Release Overview

Proposed
January 2023 Changes

DEPLOYMENT: 1/8/2023
EFFECTIVE: 1/22/2023

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.

Pre-Release Document
PEEC

Document last updated date: September 7, 2022

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1.0   Introduction

This document includes planned changes under review for the next pricing structure release scheduled for January 2023. The document is prepared based on the knowledge available at the time of printing 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 (http://pe.usps.com) as they become available.

2.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

2.1 Updates to *PostalOne!* eDoc Specification Versions Support

2.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that will be supported with the January 2023 release.

Table 1

PostalOne! 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**
21-1	Supported	Supported	Supported – for updates only
22-1	Supported	Supported	Supported
23-1*	-	Supported	Supported
*Final version of Mail.dat will be determined based on discussion with DTAC			

Note: There is a new required Mail.dat client with this release. Users should download the new 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).

2.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

The below table depicts the Mail.XML specification versions that will be supported with the January 2023 release.

Table 2

PostalOne! 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**
24.1	Supported	Supported	Supported – for updates only
24.2	Supported	Supported	Supported – for updates only
25.0	Supported	Supported	Supported – for updates only
25.1	Supported	Supported	Supported
26.0*	-	Supported	Supported
*Final version of Mail.XML 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.

2.2 Updates to *PostalONE!* Mail.XML Data Distribution, MID-CRID, and FAST Specification Version Support

The below table depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the January 2023 release.

Note: there are no changes to supported versions.

Table 3

Versions	Data Distribution Mail.XML		MID-CRID Mail.XML		FAST Mail.XML	
	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions
	Prior to Deployment Date	Deployment Date & onward	Prior to Deployment Date	Deployment Date & onward	Prior to Deployment Date	Deployment Date & onward
14.0A	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
16.0	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported

2.2.1 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

The below table depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the January 2023 release.

Table 4

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
Legend: 1 – Express Mail Corporate Accounts 2 – Electronic Marketing Reporting System		
Note: No change to currently-supported versions. *Version 1.3 will be only supported til December 2022 for EMRS/EMCA.* *Version 1.4 is no longer supported.*		

Note: New rate ingredients (or combinations of existing rates) may be required to support the proposed changes.

Market Dominant Changes

3.0   2023 Mailing Promotions

The USPS proposes to include an incentive for Mail Service Providers that claim Informed Delivery promotions successfully on Postage Statements. The Informed Delivery Promotion will continue to require mail owner (or Permit Holder) registration via the Business Customer Gateway (BCG) for the ID Promotion discount. Current processes used by MSPs to sign-up for their clients will remain. The new Mail Service Provider discount (discount % TBD) will require a new enrollment process via BCG (Manage Permit section of BCG), where the submitter will provide its Permit to receive the incentive upon successful processing of the ID promotion on the Postage Statement.

The USPS proposes a new promotion for reply mailpieces processed by the USPS Intelligent Mail Barcode Accounting (IMbA) system that automates the accounting of Business Reply Mail (BRM). As part of the promotion, the USPS proposes a tiered discount for serialized and basic IMBA.

The USPS proposes a new promotion for Retargeted Mail. This promotion will require pre-qualification for participation. The current Mobile Shopping promotion will be incorporated into the Emerging Technology promotions.

The USPS proposes a new incentive for Personalized Color Transpromo Promotion. This will result in an additional discount which will apply if Reply pieces are included with the host piece.

The USPS will enhance promotion reports to fix problems around display of comingled mailings claiming promotions.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: Component Characteristics Record (CCR) -.additional characteristics for new promotions (potential use of existing reserved or unused values)

- Mail.XML changes: Characteristic Incentive Type additional enumeration values for new promotions (potential use of existing reserved or unused values)

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: N/A

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: None

- USPS API: None

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

4.0   Marketing Mail Flats on SCF Direct (Cross-Dock) Pallets

The USPS proposes a discount for flat-shaped Marketing Mail prepared on SCF pallets regardless of entry point. This preparation assures that no bundle sorting is required prior to the final processing plant. This proposed discount will be applicable to Automation Flats, Nonautomation Flats, Automation & Nonautomation Carrier Route Flats, High Density, High Density Plus and Saturation Flats.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes - USPS Marketing Mail PS Forms 3602 R / N will include new discount lines for SCF Discount for Flat. The following parts will include the SCF Direct Pallet discount lines:
  - o   Part D Automation Flats
  - o   Part E Nonautomation Flats
  - o   Part F Carrier Route Flats

