July 2026 Release Overview

Proposed
July 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 July 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) as they become available.

Market Dominant Changes

2.0 2027 Mailing Promotions

The Postal Service is considering introducing two new promotions and repeating three promotions and two add-ons from 2026. New promotions under consideration are the Impact Messaging and Direct Mail discovery promotions. Repeat promotions under consideration are Tactile Sensory & Interactive, Integrated Technology, and First-Class Mail Advertising. Add-ons being considered include Informed Delivery and Sustainability.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - The existing reports will continue to report on the promotions data.
- Data Feeds: Yes - The data feeds available via IV-MTR will include promotional data.
- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: 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

3.0 Nomenclature and Labeling List Updates Expansion to Support Network Redesign

The Postal Service is considering continuing its previous network redesign efforts through updates to facility names and other entries in classification standards, any/all publications, and documents and systems. Necessary system and document updates to align with ongoing network redesign implementation include, but are not limited to:

1. Facility name changes in classification standards, systems, any/all publications and documentation to align with network updates.

2. Labeling List changes to align with network updates.

3. Updated destination entry facility and presort types in Commercial price structure formats to align with facility changes in price files, postage statements, and eDocs.

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, Competitive, International Market Dominant, International Competitive

4.0 Eliminate ADC Rate Category From 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 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

5.0 Marketing Mail Weight Adjustments and Addition of Heavy Printed Matter

The Postal Service is considering increasing the maximum weight for Marketing Mail automation and non-automation flat-shaped pieces from 16 ounces to 20 ounces and increasing the maximum weight for Carrier Route (CR) flats to 24 ounces. Heavy Printed Matter (HPM) will be introduced for Marketing Mail parcels with a weight limit of 15 pounds for Commercial /Nonprofit non-fulfillment pieces.

*HPM flat-sized pieces may weigh up to 24 ounces when combined in CR level bundles on a pallet included in no less than SCF/3D sortation entered at an SCF/LPC. BPM flat-sized pieces must not exceed 20 ounces if prepared in the CR-level bundle with certain Periodicals pieces that may weigh more than 20 ounces.

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 Forms 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

6.0 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 could include eliminating bundle rates and container rates and introducing SCF Pallet and Delivery Sort container discounts. Piece rates would be adjusted to collapse the barcoded/nonbarcoded rates for Nonmachinable Flats. Nonmachinable Flats will qualify for the Parcels price. 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: 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 Add 5D/Direct Container and SCF Pallet Discounts to USPS Marketing Mail Heavy Printed Matter

The Postal Service is considering increasing the weight limit of Marketing Mail Flat shaped pieces to 20 ounces and 24 ounces for Carrier Route Pieces. This would also establish a new marketing mail category for mail pieces with a maximum weight of 15lbs. If approved, this new category would be eligible for 5D and SCF pallet discounts. Non presorted rates would not be eligible for SCF and 5D container discounts.

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: Yes - Data Feeds will be updated to support SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes - There will be postage statement and SKU changes. New SCF Pallet discounts/containerization discount lines will be added to PS Forms 3602-R/N.

- Mail.dat changes: Yes - Validation, Core rate table, and Tech specs will be updated for SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.

- Mail.XML changes: Yes - Validation, Core rate table, and Tech Specs will be updated for SCF Pallet discounts/Containerization discount for the HPM product.

- 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

8.0 Postage Statement Enhancements – Next Phase

The Postal Service is considering implementing enhancements to postage statements to reflect changes and detailed level and summary level deductions for mail promotions, mail growth incentives and discounts. This effort will also continue to identify and eliminate any unnecessary/unused lines, columns, sections, etc., from postage statements.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes - Reporting will be updated to reflect new sections 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 - PS Forms 3600-FCM, 3602-R/N, 3600-PM, 3605-R will be updated 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

9.0 Change Eligibility Standards for FC Cards and FC Letters Combined in Mailing

Currently First-Class Mail (FCM) cards and FCM letters that are combined in the same mailing are subject to separate minimum presort volume criteria of 500 mailpieces of each mail type (card and letter). The Postal Service is considering allowing any combination of FCM Cards and FCM Letters that total 500 or more pieces to be combined into a mailing and presented for mailing at the presort price. This mail must be presented at the same time and on the same postage statement.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: No Impact

- Data Feeds: No Impact

- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: No Impact

- Mail.dat changes: Yes - The validations and class defining preparations will be updated to reflect the required volume criteria of 500 or more pieces for FCM Cards and Letters to be combined into a mailing.

- Mail.XML changes: Yes - The validations and class defining preparations will be updated to reflect the required volume criteria of 500 or more pieces for FCM Cards and Letters to be combined into a mailing.

- 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

10.0 Overweight/Oversize Item Fee

The Postal Service is considering reclassifying and repricing overweight/oversize items that fall outside a defined set of weights and dimensions. This will better enable mail processing operations to process overweight/oversize parcels and incentivize mailers to submit error-free manifests, thereby minimizing processing issues and providing for better reporting.

This effort will consist of the following changes:

- Packages whose manifested weight exceed 70 lbs. will be priced at the 70 lb. rate and assessed an Overweight/Oversize Items Fee.

- Packages whose trusted weight exceed 70 lbs. will be repriced to a 70 lb. rate and assessed an Overweight/Oversize Items Fee.

