



January 2026 Release Overview

Proposed January 2026 Changes CHANGE 1.0

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 describes planned changes under review for the next pricing structure release scheduled for January 2026. The document is prepared for the mailing software industry based on the knowledge available at the time of publication and is subject to change, including additional structure changes, prior to release. The contents of this document are pre-decisional.

Draft Postage Statements marked with revisions will be posted to Postal Explorer [Welcome | Postal Explorer \(usps.com\)](https://www.usps.com/welcome-postal-explorer) as they become available.

Market Dominant Changes

2.0 Collapse ADC/AADC/3-Digit Rate Categories and Align Rate Nomenclature For Market Dominant Mail Classes

The Postal Service is considering collapsing ADC/AADC/3-Digit rates for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, and Periodicals and replacing the “3-Digit Scheme”, “ADC”, “AADC”, and “SCF” rate labels with “3 digit”. This may also include eliminating 3-Digit/ADC/AADC mail preparation for First-Class Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, Periodicals, and Bound Printed Matter (or replacing where necessary with an “SCF” sortation level subject to Label List changes). In addition, nomenclature will be updated to label “Mixed ADC”, “Mixed AADC”, and “Mixed NDC” as “Mixed” for First-Class, USPS Marketing Mail, and Periodicals.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - The reports will be updated to support the removal of the ADC and AADC rate categories.
- Data Feeds: The data feeds available via IV-MTR will be updated to support the removal of ADC and AADC rate categories.
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes – PS Forms 3602 R/N, PS Form 3600 FCM, PS Form 3541 will be updated to remove the ADC rate category and incorporate the new naming conventions of 5-Digit, 3-Digit, and Mixed.
- Mail.dat changes: Yes – The Mail.dat technical specification and validation will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and Mixed AADC rate categories.
- Mail.XML changes: Yes – The Mail.XML technical specification and validation will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and Mixed AADC rate categories.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Yes – the rate ingredients will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and AADC rate categories.
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Yes – the rate ingredients will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and AADC rate categories.
- WebTools: Yes - WebTools will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and AADC rate categories.
- USPS API: Yes – USPS API will be updated to reflect the removal of the ADC and AADC rate categories.
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

3.0 Restructure Periodicals Outside County Rates

The Postal Service is considering simplifying the Periodicals pricing structure to more closely resemble the USPS Marketing Mail pricing structure. This will include eliminating bundle rates and container rates and introducing SCF Pallet and Delivery Sort container discounts. Piece rates will be adjusted to collapse the barcoded/nonbarcoded rates for Nonmachinable Flats. Nonmachinable Flats will qualify for the Parcels price. Pound rates will be adjusted to include a Zone A - D for Origin-entered Periodicals, and ADC Entry will be eliminated.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - Online reporting will be updated to reflect restructuring of Periodicals Outside County rates.
- Data Feeds: Yes - Data feeds will be updated to reflect restructuring of Periodicals Outside County rates.
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes – PS Form 3541 (Parts D & E) will be updated to add Zones A through D.
- Mail.dat changes: Mail.dat will be updated to support Zones A through D. The .CQT Zone field will be updated to reflect the updated zones.
- Mail.XML changes: Mail.XML will be updated to support Zones A through D. The PostageStatementCreateRequest > ZoneICType field will be updated to reflect the updated zones.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- WebTools: Yes – The WebTools API will be updated to calculate the postage for packages based on the new Zone pricing structure.
- USPS API: Yes – USPS API will be updated to calculate the postage for packages based on the new Zone pricing structure.
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

4.0 Add Zones to Marketing Mail – All Processing Categories

The Postal Service is considering introducing zone-based prices to USPS Marketing Mail for Origin-entered mail for all processing categories. The Carrier Route, Automation, Nonautomation, Nonmachinable, Presorted, and Nonpresorted categories will be updated to reflect a Zone A – D pricing structure.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: The online reports will be updated to support zone restructuring.
- Data Feeds: The data feeds will be updated to support zone restructuring.
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes – All sections of PS Forms 3602-R/N will be updated to add Zones A through D.
- Mail.dat changes: The Mail.dat .CQT Zone field will be updated to support Zones A through D.
- Mail.XML changes: Mail.XML will be updated to support Zones A through D. The PostageStatementCreateRequest > ZoneICType field will be updated to reflect the zone structure.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Yes – The D1 record Zone field will be updated to reflect the new zones. Zone calculation for packages will be updated to reflect the new zone calculations.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Yes – The Zone field will be updated to reflect the new zones. Zone calculation for packages will be updated to reflect the new zone calculations.
- WebTools: Yes – The WebTools API will be updated to calculate the postage for packages based on the new Zone pricing structure.
- USPS API: Yes – USPS API will be updated to calculate the postage for packages based on the new Zone pricing structure.
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

5.0 Mail Growth Incentives (MGIs) Customer Experience and Management Improvements

The Postal Service is considering finalizing the shift of the 2026 Mail Growth Incentive baseline period from the USPS fiscal year to the calendar year (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025). This will include implementing updates to streamline the customer and USPS Program Office experience, which will result in faster onboarding, reduced barriers to participation, and more efficient management processes.