- Mail.dat changes: No – Use existing combination of values from Mail.dat jobs to automatically apply the discount

- Mail.XML changes: No – Use existing combination of values from Mail.XML jobs to automatically apply the discount

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: N/A

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: None

- USPS API: None

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

5.0   Connect Local Mail Permanent Product

The USPS proposes to make Connect Local Mail a permanent product as a First-Class Flat. This product was introduced as a market test in January 2022. Transitioning the product to a permanent classification will require PRC approval and changes in pricing structure, classifications, and postage statements. If approved, this mail product will be available as a First-Class Flat with a Destination Entry of DDU weighing less than 13 ounces.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes – First Class Mail PS Form 3600 will include new line(s) Flats that are not zoned and have a rate indicator CM.

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Connect Local Mail uses specific rate ingredients to claim

  - Mail Class = FC (First Class)

  - Processing Category = 2 (Flats)

  - Destination Rate Indicator = D (DDU)

  - Rate Indicator = CM (Connect Mail)

  - Zone = 00 (Not zoned)

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: None

- USPS API: A new *"CM"* enumeration will be supported in the <rateIndicator> field in the */label* request body.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

6.0   Remove Manual Services for Mailing Lists (ZIP Coding and Address Corrections) at Retail/DDU

The USPS proposes to stop support for the manual services for Mailing List, including i) ZIP Coding and ii) Address corrections, currently provided at Retail/DDU. The two services will be removed from Mail Classification Schedule (MSC), the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) and Price List/Notice 123.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: N/A

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools None.

- USPS API: N/A

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

Competitive Changes

7.0 Separate Nonstandard Fees for Expedited and Ground Products

The USPS proposes to implement two sets of prices for full-network domestic competitive product nonstandard fees: one set for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express and one set for First-Class Package Service Retail and the Parcel Select Lightweight None/Origin Entry category. This will allow for the Ground Nonstandard Fee structure to be independent of the Expedited products Nonstandard fee pricing structure.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: No Impact

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: N/A

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: New Extra Service Codes will be accepted. No changes to ICR file format.

- WebTools: None

- USPS API: Different prices will be returned in the fees / price field for the non-standard skus based on the mail class

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

8.0 Collapse Commercial Base and Commercial Plus for Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail

The USPS proposes to collapse the Commercial Base (CBP) and Commercial Plus (CPP) price tables into one Commercial price table for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express. Mailings claiming either CPP or CBP will map to the same set of prices for a limited period of time.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes - Priority Mail 3600 PM will be updated to remove references of Commercial Plus, including removal of Part F for PMOD for Commercial Plus.

- Mail.dat changes: Mail Piece Unit Record -.mpu Rate Schedule P = Commercial Plus will map to Commercial Base Pricing for Priority Mail. Dagger value P = Commercial Plus.

- Mail.XML changes: Price Type commercialplus will map to Commercial Base Pricing for Priority Mail. Remove value commercialplus.

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: The *Postage Type* field in the detailed record of the SSF, Postage Types of A (Commercial Plus Pricing) will map to Postage Type B (Commercial Base Pricing). In the future, support for submitting Postage Type A for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express will be eliminated.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: Commercial Base and Commercial Plus Mail Category Codes will be discontinued. New Mail Category Codes will be established. No changes to file format.

- WebTools:TBD. None. Commercial Plus Rate Maps will be mapped to Commercial Base.

- USPS API: Commercial Plus rates will no longer be provided in the */labels* and *base-rates/search* response bodies and will be replaced by Commercial Base rates. For a short period, the existing "COMMERCIAL_PLUS" enumeration from the <priceType> field in the *base-rates/search* request body will map to Commercial Base Rates. In the future, the "COMMERCIAL_PLUS" enumeration will be removed.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

9.0 Zone Modernization Phase 2

The USPS proposes to eliminate Local Zone for all products except Connect Local and split Zones 1 & 2 into separate Zones. All competitive zoned parcel products will move to 9 separate price zones to include: zones 1 through 9. This proposal is applicable to First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select Destination, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, and Ground Return Service (to be renamed to First-Class Package Return services).

