



Package Platform Release 2.3.0.0

Release Notes

CHANGE 2.0

[EXTERNAL]

DEPLOYMENT DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

RELEASE NOTES PUBLICATION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

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Application	Suffix Identifier (“-X”)
Package Platform	PI: ALM Item numbers PR: ALM Requirement numbers

1158-PI 4	2344-PR3	2977-PR3	3037-PR 1
1178-PI 5	2345-PR3	2993-PR3	3038-PR 1
1181-PI 5	2346-PR3	2995-PR3	3039-PR 1, 2
1191-PI 4	2959-PR4	2996-PR3	3040-PR 1
1192-PI 4	2960-PR4	2997-PR3	3041-PR 1
1193-PI 4	2961-PR4	2998-PR3	3042-PR2
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1221-PI 5	2963-PR4	3003-PR3	3044-PR2
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1.0 Introduction

On Thursday, September 10, 2020, the United States Postal Service implemented the following software change:

- Package Platform Release 2.3.0.0

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

The section titled **Corrections to Known Issues** is derived from External Trouble Reports (ETRs) and Engineering Change Requests (ECRs) for inclusion in this release.

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 Account Management

Package Platform Account Management Services modules were updated to support enrollment in Package Platform for USPS Network Returns and Domestic Outbound packages.

Package Platform Account Management Services enhanced the functionality of the Account Management home page to enable mailers to access multiple applications from a single landing page. The Account Management home page provides access to the Mailer Review page, Reports, and other functionality via buttons and tabbed sections for the following:

- Enrollment (USPS Returns and/or Domestic Outbound)
- View and Edit Profile
- Manage Mailer IDs (MIDs)
- Mailer Review
- Package Platform Reporting
- Account Management Summary
- Profile Summary

The Account Management home page includes the mailer's name and address, enrolled program, default Enterprise Payment System (EPS) account, status, and the Package Platform enrollment start and end dates. The Customer Profile was updated to include Permit Number, Permit Type, and Permit Finance Number for customers enrolled in Package Platform Domestic Outbound. Permit information for mailers enrolled in Package Platform Domestic Outbound will be refreshed daily based on the enrolled CRID. [3033-PR](#), [3035-PR](#), [3036-PR](#), [3037-PR](#), [3072-PR](#)

2.1.1 Account Management – View/Edit Profile

For customers enrolled in the Package Platform Domestic Outbound and/or USPS Network Returns services, Account Management Services provides a Search page to enable users to search for, view, and/or edit their Package Platform customer profile. Customers are able to export the results to a comma separated values (.csv) or Excel (.xls) format file.

The Edit page for enrolled customers allows users to update their Default EPS Account by selecting it from a list of their associated EPS accounts, and also includes the following fields for display:

- Program
- Status
- CRID
- Master MID and MID
- Mail Class [3038-PR](#), [3039-PR](#), [3040-PR](#), [3041-PR](#)

2.1.2 Account Management – Enrollment

The Account Management Enrollment page provides users with the option to enroll in either Domestic Outbound or USPS Returns.

2.1.2.1 USPS Network Returns Enrollment

Account Management Services provides a Checklist page for USPS Returns, so that mailers can answer questions to prepare for enrollment. The Checklist page Returns tab includes a series of questions that take customers through the steps listed below to prepare for USPS Returns enrollment. Yes/No buttons are available for each.

- *Have you completed Online Enrollment for USPS Returns in the Business Customer Gateway?*
- *Your User ID is not associated with any EPS Account Numbers.* (Instructions for the mailer to create an EPS Account are included.)
- *Are you an existing Scan Based Payment (SBP) customer?*
- *Will you be submitting a manifest file in order to obtain insurance on your return packages?*
- *Will you be submitting a manifest file containing package attributes and postage?*

The USPS Returns Enrollment process includes pages to enable users to select the EPS Account Number, CRID, and MID(s) they wish to enroll in the service for Package Platform.

