

Release Overview

Structural Changes Under Consideration

Timelines to Be Determined

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

Document last updated date: Friday, April 23, 2021

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1.0 Document Change Log

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

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2.0 Introduction

Included in this document are potential changes under review for the next Structural Release under consideration for CY 2021 (timeline details are to be determined). 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.

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3.0 Applicable Technical Specifications

3.1 Updates to *PostalOne!* eDoc Specification Versions Support

3.1.1 Mail.dat eDoc

The table below depicts the Mail.dat specification versions that would be supported with the Release, with the possibilities of Errata versions (if determined to be necessary):

Table 1

<i>PostalOne!</i> Mail.dat (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Price Change Effective Date	Versions Supported Price Change Deployment Date to Price Change Effective Date	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after Price Change Effective Date
19-1 ¹ Errata	Supported	Supported	Supported
21-1 ² Errata	Supported	Supported	Supported

Legend:
 1 – Version 19-1 (Errata version) remains supported through Price Change Deployment Date and beyond.
 2 – Version 21-1 (Errata version) remains supported through Price Change Deployment Date and beyond.

The Price Change Deployment Date release would require a new Mail.dat client to support Mail.dat submissions.

3.1.2 Mail.XML eDoc

The table below depicts the Mail.XML specification versions that would be supported with the Release with the possibilities of Errata versions (if determined to be necessary):

Table 2

<i>PostalOne!</i> Mail.XML (eDoc) Version Support			
Versions	Versions Supported Prior to Price Change Effective Date	Versions Supported Price Change Deployment Date to Price Change Effective Date	Post-Price Change – Versions Supported on and after Price Change Effective Date
23.0 ¹ Errata	Supported	Supported	Supported
24.0 ² Errata	Supported	Supported	Supported

Legend:
 1 – Version 23.0 (Errata version A) remains supported through Price Change Deployment Date and beyond.
 2 – Version 24.0 (Errata version A) remains supported through Price Change Deployment Date and beyond.

The Price Change Deployment Date release would require a new set of Web Services Definition Language to support Mail.XML submissions.

3.2 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:

Note: there are no changes to supported versions.

Table 3

Versions	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
	Prior to Price Change Deployment Date	Price Change Deployment Date & onwards	Prior to Price Change Deployment Date	Price Change Deployment Date & onwards	Prior to Price Change Deployment Date	Price Change Deployment Date & onwards
14.0A	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
16.0	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported

3.3 Updates to Shipping Services File (SSF) Version Support

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

Note: there are no changes to supported versions.

Table 4

Versions	eVS Shipping Services File Versions Support	
	Pre-Release	Post-Release
	Prior to Price Change Deployment Date	Price Change Deployment Date & 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

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4.0 Proposed First- Class Mail (FCM) Non-Automation Letters Price Categories

The USPS is considering creating prices based on the sortation of Non-Automation mail for First-Class Mail letters. Current structure consists of two prices under Non-Automation: machinable and Non-Machinable letter prices. The proposal would further divide the letter product prices into the following sortation rate category-based prices:

Non-Automation Machinable Letters: 1) AADC, 2) Mixed AADC

Non-Automation Non-Machinable Letters: 1) Mixed ADC, 2) 3-Digit, 3) 5-Digit

- Postage Statement Changes: PS Form 3600 FCM current lines B3 and B7 would be updated to reflect the Rate Categories for Non-Automation Machinable (AADC, Mixed AADC) and Non-Machinable (Mixed ADC, 3-Digit, 5-Digit) sorts
- Mail.dat changes: New Rate Ingredients combinations for existing Rate Indicators
 - Following Rate Category combinations would be used for mapping to the new statement lines: Processing Category: LT
 - Rate Category: G (5-Digit), H (3-Digit), L6 (MxADC), L7 (AADC), L8 (MxAADC)
 - MPU Surcharge: N (None/Not Oversized), R (Non-Machinable)
 - MPU Machinability (Y or N)
- Mail.XML changes: New Rate Ingredients combinations for existing Rate Indicators
 - Following Rate Category combinations would be used for mapping to the new statement lines: ProcessingCategory: LT
 - RateCategory: G (5-Digit), H (3-Digit), L6 (MxADC), L7 (AADC), L8 (MxAADC)
 - SurchargeType: N (None/Not Oversized), R (Non-Machinable)
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

