



January 2025 Release Overview

Proposed January 2025 Changes CHANGE 2.0

This document describes changes being considered for the next structural implementation. The document is prepared based on the knowledge available at the time of printing and any direction found herein is subject to change prior to the release. The contents of this document are pre-decisional, and subject to change based on Board of Governors and Postal Regulatory Commission decisions.

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1.0 Introduction

This document includes planned changes under review for the next pricing structure release scheduled for January 2025. The document is prepared for the mailing software industry based on the knowledge available at the time of publication, and any direction found herein is subject to change, including additional structure changes prior to the release. The contents of this document are pre-decisional and subject to change.

Draft Postage Statements marked with revisions will be posted to Postal Explorer [Welcome | Postal Explorer \(usps.com\)](#) as they become available.

Market Dominant Changes

2.0 Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode (2D Barcode) – Noncompliance Establishment

The US Postal Service is considering updating systems/processes to detect the absence of the Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode (IMmb, also known as 2D barcodes) on all shipping labels. This includes packages mailed as USPS Ground Advantage, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, Parcel Select, Media Mail, Library Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Return Service and USPS Return. The proposal includes requiring the IMmbs for all labels starting January 19, 2025 including PME, PM, GA, PS, Library Mail, Media Mail, Marketing Mail, Presorted BPM, Periodicals (Parcels), PMERS, PMRS, GARS, and PRS. IMpb Compliance assessments for HAZMAT packages will begin January 19, 2025. This will include PME, PM, GA, PS, MM/LM, PMERS, PMRS, GARS, and PRS. This will bring our systems up to date for HAZMAT compliance. IMpb Compliance assessments for all other packages will begin April 1, 2025. This will prepare the US Postal Service systems to monitor and assess IMmb compliance on all shipping labels.

The US Postal Service implemented the [Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode \(IMmb\)](#) technology in 2023. The IMmb is based on the GS1-DataMatrix. The labeling requirements add two (2) supplemental GS1-DataMatrix IMmb barcodes to the standard shipping label layouts. The two required GS1 IMmb barcodes shall be positioned on the shipping label per the following guidelines:

ID	Label Element	Requirements
*	Barcode Content	The data payload of the IMmb shall match the traditional, GS1-128 Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb). This includes the use of GS1 application identifiers (AIs).
1	Symbology	GS1 DataMatrix
2	Symbol Size	20x20 (Mapping matrix size: 18x18). The square form of the GS1 DataMatrix symbol shall be used. Note: <i>The dimensions of the barcode itself are a function of the matrix and X-dimension</i>
3	Finder Pattern Location	The symbol shall be oriented such that the “L” finder pattern is located in the lower, left-hand corner of the symbol when the shipping label is upright.
4	X-dimension (mils/inches)	Target- 20 mil (0.020”); Min:19 mil (0.019”); Max:22mil (0.022”) X
5	Quiet (Clear) Zone	A quiet zone equal to at least 0.10” shall be observed around all four sides of the symbol. No print or marks shall be applied in this area.
6	GS1 DataMatrix Placement	1. Left of the Delivery Address in the Address and Delivery Information Segment, and 2. in the lower right corner of the shipping label (in the “Additional Information and User Segment” section) beneath the Identification Bars (aka Railroad tracks). Please see figure 1 below.

7	Symbol Reflectance & Contrast	<p>Minimum/Maximum Reflectance</p> <p>The reflectance value of the darkest bar within the barcode symbol (Rmin) shall be equal to or less than half the reflectance value of the lightest space (Rmax), when measured in the red spectral range between 630 nanometers (nm) and 675 nm.</p> $R_{min} \leq 0.5R_{max}$ <p>Symbol Contrast</p> <p>Symbol contrast is the difference between the highest reflectance value (Rmax) and the lowest reflectance value (Rmin) within the barcode symbol, including the quiet zones. The symbol contrast shall be greater than 40 percent.</p> $SC = R_{max} - R_{min}$ $SC \geq 40\%$
8	Barcode Quality	<p>At least 70 percent of the barcodes in each mailing shall have an overall symbol grade of "B" or better when measured with the appropriate aperture size in the red spectral range between 630 nanometers (nm) and 675 nm. The remainder shall measure no less than a Symbol Grade of "C". Specified symbol grades are based upon the ISO/IEC 15415 - Information technology — Automatic Identification and Data capture Techniques — Barcode Symbol Print Quality Test Specification — Two-dimensional Symbols which recommends a method of measuring the quality parameters of printed barcode symbols.</p> <p>The different symbol grades indicate print quality. Only the use of the appropriate aperture for the specific X-dimension of the barcode symbol under consideration will guarantee that the grade obtained from measurement of this symbol is the correct grade according to the ISO/IEC 15415 specified method</p>

The required GS1 IMmb barcodes shall be positioned on the shipping label (sample figures below).

Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode (IMmb / 2D)

1. 3" x 6" label
2. 4" x 4" label
3. 4" x 6" label



Figure 1 – Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode Samples

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes
- Data Feeds: Yes
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: No Impact
- Mail.dat changes: No Impact – Use existing SFR codes to document IMpb Non-Compliance charges (when applicable)
- Mail.XML changes: No Impact – Use existing SFR codes to document IMpb Non-Compliance charges (when applicable)

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No Impact – Use existing Extra Service Codes to document IMpb Non-Compliance charges (when applicable)
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No Impact
- WebTools: No Impact – The Labels API supports the generation and placement of the 2D barcodes on the labels.
- USPS API: No Impact – The Labels API supports the generation and placement of the 2D barcodes on the labels.
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive, Market Dominant

3.0 Labeling List Updates - January 2025 Phase

The US Postal Service is considering a simpler Labeling List framework based on a shape-based, standardized foundation including alignment of internal (NDLL) and external (EELLS) Lists.

Labeling lists currently employ a class-based, multi-shape framework, resulting in random nomenclature, non-alignment between the internal National Distribution Labeling List (NDLL) and the external Enhanced External Label List System (EELLS), and manual updates. As a part of the 10-year DFA plan's Plant/Transportation Network Redesign, the USPS is considering replacing class-based processing with shape-based processing to align internal processing and commercial preparation/entry with a shape-based approach to labeling lists. The future state will include one shape per labeling list; standardized nomenclature; alignment of NDLL and EELLS lists; elimination of duplicate/overlapping lists; and electronic updating.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: TBD
- Data Feeds: TBD
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: No Impact
- Mail.dat changes: TBD
- Mail.XML changes: TBD
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: TBD
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: TBD
- WebTools: TBD
- USPS API: TBD
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant/Competitive

4.0 Connect Local Mail to Permanent Product

The US Postal Service is considering transitioning Connect Local Mail from a market test to a permanent product.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - Reported publicly using IMpbs
- Data Feeds: TBD
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: TBD
- Mail.dat changes: TBD

- Mail.XML changes: TBD
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: TBD
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: TBD
- WebTools: TBD
- USPS API: TBD
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

5.0 Parcel Processing Category Simplification

The US Postal Service is considering simplifying the parcel processing categories by making revisions to the machinable processing category and consolidating irregular and nonmachinable processing categories and renaming it "Nonstandard Parcels".

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: TBD
- Data Feeds: TBD
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: TBD
- Mail.dat changes: TBD
- Mail.XML changes: TBD
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: TBD
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: TBD
- WebTools: TBD
- USPS API: TBD
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

Competitive Changes

6.0 Postage Statement Updates

The US Postal Service is considering changing the order of calculations for discounts, incentives, and promotions, which impacts postage calculation for Marketing Mail, both Regular (PS3602-R) and Nonprofit (PS3602-N) categories and for Bound Printed Matter (PS3605-R). This new calculation order will apply discounts before promotions when postage is calculated. Promotion discounts are calculated and applied after all other discounts and incentives are applied. If multiple promotion discounts apply, each promotion is calculated based on the same postage subtotal, after other discounts and incentives are applied.