Summary of Application Impacts

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

6.0 Improving Mailing Promotions Customer Participation Process

The Postal Service is considering automating the promotion preapproval content review process to speed content approval and facilitate customer participation. The Mailing Promotions Portal (MPP) workflow customer experience will remain unchanged.

In addition, the Postal Service is considering implementing email/chatter capability whereby Panorama users communicate with customers via email/chatter within Service Requests (SR) and user activity is tracked with milestones by SR. This includes an out-of-Office (OOO) capability in which users attempting SR transfers are notified when the recipient is OOO.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: No impact
- Data Feeds: No impact
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: No impact
- Mail.dat changes: No impact
- Mail.XML changes: No impact

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- WebTools: No impact
- USPS API: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

7.0 Adjustment of USPS Marketing Mail Weight Limits and Rate Structure

The Postal Service is considering raising maximum allowable weights for USPS Marketing Mail and expanding USPS Marketing Mail Commercial and Nonprofit rate categories. The maximum USPS Marketing Mail Flats weight will be increased to 20 ounces, and the maximum weight for USPS Marketing Mail Flat Carrier Route product categories will be raised to 24 ounces. A new Commercial and Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail Parcels rate category, “Heavy Printed Matter” (HPM), will be introduced, with a weight limit of 15 pounds. Nonpresorted rates will be added to both USPS Marketing Mail Flats and USPS Marketing Mail Parcels.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - Existing reports will be updated to reflect the proposed changes and continue to report on USPS Marketing Mail mailings.
- Data Feeds: Yes - Existing data feeds will be updated to reflect the proposed changes and continue to report on USPS Marketing Mail mailings.
- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes - PS Form 3602 R/N will be updated to add HPM and nonpresorted rates.
- Mail.dat changes: Yes - The core rates tables for USPS Marketing Mail (3602 R/N); the USPS technical specifications for Mail.dat and validations will be updated to reflect the adjustment of the USPS Marketing Mail rate structure for Flats and Parcels.
- Mail.XML changes: Yes - The core rates tables for USPS Marketing Mail (3602 R/N) and the USPS technical specifications for Mail.XML will be updated.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Yes - The rate ingredients will be updated to reflect the proposed changes.
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Yes - The rate ingredients will be updated to reflect the proposed changes.
- WebTools: Yes - The rate API will be updated to reflect the adjustment of the USPS Marketing Mail rate structure for Flats and Parcels.
- USPS API: Yes - The pricing API will be updated to reflect the adjustment of the USPS Marketing Mail rate structure for Flats and Parcels.
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

8.0 Add 5D/Direct Container and SCF Pallet Discount to USPS Marketing Mail Heavy Printed Matter

The Postal Service is considering implementing this change in conjunction with adjustments to the USPS Marketing Mail weight limits and rate structure. This will add a 5D/Direct Container discount for Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter and a SCF Pallet Discount for Presorted and Carrier Route Heavy Printed Matter, both similar to discounts that now exist for USPS Marketing Mail Flats.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - All online reports will be updated to report on the new SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.
- Data Feeds: Data Feeds will be updated to support SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.
- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: There will be postage statement and SKU changes. New SCF pallet discounts/containerization discount lines will be added to PS form 3602-R/N
- Mail.dat changes: Validation, Core rate table, and Tech spec updates for SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.
- Mail.XML changes: Validation, Core rate table, and Tech spec updates for SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No
- WebTools: No Impact
- USPS API: No Impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

9.0 Nomenclature Updates Expansion to Support Network Redesign

The Postal Service is considering eliminating the NDC Presort discount for USPS Marketing Mail Parcels and Marketing Parcels. This would also change "SCF" to "3-Digit" in USPS Marketing Mail Parcels (Commercial and Nonprofit), "SCF" to "LPC" (letters/flats) and "RPDC" (parcels), and "Mixed NDC" to "Mixed".

