

National Zone Charts Matrix

Overview

Including

Integration of Required Exceptions File for:

Zone 9

*Outbound APO/FPO/DPO Military Priority & First-Class
Package Service Mail Processed in Chicago*

Inbound APO/FPO Military Mail

July 10, 2022

The Basics

- The ***National Customer Support Center (NCSC)*** publishes the ***National Zone Charts Matrix (NZCM)*** monthly in support of zone rated postage pricing which is based on ***mail piece origin weight + the distance*** the mail piece travels.
- ***The .txt ‘matrix’ uses the service areas of Labeling Lists L002A & L605 to determine the zone & to flag any ‘exceptions’.***
- The ‘matrix’ uses an ***X-Y axis format that simplifies lookup of the correct zone*** between any 3-Digit O/D ZIP Code pair.
- The ‘matrix’ is ***one of the NCSC’s commercial subscriber products*** and is electronically downloadable.

How Is The Zone Really Calculated?

- **DMM 608.9.1** says:
 -For the administration of these postal zones, the centroid of each 3-digit ZIP Code area or combination of 3-digit ZIP Code areas are calculated. Postal zones are based on the distance between these units of area. The distance is measured from the centroid of the 3-digit ZIP Code area serving the origin Post Office to the centroid of the 3-digit ZIP Code area serving the destination Post Office. The 3-digit ZIP Code areas serving the origin and destination Post Offices are determined by using Labeling List L002, Column A.

How Is The Zone Really Calculated?

- Current **Zone** Distance Metrics
 - **Local*** **Zone 1** Non-local zones within 50 mile radius of the origin
 - **Zone 2** 51 - 150 mile radius
 - **Zone 3** 151 - 300 mile radius
 - **Zone 4** 301 - 600 mile radius
 - **Zone 5** 601 - 1000 mile radius
 - **Zone 6** 1001 - 1400 mile radius
 - **Zone 7** 1401 - 1800 mile radius
 - **Zone 8** 1801 miles or greater
 - **Zone 9** Freely Associated States
- * Mail deposited at a PO for delivery within service area of the same PO.

National Zone Charts Matrix File Structure

3-Digit Origin (y-axis) By 3-Digit Destination (x-axis)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
O3DG	O3DG	O3DG	001	filler	002	filler	003	filler	004	filler	005	filler	006	filler	007	967	filler	968	filler	969	filler	970	filler	971	filler	972	filler	
0	0	5	0		0		0		0		1	*	7		8		8		9	e	8		8		8		8	
0	0	6	0		0		0		0		7	*	1	*	8		8		9	e	8		8		8		8	
0	0	7	0		0		0		0		7	*	1	*	8		8		9	e	8		8		8		8	
0	0	8	0		0		0		0		7	*	1	*	8		8		9	e	8		8		8		8	
9	6	2	0		0		0		0		8	e	8	e	1	*	1	*	1	*	4	e	4	e	4	e	4	e
9	6	3	0		0		0		0		8	e	8	e	1	*	1	*	1	*	4	e	4	e	4	e	4	e
9	6	9	0		0		0		0		8		8		1	*	1	*	1	*	8		8		8		8	
9	7	0	0		0		0		0		8		8		8		8		9	e	1	*	1	*	1	*	1	*
9	7	1	0		0		0		0		8		8		8		8		9	e	1	*	1	*	1	*	1	*

- **NZCM Technical Guide**
<https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts>
- File format is designed for integration with software via IT support.
- .txt file can only be read using a text editor.
- File format consists of a 2,001 character linear data 'string' for each active Origin 3DG.
- **'Exceptions'** flagged as:
 - * = NDC Entry Discount
 - 1 = PM/FCPS going to Military ZIP Codes
 - a = PM/FCPS to Military ZIP Codes or w/NDC Entry Disc.
 - b = 5DG w/NDC Entry Disc.
 - e = 5DG