5.0 Proposed USPS Marketing Mail High-Density Flat Mail on Carrier Route Bundle/Pallet Price Categories

The USPS is considering creating prices to encourage mailers to prepare more USPS Marketing Mail High-Density flats on Carrier Route bundle/pallets. Preparing as such allows these flats to bypass distribution operations in the plant and be transported directly to the delivery unit. The proposal would add Rate Categories as prices for High Density mail on Carrier Route pallets entered at Origin, NDC, SCF and DDU, that are processed at the DDU.

- Postage Statement Changes: PS 3602 R & N, New lines would be added to support High-Density on CR Bundle/Pallet prices for all entries (Origin, NDC, SCF, DDU)
- Mail.dat changes:
 - New .cqt Rate Category value of B2 = High Density on Carrier Route Bundles/Pallet. *Note: existing lines for similar rate combinations (such as Basic on CR Bundle/Pallet) uses Rate Category to drive the mapping*
- Mail.XML changes:
 - New RateCategory value of B2 = High Density – on Carrier Route Bundles/Pallet. *Note: existing lines for similar rate combinations (such as Basic on CR Bundle/Pallet) uses Rate Category to drive the mapping*
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No impact
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Market Dominant

6.0 Proposed Extra Service Updates for International Mail and Shipments

The USPS is considering establishing separate prices for similar International Mail Extra Services that appear on both the market dominant and competitive product lists. As a result, the Extra Services for First-Class Mail International, which is the only international Market Dominant product, might be priced differently from the Extra Services for the rest of the International Mail products.

The following Extra Services are supported under International Mail: S1 Certificate of Mailing / S19 Certificate of Bulk Mailing, S5 Insurance, S6 Registered Mail, and S9 Return Receipt.

- Postage Statement Changes: PS Form 3700
- Mail.dat changes: New Rate Ingredients combinations for existing Rate Indicators
- Mail.XML changes: New Rate Ingredients combinations for existing Rate Indicators
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: New Rate Ingredients combinations for existing Rate Indicators
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive & Market Dominant

7.0 Proposed Zone 10 Updates for Competitive Products

The USPS is considering a modification to the zone list by including Zone 10 as a new supported zone. Zone 10 would be limited to competitive products, which include: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Retail Ground, First-Class Package Service, Parcel Return Service (full network), and Parcel Select Ground.

Note: The Zone Chart product structure under consideration contains two zone datasets; one for market dominant products and the other for competitive products. For additional details refer to

APPENDIX A (section B. Proposed File Layout – Sample).

- Postage Statement Changes: The following postage statements would be updated to reflect the new Zone 10 lines: PS Form 3605 Package Services (for Parcel Select Ground; as competitive product), PS Form 3600 Priority Mail, PS Form 3560 Priority Mail Express, PS Form 3600 First-Class Mail & Package Services
- Zone Chart Matrix Product:
 - o Details related to the proposed zone 10 calculation can be requested by sending an email to LabelList.NCSC@usps.gov and will be made available at the USPS Postal Pro website at <https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts>
- Mail.dat changes:
 - o Mail.dat specification - cqt Zone would be updated to include a new Zone 10 value ('A' to represent Zone 10). This approach would be implemented as a workaround, until the Mail.dat specification is updated to allow a 2-character field for Zone
- Mail.XML changes:
 - o Mail.XML specification - PostageStatementCreateRequest and QualificationReportDetailCreateRequest > Zone would be updated to include a new Zone 10 value (as 'A' = Zone 10). This approach is used to create consistency between Mail.dat and Mail.XML and is proposed as a workaround, until the Mail.dat specification is updated to allow a 2-character field for Zone
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: Shipping Services file D1 record would be updated to allow for a new Zone 10 value
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive

8.0 Proposed Zone Calculation Updates for Competitive Products

The USPS is considering a modification to current zone calculation for competitive products. The current method uses one Zone Chart Matrix to calculate zones for competitive and market dominant products by using a 3-Digit origin SCF to 3-Digit destinating SCF ZIP Code mapping to calculate zones. The proposed structure will consist of two sets of zone data: one for market dominant products and the other for competitive products. The zone structure for market dominant will continue to use a 3-Digit ZIP Code origin to 3-Digit ZIP Code destination mapping. For competitive products, the zone mapping would be based on 3-Digit ZIP Code origin to 5-Digit ZIP Code destination.