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes – Remove NDC rate category and change Mixed NDC to Mixed. Change SCF to 3-Digit in USPS Marketing Mail Parcels (Commercial and Nonprofit).
- Data Feeds: Yes – Updated data that reflects removal of the NDC rate category, changes Mixed NDC to Mixed, and changes SCF to 3-Digit in USPS Marketing Mail Parcels (Commercial and Nonprofit).
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Updates to PS Forms 3541, 3600-FCM, 3602-R/N to rename SCF to 3-Digit and Mixed NDC to Mixed.
- Mail.dat changes: Validations and tech spec updates to support and rename SCF to 3-Digit and Mixed NDC to Mixed.
- Mail.XML changes: Validations and tech spec updates to support and rename SCF to 3-Digit and Mixed NDC to Mixed.
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: SSF updates to rename SCF to 3-Digit and eliminate any rate ingredients relating to entry of mail at NDCs.
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: ICR updates to rename SCF to 3-Digit and eliminate any rate ingredients relating to entry of mail at NDCs.
- WebTools: Yes – The WebTools API will be updated to reflect the new pricing structure based on LPC (Letters/Flats/Cards) and RPDC (Packages).
- USPS API: Yes – The USPS API will be updated to reflect the new pricing structure based on LPC (Letters/Flats/Cards) and RPDC (Packages).

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

10.0 Postage Statement Expansion

The Postal Service is considering expanding postage statements to include detail-level information regarding each postage deduction (by incentive, promotion, discount type) and summary-level deductions (aggregated amounts for total incentives, total promotions, and total discounts).

In addition, the Postal Service is considering updating postage statements to remove unnecessary and conflicting nomenclature and lines.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes – Reporting will be updated to reflect new section and lines for promotion and incentive summaries.
- Data Feeds: Yes – New promotion and incentive summary data will be available.
- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes - Updates to PS Forms 3600-FCM, 3602-R/N, 3600-PM, 3605-R to reflect the addition of new section and lines for promotion and incentive summaries.
- Mail.dat changes: No Impact
- Mail.XML changes: No Impact
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No Impact
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No Impact
- WebTools: No Impact
- USPS API: No Impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

Competitive Changes

11.0 Eliminating DNDC Entry for Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement (NSA)

The Postal Service is considering eliminating NSA customers' ability to enter parcels as DNDC Entry, and postage statements will no longer offer this option. The Postal Service will work with the existing NSA customers to ensure that their packages can continue to be processed at published rates.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Online reports will be updated to remove DNDC NSA prices for Parcel Select.
- Data Feeds: Data feeds will be updated to remove DNDC NSA data for Parcel Select.
- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: PS Form 3605-R will be updated to reflect the removal of DNDC NSA prices for Parcel Select.
- Mail.dat changes: No impact
- Mail.XML changes: No impact
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Rate ingredients will be updated to support the removal of DNDC NSA prices for Parcel Select.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Rate ingredients will be updated to support the removal of DNDC NSA prices for Parcel Select.
- WebTools: No impact
- USPS API: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

12.0 Changes to Airmail M-bag and International Priority Airmail (IPA) M-bag

The Postal Service is considering making two types of outbound M-bag service available to Postal Service customers to certain countries as of January 2026 - Airmail M-bag and International Priority Airmail (IPA) M-bag. The Postal Service is required to discontinue both types to countries that no longer accept inbound M-bags. Postal Service systems must be updated accordingly to remove M-bag service to these countries. Likewise, Postal Service systems must be updated to reflect the discontinuance of the availability of certain other articles specified in the above Postal Service outbound M-bag options.

The following is the list of countries announced in UPU IB Circular 24/2025 that will no longer accept inbound M-bags. The Postal Service must discontinue offering outbound M-bag options to these countries and to other countries which may announce that they will no longer accept inbound M-bags in the future:

- Aruba
- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- French Polynesia
- Georgia, Republic of
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Indonesia
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- Nicaragua
- Norway
- Oman
- Romania
- Samoa
- Saudi Arabia
- Slovenia
- Suriname
- Sweden
- Switzerland

- Syria
- Vanuatu
- Vietnam

Summary of Application Impacts

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

13.0 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 the 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).

14.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

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

14.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that will be supported with the January 2026 release.

PostalOne! 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

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

Table is for reference only.

14.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.XML specification versions that will be supported with the January 2026 release.

<i>PostalOne! System Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support</i>			
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
27.0	Supported	Supported	Supported
27.1	–	Supported	Supported
28.0	–	Supported	Supported

Note: New Mail.XML WSDLs will be posted on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/> as they become available.

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

Table is for reference only.

14.2 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 2026 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	–	–	–	–	–	–

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
<i>Note: No change to currently supported versions for DD, MID-CRID, or FAST</i>						

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

Table is for reference only.

14.2.1 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

The below table depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the January 2026 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: No change to currently supported versions. New rate ingredients (or combinations of existing rates) may be required to support the proposed changes.

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

Table is for reference only.

15.0 Document History

Date	Section	Description