

Release Overview

January 2021 Changes

DEPLOYMENT: JANUARY 10, 2021
EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 24, 2021

This document describes information for changes under review for the next structural implementation. This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its printing and any direction found herein is subject to change prior to the release. The contents of this document are pre-decisional, and subject to change based on Board of Governors and Postal Regulatory Commission decision.

Pre-Release Document

EXTERNAL

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1.0 Introduction

Included in this document are potential changes under review for the next Structural Release scheduled for January 2021. This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its printing and any direction found herein is subject to change, including additional structure changes prior to the release. The contents of this document are pre-decisional, and subject to change.

Draft postage statements marked with revisions will be posted to Postal Explorer (<http://pe.usps.com>) as they become available.

2.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

2.1 Updates to *PostalOne!* eDoc Specification Versions Support

2.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc

The table below depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that will be supported with the Release 52.0.0.0:

Table 1

<i>PostalOne!</i> Mail.dat (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to January 10, 2021	Versions Supported January 10, 2021 to January 24, 2021	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after January 24, 2021
18-1 ¹	Supported	Supported only for updates	Supported only for updates
19-1 ²	Supported	Supported	Supported
21-1 ³	-	Supported	Supported

Legend:
 1 – Version 18-1 remains supported through January 10, 2021 and for updates beyond.
 2 – Version 19-1 remains supported through January 10, 2021 and beyond. Aside from the statement products and new pricing structure changes introduced in 21-1, all products and prices currently supported in 19-1 will continue to be supported.
 3 – Version 21-1 support starts from January 10, 2021 (includes Errata version 21.1.0.1).

The January 10, 2021 release will require a new Mail.dat client to support Mail.dat submissions.

2.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

The table below depicts the Mail.XML specification versions that will be supported with the Release 52.0.0.0:

Table 2

<i>PostalOne!</i> Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to January 10, 2021	Versions Supported January 10, 2021 to January 24, 2021	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after January 24, 2021
22.0 ¹	Supported	Supported only for updates	Supported only for updates
23.0 ²	Supported	Supported	Supported
24.0 ³	-	Supported	Supported

Legend:
 1 – Version 22.0 remains supported through January 10, 2021 and for updates beyond.
 2 – Version 23.0 remains supported through January 10, 2021 and beyond. Aside from the statement products and new pricing structure changes introduced in 24.0, all products and prices currently supported in 23.0 will continue to be supported.
 3 – Version 24.0 support starts from January 10, 2021.

The January 10, 2021 release will require a new set of Web Services Definition Language to support Mail.XML submissions.

2.2 Updates to *PostalOne!* Mail.XML Data Distribution, MID-CRID, and FAST Specification Version Support

The table below depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the Release 52.0.0.0:

Note: there are no changes to supported versions.

Table 3

	Data Distribution Mail.XML		MID-CRID Mail.XML		FAST Mail.XML	
	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions	Current Supported Versions (Prior to Release)	Post-Release Supported Versions
Versions	Prior to Jan 10, 2021	Jan 10, 2021 & onwards	Prior to Jan 10, 2021	Jan 10, 2021 & onwards	Prior to Jan 10, 2021	Jan 10, 2021 & onwards
14.0A	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
16.0	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported

2.3 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

The table below depicts the specification versions that will be supported with the Release 52.0.0.0:

Note: there are no changes to supported versions.

Table 4

	eVS Shipping Services File Versions Support	
	Pre-Release	Post-Release
	Prior to Jan 10, 2021	Jan 10, 2021 & onwards
1.3	Supported for EMCA/EMRS only	Supported for EMCA/EMRS only
1.4	Supported	Supported
1.6	Supported	Supported
1.7	Supported	Supported
2.0	Supported	Supported

3.0 Seamless Acceptance Incentive

The USPS is considering an incentive for mailings that are submitted under the Seamless Acceptance program. This proposal provides an incentive to the Electronic Documentation (eDoc) submitters (with a Seamless CRID and an Enterprise Payment System Account) for adoption of the program.

The incentive would be based on the eDoc submitter's Customer Registration ID (CRID). A Seamless Mailer is defined by their CRID's status in PostalOne! as "Seamless Acceptance." Note: Seamless Parallel does not qualify for the discount.

The proposal is to allow Electronic Documentation (eDoc) submitters to receive a Seamless Acceptance incentive for the pieces that claim Full -Service prices in the mailing, provided the eDoc submitter has an Enterprise Payment account that is used for the incentive and the mailing is paid for using an Enterprise Payment account.

