

# USPS

## July 2023 Price Change Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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## General Questions

No questions received for this section.

## Section 1.0 Marriage Mail 2 Oz. Incentive

1. Q: Will you be able to get the delivery sort discount with the Marriage Mail discount?

A: Yes

2. Q: What is Marriage Mail and how do you claim it?

A: See the technical user guide:

<https://postalpro.usps.com/mailing/techspecs>

### MARRIAGE MAIL 2 OZ INCENTIVE

The USPS proposes to provide an incentive to Marriage Mailers whose mail includes at least 4 advertisers and who mail at least 10 times every 12 months.

## Section 2.0 Sectional Center Facility (SCF) Pallet Discount for Marketing Mail Letter-Shaped Pieces

1. Q: How about Commercial EDDM Flats?

A: Flats were covered in the January 2023 release; the discount did apply to Commercial EDDM Flats. EDDM Letters will be included in the July 2023 release.

2. Q: Have the qualification criteria for the SCF Pallet Discount been determined? If so, what are they?

A: Per the DMM, properly prepared and labeled SCF Entry 5-digit CR, 3-digit or SCF pallets of letter trays would be eligible for a pallet discount when entered at Origin or NDC (an SCF pallet allows USPS to cross-dock the pallet onto trucks destined for the appropriate SCF processing center).

Please see Appendix A for current SCF Pallet Discount criteria.

### SCF PALLET DISCOUNT FOR MARKETING MAIL LETTER-SHAPED PIECES

The USPS is considering a per-piece discount included in the Notice 123 and the Postage Statement as a footnote for qualifying SCF Marketing Mail (MM) pallets. By eliminating tray handlings and sortation in facilities upstream from the destination SCF, this will enable USPS to cross-dock SCF pallets and minimize mail processing costs, time and resources involved in opening, sorting, and containerizing mixed pallets to multiple destination SCFs.

## Section 3.0 Marketing Mail Flat-Shaped – New Pricing Structure

1. Q: Is there an available sample table to help us better understand the Marketing Mail – Flat Shaped new pricing structure?

A: Example tables can be found in Docket RM2023-4 on the Postal Regulatory Commission's website:

<https://www.prc.gov/dockets/document/124457>

2. Does this mean heavier flats will cost more?

A: The proposed pricing structure does not inherently lead to higher prices in particular areas of flat-shaped mail. Any deviation from the status-quo a particular mailer may experience in the next rate change and beyond will be the result of the mail mix and other pricing factors and considerations.

### MARKETING MAIL FLAT-SHAPED – NEW PRICING STRUCTURE

The Pricing Structure for Marketing Mail flats uses a two-tier approach. For pieces below the breakpoint, only a per-piece price is charged. For pieces above the breakpoint a per-piece and per-pound rate are charged. The Postal Service is proposing a change in methodology to avoid irrational rates (e.g., DDU dropship prices higher than the DSCF dropship prices). Under this proposal, every piece at a given presort level regardless of weight will pay a uniform piece price. Pieces above the breakpoint will also pay a per-pound price. All dropship discounts will be piece-based under the new structure and pound price will not vary by entry point (e.g., DNDC, DSCF, DDU).

## Section 4.0 Informed Delivery Promotions Enhancements

### 1. Q: How does cross-docking affect Informed Delivery information?

A: Informed Delivery can function for cross-docked containers if they meet a set of criteria:

- The mailing must be associated with an Informed Delivery interactive campaign (in absence of a campaign, ID won't have an image to include in the notification).
- Currently, though Saturation flats usually don't have IMb barcodes, when Saturation mail is entered and cross-docked to the Delivery Unit it bypasses individual piece scanning, and therefore is not included in the promotion. This change provides support for these Saturation mailings to be included in the Informed Delivery promotion (including cross-docked mail).
- Individual IMbs are properly nested to bundles or trays and bundles or trays are nested to containers.
- Original container barcode is scanned at the DU (if container is broken down and original barcode isn't scanned, the link back to the individual pieces would be lost).
- The container must be scanned before the daily digest email process completes for the destination ZIP Code (~7AM local time) for the mailpiece to appear in the email; if scan is received after the email process has completed, the mailpiece will only appear in the ID online dashboard.
- The list of container scan codes at the DU which trigger ID include:
  - 868 CONTAINER ACCEPTANCE AT DU
  - 869 CONTAINER UNLOAD
  - 870 CONTAINER DIST AT DU

### INFORMED DELIVERY PROMOTIONS ENHANCEMENTS

The USPS is considering updating the Informed Delivery promotion eligibility criteria and Informed Delivery marketing campaign to include USPS Marketing Mail Carrier Route Saturation Flats. The Informed Delivery promotion will include eligible USPS Marketing Mail Carrier Route Saturation mailpieces meeting specific criteria.

