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Package Platform Release 2.5.0.0

Release Notes

CHANGE 2.0

[EXTERNAL]

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1.0 Introduction

On Wednesday, May 5, 2021, the United States Postal Service implemented the following software change:

- Package Platform Release 2.5.0.0

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 – Updates, Enhancements, and New Functionality

2.1 Aggregate Transactions

Payment Services aggregates postage transactions for each Electronic File Number (EFN), Date, Mail Class, and Enterprise Payment System (EPS) Account Number on a daily basis and publishes package details for the consolidated transactions. Data Services and Reporting Services consume the aggregated charge details published by Payment Services to promote visibility to shippers of their charges.

Payment Services sends the aggregated postage transactions to EPS so the shipper's EPS account can be charged. Upon successful purchase transaction notification from EPS, Payment Services updates the purchase response notification for downstream systems. Data Services and Reporting Services consumes the updated purchase response for the aggregated transactions published by Payment Services. [3539-PR](#), [3540-PR](#), [3541-PR](#), [3560-PR](#), [3562-PR](#), [3570-PR](#)

2.1.1 Package Error/Warning (PEW) File Creation

To support aggregation of charges, a Package Error/Warning (PEW) file containing header and detail manifest error/warning information is generated and shared with downstream services.

Manifest Services gathers manifest file metrics for each Electronic File Number (EFN) within the manifest and generates the PEW file so that downstream services can track the file details. Verify Services consumes the PEW header and detail records published by Manifest Services, and uses the information to determine when the PEW has completed manifest processing for each EFN. Verify Services tracks EFN metrics and publishes the completed PEW file.

The PEW header record contains the following data elements:

- Mailer ID (MID) from manifest EFN
- EFN Sequence Number
- EFN File Receipt Date and Time
- Entry Facility ZIP Code
- Mailing Date
- Number of Records Read

The PEW detail record contains the following data elements:

- EFN
- Error/Warning Type Code
- EFN Line Number
- Package Identification Code (PIC)
- Field in Error
- Error/Warning Message

Verify Services receives and utilizes pricing failure information published by Pricing Services and updates the PEW detail record to include pricing failures. Upon completion of pricing, the PEW header record is updated with the total number of records accepted and total number rejected by pricing. The following business rules apply to pricing failure messaging:

- Only unique packages are included in the priced count and the failed count.
- Pricing Services publishes a pricing failure message for each manifest package that fails pricing due to issues related to mapping/rate ingredients.
- Pricing failures that are the result of system issues continue to be directed to the existing error messaging.
- Pricing failure messages include identifying package information and the reason for the failure (including failure message and error code).

Verify Services waits a configurable amount of time for pricing to complete prior to publishing the PEW file. A PEW completion message is published by Verify Services to notify downstream services of the PEW file completion status. The completed PEW file is provisioned to downstream services (e.g., Data Services) for retrieval to provide shippers with visibility into the number of records processed and the errors/warnings that were encountered. [3468-PR](#), [3469-PR](#), [3470-PR](#), [3471-PR](#), [3472-PR](#), [3473-PR](#), [3474-PR](#), [3475-PR](#), [3476-PR](#), [3477-PR](#), [3478-PR](#), [3479-PR](#), [3483-PR](#), [3494-PR](#), [3495-PR](#), [3511-PR](#), [3512-PR](#), [3513-PR](#), [3514-PR](#), [3516-PR](#), [3579-PR](#), [3580-PR](#), [3581-PR](#)

2.1.2 Duplicate Package Assessments

Package Platform began accumulating manifest assessment data monthly to enable customers to be charged on a monthly basis for duplicate package assessments. Package Platform Verify and Payment Services now aggregate and hold duplicate package assessments until a configurable date (currently set to the 15th day of the following month). This enables shippers to be charged monthly for duplicate packages instead of real-time. Payment Services sends the aggregated duplicate package assessments to the shipper's EPS account to be charged on the 15th of the month. Payment Services provides package details to downstream services for duplicate packages. [3426-PR](#), [3428-PR](#), [3563-PR](#), [3564-PR](#), [3571-PR](#)

2.1.3 Unmanifested Package Assessments

Package Platform began accumulating manifest assessment data monthly to enable customers to be charged on a monthly basis for unmanifested package assessments. Package Platform Verify and Payment Services now aggregate and hold unmanifested package assessments until a configurable date (currently set to the 15th day of the following month). This enables shippers to be charged monthly for unmanifested packages instead of real-time. Payment Services sends the aggregated unmanifested package assessments to the shipper's EPS account to be charged on the 15th of the month. Verify Services publishes unmanifested fees for a given month on a configurable date. The following business rules apply to unmanifested package assessments:

- Verify Services uses the current month's unmanifested ratio to determine the price type for unmanifested packages.
- Verify Services will remove the unmanifested package warning for a given month when a manifest is received for the package by a configurable date (currently set to the 7th day of the following month).
- Pending unmanifested assessments are published to downstream services to enable processing to continue.

Payment Services provides package details to downstream services for unmanifested packages.

