







ACS™ Billing



Background

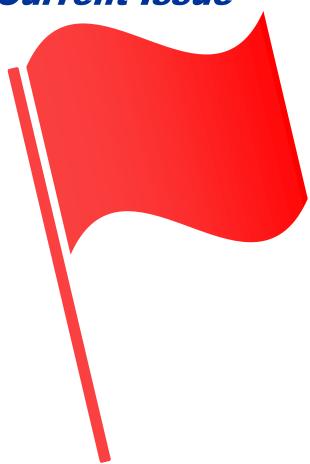
With the implementation of the Address Quality Census Measurement and Assessment Process (AQCMAP) which replaced MERLIN, ACS billing processes updated to provide <u>free ACS</u> for basic automation and non-automation for **First-Class Mail**® and **USPS Marketing Mail**® pieces.

To qualify, the mailing must:

- 1. Bear a unique IMb™ printed on the mailpiece;
- 2. Include a Full-Service or OneCode ACS® STID in the IMb
- 3. Include the unique IMb in eDoc;
- 4. Be sent by an eDoc submitter that provides accurate mail owner identification in eDoc, and;
- 5. Be sent by an eDoc submitter entering more than 95% of eligible volume as full-service.



Current Issue



- Upon receipt of August invoices, ACS customers expressed concern they are being charged incorrectly for records where the IMb™ cannot be found in any eDoc submitted to SASP
 - (See Requirement 3).
 - These records are classified as "Unassociated"

- Customers report receiving ACS records and "Unassociated" charges for IMb values mailed up to one year ago.
 - SASP is unable to confirm accuracy based on four months of historical data upon receipt of ACS record.
 - SASP continues to search for match of IMb within eDoc for additional 35 days.



ACS[™] Billing Review

Where We Are Today

Industry Alert published September 27th

https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3419



September 27, 2018

USPS to Resume Billing for ACS and Shipper Paid Forwarding Services

As stated in the Industry Alert published August 10th the USPS will issue invoices the week of September 24th for the ACS notifications and forwarding services provided during the period March 25th through July 24th.

Invoices that were sent to ACS customers for the July 25th to August 24th period contained charges for ACS records that were flagged as "Unassociated". The term Unassociated indicates the IMb used on the mail piece that produced the ACS record could not be found in any electronic documentation submitted to the Postal Service within the past 5 months. The Federal Register stated that one of the requirements to be eligible for

Due to industry concerns related to the validity of the charges for these Unassociated records the Postal Service will exclude all Unassociated records from consideration when recasting the March through August invoices to give both the mailing industry and the Postal Service the opportunity to review these records and understand their root causes before making any decision regarding the future assessment of these charges.

ACS notifications provisioned daily through the Electronic Product Fulfillment process provides a product code that can be used to identify records that are Unassociated with the information contained in eDoc. Additional information on ACS product codes can be found in the ACS™ File Format Technical Guide and the Appendix C: ACS^M product Code Information and Details posted at https://postalpro.usps.com/address-quality/ACS. ACS customers are strongly encouraged to review and understand this documentation.

ACS customers who have already paid invoices will have their accounts adjusted to remove any charges assessed for Unassociated records for the period March 25th through August 24th. Separate notifications will be sent to each ACS customer's email account to advise them of the March 25th through August 24th monthly invoice amounts that are payable. ACS customers with any questions or concerns about the invoice charges they receive may contact the ACS Support department to request a review.

For additional information or assistance please contact the ACS Support department at 877-640-0724 (Option

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Where We Are Today

- All Unassociated ACS records will not be evaluated until further notice.
- Adjusted invoices, where required, for April through August were fulfilled.
 - Email notices will be sent to mailers providing updated invoice amounts.
- USPS® continues to fulfill Unassociated notices for mailer review.
 - ACS records flagged with Product Code that indicates record considered Unassociated
- Continue to analyze this issue and determine next steps for ensuring compliance.



Thank You!