From current calculation order:

Line Level – Full-Service Discount applied first

Line Level – Promotion Discount applied second

Lines Postage is totaled

Then SCF Pallet Discount or Containerization Discount and/or Marriage Mail and/or Catalog Incentive is applied last on the subtotal postage

Future calculation order:

Line Level – All discounts are applied:

- Full-Service Discount
- SCF or Delivery Sort Container Discount
- Marriage Mail 2oz Incentive
- Catalog Incentive

Line Level – Promotion Discount is applied last
Lines Postage is totaled

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: TBD
- Data Feeds: TBD
- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes
- Mail.dat changes: TBD
- Mail.XML changes: TBD
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: TBD
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: TBD
- WebTools: TBD
- USPS API: TBD
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant, Competitive, International Market Dominant, International Competitive

7.0 Elimination of Return Receipt for PMI Parcels and FCPIS Packets

The US Postal Service is considering realigning extra service offerings for Return Receipt with UPU-defined supplementary services definition for Advice of Delivery.

Effective January 1, 2025:

1. International Return Receipt will be eliminated for inbound parcels.
2. International Return Receipt will be eliminated for PMI.
3. International Return Receipt will be eliminated for FCPIS + Registered Mail service.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: No Impact
- Data Feeds: No Impact
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes - PS 3700 Part S Extra Services. Notice 123 will be updated to reflect this change.
- Mail.dat changes: No Impact
- Mail.XML changes: No Impact
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No Impact
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No Impact

- WebTools: No Impact
- USPS API: No Impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

8.0 Mail.dat Client Support

Please note the following regarding the Mail.dat client download.

There is a new **required** Mail.dat client with this release. Users should download Mail.dat client from the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) using the following path: Mailing Services → Electronic Data Exchange [Go to Service] → Mail.dat download (Windows 32-bit, Windows 64-bit or Solaris).

9.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

9.1 Updates to *PostalOne!* System eDoc Specification Version Support

9.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that will be supported with the January 2025 release.

<i>PostalOne!</i> System Mail.dat (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Deployment Date	Versions Supported Deployment Date to Price Change Effective Date	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after Price Change Effective Date
23-1	Supported	Supported	–
24-1 (New Errata)	Supported	Supported	Supported
25-1	–	Supported	Supported

Note: *Final version(s) of Mail.dat to be supported will be determined based on discussion with DTAC.

Table 1 – *PostalOne!* System Mail.dat (eDoc) Version Support

Table is for reference only.

9.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.XML specification versions that will be supported with the January 2025 release.

<i>PostalOne!</i> System Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Deployment Date	Versions Supported Deployment Date to Price Change Effective Date	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after Price Change Effective Date
26.2	Supported	Supported	Supported
26.3	Supported	Supported	Supported

PostalOne! System Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Deployment Date	Versions Supported Deployment Date to Price Change Effective Date	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after Price Change Effective Date
27.0	Supported	Supported	Supported
27.1	–	Supported	Supported
28.0	–	Supported	Supported

**Final version(s) of Mail.XML to be supported will be determined based on discussion with DTAC.
Note: New Mail.XML WSDLs will be posted on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/> as they become available.*

Table 2 – PoPostalOne! System Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support

Table is for reference only.

9.2 Updates to PostalOne! System Mail.XML Data Distribution, Mailer ID – Customer Registration ID (MID-CRID), and Facilities Access and Shipment Tracking (FAST) Specification Version Support

The below table depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the January 2025 release.

Versions	Data Distribution Mail.XML		MID-CRID Mail.XML		FAST Mail.XML	
	Currently Supported Versions (Prior to Deployment Date)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Currently Supported Versions (Prior to Deployment Date)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Currently Supported Versions (Prior to Deployment Date)	Post-Release Supported Versions
14.0 A	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
16.0	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
28.0	–	–	–	–	–	Supported

Note: No change to currently supported versions for DD, MID-CRID. Updates to FAST, required for appointment processing for Processing Category of Nonstandard.

Table 3 – PostalOne! System Mail.XML Data Distribution, MID-CRID, and FAST Specification Version Support

Table is for reference only.

9.2.1 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

The below table depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the January 2025 release.

eVS Shipping Services File Version Support		
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Release	Versions Supported on and After Release
1.6	Supported	Supported
1.7	Supported	Supported
2.0	Supported	Supported
Note: <i>No change to currently supported versions. New rate ingredients (or combinations of existing rates) may be required to support the proposed changes.</i>		

Table 4 – Electronic Verification System (eVS) Shipping Services File Version Support

Table is for reference only.

10.0 Document History

Date	Section	Description
10/2/2024	Add New Counterfeit Postage Fee	Removed Section