## Section 5.0 Eliminating Low Use STC/ESC Combinations

1. Q: Per Appendix B of the July 2023 Release Overview, 'Retired' implies an STC will no longer be used. 'Repurposed' implies that the same STC will be used for a different mail class and extra services. Please clarify the intent of Retire vs. Repurpose and how each STC in the list is affected.

A: Retired STCs will no longer be supported post-July 9, 2023. After July 9, 2023, repurposed STCs will support different mail services from pre-July 9, 2023. The USPS is repurposing some service type codes for USPS Ground Advantage.

2. Q: For eliminated or retired STCs, are these shipping options for customers no longer available? For example, STC 581 is Library Mail.

A: The shipping options will still exist, such as First-Class Mail, Priority Mail, Library Mail, etc. However certain Extra Service combinations – represented by STCs – will no longer exist for some shipping options. STC 581 represents Library Mail **plus** the two Extra Services of Insurance less than \$500 and Signature Confirmation. This particular combination of the Library Mail shipping option with these two Extra Services is being retired and will no longer be available for purchase together.

Combinations of extra services with Library Mail that will be available after the July 2023 Price Change include:

- 551 Library Mail USPS Tracking
- 552 Library Mail COD
- 554 Library Mail Signature Confirmation
- 555 Library Mail Insurance > \$500
- 556 Library Mail COD Return Receipt
- 558 Library Mail COD Restricted Delivery
- 563 Library Mail Insurance <= \$500
- 575 Library Mail Insurance > \$500 Return Receipt
- 579 Library Mail Insurance > \$500 Restricted Delivery
- 976 Library Mail Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

3. Q: Will all the STCs listed in Release Overview Appendix B be removed from Publication 199 and not be available for use?

### ELIMINATING LOW USE STC/ESC COMBINATIONS

The USPS proposes to eliminate low use Service Type Code / Extra Service Code (STC/ESC) combinations for Domestic packages (combinations with fewer than 2,400 uses in FY21).



A: All the STCs listed in Release Overview Appendix B will be removed from PUB 199 and will no longer be available for use.

4. Q: As of 7/9/23 will shippers no longer be able to ship Library Mail with insurance <\$500 and signature confirmation?

A: The combination of Library Mail with Insurance <\$500 AND Signature Confirmation will no longer be available on 7/9/23.

5. Q: Can we expect to see a DMM change stating the sunset of these extra service mail class combination options?

A: STCs are not found in the DMM. They can be found in Publication 199 and PostalPro.

## Section 6.0 USPS Ground Advantage

1. Q: Will WebTools support new service branding and legacy brands when making the requests?

A: Yes, WebTools will support the new brands.

2. Q: One of the pricing structures in Parcel Select Ground included Cubic pricing. Will that be eliminated when USPS Ground Advantage is implemented, or will it carry over?

A: USPS Ground Advantage will support Cubic pricing structure similar to the one that existed as part of Parcel Select Ground Cubic.

3. Q: What about service code values for inclusion in the SSF submissions?

A: Refer to Appendix A in the Release Overview for USPS Ground Advantage Service Type Code/Extra Service Code combinations.

4. Q: Will USPS Ground Advantage be closed against inspection?

A: USPS Ground Advantage Retail will be closed against inspection. USPS Ground Advantage Commercial will be open to inspection.

5. Q: Does USPS Ground Advantage replace Retail Ground or is it in addition to it?

A: USPS Ground Advantage does not replace Retail Ground in that it combines FCPS, Retail Ground and Parcel Select Ground.

6. Q: Are letters and flats with extra services rolling into USPS Ground Advantage?

A: Letters and Flats will continue to be designated as First-Class Mail. Only First-Class Package Service is being renamed as USPS Ground Advantage.

7. Q: Today there are 4 different price charts for: FCPS-Retail, FCPS Commercial, USPS Retail Ground, and Parcel Select Ground. My understanding is that on 7/9/23 all of these will be renamed to USPS Ground Advantage. Will all of these continue

### USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE

The USPS is considering repurposing First-Class Package Service and Retail Ground to USPS Ground Advantage with weight breaks of up to 15.999 oz and 1lb – 70lbs with estimated service delivery in 2-5 days.

to have their own unique price tables in Notice 123 as they do today or will there be a restructuring or merging of price tables?

A: Notice 123 will still contain price tables for USPS Ground Advantage Retail, USPS Ground Advantage Commercial, USPS Ground Advantage Cubic, and USPS Ground Advantage Limited Overland Routes (LOR).

Q: Also, Parcel Select has many different flavors: Destination Entry, Ground, Ground Cubic, Lightweight. Can you clarify which of these will be rolled into USPS Ground Advantage and which will remain as is?