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes - First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select Destination, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, Ground Return Service (to be renamed to First-Class Package Return services) will have Zones 1 & 2 split into separate zones.
  - New SKUs and associated rates will be established for Zone 2 across zoned products.

- Mail.dat changes: Container Quantity Record -.cqt split Zone 1&2 into separate zones, zone 1 and zone 2. Dagger value L = Local.

- Mail.XML changes: Zone Type split Zone 1&2 into separate zones, zone 1 and zone 2. Remove value L = Local.

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Zone of LC no longer valid for competitive zoned parcel products. Zone 00 or 01-09 are the only acceptable values for Zone.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: None

- USPS API: SKUs provided in the *base-rates/search* & */labels* response bodies will now have zone 2. New rates will be provided in the *base-rates/search* & */labels* response bodies for zone 2.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

10.0 Connect Local Payment Options

The USPS proposes to expand payment methods for the Connect Local product to include API processing.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: No impact.

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact; use existing Market Test rate ingredients for Connect Local Mail:
  - Mail Class = FC (First Class)
  - Processing Category = 2 (Flats)
  - Destination Rate Indicator = D (DDU)
  - Rate Indicator = CM (Connect Mail)
  - Zone = 00 (Not zoned)

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: No change.

- USPS API: No change.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

11.0 Deliver Return and Outbound Labels to Residential and Business Addresses for a Fee

The USPS proposes to deliver shipment labels to residential and business addresses for a fee. Merchants would be able to request an Outbound or Return label from USPS for their end customers. USPS would receive this request and create the label. Once the label is printed, the carrier would deliver

the label to the customer inside a Flat envelope. The fee for generating/delivering labels and the postage associated with the package labels will be processed after the labels are delivered to the recipient. Labels will be offered for Return or Outbound Products including First-Class Package Service, First-Class Package Returns, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Returns, Parcel Return Service (RDU and RPF), Parcel Select, Parcel Select Lightweight and Priority Mail Express.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: TBD

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: New tags or potentially a new API would be required.

- USPS API: Changes to Label endpoints, including a new address object that contains the address where the label should be delivered to. USPS API to suppress the provision of label back to the external requestor, instead route to internal USPS systems for printing and delivery.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

12.0 Eliminate Certificate of Mailing and Signature Confirmation Services for Returns

The USPS proposes to eliminate Certificate of Mailing and Signature Confirmation services for return products. The following return products will no longer support Certificate of Mailing and Signature Confirmation services:

1. Priority Mail Returns Service

2. First Class Package Returns Service

3. Parcel Return Service

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Returns STCs that are associated to Certificate of Mailing and Signature Confirmation will no longer be valid.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: <Extra service> tag value 156 would be deprecated. Integrators would see an error message when requesting the service in lieu of a successful response.

- USPS API: The existing *"452"* enumeration will be removed from the <extraServices> field in the */return-label* request body.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

13.0 Eliminate Multiple Canada Rate Zones for PMI in Notice 123

The USPS proposes to eliminate eight pricing zones (1.1 to 1.8) for Canada for Priority Mail International (PMI) and collapse them into one zone-based rate structure. Notice 123 currently lists 8 Priority Mail International zones for volume to Canada that reflect mailer proximity to ISCs. This proposal will collapse 8 zones (price groups) into one price group by weight.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes – Update PS Form 3700, Part E for Priority Mail International to consolidate Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver lines into a single Canada line and collapse all 8 zones into one zone.

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: All PMI destined for Canada will map to a single zone.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: None.

- USPS API: None.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

14.0 Elimination of Regional Rate Boxes for Priority Mail and Priority Mail International

The USPS proposes to eliminate Regional Rate Boxes (A/15 pounds and B/20 pounds) for Priority Mail and Priority Mail international. This proposal will simplify the Priority Mail and Priority Mail International rate structure. This proposal will eliminate the Regional Rate Boxes A (max up to 15 lbs.) and B (max up to 20 lbs.)