Competitive products impacted by the consideration of this proposal include Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Retail Ground, First-Class Package Service, Parcel Return Service (full network), Parcel Select (all zoned categories).

Note: For additional details on the Zone Chart layout refer to

APPENDIX A.

- Postage Statement Changes: The following postage statements will be updated to reflect the new Zone 10 lines: PS Form 3605 Package Services (for Parcel Select; all zoned categories; as competitive product), PS Form 3600 Priority Mail, PS Form 3560 Priority Mail Express, PS Form 3600 First-Class Mail.
- Zone Chart Matrix Product:
 - o Details related to the proposed zone calculation can be requested by sending an email to LabelList.NCSC@usps.gov and will be made available at the USPS Postal Pro website at <https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts>.
- Mail.dat changes: No impact – (Existing fields allow for up to 5-Digit ZIP Codes; for Competitive products a 5-Digit Destination ZIP Code will be required)
- Mail.XML changes: No impact – (Existing fields allow for up to 5-Digit ZIP Codes; for Competitive products a 5-Digit Destination ZIP Code will be required)
- Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes:
 - o Shipping Services file specification will continue to require 5-Digit ZIP Code values for Destination ZIP Codes for Zone verification. The H1 - Entry facility ZIP Code, and D1 - Destination Zip Code are used to provide the origin and destination ZIP Codes respectively.
- Indicum Creation Record (ICR) File: No impact
- Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive (with potential updates to Market Dominant)

APPENDIX A

A. Current File Layout – Sample

The current layout represents 3-Digit origin ZIP Code to 3-Digit destinating ZIP Code mapping.

Table 5 - Current File Layout

Position	Description
1-3	Originating ZIP Code™
4	Zone to Destination: ZIP™ 001
5	Filler: ZIP 001 (*a e b 1 or space)
6	Zone to Destination: ZIP 002
7	Filler: ZIP 002 (*a e b 1 or space)
8	Zone to Destination: ZIP 003
9	Filler: ZIP 003 (*a e b 1 or space)
Description of Exceptions	<p>* = NDC Entry Discount indicator</p> <p>1 = Priority Mail® and First Class® Package Service sent to Military ZIP Codes Zones – check Exceptions File</p> <p>a = Both NDC Entry Discount indicator and Priority Mail® and First-Class® Package Service sent to Military ZIP Codes Zones –check Exceptions File</p> <p>b = 5-Digit ZIP Code Exception indicator with NDC Entry Discount indicator – check Exceptions File</p> <p>e = 5-Digit ZIP Code Exception indicator – check Exceptions File</p>

The figure below represents the current Zone chart file product layout.