	10	20	30	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000									
9600	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9610	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9620	0	0	0	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e
9630	0	0	0	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e
9640	0	0	0	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e
9650	0	0	0	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e
9660	0	0	0	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e	8e
9670	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9680	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9690	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9700	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9710	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9720	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9730	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9740	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9750	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9760	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9770	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9780	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9790	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9800	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9810	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9820	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9830	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9840	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9850	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9860	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9880	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9890	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9900	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9910	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9920	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9930	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9940	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9950	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9960	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9970	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9980	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9990	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8

Example = 969 Origin (position 1-3) to 969 Destination (position 1940)
 Note Zone 9 'e' flag for 960 to 969

Matrix Linear File Structure
 - Position 1-3 = Origin 3DG (y-axis)
 - Position 4 = zone result for Destination 3DG ZIP Code 001
 - Position 5 = filler (e.g. exceptions)

Format repeats for each active Origin 3DG (y-axis) & along x-axis for Destination 3DG ZIP Codes 001 - 999

Exception Types & File Records

1. Zone 9 5-Digit Zone 8 exceptions for the 24 969XX US territory ZIP Codes. *969XX Freely Associated States ZIP Codes receive Zone 9 default pricing.*
2. APO/FPO/DPO 3-Digit exceptions for outbound Priority & First-Class Package Service Mail processed in Chicago going to *Military ZIP Codes 090-099, 962-966*
3. APO/FPO 5-Digit exceptions for inbound zone rated 'retail' mail originating at selected *Military ZIP Codes 090-099, 340, 962-966* (*has no impact* on outbound commercial mail preparation)

Why deploy the ***Outbound APO/DPO/FPO Exceptions?***

- USPS moved ***outbound Military Priority & First-Class Package Service Mail processing in 2018*** from New York (090-099) & San Francisco (962-966) to Chicago.
- As a result, the ***'destinating' 3-Digit ZIP Code changed*** from New York & San Francisco to Chicago.
 - ***Military zones are calculated from the origin 3-digit ZIP Code centroid to the destination 3-digit ZIP Code centroid of the USPS processing facility*** where the Military picks up & transports the mail to the destination.
 - ***Military PM & FCPS that originates nearer New York & San Francisco than Chicago have higher Zones than PM & FCPS originating closer to Chicago.***

NZCM Exceptions File Data

Exceptions Data Extract / 3 Mail Type Segments

06012019	Orig Begin	Orig End	Dest Begin	Dest End	Zone	Mail Type
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
001000900796900969380800	00100	09007	96900	96938	08	00
001000900796945969590800	00100	09007	96945	96959	08	00
001000900796961969690800	00100	09007	96961	96969	08	00
001000900796971969990800	00100	09007	96971	96999	08	00
090090901696900969380800	09009	09016	96900	96938	08	00
090090901696945969590800	09009	09016	96945	96959	08	00
090090901696961969690800	09009	09016	96961	96969	08	00
005000059909000090990501	00500	00599	09000	09099	05	01
005000059909100091990501	00500	00599	09100	09199	05	01
005000059909200092990501	00500	00599	09200	09299	05	01
005000059909300093990501	00500	00599	09300	09399	05	01
005000059909400094990501	00500	00599	09400	09499	05	01
005000059909500095990501	00500	00599	09500	09599	05	01
005000059909600096990501	00500	00599	09600	09699	05	01
090080900800500005990199	09008	09008	00500	00599	01	99
090080900800600009990799	09008	09008	00600	00999	07	99
090080900801000017990299	09008	09008	01000	01799	02	99
090080900801800043990399	09008	09008	01800	04399	03	99
090080900804400044990499	09008	09008	04400	04499	04	99
090080900804500045990399	09008	09008	04500	04599	03	99
090080900804600047990499	09008	09008	04600	04799	04	99

- Exceptions Sample Data Col. 1 / Extract 2-7

- **Outbound** to 5DG FAS (MT 00) or **Outbound** PM / FCPS to 3DG Military ZIPs (01) or **Inbound** from 5DG Military PO ZIPs (99) to USA 3DG ZIP Codes

- Origin + Dest ZIP Code Ranges + Zone 'Exception' + 'Mail Type' Results Extracted from Column 1.

- Users integrate the .txt 'exception' data using software, computer code or other automated means to extract the correct & final Zone result.

Questions?

