

# LACS<sup>Link</sup><sup>®</sup> PRODUCT

## END USER LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 1 **General**

- 1.1 The LACS<sup>Link</sup><sup>®</sup> data product is provided by the USPS<sup>®</sup> to give mailers a tool to obtain converted addresses that are changed from rural-style to city-style addresses or existing city-style addresses that have been renumbered or renamed. The input to a LACS<sup>Link</sup> lookup consists of a 50-character field containing a non-parsed address and a 5-digit ZIP Code<sup>™</sup>. When a match is obtained, the output will be a new 11-digit Delivery Point Code (DPC) with a Hint Byte to allow the reversing of the DPC into a text address. The LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product enables Licensees to provide the updated address when a converted address matches the LACS<sup>Link</sup> file.
- 1.2 To use the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product, the Licensee must meet all requirements and specifications contained within the License Agreement, the most current version of this document, and the most current version of the Software Developer's Guide shall apply to the use of the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product unless explicitly allowed, prohibited, or modified by USPS in writing.

### 2 **Purpose**

- 2.1 The purpose of these performance requirements is to enhance the processing and delivery of mail and provide mutual cost reduction opportunities through improved efficiency by ensuring USPS<sup>®</sup> customers have access to the following address list services:
  - Acceptable standardization and address matching services
  - Detection of undeliverable addresses (excluding change of address)
  - Methods to obtain changes or conversions of addresses
- 2.2 Another purpose of these performance requirements is to establish standard performance and service criteria for LACS<sup>Link</sup> End User Licensees.

### 3 **Product Description and Definition**

- 3.1 The LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product utilizes secure datasets (hash tables) that will only provide converted address information when queried through a software interface with a specific algorithm of the old address from a mailer's address

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list, which matches the algorithm of the information as it appears in the LACSLink<sup>®</sup> database.

- 3.2 The input algorithm uses a complete address, a 5-digit ZIP Code and an unparsed address to obtain a match.

### **4 Fulfillment**

- 4.1 LACSLink<sup>®</sup> updates will be provided monthly to Licensees via the USPS Electronic Product Fulfillment (EPF) website.
- 4.2 There will be no more than two iterations of the monthly product updates available via EPF. Thus the two most recent product releases will be available for download.

### **5 General Requirements**

- 5.1 A Licensee wishing to provide LACSLink<sup>®</sup> processing, either internally or externally, must first obtain (either by purchase or developer license) a licensed and certified Interface Product. The interface must be reviewed, tested, and approved by the USPS prior to any actual use of the LACSLink<sup>®</sup> Product for processing occurring in a production environment to ensure that all license requirements are met.
- 5.2 The USPS may consider an additional agreement to allow the use of LACSLink<sup>®</sup> outside of CASS Certified™ operations and for non-mailing purpose. In these cases, the users will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of USPS that they warrant this consideration. Refer to paragraph 7.9 Standalone Users.
- 5.3 Licensees will synchronize the products with the most current updates to provide the best up-to-date addresses.
- 5.4 USPS-supplied LACSLink<sup>®</sup> updates more than 105 days old shall be destroyed using common practice for disposal of sensitive materials, such as permanent file deletion.
- 5.5 The Licensee will ensure that its customers understand the LACSLink<sup>®</sup> process and output.

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- 5.6 Licensee is responsible for providing all necessary customer support for its services.
  - 5.6.1 Licensee's customers requiring technical information must contact a customer service group managed by Licensee.
  - 5.6.2 Licensee's customer service group shall be responsible for providing resolution to all inquiries concerning the processing output.
- 5.7 Copies of the Licensee Performance Requirements, the License Agreement, Certification Procedures and other related documents will be posted on the PostalPro website at <https://postalpro.usps.com/address-quality/lacslink>.

**6 Specific Requirements**

- 6.1 Licensees must access the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product using USPS-certified LACS<sup>Link</sup> software.
- 6.2 Licensee is responsible for writing or purchasing a certified LACS<sup>Link</sup> software interface, which will customize the type of input format and provide the desired output.
- 6.3 The Licensee shall utilize a monthly release of the ZIP + 4<sup>®</sup> product and a monthly release of the City State product and all required products. Refer to Appendix B for acceptable dates for these products.
- 6.4 Licensees must be capable of:
  - a. Responding to all address inquiries from subscribers and the Licensor.
  - b. Updating the LACS<sup>Link</sup> system with a full file replacement monthly.
  - c. Providing USPS with access to any resource used in performance of this license and with the necessary equipment and/or reports to monitor performance at Licensee's facility.
- 6.5 Licensee shall establish a central email address for receipt and disbursement of USPS electronic correspondence within Licensee's organizations.