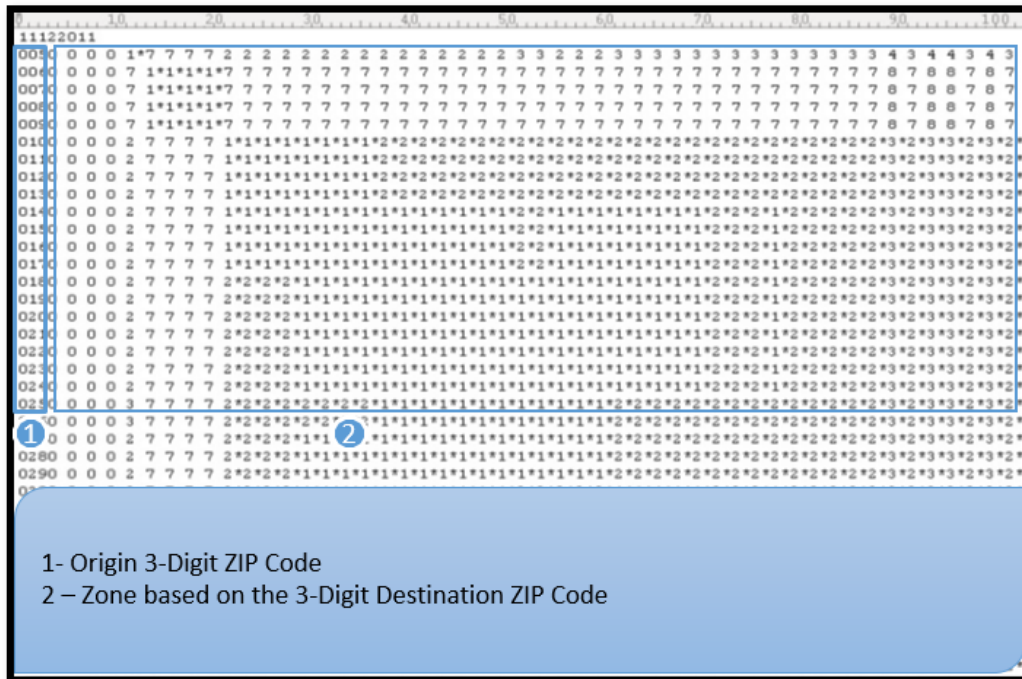


Figure 1 - Current Zone Chart Layout

B. Proposed File Layout - Sample

The proposed Zone Chart structure under consideration, allows for 3-Digit origin ZIP Code to 3-Digit destination ZIP Code mapping for the determination of the appropriate zone for market dominant products, and 3-Digit origin ZIP Code to 5-Digit destination ZIP Code mapping for the determination of the appropriate zone for competitive products.

Dataset/Column 3 represents the Zone for Market Dominant products. If the Competitive indicator from Dataset/Column 6 is set to 'N', then the Zone for Competitive products is also located in Dataset/Column 3 (these are cases when every 5-Digit destination within the 3-Digit ZIP Code share the same Zone). If the Competitive indicator is set to 'Y' then the Zone for Competitive products can be located in Dataset/Column 7. These are cases when the 5-Digit destinations within the 3-Digit ZIP Code have different Zones as represented in Dataset/Column 7. Refer to "[Figure 2 - Proposed Zone Chart Layout](#)" for additional information on the proposed Zone Chart structure.

- Dataset/Column 1 – NDC Discount Indicator (*)
- Dataset/Column 2 – Origin 3-Digit ZIP Code
- Dataset/Column 3 – Destination 3-Digit ZIP Code
- Dataset/Column 4 – Zone for Market Dominant (and Competitive if column 6 is N)
- Dataset/Column 5 – Code to represent Military Priority Mail & First-Class Package Services processed in Chicago 'rezone'
- Dataset/Column 6 – Y or N for Competitive Zone Lookup
- Dataset/Column 7 – Zone for Competitive if column 6 is Y

Table 6 – Proposed File Layout

Position	Description
1	"*" = Intra-NDC - 3DG O/D pairs within same NDC service area
2-4	Col. ORG = Origin 3DG ZIP Code
5	Filler
6-8	Col. DST = Destination 3DG ZIP Code
9	Filler
10-11	Col. ZN = 2-digit Market Dominant product zone
12	Filler
13-14	Col. ML = 2-digit Military PM & F-C PS processed in Chicago 'rezone'
15	Filler
16	Col. X / Yes = Competitive Zones Available (x-axis); No = Use Col. ZN Zone; A = (1) FAS 969 Zone 9 +2 5DG Destination exceptions (x-axis) for both MD & Competitive or (2) Zone 10 (if approved) for Competitive for US (non-FAS) 969 (x-axis)
17	Filler
18-316	(3DG Destination) +2 5DG ZIP Code exception ranges 00-99

