

United States Postal Service®

INDUSTRY ALERT

September 26, 2023

Update: October 2023 USPS Ground Advantage Barcode Quality Compliance Grace Period

USPS Systems will be updated to enable the compliance evaluation for IMpb Barcode Quality (BQ) for USPS Ground Advantage on October 1, 2023.

The Barcode Quality (BQ) will be evaluated for the following:

Manifest validation for correct Service Type Code (STC) compared to:

- Rate ingredients for USPS Ground Advantage
- Weight in the manifest.

Label validation for correct:

- Service Type Code – 001, 346
- Service icon – G
- Banner text – USPS Ground Advantage
- Indicia Mail Class – USPS Ground Advantage

Noncompliant packages that exceed threshold for IMpb (BQ, 98%, MQ, 94%, AQ, 90%) will be assessed on the compliance category with the greatest number of packages over threshold.

Refer to Publication 199: *Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Payment Systems* for IMpb compliance information.

Customers can view their noncompliant packages in the following:

- PTR Scan Event Extract Files
- eVS IMpb Noncompliance Report
- USPS Ship IMpb Noncompliance Report

The grace period for USPS Ground Advantage IMpb noncompliance was initially planned to end September 30, 2023. To provide mailers additional time to comply with USPS Ground Advantage labeling Requirements, the grace period is extended through October 31, 2023.

Release Notes for October 2023: <https://postalpro.usps.com/groundadvantagerelease>

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