- Heavy Printed Matter packages whose manifested dimensions exceed girth of 108 inches and exceed 15lbs will be priced at USPS Ground Advantage oversized rate.

- Bound Printed Matter (BPM) packages whose manifested dimensions exceed girth of 108 inches (but are less than 130 inches) will be priced at the USPS Ground Advantage Oversize rate.

- Bound Printed Matter packages whose trusted dimensions and total girth exceed 108 inches (but are less than 130 inches) will be repriced to USPS Ground Advantage Oversize rate.

- Packages whose manifested dimensions exceed 130 inches combined length and girth will be priced as USPS Ground Advantage and assessed an Overweight/Oversize Items Fee.

- Packages whose trusted dimension scans and total girth exceed 130 inches will be repriced as USPS Ground Advantage Oversize and assessed the Overweight/Oversize Items Fee.

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

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: TBD

- WebTools: TBD

- USPS API: TBD

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant, Competitive

Competitive Changes

11.0 Cubic Measurements – Modify Max Length Ground Advantage & Soft-Packs

The Postal Service is considering modifying the cubic tier measurements for USPS Ground Advantage (GA) soft-packs and padded envelopes to align with Priority Mail (PM) tiers and increasing the maximum allowable length for all cubic from 18 to 22 inches. There are currently 10 cubic tiers for GA soft-packs and padded envelopes, and 5 tiers for PM soft-packs and padded envelopes. This will make the tier measurements the same across both products. Changes may include, but are not limited to the DMM, Notice 123, USPS.com, RSS, PTR, upstream/downstream systems, and reference tables.

Table 2 lists the requirements and objectives for modifying the cubic measurements

Table 2 Requirements and Objectives

Requirement	Objective
Eliminate cubic tiers for .6 through 1.0 cubic feet, for GA Commercial Cubic pricing, for Soft-Packs/Padded Envelopes.	Cubic tiers for GA and Priority Mail (PM) Soft-Packs/Padded Envelopes will be the same.
Modify the measurements for the GA Commercial Cubic tiers for Soft-Packs/Padded Envelopes, to match the measurements of PM Commercial Cubic.	Cubic tiers for GA and Priority Mail (PM) Soft-Packs/Padded Envelopes will be the same.
Increase the maximum allowable length for all GA and PM Commercial Cubic (GA and PM, boxes and Soft-Packs/Padded Envelopes) to 22 inches.	Cubic measurements will meet customer needs for longer, machinable items.

Table 3 lists the current and proposed USPS Ground Advantage cubic measurement tiers.

Table 3 Current and Proposed USPS Ground Advantage Cubic Measurement Tiers

Cubic Tier	Current Measurement (L + W)	Proposed Measurement (L + W)
0.1	0" up to 16"	0" up to 21"
0.2	16" up to 21"	21" up to 27"
0.3	21" up to 24"	27" up to 31"
0.4	24" up to 26"	31" up to 34"
0.5	26" up to 28"	34" up to 36"
0.6	28" up to 30"	Remove
0.7	30" up to 32"	Remove
0.8	32" up to 34"	Remove
0.9	34" up to 35"	Remove
1.0	35" up to 36"	Remove

Certain dimension combinations do not qualify for Cubic mailing rates.

Summary of Application Impacts

- Online Reporting: Yes – reporting will be updated to reflect the updated measurements for Ground Advantage Cubic tiers and the removal of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes.

- Data Feeds: Yes – data feeds will be updated to reflect the updated measurements for Ground Advantage Cubic tiers and the removal of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes.

- Postage Statement, SKU Changes, and Notice 123: Yes – Postage statement 3600 FCM (Part C) will be updated to reflect the removal of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes.

- Mail.dat changes: Yes - the core rate tables and validations will be updated to reflect the removal of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes.

- Mail.XML changes: Yes - the core rate tables and validations will be updated to reflect the removal of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes.

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Yes - the rate ingredients will be updated to support the elimination of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes and the measurements updates.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Yes, the rate ingredients will be updated to support the elimination of Cubic tiers 0.6 through 1.0 cubic feet for Soft-Packs/Padded envelopes and the measurements updates

- WebTools: No impact

- USPS API: No impact

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

12.0 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).

13.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

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

Note: For the latest technical specifications, please see the July 2026 Price Change Release Notes as they are published

13.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc
The table below depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that will be supported with the July 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**
24-1	Supported	Supported	–
25-1 (New Errata)	Supported	Supported	Supported
26-1	–	Supported	Supported

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

Table is for reference only.

13.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

Note: For the latest technical specifications, please see the July 2026 Price Change Release Notes as they are published

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

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[1]	Supported	Supported	Not Supported
27.1[1]	Supported	Supported	Not Supported
28.0[1]	Supported	Supported	Not Supported
28.1	Supported	Supported	Supported
28.2[2]	–	Supported	Supported
29.0[2]	–	Supported	Supported
1 – Versions no longer supported for new mailings on and after January 18, 2026. *2 – New versions supported for mailing dates on and after January 18, 2026.* *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.

13.2 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

Note: For the latest technical specifications, please see the July 2026 Price Change Release Notes as they are published

The table below depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the July 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
14.0A	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
16.0	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Note: No change to previously supported versions.						

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

Table is for reference only.

13.2.1 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

Note: For the latest technical specifications, please see the July 2026 Price Change Release Notes as they are published

The table below depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the July 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.

14.0 Document History

Date	Section	Description