A: FCPS (retail and commercial) will be renamed to USPS Ground Advantage. USPS Retail Ground, Parcel Select Ground, and Parcel Select Ground Cubic will be merged into USPS Ground Advantage. USPS Ground Limited Overland Routes will be renamed to USPS Ground Advantage Limited Overland Routes. Parcel Select Lightweight will continue as a service, with a maximum weight of 15.999 oz. Parcel Select Destination Entry will also remain as a service.

8. Q: Release Overview Appendix A USPS Ground Advantage STCs:

- o The Release Overview shows First-Class Mail (FCM) letters and flats under USPS Ground Advantage. The understanding is that FCM is a Market Dominant product. Will it continue to be Market Dominant? Will USPS Ground Advantage be a mix of Market Dominant and Competitive products? Will it still be called FCM or USPS Ground Advantage?

A: First-Class Mail will continue to be a Market Dominant product. USPS Ground Advantage (previously First-Class Package Service) will continue to be a Competitive product.

9. Q: Today, STC 346 is Retail Ground-Tracking and STC 612 is Parcel Select Ground-Tracking

- o Release Overview Appendix A indicates that on 7/9/23 STC 346 will be USPS Ground Advantage Tracking. But what happens to STC 612?
- o I didn't see STC 612 in the Release Overview Appendix B Eliminated/Retired list nor in the Release Overview Appendix A USPS Ground Advantage list. If STC 612 is still available for use, when would it be used?
- o The same applies to: Signature Confirmation: STCs 349/615 and Insurance >\$500: STCs 352/616.

A: There is no dedicated Parcel Select Ground STC. Parcel Select Ground is identified using a combination of the STC and the Destination Rate Indicator. STC 612 will continue to be supported as a Parcel Select STC, and when STC 612 is manifested as Parcel Select Ground it will be priced as USPS Ground Advantage.

10. Q: Will there be new Mail Category Codes defined for USPS Ground Advantage or will existing ones be repurposed?

A: USPS Ground Advantage will continue to use Mail Class value FC, along with a combination of existing Rate Indicators. Refer to the Release Notes for more information.

11.Q: Will FCPS Commercial still exist?

A: 'FCPS Commercial' as a name will no longer exist. USPS Ground Advantage will incorporate the current FCPS and include additional products that are moved from Parcel Select Ground and Parcel Select Ground Cubic.

12.Q: The Release Overview says "...remove Retail Ground from the competitive product list". Can you elaborate on that statement?

A: See Question 7. Retail Ground is currently a Competitive product and will be included in USPS Ground Advantage beginning 7/9/2023 as a Competitive product.

13.Q: Industry assumes that USPS Ground Advantage will not be considered a First-Class service - so only letters and flats would be in the First-Class category.

A: USPS Ground Advantage will continue to meet the FCPS service levels. First-Class letters and flats would continue under First-Class Mail. USPS Ground Advantage would consist of packages that are up to 15.999 oz and another set that is over 15.999 oz and up to 70 lbs (including cubic). USPS created new Service Type Codes (STCs) to support the newly added heavier weight packages over 15.999 oz and up to 70 lbs (including cubic).

14.Q: FCPS is listed in both Retail and Commercial on Notice 123. Are both being merged into USPS Ground Advantage?

A: USPS Ground Advantage will consist of USPS Ground Advantage Retail and USPS Ground Advantage Commercial as two separate products/price lists.

15.Q: Industry's understanding is that USPS Ground Advantage is end-to-end. Parcel Select Lightweight (PSLW) is destination-entered. Is this correct?

A: USPS Ground Advantage is an end-to-end product. PSLW will become a destination-entered product and will no longer have a non-destination entry option.

16.Q: Could you elaborate on the STC change? Currently all Parcel Select packages use the same STC. Will USPS Ground Advantage have its own STC separate from Parcel Select Destination Entry?

A: USPS Ground Advantage will incorporate the current Parcel Select Ground product and the STCs will change to the USPS Ground Advantage STCs (e.g., STC 346). All Parcel Select Destination Entry packages for Parcel Select will continue to use STCs for Parcel Select (e.g., STC 612). Note: the use of Parcel Select Ground with older STCs may result in the assessment of IMpb Noncompliance charges (any implementation date for which is TBD).

17.Q: Does USPS Ground Advantage involve Shipping Services File changes?

A: USPS Ground Advantage involves changes to Shipping Services File Rate Ingredient combinations. Updates to reflect the addition of USPS Ground Advantage are planned for Publication 205, Publication 199, and Publication 401.

18.Q: Will both up to 15.999 oz and above 15.999 oz have the same rate ingredients (Mail Class, Rate Indicator, Processing category, Destination indicator, Extra Service Codes, etc.)?

