



Package Platform Release 1.7.0.0

Release Notes

CHANGE 1.0

[EXTERNAL]

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1.0 Introduction

On Thursday, September 12, 2019, the United States Postal Service implemented the following software change:

- Package Platform Release 1.7.0.0

These Release Notes provide the contents of the release and affected subsystems.

This document is prepared based on the knowledge available at the time of its publication and any element may be subject to change prior to publication.

2.0 Package Platform – Enhancements, Updates, and New Functionality

2.1 Support for Automated Returns by Manifest

The USPS implemented a manifest service in the Package Platform system to support manifesting for automated commercial returns.

2.1.1 Mailer Profile

As part of the mailer profile, the account management service retains the customer's preference as to whether they would like to use manifest attributes for pricing their automated returns. For mailers enrolled in automated returns, the account management service stores the Master MID, CRID, MID, and other relevant profile and payment information. The automated returns manifest mailer profile data is made available to downstream services for their use.

Mailers that intend to submit a manifest file for their returns should work with an internal Technical Integration Specialist (TIS) to select one of the following available workflows: "Returns - Manifest Attributes (Pilot)" or "Returns - Manifest Attributes (Live)". Selection of the Pilot workflow allows mailers to submit a test manifest file for their returns with no charge to their account so that they can mirror the existing returns process for comparison. Selection of the Live workflow enables submission of a manifest file for returns for which the mailer's payment account will be charged. [1091](#), [1092](#), [1199](#)

2.1.2 Manifest Service

The Package Platform manifest service ingests and processes Shipping Services Manifest Files. Manifest-based pricing is supported for USPS Return Services. Shipping Services File (SSF) 2.0 Header and Detail records are used by the manifest service for this purpose.

Customers using manifested returns are able to claim insurance on returns. If no trusted attributes are available for a package, the Package Platform manifested return service uses the manifested value instead of the average rate for the return.

2.1.3 Manifest Validation

Validation was implemented by the manifest service to ensure that manifest data conforms to the standards and format expected by the service.

The following business rules apply for manifest data:

- The manifest service uses the first Electronic File Number (EFN) in the Shipping Service File (SSF) as the Master EFN and all subsequent EFNs as child EFNs. [736](#)
- If a child EFN is null, it will be set equal to the master EFN in the header record. [1272](#)
- The manifest service identifies files that have different EFNs but 100% (configurable threshold) identical package level details, so that only distinct packages are processed. [860](#)
- The manifest service compares incoming EFNs to EFNs the service has processed in the last 7 days (configurable threshold), so duplicate EFNs can be identified and only distinct packages are processed. [862](#)

- If multiple header records are present in the SSF manifest file for automated returns, the manifest service will identify the version of each header record. Only SSF version 2.0 header records will be accepted. Any header records with versions other than 2.0 will result in the detail records associated with that header record not being processed. [1184](#)

The table below lists the validation checks that are made on the SSF2.0 Header and Detail Records. [762](#)

Validation Check	Result of Failed Validation Check
Validate that Mail Class in SSF 2.0 Detail Record 1 matches Mail Class in Service Type Code (STC) of the package 732	Manifest service auto-corrects Mail Class to match Mail Class derived from STC
Validate that Extra Service Code (ESC) in SSF 2.0 Detail Record 1 corresponds to the STC provided in the SSF 733	Manifest service auto-corrects ESC per the STC.
Validate that Mailer ID (MID) from the SSF 2.0 EFN is enrolled in Package Platform. 738	Header and detail records not imported
Validate that SSF 2.0 fields are pipe-delimited (separated by pipe character " "). 739	Header and detail records not imported
Check to ensure that SSF 2.0 Customer Reference value is valid. 740	Manifest service replaces invalid Customer Reference field with blank and generates a warning message
Check whether there are any EFNs that are unique to each other but have 100% (configurable threshold) identical package level details within a configurable number of days (initially set to 7). Compare the package level details associated to both EFNs. 860	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If submissions with different EFNs and 100% identical PIC records are found, the duplicate EFN submission and associated PIC records are rejected and a message is published with the reason for the rejection. • If the percentage of identical PICs in both EFN submissions is not above the configurable threshold, the EFN submissions are processed.
Check whether an incoming EFN has been received or processed by the Manifest Service within a configurable number of days (initially set to 7). Compare the package the level details associated to both EFNs if duplicates are identified. 862	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the percentage of identical PICs in both EFN submissions passes 10% (configurable threshold), the duplicate PICs are ignored and only the unique PICs are processed by the manifest service. • If the percentage of identical PICs in both EFN submissions is not above the configurable threshold, the EFN submissions are processed.
Validate PICs in SSF 2.0 using check digit calculation to ensure they are constructed correctly. Only PICs with accurate check digits will be used for automated returns manifest pricing. 868	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark the "Check Digit Valid" as "N" if the PIC failed the validation and make the PIC field NULL; mark the "Check Digit Valid" as "Y" if it passed. • Generate a message to the Manifest Service topic with the result of the failed validation.
Validate that SSF 2.0 Header Record ID conforms to the expected format (required for all file types): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alphanumeric • maximum length is 2 characters • must contain "H1" 863 	Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected.
Validate that EFN for Online Mailers fields in SSF 2.0 Header conform to the expected format. 864 -	Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected.
Validate that EFN field in SSF 2.0 Header conform to the expected format. 865 -	Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected.
Validate that EFN for Commercial Mailers in SSF 2.0 Header conforms to the expected format. 867	Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected.
Validate EFNs in SSF 2.0 using check digit calculation to ensure they are constructed correctly. Only EFNs with accurate check digits will be used for automated returns manifest pricing. 883	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected. • Generate a message to the Manifest Service topic with the result of the failed validation.
Validate that all fields in SSF 2.0 Detail conform to the expected format. 866 -	Header record and all associated Detail records are rejected.

