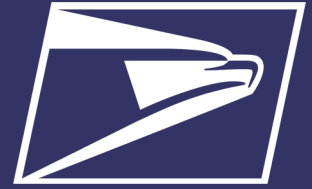# IMpb Verification

Intelligent Mail package barcode

The IMpb is the critical bridge between physical packages and the digital information required to enable world class service and tracking for our package products.

IMpb BACKGROUND

USPS efforts to enhance parcel visibility began as early as 2013 with new requirements being added every year since 2015. As part of our 100% Visibility Initiative the Postal Service launched a new, class-specific barcode for virtually every product and combination of extra services available to retail and commercial customers across all payment channels. The Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) and associated electronic files satisfy a wide range of data and product requirements for businesses, consumers, and the Postal Service through the comprehensive information they contain.

QUALITY METRICS AND BENEFITS

Quality requirements and corresponding thresholds have been added to IMpb compliance measures to ensure barcodes, addresses, and electronic manifest data are accurate and effective in USPS and customer business processes. The IMpb or unique tracking barcode is required for all parcels shipped through the Postal Service.

The Intelligent Mail package barcode has the following benefits:

- New barcode formats to promote the use of a concatenated barcode structure (routing information and package identification code) in a single barcode.
- Addition of a channel-specific Application Identifier (AI) that allows a package to be matched to a specific payment channel which supports revenue assurance and analysis.
- Support for both six-digit and nine-digit Mailer IDs (MIDs).
- Three-digit service type codes (STCs) that uniquely identify the mail class and extra service(s) combination in a single, integrated barcode to increase efficiency in mail transportation, handling, and reporting.

IMpb VERIFICATIONS

Currently mailers are assessed IMpb non-compliance fees for competitive products when noncompliant pieces exceed the threshold for one of these three requirement categories: Barcode Quality, Manifest Quality, and Address Quality. The Shipping Services File (SSF) and address information must also be timely transmitted and received by the Postal Service before the Arrival at Unit (AAU) scan event.

The fee will be applied only once for parcels below the thresholds. For customers who tender shipments at a Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU), non-compliance fees are assessed against whichever of the three thresholds yields the greatest number of non-compliant pieces at the time of the mailing. We evaluate eVS shipper compliance on a monthly reconciliation basis by individual mail class or blended mail class. Non-compliant fees for shippers are assessed against the lower assessment between the individual and blended mail classes. **The IMpb non-compliance fee is $0.25 per piece.** IMpb non-compliance fees are assessed on Priority Mail®, Priority Mail Express®, First-Class Package Services, Parcel Select®, and Parcel Select Lightweight® parcels.

Verification/Threshold	Explanation
Barcode Quality (98%)	- Duplicate tracking numbers on Multiple Packages (120 day) - Invalid MID (Mailer ID) in IMpb
Manifest Quality (94%)	- Entry Facility Mismatch between scan and manifest - Invalid Post Office of account ZIP Code - Invalid Method of Payment (Permit, Federal Agency, PC Postage, Smart Meter, Other Meter, Stamps) - Invalid Payment account number *Note: eVS shippers must provide payment information prior to 12:00 AM on the day the mail is presented.*
Address Quality (90%)	- Missing or Invalid Secondary Address Element Info - Missing Street Number - Unable to Match Address to a valid ZIP+4 Code - Invalid Primary Street Number *Note: eVS shippers must provide the address information prior to the Arrival at Unit (AAU) scan.*

IMpb REPORTS

As of March 26, 2017 the Postal Service is improving the functionality of the IMpb Compliance Report. In addition to making it available internally and externally, mailers are able to research information at the Mailer ID (MID) or Customer Registration ID (CRID) level. Other enhancements include a new Summary Level Report that aggregates compliance percentages by MID, provides compliance percentages for each threshold, and allows mailers to drilldown into an error at the MID level. Changes have also been made to the Mid-level Report. The report aggregates compliance percentages by MID, permit number and transaction number, provides compliance percentages for each threshold and allows mailers to drilldown into an error by transaction number.

Non-eVS Reports	BCG Home Page → Mailing Services → Mailing Reports → IMpb Compliance Report

Mailer ID	Total Pieces	SSF Version 1.6+ provided	Complete Address and/or 11 Digit DPV	IMpb Barcode Quality	SSF Manifest Quality	Address Quality
123456	400	100%	100%	100%	96%	95%
987456	400	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total	**800**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**98%**	**98%**

→ July 2017 Assessments

Date	SSF Transaction Number	Label ID	Mailer Name	Mailer ID	Mailer CRID	Payment Method	Permit Number
01/09/2017	201701090001	9200190000257900000063171	Mailer Name A	123456	123456889	PI	0000000136
01/09/2017	201701090001	9200190000594200000771185	Mailer Name A	123456	123456889	PI	0000000136
01/09/2017	201701090001	9200190000778808213319	Mailer Name A	123456	123456889	PI	0000000136
01/09/2017	201701090001	9200190101278100000692341	Mailer Name A	123456	123456889	PI	0000000136

→ Report Drill down to piece level detail.

eVS Reports	BCG Home Page → Favorite Services → Mailing Reports → eVS Monthly Account & Sampling Summary → Line 2f: Postage Adjustments from IMpb noncompliance→ Select Mail Class, Month, & Year as necessary → Show Data

Previously, the IMpb Report section only displayed data when there was an assessment, making it difficult for viewers to see all pertinent data in one place, especially for new Barcode Quality (BQ), Manifest Quality (MQ), and Address Quality (AQ) performance, since there was no assessment on those.