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: Yes – the following postage statements will require updates

  o Form 3600-PM for Priority Mail will eliminate Part B and Part D for Regional Rate Box

  o Form 3700 for Priority Mai International will eliminate Part F for Regional Rate Box

- Mail.dat changes: Yes –

  o Dagger Mail Piece Unit -.mpu type values of E6 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A, E5 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B

  o Error Messages updated to remove support for Mail Piece Unit -.mpu rate type E6 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A and E5 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B

- Mail.XML changes: Yes

  o   Remove RateCategory type values of P10 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A and P11 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B

  o   Error Messages updated to remove support for Rate Category Type P10 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A and P11 = Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Regional Rate Box rate indicators (C6, C7 for domestic and IA, IB for international) will no longer be valid and associated pieces priced at the single piece rate.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools: Regional Rate Box Container Types will be deprecated. Integrators will receive an INVALID CONTAINER error if those values are supplied in the <Container> tags.

- USPS API: The existing *"C6," "C7," "IA," & "IB"* enumerations will be removed from the <rateIndicator> field in the */label* and */base-rates/search* request body.

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

15.0 Parcel Return Service (PRS) Simplification and Introduce Return Processing Facility (RPF)

The USPS proposes to re-designate returns processing facilities from Return Sectional Center Facility (RSCF) and Return Area Distribution Center (RADC) to Returns Processing Facility (RPF). The proposal adds Network Distribution Center (NDC) and Auxiliary Service Facilities (ASF) back into the returns program as potential RPF facilities.

The proposal adds rate flexibility for pieces collected at RPF locations (weight, zoned prices to account for distance and handling). Pieces flowing through our DDUs to their supporting upstream processing facilities and onward in our network to the customer designated RPF would be charged at the appropriate weight/zone/distance rate.

The proposal enhances the returns program to ensure scan event compliance and that the customer receives notification that parcels were available and not picked up:

1. at the RDU within the 48-hour rule and are now available for pickup at the nearest upstream RPF (at an adjusted weight/zone/distance rate), or

2. at the RPF within the 24-hour rule and are now in transit to their returns address (at a Full Network weight/zone/distance rate). Note: The customer will pay a higher (RPF) return piece rate for pieces not picked up at the RDU. The proposal introduces PRS (RPF) with Zone Base Pricing, which would give a larger customer base the option to select and pick up from any of the following locations: 1) NDC and 2) SCF.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: For PRS, the Destination Rate Indicator codes of A (RADC), F (RASF), B (RNDC), and S (RSCF) will map to a single Returns Processing Facility rate.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools None. Facility types are not currently supported by WebTools for Returns.

- USPS API: N/A

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

16.0 Eliminate Balloon Pricing for Parcel Return Service

The USPS proposes to eliminate Balloon pricing for Parcel Return Service. Balloon prices take effect when an applicable package weighs less than 20 pounds but measures greater than 84 inches and under 108 inches in combined length and girth. Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Rate indicator of "BN" for balloon pricing no longer valid for PRS.

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools None.

- USPS API: N/A

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

17.0 Remove Parcel Return Service (PRS) rates from Notice 123

The USPS proposes to remove PRS rates from Notice 123 and published prices. PRS is a dedicated returns service for shippers with a high volume of returns. PRS rates would be available to customers with an approved NSA.

- Postage Statement and SKU Changes: N/A

- Mail.dat changes: N/A

- Mail.XML changes: N/A

- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: N/A

- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: N/A

- WebTools None.

- USPS API: N/A

- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

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Document Change Log

DATE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
7/25/2022	12.0	Removed Parcel Select Lightweight from Zone Modernization description
7/26/2022	Title Page	Changed January 2023 Price Change deployment and effective dates to 1/8, 1/22
8/11/2022	8.0	Removed 'Extension of First Class Package Service (FCPS) to 70 lbs'
8/22/2022	15.0	Removed 'Inclusion of $100 Insurance for First-Class Package Returns and Parcel Return Service'
8/22/2022	20.0	Removed 'Remove Ground Return Service'
8/22/2022	24.0	Removed 'Eliminating Legacy and Low Usage Service Type Codes'
8/22/2022	9.0	Removed 'Weight Break Updates for Priority Mail, Priority Mail Returns and Priority Mail Express'
8/25/2022	3.0	Removed 'Network Redesign and Classification Updates'
8/25/2022	14.0	Removed 'Inclusion of $100 Insurance for FCPS and extended product attributes'
9/7/2022	10.0	Updated payment method in description (removed eVS, added API)