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**7 False Positive Reporting and Stop Processing**

- 7.1 Per the License Agreement, the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product shall not be used to facilitate creation of address lists artificially.
- 7.2 To detect conditions where address records appear to be the result of artificial manufacture, and not legitimately obtained, a table of artificially-manufactured addresses is provided as part of the product. Once the 11-digit ZIP Code has been retrieved, it must be compared to the 11-digit in the header file (llkhdr01.dat). If the 11-digit codes match, a false positive record has been identified.
- 7.3 The Licensee shall design or purchase a design for a false positive reporting and stop processing function.

**7.4 Licensed NCOA<sup>Link</sup>® Full Service Providers**

- 7.4.1 Any time an address encounters a match to the False Positive table, the Licensee may continue processing, but must notify USPS immediately of the customer's name and address using one of the two options identified in the *LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive File Layout* (Exhibit A).
- 7.4.2 The Licensee must transfer a file containing the affected addresses from each address list to [Dsf2stop@usps.gov](mailto:Dsf2stop@usps.gov) with the subject line *LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive*.

**7.5 MASS™ Processing on MLOCR Equipment**

- 7.5.1 Any time an address encounters a match to the False Positive table, the MLOCR equipment may continue processing, but the service providers must notify USPS immediately of the occurrence using one of the processes identified in the *LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive File Layout* (Exhibit A).
- 7.5.2 The service provider must transfer a file containing the affected addresses from each address list to [Dsf2stop@usps.gov](mailto:Dsf2stop@usps.gov) or via fax to 650-577-2500 with the subject line *LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive*.
- 7.5.3 USPS reserves the right to require a Licensee to suspend a service provider's ability to perform processing when multiple incidents of artificial address detection occur.

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**7.6 Third-Party Service Providers**

- 7.6.1 Third-Party Service Providers are classified as commercial users processing lists for third parties performing production and creation of mail with the direct intent of producing mail that will appear in the mail stream.
- 7.6.2 While there are no restrictions on the elapsed time between the creation of the list and the actual mail processing, the data must remain unchanged from one step to the next as processed by the CASS Certified software components, as well as meeting the same monthly product cycle for the certified product.
- 7.6.3 USPS will consider entering into an additional agreement that may assist in more efficient processing. Under this agreement, these providers would not be allowed to process their own mail lists at any time. Providers that process their own mail lists must default to the Stop Processing for End Users identified in this section.

**7.7 End Users**

- 7.7.1 End Users are classified as customers receiving a CASS Certified product, which includes LACS<sup>Link</sup> from a CASS<sup>TM</sup> manufacturer.
- 7.7.2 Any time an address encounters a match to the False Positive table, the interface must cease the LACS<sup>Link</sup> process on addresses for the specific address list. The function shall be halted immediately for that specific address list. Processing of other address lists may continue. The Licensee may continue to standardize the remaining addresses on this list if desired.
- 7.7.3 The Licensee shall immediately notify the customer that the processing was halted due to unauthorized exposure to an apparent artificially created address.
- 7.7.4 The Licensee's software interface shall be designed to include a unique one-time only, restart code to restore the processing capability (i.e. cannot be used after the first occurrence to bypass any further stop processing error codes).
- 7.7.5 The Licensee shall notify USPS immediately of the customer's name and address using one of the two options identified in the LACS<sup>Link</sup> *False*

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*Positive File Layout* (Exhibit A). The Licensee must transfer a file containing the affected addresses from each address list to [Dsf2stop@usps.gov](mailto:Dsf2stop@usps.gov) with the subject line *LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive*.

7.7.6 USPS reserves the right to require a Licensee to suspend a customer's ability to perform processing when multiple incidents of artificial address detection occur or for other non-compliant issues.

7.7.7 The following error code explanation regarding the stop processing function shall be placed in all documentation provided to the customer regarding a false positive match:

“Processing was terminated due to the detection of what is determined to be an artificially created address. No address beyond this point has been processed using this product. In accordance with the License Agreement between USPS and <<Licensee>>, the LACS<sup>Link</sup> product shall be used to convert legitimately obtained addresses only, and shall not be used for the purpose of artificially creating address lists. Continuing use of this product requires compliance with all terms of the License Agreement. If the customer believes this address was identified in error, contact the Licensee.”

7.7.8 USPS will consider entering into an additional agreement that may assist in more efficient processing for mailing activities that demonstrate a low-risk of abuse. In these cases, the users will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of USPS that their ability to prepare and enter mail would suffer a severe negative impact by the termination of the CASS/LACS<sup>Link</sup> software.

**7.8 Call Center Operations**

7.8.1 Where CASS Certified software is used within a call center environment, USPS will consider permitting a false positive reporting option in lieu of the stop processing requirement.