In April 2017, the report was updated to show all pertinent data, as shown below:

Mail Class	Total Volume Requiring IMpb	IMpb Compliance Metrics	Non-compliant Volume	Score	Threshold	Pieces under Threshold	Assessment
Parcel Select	2,000,000	Barcode Format (BF)	5	100.00%	95.00%	0	$0.00
		Address Presence (DZ)	55,000	97.25%	98.00%	15,000	$3,750.00
		Shipping File (SF)	800,000	60.00%	91.00%	620,000	**$155,000.00**
		Barcode Quality (BQ)	12	100.00%	0.00%	0	$0.00
		Address Quality (AQ)	65,000	96.75%	0.00%	0	$0.00
		Manifest Quality (MQ)	850,000	57.50%	0.00%	0	$0.00
Total Assessment by Individual Mail Class							**$355,000.00**
Blended	7,060,000	Barcode Format (BF)	265	100.00%	9.00%	0	$0.00
		Address Presence (DZ)	955,300	86.47%	98.00%	814,100	$203,525.00
		Shipping File (SF)	2,002,000	71.64%	91.00%	1,366,600	**$341,650.00**
		Barcode Quality (BQ)	912	99.99%	0.00%	0	$0.00
		Address Quality (AQ)	95,900	98.64%	0.00%	0	$0.00
		Manifest Quality (MQ)	2,351,000	66.70%	0.00%	0	$0.00
Total Assessment by blended Mail Class							**$341,650.00**

Note: The Total Assessment by Individual Mail Class has a higher assessment than the Total Assessment by blended Mail Class. Since the system will charge the <u>lower</u> amount, either by mail class or by blended mail class, the Total Assessment by blended Mail Class would be assessed. (The $355,000 is a combination of mail class assessments, of which only Parcel Select is represented.)

HOW TO MEET THE IMpb REQUIREMENTS
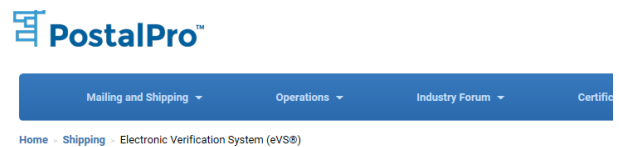
eVS Mailer Option

- Electronically submit a Shipping Services File (SSF) with manifest, tracking, and postage information in one file (through the Electronic Verification System, or eVS):
  - Submission is one file, which includes the Shipping Services File (SSF) (destination delivery address or ZIP+4 and Destination Delivery Point Code information) and postage information.
  - Payment for postage is deducted from a centralized electronic postage payment account (a Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) account)

Manifest Mailing Solution

- Electronically submit a Shipping Services File (SSF) with manifest and tracking information, plus a separate Postage Statement (this option is referred to as a Manifest Mailing Solution).
  - Submission requires 2 components:
    - Shipping & Tracking information within the electronic SSF
    - A hardcopy Postage Statement brought to the BMEU or an electronic Postage Statement submitted through the Postal Wizard®
  - Payment for postage is made through a local payment/Trust account, or a CAPS account

TOOLS TO MEET THE IMpb REQUIREMENTS

Become an eVS mailer	Visit the eVS webpage on the PostalPro website for more information on how to become an eVS mailer.	
Use a certified vendor software solution	Visit the eVS webpage on the PostalPro website to find the list of certified vendors software solutions.	
Use a certified consolidator solution	Visit the Shipping Consolidators webpage on USPS.com for more information	
Use the USPS Click-N-Ship Business Pro tool	Visit the Click-N-Ship Business Pro webpage on the Business Customer Gateway for more information	

- 0.090 - 0.125" text height
- Bold, sans-serif font
- Centered horizontally above barcode
- All uppercase

- Solid black identification bar(s)
- 0.031 - 0.063" thickness range
- Centered horizontally above/below barcode

0.031" minimum clearance

0.125" minimum clearance (0.250" maximum)

GS1-128 barcode
0.750" barcode height
0.013 - 0.021" X-dimension

minimum horizontal clearance 10 times X-dimension (0.250" preferred)

0.125" minimum clearance (0.250" maximum)

- 0.090 - 0.125" text height
- Bold, sans-serif font
- Centered horizontally below barcode
- Parsed in accordance with Specifications

0.031" minimum clearance

USPS TRACKING #

9402 8052 1368 3062 5229 20

Identification bar - see above