- The incentive is available to all eDoc submitters with a Seamless Acceptance CRID and an Enterprise Payment account who register in PostalOne!
- The incentive is applied to the Enterprise Payment account that corresponds with the permit selected during registration to receive the discount.
- A permit that corresponds with an Enterprise Payment trust or ACH debit account must be selected to receive the incentive. Trust accounts will receive the incentive upon postage statement finalization and ACH debit accounts will receive the incentive as a daily aggregate.
- Postage Statement Changes: No impact
- Mail.dat changes: No impact – Use existing Segment Record's (.seg) "eDoc Sender CRID" field to identify the CRID of the eDoc submitter
- Mail.XML changes: No impact – Use existing OpenMailingGroupRequest > MailingGroupData > MailingFacility field to identify the CRID of the eDoc submitter
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

4.0 2021 Mailing Promotions

The USPS is considering six promotions for 2021. These are the promotions we offer to mailers over the course of a year. The promotions vary between 3 months and 6 months. The general intent is to increase the value of direct mail and retain the volumes of transactional mail. Analysis has shown that mailers who participate in promotions have higher volume growth than non-participants. The following six promotions are under consideration for 2021:

- Tactile, Sensory and Interactive Promotion
- Emerging and Advanced Technology Promotion
- Personalized Color Transpromo Promotion
- Earned Value Promotion
- Informed Delivery Promotion
- Mobile Shopping Promotion

Further enhancements will be made to allow enrolled mailers to electronically upload their Mailpiece samples. This feature was introduced in 2020 and will now support a full configuration options for electronic mailpiece sample submission to include:

- Mailpiece sample upload requirements as "required" and "not allowed" in addition to the current option that is available ("Optional"). For more information on these configurations, please review the Postal Service Promotion Requirements document for each of the promotions, posted on Postal Pro.

- Enhancements to performance and potentially applying limits on the number of Mailpiece sample files that can be uploaded into a group ID and also to allow the ability to add multiple Group IDs to an eDoc submission. These enhancements are currently under review and a more concrete plan will be shared in the future, once the performance of this feature is analyzed as part of the 2020 promotions.
- Including a required contact information section when mailers are uploading samples where they must fill out contact information so that the program office knows who to contact if more information is needed about the samples.
- Postage Statement Changes: No impact
- Mail.dat changes: No impact
- Mail.XML changes: No impact
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant / Competitive

5.0 International Country Group Changes

The USPS is considering regrouping countries to more closely group countries based on geography/volume/costs for International outbound mailings. This proposal will allow for a configurable setup for Country to Price Group mappings for each of the channels: Retail, Commercial Base, Commercial Plus, Negotiated Service Agreement (NSA) with piece prices.

This proposal includes features to allow separate country-to-price grouping structures for each outbound product, including First-Class Package International Service (FCPIS), Priority Mail International (PMI), Priority Mail Express International (PMEI), International Priority Airmail (IPA), and International Service Air Lift (ISAL).

- Postage Statement Changes: PS Form 3700 – Updates to reflect new Price Groups (Parts B, C, D, E, G, P: International Mail changes to support price group updates)
- Mail.dat changes: No impact
- Mail.XML changes: No impact
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant / Competitive

6.0 Postage Statement Changes

The Postal Service proposes to make corrections and updates to the hard-copy postage statements as detailed below:

Periodicals PS Form 3541 - Periodicals

- o January 2020 Instructions page -Step 3, Line #2 (see info below)
 - 2. For Outside-County mailings\, complete applicable parts B through F. **Please remove the back slash (\) from the sentence. **

First-Class Mail PS Form 3600 FCM – First-Class Mail

- o The existing width of the field "Post Office of Mailing" is too small. It should be enlarged (by shrinking the adjacent field "Mailer's Mailing Date"). This would make the width comparable to how it is currently shown on 3602-R and 3602-N. A long city name, together with state abbreviation and ZIP+4, does not fit well in the existing width on the current PS 3600-FCM.
- o Part S: Adult Signature 18+ Changes
 - Relabel S15 to Adult Signature 21 Required

- Relabel S16 to Adult Signature 21 Restricted Delivery
- Add S37 for Adult Signature 18 Required NSA Only
- Add S38 for Adult Signature 18 Restricted Delivery NSA only

Priority Mail PS Form 3600 PM – Priority Mail

- o Part S:
 - Adult Signature 18+ Changes
 - Relabel S15 to Adult Signature 21 Required
 - Relabel S16 to Adult Signature 21 Restricted Delivery
 - Add S37 for Adult Signature 18 Required NSA Only
 - Add S38 for Adult Signature 18 Restricted Delivery NSA only
 - Remove line 34 for Return Receipt for Merchandise

Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail PS Form 3602N – USPS Marketing Mail - Nonprofit

- o Part S: Remove line 34 for Return Receipt for Merchandise

Package Services PS Form 3605 – Package Services

- o Part S:
 - Adult Signature 18+ Changes
 - Relabel S15 to Adult Signature 21 Required
 - Relabel S16 to Adult Signature 21 Restricted Delivery
 - Add S37 for Adult Signature 18 Required NSA Only
 - Add S38 for Adult Signature 18 Restricted Delivery NSA only
 - Remove line 34 for Return Receipt for Merchandise

7.0 Document Change Log

<i>DATE</i>	<i>SECTION</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
1016/2020	All	DRAFT Compiled & Published