Table 1 – Manifest Service Validation

In addition to the business rules and validation, the tables below list other fields in the SSF 2.0 Header and Detail records that are evaluated for enrolled MIDs and STCs in order to validate the manifest and process it.

SSF 2.0 Header Record Fields
CRLF 741
Header Record ID 742
EFN 743
Electronic File Type 744
USPS Electronic File Version Number 754
Time of Mailing 745
Date of Mailing 750
Entry Facility Type 746
Entry Facility ZIP 747
Entry Facility ZIP+4 753
Shipment Fee Code 748
Direct Entry Origin Country Code 749
Extra Fee for Shipment 751
Containerization Indicator 752 , 871
Software Vendor Code 755
Software Vendor Product Version 758
Transaction ID 756
File Record Count 757
Mailer ID (MID) 759

Table 2 - Shipping Services File 2.0 - Header Record

SSF 2.0 Detail Record Fields
CRLF 761 , 876
STC 763
Tracking Number 764 , 892 , 894
Mail Class 765 , 869
Barcode Construct Code 766 , 874
Destination ZIP Code 768
Destination ZIP+4 767
Foreign Postal Code 769 , 888
Destination Facility Type 770
Destination Country Code 771 , 889
Carrier Route 771 , 877
Logistics Manager Mailer ID 773 , 891
Mail Owner Mailer ID 774
Container ID 1, Container ID 2, Container ID 3 775 , 777 , 779 , 878 , 880 , 882
Mail Owner Mailer ID 774 , 890
Container Type 1, Container Type 2, Container Type 3 776 , 881 , 780 , 872 , 879 , 881
Mail Owner Customer Registration ID (CRID) 781
Customer Reference 782 , 866
FAST Scheduled Induction Date 783
FAST Scheduled Induction Time 785
FAST Reservation Number 784
Method of Payment 786
Payment Account Number 787
Meter Serial Number 788
Post Office of Account ZIP Code 789
Customized Shipping Services Contracts (CSSC) Number 790
CSSC Product ID 796
Postage 792
Postage Type 791
Chargeback Code 793 , 870

SSF 2.0 Detail Record Fields
Weight 794
Length 800
Height 803
Width 804
Dimensional Weight 802
Unit of Measure 795
Rate Indicator 797
Destination Rate Indicator 798
Processing Category 799
Domestic Zone 801
Extra Service Codes 1- 5 805 , 806 , 809 , 811 , 813
Extra Service Fees 1- 5 807 , 808 , 810 , 812 , 814
Value of Article 815
COD Amount Due Sender 816 , 885
Handling Charge 817
Surcharge Type 818
Surcharge Amount 819
Discount Amount 820
Discount Type 822
Non-Incidental Enclosure Rate Indicator 821
Non-Incidental Enclosure Weight 823
Non-Incidental Enclosure Postage 824
Non-Incidental Enclosure Class 825
Non-Incidental Enclosure Processing Category 827
Postal Routing Barcode 826
Open and Distribute Contents Indicator 828
Delivery Option Indicator 829
Waiver of Signature/Carrier Release/Customer Delivery Preference 830
Destination Delivery Point 831
PO Box Indicator 832
Tracking Indicator 833
Removal Indicator 834
Original Label Tracking Number Barcode Construct Code 835
Original Tracking Number 836
Customer Reference Number 2 837 , 875
Recipient Name Destination 838
Delivery Address 839
Key Line 840
Ancillary Service Endorsement 841 , 887
Address Service Participant Code 842 , 886
Return Address City 843
Return Address State 844
Return Address 845
Return Address ZIP Code 846
Logistics Mailing Facility CRID 847

Table 3 - Shipping Services File 2.0 - Detail Record

2.2 Reporting Service

The Package Platform reporting service creates and maintains a data repository to ingest the data published by other Package Platform services. For network returns and manifested returns, the validation and auto correction messages are retained along with responses and/or messages from the pricing service, verify service, scan service, and payment service. In addition, a one-time load process was performed to load data from the data service's database to the reporting service's database. The load will enable the reporting service to provide network return reports in the future. [1164](#), [1325](#), [1326](#), [1327](#), [1328](#), [1329](#), [1330](#), [1331](#), [1332](#), [1333](#), [1334](#), [1335](#)

2.3 Scan Service

The scan service identifies whether incoming scans for automated returns packages have corresponding manifest records so that they can be processed accordingly. [1254](#)

2.4 Verify Service

- The verify service calculates and stores the average prices for automated returns customers submitting optional manifests, so that the average price can be used to calculate postage in the event trusted or manifest attributes are unavailable. [1259](#)
- The verify service identifies packages with a corresponding manifest for automated returns. The verify service also identifies whether the mailer has chosen to submit optional manifests for automated returns packages or for insurance by retrieving the shipper preferences from account management. If so, the verify service assesses those packages using the manifest attributes if the package has not already been charged for postage. The verify service publishes a message with the manifest price (and/or insurance if requested) for the automated returns package. If a manifest record is unavailable for an automated returns package with a pricing scan, the verify service will continue to use the existing functionality to charge postage for the automated return package. The pricing results for automated returns will be stored for a configurable number of days, initially set to 120. [1262](#), [1263](#), [1264](#), [1266](#)

3.0 Document History

Date	Version	Section	Description