Once the enrollment selections have been made, a Review page displays so that users can review their selections for USPS Returns enrollment. The Review page displays the CRID, EPS Account Number, and MIDs. Navigation buttons are provided to enable users to go back to make corrections as needed, or confirm the selection to submit the enrollment. Users can export the results in comma separated values (.csv) or Excel (.xls) format.

Upon submission of the enrollment, a Confirmation page displays with the user's USPS Returns enrollment selections. Account Management Services supports universal average pricing to be defined for each applicable mail class for USPS Network Returns. [3033-PR](#), [3034-PR](#), [3048-PR](#), [3049-PR](#), [3050-PR](#), [3051-PR](#), [3045-PR](#)

2.1.2.2 Domestic Outbound Enrollment

Account Management Services provides a Checklist page for Domestic Outbound Package Platform enrollment, so that mailers can answer questions to prepare for enrollment. The Checklist page Outbound tab includes a series of questions that take customers through the steps listed below to prepare for Domestic Outbound enrollment. Yes/No buttons are available for each.

- *Have you completed Online Enrollment for USPS Returns in the Business Customer Gateway?*
- *Your User ID is not associated with any EPS Account Numbers.* (Instructions for the mailer to create an EPS Account are included.)
- *Are you an existing Electronic Verification System (eVS) customer?*

The Outbound Enrollment process includes pages to enable users to select the EPS Account Number, CRID, and MID(s) they wish to enroll in the service for Package Platform. EPS Account Number(s), Status, and Account Nicknames are displayed in a sortable list to facilitate users' selection of the EPS Account Number they wish to use for Domestic Outbound enrollment. Upon selection of a CRID, the Location Name and Address is automatically populated. A checkbox is available to allow mailers to include all MIDs associated with the Master MID for enrollment, or they can select individual MIDs for enrollment.

Once the enrollment selections have been made, a Review page displays so that users can review their selections for Domestic Outbound enrollment. The Review page displays the CRID, EPS Account Number, MID(s), Permit Number, Permit Type, Finance Number, and Permit Status. Navigation buttons are provided to enable users to go back to make corrections as needed, or confirm the selection to submit the enrollment. Users can export the results in comma separated values (.csv) or Excel (.xls) format.

Upon submission of the enrollment, a Confirmation page displays showing the user's Domestic Outbound enrollment selections. [3039-PR](#), [3042-PR](#), [3043-PR](#), [3044-PR](#), [3046-PR](#), [3047-PR](#), [3048-PR](#)

2.2 Data Services and Reporting Services Data Element Updates

To accommodate support for USPS Network Returns and domestic outbound Package Platform processing, Data Services receives and utilizes several new data elements necessary for this processing. These include the Permit Number, Permit Type, Permit Finance Number, Unmanifested Packages, Total Packages, Unmanifested Ratio, Unmanifested Per-Piece Fee, and Dispute Closeout ID. Reporting Services consumes the Permit Number, Permit Type, and Permit Finance Number so that they can be included in reports. [3003-PR](#), [3004-PR](#), [3088-PR](#)

2.3 Manifest Services

Package Platform Manifest Services modules were updated to accommodate customers' submission of manifests via a Shipping Services File (SSF). Customers will include payment account information in the SSF Payment Account Number field. Manifest Services retrieves the Mailer ID (MID) using the Tracking Number from the SSF Detail Record, and uses this to retrieve EPS account information from Account Management and EPS for customers enrolled in Package Platform.

Manifest Services determines whether the payment account information submitted in the SSF constitutes a Permit Number or Enterprise Payment System (EPS) Account Number, and verifies and processes it accordingly.