**7.9 Standalone Users**

7.9.1 Standalone Users are classified as customers receiving specially packaged LACS<sup>Link</sup> from a Licensed Service Provider.

7.9.2 CASS Certified software developers can create specially designed packages that will allow these users limited LACS<sup>Link</sup> Quick Access write-

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capability for interactive use outside of CASS operations and for non-mailing purposes.

- 7.9.3 USPS will consider entering into an additional agreement with standalone users that may assist in more efficient use of this modified LACS<sup>Link</sup> under the given design specifications. In these cases, the users will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of USPS that they warrant this consideration.
- 7.10 Developers must be able to provide false positive reporting and stop processing functions as defined in the Licensee Performance Requirements.
- 7.11 Licensees will design a process code that will cause the LACS<sup>Link</sup> interface to stop working when the LACS<sup>Link</sup> data has aged more than 105 days from the product date.
- 7.12 All LACS<sup>Link</sup> False Positive reports must be maintained and made available for Postal Service review for a period of five (5) years at Licensee's facility.

### **8 Quality Standards and Testing Criteria**

- 8.1 Although separate certification for LACS<sup>Link</sup> End User Licensees is not required, USPS shall have the right to audit and evaluate the organization's LACS<sup>Link</sup> process and its adherence to the conditions of the LACS<sup>Link</sup> License Agreement.
- 8.2 The LACS<sup>Link</sup> interface will be tested with a CASS/ LACS<sup>Link</sup> Stage II test file in accordance with the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Developer license.

### **9 Expected Output**

- 9.1 The Licensee's LACS<sup>Link</sup> software must be able to return the following about for each address submitted by a customer:
  - a. Each original unaltered input address as it was presented.
  - b. When a match is made, a standardized new address with 11-digit Delivery Point Barcode (DPBC), standard return codes (listed in Exhibit C), and the specific address utilized in the query that obtained the match.
  - c. For each mailing address not matched to the LACS<sup>Link</sup> Product, all elements as appropriate in items a and b.

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- d. The urbanization name information for converted (updated) addresses, when applicable.

**9.2 LACS<sup>Link</sup> Return Information Usage**

- 9.2.1 Mailers who do not want to update their customer's original address information when LACS<sup>Link</sup> returns an updated address may not use the ZIP + 4 code associated with the new address.
- 9.2.2 Mailers may continue to use the original address with only the 5-digit ZIP Code associated with the original address. This exception is allowed if the original address continues to exist in the ZIP + 4 file and DPV confirms using CASS Certified software.
- 9.2.3 For mailpieces processed through MASS certified MLOCRs for the purpose of claiming automation prices, the new LACS<sup>Link</sup> address along with its corresponding 11-digit barcode is required to be sprayed on the mailpiece.

**10 Standards of Performance**

- 10.1 Since multiple LACS<sup>Link</sup> license awards are anticipated, the marketplace will establish a competitive price for the service. However, the intent of the U.S. Postal Service is that this service will be widely available at reasonable cost to customers.
- 10.2 NCOA<sup>Link</sup>® Service Provider Licensees are permitted to "bundle" services such as the NCOA<sup>Link</sup> service, and merge/purge along with the LACS<sup>Link</sup> service. Charges for such bundled services must be separated from LACS<sup>Link</sup>, but may be consolidated on one bill provided to Licensee's customer.
- 10.3 Licensee is responsible for distributing license related electronic correspondence from USPS to the appropriate personnel within Licensee's organization. Pursuant to paragraph 5.8, all electronic correspondence will be directed to a central email address within the Licensee's organization. The email address must be [ncscinfo@<yourcompany.com>](mailto:ncscinfo@<yourcompany.com>). In the event that this address is already assigned for some other purpose, an alternate address must be submitted to USPS for approval. Licensee will subsequently distribute all applicable USPS notifications internally to ensure receipt by the proper staff.



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Such correspondence will also be sent to the pertinent contacts provided during the application process. However in the event of “bounce-backs”, successful delivery via the central email address will be considered confirmation of receipt.

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**EXHIBIT A**

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE FILE LAYOUT**

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE HEADER RECORD**

FIELD REFERENCE NUMBERS	FIELD DESCRIPTION	LOGICAL LENGTH	POSITION FROM/THRU	RELATIVE CONTENT NOTES
1	MAILER'S COMPANY NAME	40	01 - 40	
2	MAILER'S ADDRESS LINE	58	41 - 98	
3	MAILER'S CITY NAME	28	99 - 126	
4	MAILER'S STATE NAME	02	127 - 128	
5	MAILER'S 9-DIGIT ZIP	09	129 - 137	
6	TOTAL RECORDS PROCESSED	09	138 - 146	
7	TOTAL RECORDS LACS <sup>Link</sup> MATCHED	09	147 - 155	
8	FILLER	25	156 - 180	

**FIELD DESCRIPTIONS DEFINITIONS**

**TOTAL RECORDS PROCESSED**  
**TOTAL RECORDS LACS<sup>Link</sup> MATCHED**

The total number of records processed from the entire list.  
The total number of records that returned a new address, return codes A and 92.