A: Yes.

19.Q: Will sampling and adjustments be across both subproducts in aggregate or will it be handled separately for up to 15.999 oz and over 15.999 oz?

A: eVS and non-eVS will aggregate sampling for USPS Ground Advantage into one mail class for PAF. USPS Ship will use attribute capture for census verification.

20.Q: It was stated that if a mailer continued to use a PS STC (612), it would be re-rated, but there would be an implication for IMpb quality. Would this be Manifest Quality? Or Barcode Quality?

A: This will be a Barcode Quality Error.

21.Q: For the baked in insurance, is it auto applied? Or do we need to include the ESCs for insurance?

A: This is automatic and will follow the same process as Priority Mail baked in insurance.

22.Q: What STC do we use? none of them are “plain” Parcel Select. They’re all signature, registered, insurance, etc. And what about the DRI, mail class, rate indicator, process category, etc?

A: Parcel Select Destination Entry will continue to use STC 612. For USPS Ground Advantage, (previously Parcel Select Ground), use STC 001 for up to 15.999 oz and use STC 346 for above 15.999 oz.

23. What are the proper rate ingredients, rate indicators for USPS Ground Advantage?

A: See July 2023 Release Notes for additional information.

24.Q: Both USPS Ground Advantage and Parcel Select will have different STCs. What will happen with machinable packages less than 15.999 oz? Currently these are manifested using a Parcel Select Lightweight 748 STC, which is different from the Parcel Select STC (612).

A: Post-Price Change (and assuming the mail complies with presort requirements and is appropriate to the required entry location), mailers may choose to send packages up to 15.999 oz via:

- Parcel Select Lightweight destination entry only (oz-based)

- Parcel Select Destination Entry (at the 1 lb rate)
- USPS Ground Advantage.

The use of STC 748 for Parcel Select Lightweight is unimpacted for this scenario, except packages that were “PSLW none entry rate” will become USPS Ground Advantage less than 15.999 ounces (e.g., STC 001 or other relevant STC).

25.Q: In consolidating Nonmachinable and Machinable, what Processing category should be used in the shipping services file?





A: The Processing Categories of Machinable- 3 and Nonmachinable- 5 will continue to be supported. The manifest will be processed with 3 or 5 even though both map to the same price. There is no new Processing Category code required at this time.

26.Q: Can you provide sample USPS Ground Advantage labels for post-July 9, 2023?





A: See below for sample labels for the following:

- USPS Ground Advantage Outbound: (up to 15.999 oz Ounce-based) STC 001
- USPS Ground Advantage Outbound: (1 lb + Pound-based) STC 346
- USPS Ground Advantage Returns: (up to 15.999 oz Ounce-based) STC 020
- USPS Ground Advantage Returns: (1 lb + Pound-based) STC 022
- USPS Ground Advantage Cubic: (1 lb + Pound-based – 20 lbs) STC 346 (conditional based on rate ingredients and rate indicators) to claim cubic rates.

USPS Ground Advantage Outbound: (up to 15.999 oz Ounce-based):


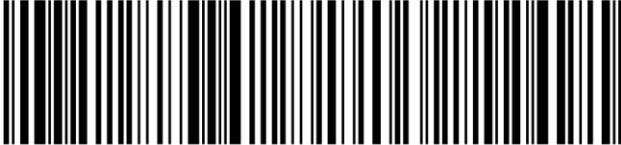

	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="889 296 1105 436">USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME eVS</td></tr></table>	USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME eVS
USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME eVS		
<b>USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE™</b>		
<p>INTERNET SALES DEPT FAST AND EFFICIENT SUPPLY CO. 10474 COMMERCE BLVD DUPLEX B SILVER SPRING MD 20910-9999</p> <p> RONALD RECEIVER C/O RICK RECIPIENT INTERNET PURCHASING OFFICE - NORTH BIG AND GROWING BUSINESS CO. 39 ANYWHERE ST SCARSDALE NY 10583-9999</p>		
<p><b>USPS TRACKING # eVS</b></p>  <p><b>9200 1912 3456 7862 0603 02</b></p>		
		

USPS Ground Advantage Outbound: (1 lb + Pound-based):





	<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="922 296 1143 436">USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME</td></tr></table>	USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME
USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE U.S. POSTAGE PAID COMPANY NAME		
<b>USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE™</b>		
INTERNET SALES DEPT FAST AND EFFICIENT SUPPLY CO. 919 PHILADELPHIA AVE SILVER SPRING MD 20910-4913	07/31/23 Mailed From 20910 1 lb 3 oz	
 <p>RONALD RECEIVER C/O RICK RECIPIENT INTERNET PURCHASING OFFICE - NORTH BIG AND GROWING BUSINESS CO. 39 ANYWHERE ST SCARSDALE NY 10583-9999</p>		
<b>USPS TRACKING #</b>		
		
