support linkage of marketing content URLs to mailings or individual mailpieces.

Mail.XML changes include additions to support the new referenceable mail records to support linkage of marketing content URLs to mailings or individual mailpieces.

There will be no changes to the Postage Statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 13.0 First-Class Package Service Area Distribution Center Labeling List

The USPS is considering enabling an optional labeling list for First-Class Package Service Area Distribution Center (ADC) to improve entry and service performance. Use of this list will allow mailers to make separations to the current FCPS Parcels processing network. New optional labeling list L015 will be created for First-Class Package Service ADC Parcels entered at ADC. L015 will follow the same structure as that of L004 First-Class Mail Letters.

The labeling lists will be published at FAST website and updated according to the following schedule:

- November 1, 2016: Initial draft of new labeling list L015. Distributed on Postal Pro and through MTAC
- December 1, 2016: Publish update to L015 as part of the December labeling list product within FAST. Effective January 1, 2017 for mailer use.
- January 1, 2017: Publish update to L015 as part of the January labeling list product within FAST.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

There will be no changes to the Postage Statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 14.0 Adjust Forwarded Fee to Two Decimal Places

The USPS is considering adjusting the prices for forwarding fees prices for Standard Mail letters and flats, two places to the right of the decimal. The Forwarded Fee prices for Standard Mail letters and flats are set three places to the right of the decimal.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

There will be no changes to the Postage Statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

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## 15.0 Premium Forwarding Service Commercial Enhancement

The USPS is considering supporting four new flat rates for Premium Forwarding Service Commercial (PFSC), for Half Tray Flat Rate and Full Tray Flat Rate, supported for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express. Special trays will be used.

Mail.dat and Mail.XML will not require changes.

There will be no changes to the external Postage Statements.

The Shipping Services File will require adding two new rate indicators F5 = Full Tray and F6 = Half Tray to support Flat Rate Full tray and Half Tray prices for Priority Mail (Mail Class = PM) and Priority Mail Express (Mail Class = EX).

## 16.0 Mailing Promotions for 2017

The USPS is considering adding the following promotions to the 2017 calendar:

1. Share Mail product to become part of the 2017 Earned Value promotion: USPS proposes to incorporate the Share Mail product (formerly, Alternate Postage) as part of promotions which often serves as a reply mail mechanism. Those mailpieces would be counted during the promotion and receive a certain credit per piece amount which results in Earned Credit.
2. Support a small business-based promotion. This promotion would be a new, 'discount-at-the-time-of-mailing' type promotion to encourage small businesses to participate in the Mailing Promotions. The discount that the mailer receives is capped by either the total number of mailpieces or the total postage dollar amount available for the incentive.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

There will be no changes to the Postage Statements.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

## 17.0 Change Name of Standard Mail to USPS Marketing Mail

The USPS is considering changing the product name of Standard Mail to USPS Marketing Mail. All postage forms and reports will be updated to reflect the name change.

There will be changes to the Postage Statements. The following Postage Statements will be updated: PS Form 3602-C, PS Form 3602-EZ, PS Form 3602-N, PS Form 3602-NR, and PS Form 3602-R.

There will be no changes to the Shipping Services File.

There will be no changes to Mail.dat and Mail.XML.

## 18.0 Collect on Delivery with Hold for Pickup

The USPS is considering redesigning the Collect on Delivery (COD) service to require that the package is held at the Retail office under the Hold for Pickup (HFPU) service. COD mail will be held at the Retail offices for recipient to pick up. The existing COD services will be relabeled as "COD HFPU" and "COD HFPU-Restricted Delivery."

Mail.dat changes will include updates to the description of the collect on delivery service types in the .sfr record field.

Mail.XML changes will include updates to the description of the collect on delivery service types in the extra service data block.

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The following Postage Statements will be updated: eVS PS Form 3560, Priority Mail PS Form 3600-PM, First Class Package Services PS Form 3600-FCM and Package Services PS Form 3605-R.

Shipping Services File changes will include continuing to accept the current Service Type Codes (STCs) for COD and COD Restricted Delivery, but will now represent COD HFPU and COD HFPU Restricted Delivery. In addition, a few invalid STCs related to COD are being expired. A list of supported STCs can be found in USPS Publication 199.

## 19.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

The following table identifies which Mail.dat and Mail.XML versions are supported for R45.0.0.0 by the USPS, FAST, and Informed Visibility Systems.

Mail.dat	Mail.XML (eDoc)	Data Distribution	Profiles (MID-CRID)	FAST	Shipping Services
15-1, errata version 15.1.0.6, 17-1	17.0, 19.0	12.0A, 12.0B, 14.0A, 16.0	14.0A, 16.0	14.0A, 16.0	1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 2.0

Support for the below version will end on deployment date of January 8, 2017. eDoc submitted prior to this date in Mail.dat/Mail.XML versions 14-2/16.0 can only be updated after the deployment date.

Mail.dat	Mail.XML (eDoc)	Data Distribution	Profiles (MID-CRID)	FAST	Shipping Services
14-2	16.0	—	12.0A, 12.0B	12.0A, 12.0B	—