- If the Permit Number is submitted, Manifest Services will retrieve the customer profile from Account Management and verify that it is linked to an active EPS account. Manifest Services will verify the MID is authorized to use the Permit Number and will reject the package if not. The Permit Number and Post Office of Account ZIP Code data will be used to retrieve the Finance Number, Permit Type, and other permit information from Account Management.
 - If the Permit Number is linked to an active EPS Account Number, that number will be used to process the transaction.
 - If the Permit Number is not linked to an active EPS Account Number, the transaction will be processed with the EPS Account Number that is enrolled in Package Platform.
- If the payment account information submitted is the EPS Account Number, Manifest Services will retrieve the customer profile from Account Management and verify that it is linked to an active EPS account. Manifest Services will process the transaction with the EPS Account Number that is provided in the SSF if it is active, or, if inactive, will process the transaction with the EPS Account Number that is enrolled in Package Platform based on the MID in the SSF Tracking Number.

Messaging was updated to rename the Permit Account Number field to EPS Account Number, and to add the Permit Number, Permit Finance Number, and Permit Type to the messages posted to downstream services for added visibility. [2334-PR](#), [2340-PR](#), [2341-PR](#), [2342-PR](#), [2343-PR](#), [2344-PR](#), [2345-PR](#), [2346-PR](#)

2.4 Electronic Shortpaid Assessment System (eSAS) Interface with Package Platform

Package Platform Pricing Services updated the interface with eSAS to provide pricing for packages received from the electronic Shortpaid Assessment System (eSAS). This enables PC Postage packages that were manually uploaded to be repriced. Pricing Services retrieves the pricing requests from eSAS and sends back a response with the pricing information. [3151-PR](#), [3152-PR](#)

2.5 Shipping Partner Event File

Package Platform receives and parses data from the Shipping Partner Event File (V2, V3, or V4) to perform and report Address Quality Verifications for packages submitted to the service. This includes support for 22-digit barcodes, 26-digit barcodes, and 30-digit barcodes. [2965-PR](#), [2966-PR](#), [2967-PR](#), [2968-PR](#), [2970-PR](#), [2971-PR](#), [2973-PR](#), [2974-PR](#), [2976-PR](#), [2977-PR](#)

2.6 Shipping Services File

Package Platform receives and parses data from the Shipping Services File (V1.6, V1.7, or V2.0) to process and price packages submitted to the service via SSF. [2995-PR](#), [2993-PR](#), [2996-PR](#), [2997-PR](#), [2998-PR](#), [3000-PR](#), [2973-PR](#), [2974-PR](#), [2976-PR](#), [2977-PR](#)

2.7 Informed Visibility – Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR) Updates

IV-MTR was updated to include additional metrics and data options to support new and updated Package Platform functionality, as described in the sections below.

2.7.1 IV-MTR – Duplicates Visibility

Data Services provisions duplicate package information to mailers through IV-MTR for mailer visibility. [3090-PR](#)

2.7.2 IV-MTR – Permit Information Visibility

In support of USPS Network Returns and domestic outbound Package Platform processing visibility, Data Services provisions the Permit Number, Permit Type, and Permit Finance Number to mailers through IV-MTR reporting. [3007-PR](#)

2.7.3 IV-MTR – Manifest Feedback

To accommodate updated Manifest processing, Data Services provides mailers and shippers with selected data based on their IV-MTR subscription preferences for the Manifest Feedback data feed. The feed includes Mailing Date, Transmission Date, Electronic File Number (EFN), Filename, Master MID, CRID, Status (Accepted, Rejected), Date and Time Processed, and Description (if available).

IV-MTR was updated to include unmanifested package data for manifest files submitted to Package Platform. The updated data feed includes Tracking Number, Master MID, Child CRID, Earliest Scan Date and Time, First Scan ZIP Code, Destination ZIP Code, Mail Class, Postage and EPS Transaction ID. [1464-PR](#), [1476-PR](#)

2.8 Unmanifested Fee Processing and Visibility

For First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select, Parcel Return Service, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, USPS Retail Ground, and Parcel Select Lightweight, records that are identified as Unmanifested are assessed an Unmanifested Fee, and the transaction details and verifications data are sent to downstream services for visibility. Pricing Services interfaces with Account Management Services to account for Unmanifested records thresholds when creating the assessment.