<b>9234 6912 3456 7862 0603 04</b>		
		



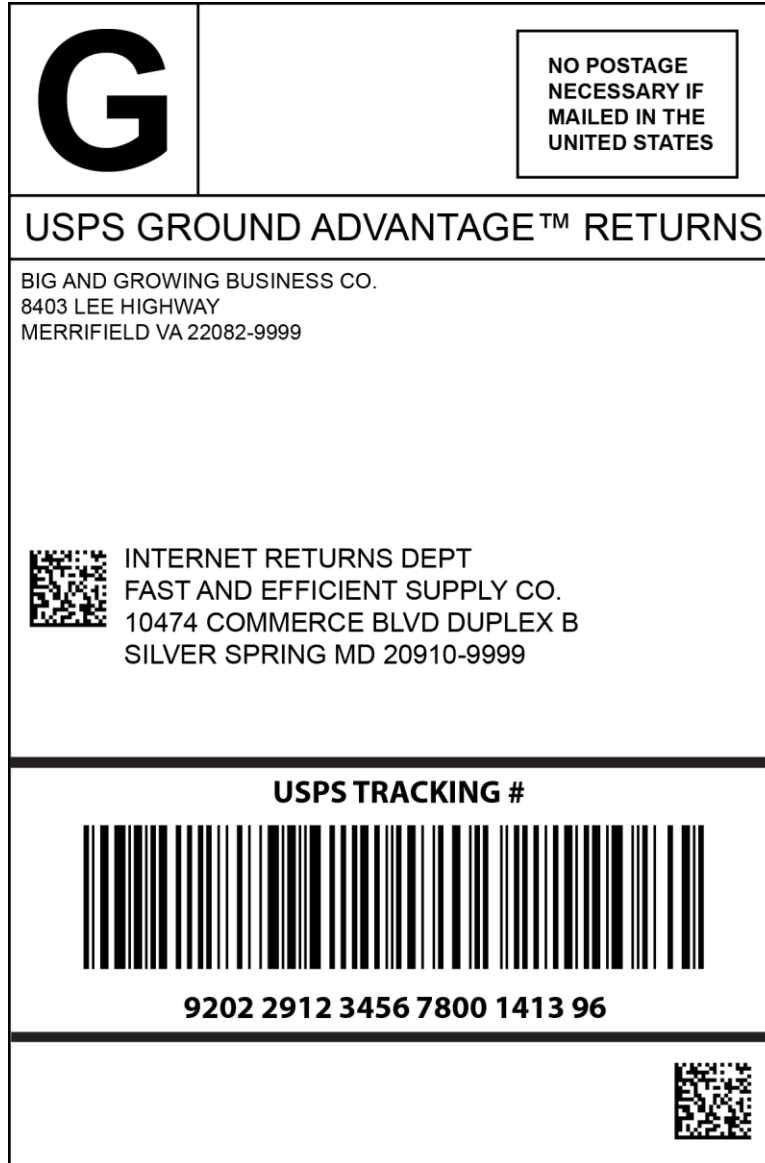
USPS Ground Advantage Returns: (up to 15.999 oz Ounce-based):

<b>G</b>	<b>NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES</b>
<b>USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE™ RETURNS</b>	
BIG AND GROWING BUSINESS CO. 8403 LEE HIGHWAY MERRIFIELD VA 22082-9999	
	INTERNET RETURNS DEPT FAST AND EFFICIENT SUPPLY CO. 10474 COMMERCE BLVD DUPLEX B SILVER SPRING MD 20910-9999
<b>USPS TRACKING #</b>	
	
<b>9202 0912 3456 7800 1413 92</b>	
	

USPS Ground Advantage Returns: (1 lb + Pound-based):

	<div data-bbox="922 296 1143 436" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES</div>
<b>USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE™ RETURNS</b>	
<p>BIG AND GROWING BUSINESS CO. 8403 LEE HIGHWAY MERRIFIELD VA 22082-9999</p>  <p> INTERNET RETURNS DEPT FAST AND EFFICIENT SUPPLY CO. 10474 COMMERCE BLVD DUPLEX B SILVER SPRING MD 20910-9999</p>	
<b>USPS TRACKING #</b>   <b>9202 2912 3456 7800 1413 96</b>	
	

USPS Ground Advantage Cubic: (1 lb + Pound-based – 20 lbs):



27.Q: What will the STCs look like before and after the change?

A: See the tables below for the changes.