The figure below represents the proposed Zone chart file product layout

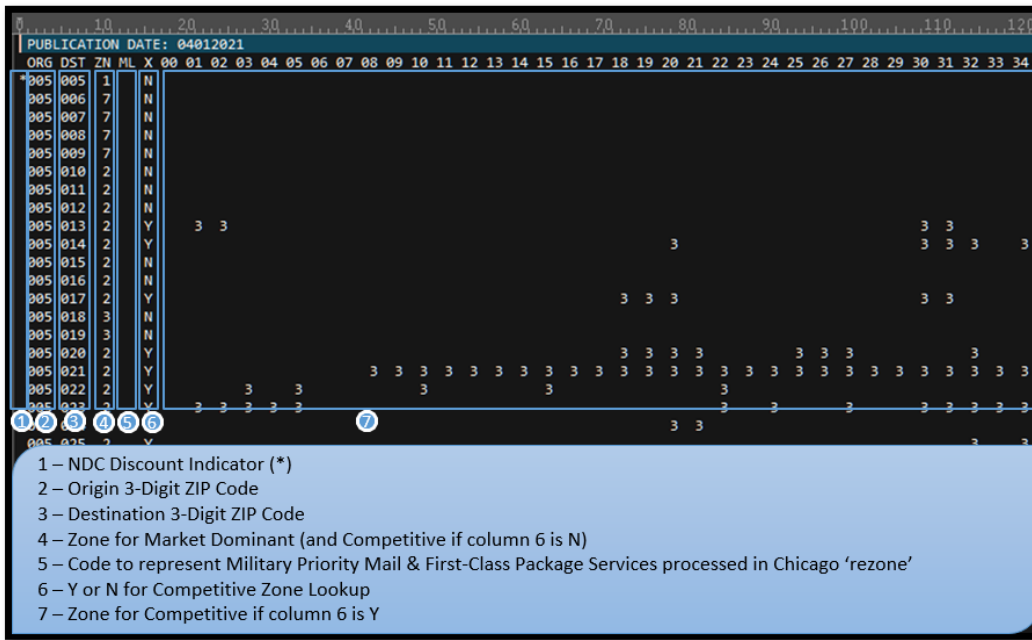


Figure 2 - Proposed Zone Chart Layout

C. Comparison of Current vs. Proposed Zone Chart Product

Table 7 - Comparison

CURRENT	PROPOSED
One zone calculation method for all products	Two zone calculation methods one for competitive and the other for market dominant
Two files: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone calculation file Exception file (for exceptions including zone 9 for Freely Associated States, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Services destinating to military zips, and all military origin mail) 	Two files: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone calculation file Military Origin file <p>Note: all other exceptions will be included in the new file structure</p>
Zone Chart File Layout (see Figure 1 above for a sample) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3-Digit origin SCF to 3-Digit destinating SCF ZIP Code map First Column (Y-axis) represents the 3-Digit origin ZIP Codes First Row (X-axis) represents all possible 3-Digit destinating ZIP Codes Intersection drives the zone The zone value may accompany additional information to drive zone exception lookup or = NDC discount indicator <p>Note: Detailed structure is available in the Zone Chart Matrix Technical Guide located at https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts</p>	Zone Chart File Layout (Figure 2 above for a sample) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3-Digit origin SCF to 3-Digit destinating SCF to 5-Digit ZIP Code for destination Post Office ZIP Code map <i>Note: Zone sets are in the order of Market Dominant and then Competitive zone (if different from Market Dominant zone)</i> First Column (Y-axis) represents the NDC discount indicator Second Column (Y-axis) represents the 3-Digit origin ZIP Codes <i>Note: The origin ZIP Code is repeated in rows for all destinating ZIP Codes</i> Third Column (Y-axis) represents the 3-Digit destinating ZIP Code

CURRENT	PROPOSED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columns to the right represent last two Digits of destinating ZIP Codes and their Zones for Market Dominant Products • Column to the right represents Military Priority Mail & First-Class Package Services processed in Chicago 'rezone' • Column to the right indicated as a Y/N represents if Competitive product is mapped to a zone other than the zone for Market Dominant product • Columns to the right represent the last two Digits of destinating ZI Codes and their zones for Competitive <i>(when applicable)</i> <p>Note: Detailed structure will be made available in the Zone Chart Matrix Technical Guide planned to be published at https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts</p>

Note: Once available, the detailed proposed structure will be published as part of the Zone Chart Matrix Technical Guide located at <https://postalpro.usps.com/operations/zone-charts>.

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