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**EXHIBIT A**

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE DETAIL RECORD (OPTION #1)**

FIELD REFERENCE NUMBERS	FIELD DESCRIPTION	LOGICAL LENGTH	POSITION FROM/THRU	RELATIVE CONTENT NOTES
1	STREET PRE-DIRECTIONAL	02	01 - 02	
2	STREET NAME	28	03 - 30	
3	STREET SUFFIX ABBR	04	31 - 34	
4	STREET POST-DIRECTIONAL	02	35 - 36	
5	ADDRESS PRIMARY NUMBER	10	37 - 46	
6	ADDRESS SECONDARY ABBR	04	47 - 50	
7	ADDRESS SECONDARY NUMBER	08	51 - 58	
8	MATCHED ZIP CODE	05	59 - 63	
9	MATCHED PLUS 4	04	64 - 67	
10	FILLER	113	68 - 180	

Reference numbers 1-9 are from the input address.

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE DETAIL RECORD (OPTION #2)**

FIELD REFERENCE NUMBERS	FIELD DESCRIPTION	LOGICAL LENGTH	POSITION FROM/THRU	RELATIVE CONTENT NOTES
1	INPUT -ADDRESS	64	01 - 64	
2	MATCHED ZIP CODE	05	65 - 69	
3	MATCHED PLUS 4	04	70 - 73	
4	FILLER	107	74 - 180	

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**EXHIBIT A**

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE FILE LAYOUT**

**OPTIONAL LACS<sup>Link</sup> FALSE POSITIVE NOTIFICATION FOR MASS MLOCR  
EQUIPMENT PROCESSES**

Service Providers using MASS<sup>TM</sup> MLOCR equipment can capture images of mailpieces that cause False Positive table matches. The providers must send these captured images to USPS as prescribed in 7.5.2 with the following MLOCR Owner's information:

1. Service Bureau name
2. Address
3. City name
4. State
5. 9-digit ZIP Code
6. Equipment ID
7. Run ID of the False Positive match as it occurred (if known)
8. Date of the False Positive match
9. Time of the False Positive match
10. Return address on the mailpiece

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**EXHIBIT B**

Per the USPS DMM<sup>®</sup>, the ZIP + 4 and City/State data must be updated by ZIP + 4 and City/State Product users within 45 days of the USPS release date. For general use, a data release is valid for 105 days from the USPS release date and users may elect to receive bi-monthly updates. However, USPS recommends LACSLink<sup>®</sup> Licensees to update these files on a monthly basis in order to obtain the best possible results from the LACSLink<sup>®</sup> process.

The following chart is provided to assist in determining which data release is considered the most current for LACSLink<sup>®</sup> Licensees.

<b>Release</b>	<b>Required Use Date</b>	<b>Last Use Date</b>
January 15	March 1	March 31
February 15	April 1	April 30
March 15	May 1	May 31
April 15	June 1	June 30
May 15	July 1	July 31
June 15	August 1	August 31
July 15	September 1	September 30
August 15	October 1	October 31
September 15	November 1	November 30
October 15	December 1	December 31
November 15	January 1	January 31
December 15	February 1	February 28 (Feb 29 in leap year)

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**EXHIBIT C**

**LACS<sup>Link</sup> RETURN CODE DESCRIPTIONS**

Return Codes should only be returned if you actually go to the llk.hsl hash table.

Return Code	Description	Address*	How**
A	<b>LACS<sup>Link</sup> Record Match</b> – The input record matched to a record in the master file. A new address could be furnished.	Y	D
00	<b>No Match</b> – The input record COULD NOT BE matched to a record in the master file. A new address could not be furnished.	N	D
14	<b>LACS<sup>Link</sup> Record Match: New Address Would Not Convert at Run Time</b> – The input record matched to a record in the master file. The new address could not be converted to a deliverable address.	N	S
92	<b>LACS<sup>Link</sup> Record Match: Secondary Number Dropped from Input Address</b> – The input record matched to a master file record, but the input address had a secondary number and the master file record did not. The record is a ZIP + 4 street level or highrise match.	Y	S

\* **Y** = New Address

**N** = New Address not provided

\*\***D** = Derived by data – returned in lieu of 11-digit

**S** = Derived by software