

USPS

January 2024 Price Change Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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General Questions

No questions received for this section.

Section 1.0 Fully Implement Zone Collapse for Periodicals for "All Other"

No questions received for this section.

FULLY IMPLEMENT ZONE COLLAPSE FOR PERIODICALS FOR "ALL OTHER"

On July 9, 2023, the Postal Service collapsed the Pound rates for zones for Outside County Periodicals into an "All Other" category. The *PostalOne!* System postage calculation will be updated to fully implement these "All Other" prices. In addition, the DMM will be updated so that "All Other" Periodicals pricing does not include zone-based rounding or calculations.

Section 2.0 First-Class Mail Incentive

Information on the First-Class Mail Incentive can be found at <https://postalpro.usps.com/growth-incentive-faqs>.

FIRST-CLASS MAIL INCENTIVE

Product Solutions is proposing an incentive to Commercial First-Class Mailers who mailed at least 1 million First-Class Mail pieces in the previous Fiscal Year. This program will run for at least one year depending on results and will require information exchanges between the *PostalOne!* System and Program Registration. Mailers will receive a credit of 30% on incremental First-Class Mail volume that is greater than same period last year volume. Only mailers who grow their First-Class Mail volume will qualify for this mailing credit which can be used on future First-Class Mail mailings.

Section 3.0 Marketing Mail Incentive

Information on the Marketing Mail Incentive can be found at <https://postalpro.usps.com/growth-incentive-faqs>.

MARKETING MAIL INCENTIVE

Product Solutions is proposing an incentive for Marketing Mail mailers who mailed at least 1 million Marketing Mail pieces in the previous Fiscal Year. This program will run for at least one year depending on results and will require information exchanges between the *Postal One!* System and Program Registration. Mailers will receive a credit of 30% on incremental Marketing Mail volume that is greater than same period last year volume. Only mailers who grow their Marketing Mail volume will qualify for this mailing credit which can be used on future Marketing Mail mailings.

Section 4.0 Certificate of Mailing – Extra Services Automated Solution

1. Q: Will the physical forms themselves be updated?

A: Not directly, but they are being examined to determine whether changes are needed.

2. Q: Based on the Certificate of Mailing section of the January 2024 Release Overview, I know that mailers must start submitting them electronically. That section (5.0 in the 1.1.1 version of the Release Overview) talks about uploading a CSV in the Business Customer Gateway as an option. How do mailers learn of that csv format and where in the BCG does the user go to upload the CSV?

A: A new link “COM Data Tool” will be available through BCG for upload of CSV.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING – EXTRA SERVICES AUTOMATED SOLUTION

The US Postal Service is considering automating Extra Services forms associated with Certificates of Mailings, including Bulk Certificate of Mailing (Form 3606-D); 3665 (Certificate of Mailing); and 3887 (Firm Book for Accountable Mail).

Automating the Certificate of Mailing (COM) process will greatly reduce form complexity, reduce use of paper forms, digitize certifications, and enhance security of the COM data exchange.

Section 5.0 Promotion Eligible Product Identification

No questions received for this section.

PROMOTION ELIGIBLE PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

The US Postal Service is considering offering mailers six promotions (Tactile, Sensory, and Interactive; Personalized Color Transpromo; Emerging Technology; Reply Mail IMbA; Informed Delivery; and Retargeting). When mailers submit their postage statement, they need to claim the promotion discount by using applicable Component Characteristics Record (CCR) code and ensure their submission is meets the *PostalOne!* System validation. The proposed updates will enable mailers to see promotion discounts at the product level (for each promotion).

Section 6.0 Ballot Mail Service Type ID (STID) Revision

No questions received for this section.

BALLOT MAIL SERVICE TYPE ID (STID) REVISION

The US Postal Service is considering retiring and removing Ballot Mail STIDs 719, 724, 739, 745, and 740 as an option for mailers. The Full-Service Service Type ID (STID) verification (for Full-Service mailings) will be updated and use of the decommissioned STIDs will result in STID errors.

Section 7.0 Eliminate Parcel Select Lightweight and Update Parcel Select Rate Tables

1. Q: Can Parcel Select over a pound and Parcel Select under a pound (previously Parcel Select Lightweight) be co-mingled?

A: Yes.
2. Q: Do the ancillary endorsements, forwarding rules, returns, and UAA guidelines for Parcel Select apply to the new combined product and the rules for PSLW go away?

A: Yes.
3. Q: Is UAA PSLW (unendorsed) still treated as waste as it currently stands?

A: No, it will be priced to Return to Sender.
4. Q: Will UAA handling and pricing change (e.g., \$3 additional fee now on packages <1lb)?

A: The new product inherits the characteristics of Parcel Select. Prices will reflect the additional costs for covering returns.
5. Q: Are we still planning to use one STC for PS over 1 Lb. and different STC for the packages under 1 Lb.?

A: No, just one STC.
6. Q: Are the weight breaks around 15.999 oz, and 16 oz/1 lb. like USPS Ground Advantage used for Parcel Select going forward?

A: No, just 4 oz, 8 oz, 12 oz, 16 oz/1 lb. (15.999 oz will only be available to NSA customers).
7. Q: Will the indicia be merged?

A: Permit Indicia with PSLW in the text will become Parcel Select.
8. Q: Will endorsements change (e.g., including Bulk Parcel Return Service)?

A: The new product inherits the characteristics of Parcel Select.
9. Q: Will there be a BQ IMpb Compliance grace period for this change like there was for USPS Ground Advantage?

A: Yes, there will be a grace period ending 3/31/2024.

ELIMINATE PARCEL SELECT LIGHTWEIGHT AND UPDATE PARCEL SELECT RATE TABLES

The US Postal Service is considering eliminating the current Parcel Select Lightweight and adding price categories of quarter, half, and three-quarter pound increments to the current destination entry pricing under Parcel Select.

Section 8.0 USPS Returns/Parcel Return Service Noncompliance Establishment

1. Q: Will there be a BQ IMpb Compliance grace period?

A: Yes, there will be a grace period ending on 5/31/24.

USPS RETURNS/PARCEL RETURN SERVICE NONCOMPLIANCE ESTABLISHMENT

USPS is considering establishing non-compliance assessments for the following product solutions:

- Priority Mail Express Return
- Priority Mail Return
- USPS Ground Advantage Return
- Parcel Return Service (PRS)

Leverage ECIP solution to detect inaccurate symbols on the Postage Label or detect improper STCs embedded within the tracking barcode on the Postage Label or within the shipping manifest.

Change History

DATE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
12/1/2023	All	V1.0 Posted