

CASS/MASS Cycle M Certification Clarification/Extension

The CASS certification process is designed in cooperation with the mailing industry to improve the accuracy of postal codes {i.e., 5-digit ZIP[®], ZIP + 4[®], Delivery Point Codes (DPCs), and Carrier Route codes that appear on mailpieces. The CASS software certification program provides hardware and software developers, service bureaus, and commercial mailers a common measure by which to test the quality of address-matching software.

An extension of CASS is the MASS certification program. This also was designed in cooperation with the mailing industry to improve the accuracy of postal codes that appear on mailpieces. MASS certification is required for MLOCRs, (Multiline Optical Character Readers), RVE (Remote Video Encoding) systems, LVE (Local Video Encoding), and encoding stations to assure the accuracy of address information and the correct application of an accurate delivery point barcode (DPBC). It is an annual requirement and is valid from the certification date until the end of any current annual period.

In an effort to assist the mailing industry, the Postal Service has extended the requirement date for CASS/MASS Cycle M Certification.

The CASS Certification requirement date has been extended from July 31, 2009 to September 30, 2009.

Tests for CASS Certification will be processed on a First-In, First-Out basis. Test(s) that have not completed **grading** by September 30, 2009 will result in a lapse in the CASS certification for the respective End User effective September 30, 2009 at 11:59pm.

The Fee Schedule for CASS Certification test has not changed.

The MASS Certification requirement date and fee schedule has been changed as follows:

- There are two basic distinctions for End Users of MASS software where the manufacturer has given authority to **release** test decks:
 1. End Users that ordered their test deck(s) by July 31, 2009
 2. End Users that **DID NOT** order their test deck(s) by July 31, 2009
- For End Users that ordered their test deck(s) by July 31, 2009
 1. There is no charge for the initial deck
 2. If the first test is failed, the second test deck is free of charge (only for End Users that ordered the initial test deck by July 31, 2009)
 3. All subsequent test decks ordered will be charged the appropriate fees

- For End Users that **DID NOT** order their initial test deck by July 31, 2009:
 1. All appropriate fees will be charged for each test deck ordered
- For test decks released by the manufacturer **AFTER** July 31, 2009 and **PRIOR** to September 1, 2009:
 1. The End User will pay half-price for the initial test deck.
 2. All subsequent test decks ordered will be charged at the appropriate rate.
- End Users that fail to pass their initial, or subsequent test, will have their Certification lapse on September 30, 2009. Test decks that have not completed **grading** by September 30, 2009 will result in a lapse in the MASS certification for the respective End User effective September 30, 2009 at 11:59pm.
- All MASS test decks will be processed on a First-In, First-Out basis.
- For manufacturers who request, and receive special allowances, the stated allowance shall take precedence over this MASS extension.