Product	STC	Weight	Mail Class	Processing Category	Destination Rate Indicator	RateIndicator	Zone	Parcel Routing Barcode	Rate (Including Barcoding or Machinability)
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	3	N	DR	01-09	0, 1	Machinable Dimensional Rectangular
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	3	N	DN	01-09	0, 1	Machinable Dimensional Non-Rectangular

Product	STC	Weight	Mail Class	Processing Category	Destination Rate Indicator	Rate Indicator	Zone	Parcel Routing Barcode	Rate (Including Barcoding or Machinability)
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	3	N	SP	01-09	0, 1	Machinable
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	5	N	DR	01-09	0, 1	Non-Machinable Dimensional Rectangular
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	5	N	DN	01-09	0, 1	Non-Machinable Dimensional Non-Rectangular
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	5	N	SP	01-09	0, 1	Non-Machinable Single-Piece
PS Ground	612 ...		PS	5	N	OS	01-09	0, 1	Non-Machinable Oversize
PS LW Origin	748 ...	<=15.999	LW	3, 4	N	BB	0	0, 1	Parcel Select Lightweight Mixed NDC None
PS LW Origin	748 ...	<=15.999	LW	3, 4	N	DC	0	0, 1	Parcel Select Lightweight NDC None
PS LW DNDC SCF Irregular	748 ...	<=15.999	LW	4	B	DE	0	0, 1	Parcel Select Lightweight SCF DNDC Irregular

**Table 1 – Invalid STCs as of July Price Change**

STC2	Product2	Weight2	Mail Class2	Processing Category3	Destination Rate Indicator4	Rate Indicator5	Zone6	Parcel Routing Barcode7	Rate (Including Barcoding or Machinability)
346...	USPS GAV		FC	3	N	DR	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Machinable Dimensional Rectangular
346...	USPS GAV		FC	3	N	DN	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Machinable Dimensional Non-Rectangular
346...	USPS GAV		FC	3	N	SP	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage machinable
346...	USPS GAV		FC	5	N	DR	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Non-Machinable Dimensional Rectangular
346...	USPS GAV		FC	5	N	DN	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Non-Machinable Dimensional Non-Rectangular
346...	USPS GAV		FC	5	N	SP	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Non-Machinable Single-Piece

STC2	Product2	Weight2	Mail Class2	Processing Category3	Destination Rate Indicator4	Rate Indicator5	Zone6	Parcel Routing Barcode7	Rate (Including Barcoding or Machinability)
346...	USPS GAV		FC	5	N	OS	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage Non-Machinable Oversize
001...	USPS GAV	<=15.999	FC	3	N	SP	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage machinable
001...	USPS GAV	<=15.999	FC	3	N	SP	01-09	0,1	USPS Ground Advantage machinable
001...	USPS GAV	<=15.999	LW	3, 4,	B	DC	0	0, 1	Parcel Select Lightweight Parcel DNDC

**Table 2 – Remap of STCs after July Price Change**

## Section 7.0 Inclusion of \$100 Insurance for USPS Ground Advantage and Extended Product Attributes

No questions received for this section.

### INCLUSION OF \$100 INSURANCE FOR USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE AND EXTENDED PRODUCT ATTRIBUTES

The USPS proposes to add free “baked-in” insurance of \$100 for enhanced FCPS Ground (renamed USPS Ground Advantage). This effort will maintain existing FCPS attributes (e.g., forwarding, return to sender (RTS) if undeliverable as addressed, unclaimed or refused, and package intercept functionality).

## Section 8.0 USPS Ground Advantage Returns

No questions received for this section.

### USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE RETURNS

USPS Returns service allows authorized account holders to pay postage and fees on single-piece priced commercial Priority Mail Return, First-Class Package Return — Commercial, or Ground Return packages returned to the account holder by mailers via a return label produced by the account holder. This can be challenging to understand and to select the correct service.

The USPS proposes to re-brand Ground Return products as First-Class Package Return Service Heavyweight to provide a more descriptive product name.

Existing Service Type Codes will be repurposed for First-Class Package Return Service Heavyweight weight allowance 1 – 70 lbs.

All First-Class Package Return Service Heavyweight will include \$100 of free insurance (with additional paid insurance available), and customers may file and receive payment on claims for lost, damage or missing items.

## Section 9.0 Bake \$100 Insurance into USPS Ground Advantage Returns and Parcel Return Service

No questions received for this section.

### BAKE \$100 INSURANCE INTO USPS GROUND ADVANTAGE RETURNS AND PARCEL RETURN SERVICE

The USPS proposes baking \$100 insurance into First-Class Package Returns and Parcel Return Service (PRS) with the following characteristics:

- Use the same Service Type Code and Extra Services combination for insurance as today.
- First-Class Package Returns and PRS claims will be processed in the same manner as outbound returns for Retail Ground and Parcel Select via USPS.com.