The Assessed Unmanifested Fees report was updated to include Unmanifested Fees from manifests submitted through Package Platform. Unmanifested Fee adjustments are posted to EPS monthly. [2959-PR](#), [2960-PR](#), [2961-PR](#), [2962-PR](#), [2963-PR](#), [2964-PR](#), [2969-PR](#), [3011-PR](#), [3012-PR](#), [3013-PR](#), [3029-PR](#), [3032-PR](#)

3.0 Package Platform – Corrections to Known Issues

3.1 Account Management

- Account Management reset the enrollment start date for a Mailer ID (MID) whose start date was incorrectly set during enrollment setup. [1256-PI \(3207-PR\)](#)
- Account Management transitioned MIDs for a mailer from pilot to live per the mailer's request. [1219-PI \(3179-PR\)](#)

3.2 Mailer Review Services

A refund was generated for a package that was overcharged due to an incorrect assessment. The package had a Universal Product Code (UPC) barcode; however, it was assessed using weight and zone rates instead of the UPC barcode. [1260-PI \(3206-PR\)](#)

3.3 Unmanifested Records

- A correction was made to prevent Unmanifested records from being incorrectly identified and being priced and sent to the Electronic Shortpaid Assessment System (eSAS). The logic for the PC Postage Letter/Flats/International Pricing indicator was adjusted to prevent identification of erroneous Unmanifested records. [1191-PI \(3164-PR\)](#), [1192-PI \(3163-PR\)](#)
- Scan Services added a filter to the scan process logic to prevent records from being erroneously identified as Unmanifested in the Automated Package Verification (APV) program. [1193-PI \(3166-PR\)](#)

3.4 Pricing Services

- Package Platform Pricing Services charges the Flat/Regional Rate for packages that include a Flat/Regional Rate UPC barcode instead of using an average price for the mail class in cases where trusted attributes are not available. [1158-PI \(3153-PR\)](#)

- Pricing Services modules were updated to add logic that evaluates the military exception indicator for packages assessed as a Large Flat Rate Box. If the military exception indicator is “Y” (Yes), the package will be charged the APO/FPO/DPO a Large Flat Rate Box price. If the military exception indicator is “N” (No), the package will be charged the Large Flat Rate Box price. [1178-PI \(3160-PR\)](#)
- Package Platform Pricing Services modules were updated to properly charge the fee for Extra Service Code 925 (Priority Mail Express Merchandise Insurance). [1221-PI \(3180-PR\)](#)

3.5 Scan Services

- As a result of an incorrect start date for a particular MID, a number of associated packages were unable to be processed between July 31, 2020 and August 23, 2020. Following correction of the enrollment start date by Account Management Services, Scan Services restaged the scans for the impacted packages so that they can be charged. [1257-PI \(3209-PR\)](#)
- Scan Services modules were updated to prevent packages from being incorrectly charged twice due to an issue where multiple Package Scan Grouping IDs were sometimes incorrectly generated and attached to the Package Identification Code (PIC). [1181-PI \(3165-PR\)](#)

3.6 Verify Services

Packages that were incorrectly charged through the pilot workflow instead of the live workflow were restaged so that they could be charged correctly. [1258-PI \(3208-PR\)](#)

4.0 Document History

Date	Version	Section	Description
09/10/2020	Change 2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All• 2.1• 2.1.1• 2.2• 2.3• 2.3.1• 2.7.3• 2.9• 3.5• 3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated to reflect post-deployment status• Clarified Customer Profile update relates to Outbound• Updated list of displayed fields• Removed 3091, 3008, & 3006• Updated field name for payment account information• Removed requirement 2300• Removed requirement 1467; added 1476, 1464• Removed section (requirements 2831, 2833, 3030)• Removed requirement 3177• Removed requirements 3200, 3201, 3202