Verify Services updated the unmanifested warning message to include the following additional data: Program Name, Mail Class (retrieved from Pricing Services), Delivery ZIP Code, Unmanifested Cause, and EPS Account Number. This enables downstream services to process pending unmanifested packages. [3967-PR](#), [3968-PR](#), [3973-PR](#), [3974-PR](#), [3975-PR](#), [3976-PR](#), [3977-PR](#), [3980-PR](#), [3515-PR](#), [3535-PR](#)

2.2 Dimensional Weight Pricing

The dimensional weight business logic used by Pricing Services was updated for packages submitted with weight and dimensional attributes where the mail class is eligible for dimensional weight pricing. The following business rules apply to determine if the package qualifies for dimensional weight pricing:

- For rectangular packages, Pricing Services checks to see whether the dimensions exceed the dimensional weight threshold (Length x Width x Height is greater than 1728 cubic inches).

- If the dimensions exceed the dimensional weight threshold, the package is priced using the maximum of: weight, dimensional weight, and calculated dimensional weight.
- Otherwise (i.e., the dimensions *do not* exceed the dimensional weight threshold), the package is priced using the weight. [3966-PR](#)

2.3 Informed Visibility – Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR) for Pilot Workflow

Package Platform Data Services provisions data for selected transaction types to Informed Visibility – Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR) for customers enrolled in the pilot workflow. This enables pilot customers to subscribe to receive this data through the IV-MTR data feed.

The following data is included in IV-MTR for customers enrolled in the pilot workflow:

- Census Assessments
- Unused Labels
- Pricing Notification
- Final Notification – includes Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb), Package Identification Code (PIC), Service Type Code, Mailer ID (MID), Destination ZIP Code
- Unmanifested Assessments
- Duplicate Assessments – includes Tracking Number, Master MID, CRID, Earliest Scan Date/Time, Origin ZIP Code, Destination ZIP Code, Mail Class, Manifested Postage, USPS Calculated Postage [3445-PR](#), [3446-PR](#), [3447-PR](#), [3448-PR](#), [3503-PR](#), [3504-PR](#), [3507-PR](#), [3508-PR](#), [3509-PR](#)

2.4 Manifest Corrections

Manifest Services accepts manifest correction files for manifest records that were previously rejected. Note that this only applies to correction files for manifests that were rejected; correction files that are submitted for a manifest record that was successfully processed will be rejected by the manifest corrections functionality. Corrected manifest files are published for downstream services so they can be processed and priced. Manifest Services includes the CRID associated to the MID in the manifest published for pricing.

Verify Services consumes the corrected manifests published by Manifest Services so that that previously rejected manifests can be processed. Verify Services compares the Package Identification Codes (PICs) in the rejected manifest to those in the corrected manifest and re-calculates the Unmanifested Ratio, adjusting the tallies for rejected manifests that have a corresponding corrected and priced manifest.

A configurable time limit has been imposed for submission of manifest correction files, after which manifest correction files cannot be accepted. The time limit is currently set to 10 days from the date of the original manifest. Manifest correction files submitted more than 10 days after the date the original manifest was submitted are rejected. [3427-PR](#), [3432-PR](#), [3430-PR](#), [3433-PR](#), [3434-PR](#), [3435-PR](#)

2.5 Package Platform Reports

The Package Platform Reports page was updated to remove the Entry Facility Type drop-down menu from the main navigation bar. The Lock/Unlock drop-down menu and the Bookmarks hyperlink have also been removed from the Package Platform Reports page. [3522-PR](#), [3523-PR](#), [3524-PR](#)

2.5.1 Duplicates Report

Package Platform Reporting Services implemented a Duplicates Report to enable users to review duplicate packages. The report includes the following columns, all of which can be filtered and/or sorted:

- Earliest Scan Date
- Package Platform Scan Event
- Destination ZIP Code
- Package Identification Code (PIC)
- Origin ZIP Code
- Master MID

- Company Name
- Mail Class
- Manifested Postage
- USPS Calculated Postage
- Postage Variance (difference between manifested and calculated postage, if any)

Users have the ability to export the report in comma-separated values (CSV), Excel, or Print Friendly format. [3501-PR](#)

2.5.2 Pending Unmanifested Report

A Pending Unmanifested Report was implemented to provide Package Platform customers with visibility into their pending unmanifested packages. The report includes the following information for pending unmanifested records:

- Company Name
- Mailer ID (MID)
- Tracking ID
- First Scan Date
- Projected Assessment Date – 15th day of the following month
- Mail Class
- First Scan ZIP
- Delivery ZIP
- Barcode Input Method
- Unmanifested Cause – A legend is provided with a description of each unmanifested cause.

The Total Pending Unmanifested Count is displayed at the top of the report.

Users are able to sort and/or filter by all columns on the report. A Projected Assessment Date filter is available which allows users to select a begin and end date when generating the report. The default timeframe for the report is the current month. Mailers have the ability to export the report in comma-separated values (CSV), Excel, or Print Friendly format. [3498-PR](#)

3.0 Package Platform – Corrections to Known Issues

3.1 Data Services

Package Platform Data Services corrected a Date/Time conversion issue that could previously result in missing transactions in the Informed Visibility – Mail Tracking and Reporting (IV-MTR) data feeds. [1475-PI \(3984-PR\)](#)

4.0 Document History

Date	Version	Section	Description
5/5/2021	2.0	All	Updated for post-deployment status