## Section 10.0 Expand Pallet Priority Mail Open and Distribute (PPMOD) Zones to 1 Thru 8

No questions received for this section.

### EXPAND PALLET PRIORITY OPEN AND DISTRIBUTE (PPMOD) ZONES TO 1 THRU 8

The USPS proposes to expand Pallet Priority Mail Open and Distribute (PPMOD) discounted pricing from the current zones 1-5 to Zones 1-8. This change will include pricing options by zone across Zones 1-8. Postage Statements will be updated to include Zones 6, 7, & 8 for PPMOD. This change will include the addition of a new PPMOD Service Type Code.

## Section 11.0 Adding Priority Mail Express Returns to USPS Returns

1. Q: What are the STCs that will be added for Priority Mail Express Returns?

A: The below list of STCs will be added for Priority Mail Express Returns:

796	Priority Mail Express Returns Signature Requested	USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING NUMBER
797	Priority Mail Express Returns Addtnl Insurance	USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING NUMBER
798	Priority Mail Express Returns Signature Waived	USPS TRACKING NUMBER
837	Priority Mail Express Returns Signature Waived - Hazardous Materials	USPS TRACKING # HAZMAT
838	Priority Mail Express Returns Signature Requested - Hazardous Materials	USPS SIGNATURE TRKNG # HAZMAT
839	Priority Mail Express Returns Addtnl Insurance - Hazardous Materials	USPS SIGNATURE TRKNG # HAZMAT

### ADDING PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS RETURNS TO USPS RETURNS

The USPS is considering adding USPS Priority Mail Express Returns under the USPS Returns platform. This will provide an avenue for customers using Priority Mail Express as a return option and impacted by the elimination of the Priority Mail Express (PME) Label 11B, and it will provide an option for commercial customers who currently use PME labels for returns when USPS Corporate Accounts are eliminated in July 2023.

## Section 12.0 Parcel Select and Parcel Select Lightweight Price Restructuring

### 1. Q: What is DHUB Pricing?

A: These are Machinable parcels. The pricing for this is based on Machinable parcels sorted at 5-digit or 5-digit scheme sacks/pallets (labeling list L014). See Notice 123 for more details on pricing. Note: July DRAFT Price files are available on [pe.usps.gov](https://pe.usps.gov).

### Domestic Competitive FRN Language:

#### Parcel Select

Pieces must meet the applicable standards in 4.0 and the following criteria:

- a. Must be part of a mailing of at least 50 Parcel Select pieces.
- b. DHub pieces must be for the same Hub area under L014.
- c. Sorted to optional 5-digit scheme destinations under L606, Column B, 5-digit destinations, either in sacks or directly on pallets or in pallet boxes. Mailers must enter the pieces at the designated Hub, under L014 that serves the 5-digit ZIP Code destinations of the pieces. The DHub price is not available for palletized mail for facilities that are unable to handle palletized mailings. Refer to the Drop Shipment Product available at the USPS FAST Web Site: <https://fast.usps.com> to determine if the facility serving the 5-digit destination can handle pallets.

Sacking requirements for DHub entry:

- 43 a. Only 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sacks are permitted.
- b. Each 5-digit scheme and 5-digit sack must contain a minimum of seven pieces. Machinable and nonmachinable pieces may be combined in the same sack to meet this requirement. One overflow sack per 5-digit ZIP Code is permitted (no piece minimum).
- c. 5-digit scheme sack labeling: Line 1, use L606, Column B; for Line 2, "PSVC PARCELS 5D SCH."
- d. 5-digit sack labeling: Line 1, use city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code on mail (see 203.5.11 in the Domestic Competitive FRN for overseas military mail); for Line 2, "PSVC PARCELS 5D."

Mark each DNDC, DSCF, DHub, or DDU Parcel Select piece as "Parcel Select," according to 202.3.7.2 in the Domestic Competitive FRN. If eVS is used, include the marking "eVS" on each piece as described in 604.5.0 in the Domestic Competitive FRN.

## PARCEL SELECT AND PARCEL SELECT LIGHTWEIGHT PRICE RESTRUCTURING

As the USPS realigns its network, several Parcel Select (PS) and Parcel Select Lightweight (PSLW) rate categories will not be needed. The USPS is considering changing Parcel Select – Destination Entry and Parcel Select Lightweight published rate categories accordingly.

### **Parcel Select Lightweight**

Mailers may prepare 5-digit sacks only for parcels that will be dropshipped to a DNDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices), DHub, DSCF, or DDU.

5-digit/scheme (optional), see definition in 1.4 in the Domestic Competitive FRN; allowed only for mail deposited at DNDC (or ASF when claiming DNDC prices), DHub, DSCF, or DDU. Sacks must contain a 10-pound minimum except at DDU entry which has no minimum.

2. Q: Will PSLW only be accepted at Destination entry (no longer Origin entry)?

A: Parcel Select Lightweight will no longer have an Origin-entered rate and will only be accepted at Destination facilities.

3. Q: Will PSLW and PS Destination be officially rebranded as USPS Connect Regional?

A: Parcel Select Destination and PSLW will continue under their current product brands.

4. Q: Re: CP2023-114 on July Parcel Select pricing changes (DHUB, Zoning, elim Non Mach) - should we expect the illustrated prices to take effect, or should we plan on a competitive rate increase in July? Re: CP2023-113 on USPS Ground Advantage - are those to be the prices are should we expect them to be different?

A: Competitive prices are under review and final pricing decisions will be made by the Board of Governors in May.

5. Q: Do zones go away for Parcel Select NDC?

A: Parcel Select Destination Entry will no longer have Zone-based prices.

6. Q: Parcel Select Destination Entry (PSDE) Nonmachinable packages have 5-Digit and 3-Digit sortation, PSDE Machinable packages have 5-Digit and SCF sortation, and PSLW has 5-Digit, SCF, and NDC sortation. Since they have different sortation, which set of levels is going to be the one staying?

A: For published SCF pricing, the sortation will be SCF for machinable packages and PSLW and 3-digit for Nonmachinable packages. All 5-digit sort options will be NSA-only going forward.

7. Q: What do we use instead of PSLW None?

A: For Origin entered packages, an alternate is to use Zone-based USPS Ground Advantage (Up to 15.999 oz).

## Section 13.0 Nonmachinable Rates & Fees Updates for Parcel Select

1. Q: Can the USPS provide sample tables?

A: See Notice 123 for more details. Note: July DRAFT Price files will be made available on [pe.usps.gov](https://pe.usps.gov).

### NONMACHINABLE RATES & FEES UPDATES FOR PARCEL SELECT

The USPS is considering changing the applicable fees for Parcel Select according to the following:

1. Eliminate Nonmachinable/Machinable price table distinctions for Parcel Select -Destination Entry. Retain one price table up to 70lbs for Parcel Select – Destination Entry regardless of machinability.
2. Extend business rules of Nonstandard Length fees and the Nonstandard Volume fee to apply to all Parcel Select.

## Appendix A SCF Pallet Discount Criteria for Letter-Shaped Pieces

CSM Container Type	CSM Container Level	CQT Entry Discount	CQT Rate Category
<p>Note: Handling unit (excluding sacks) with a parent pallet</p>	<p>Note: Container level of the parent pallet                      G = 5 Digit (Auto/Presort)                      I = 5 Digit (Presort Only)                      J = 5 Digit (Barcode only)                      M = 5D Scheme (Presort)                      N = 5D Scheme (Auto, Presort)                      P = 5D Scheme (Barcode)                      U = 3 Digit (CR, Auto, Presort)                      X = SCF                      Y =Protected SCF</p>	<p>ANY</p>	<p>Note: A1 refers to EDDM mapping                      A = Saturation Automation – ECR                      A1 = Non Automation Saturation – ECR                      B = High Density Automation – ECR                      B1 = High Density Nonautomation - ECR                      C = High Density Plus Automation- ECR                      C1 = High Density Plus Nonautomation- ECR                      D = Carrier Route Automation                      D1 = Carrier Route Nonautomation                      E = 5 Digit Barcode                      G = 5-Digit                      H = 3 Digit Barcode                      K = 3 Digit                      L1 = AADC BC                      L5 = ADC                      L7 = AADC</p>

### Change History

DATE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
3/8/23	1.0	Added <a href="#">link</a> to Mail.XML and Mail.dat on PostalPro.
3/10/23	4.0	Removed Q&A for “Q: The decision to drop ship for flats is based on logistics costs, which are completely driven by weight and distance. ‘Per piece’ doesn't work well based on how Industry works.”
3/10/23	1.0	Removed “USPS Marketing Mail Parcels Clarification” section.
3/21/23	All	Inserted Q&A from 3/15 PEEC meeting as validated by PC Requirements Team.
3/22/23	6.0	Added in questions per Devin Qualls’ feedback.
4/3/23	11.0	Added in question about STCs for Priority Mail Express Returns.
4/10/23	6.0	Removed a few USPS Ground Advantage questions due to the weight break change.
4/17/2023	6.0	Removed question asking for mock labels pending receipt of examples.
4/20/2023	6.0	Added sample USPS Ground Advantage labels.
4/27/2023	All	Changes made after leadership review.
5/10/2023	6.0	Added STC before and after table.
5/19/2023	All	Updated based on leadership review.