

United States Postal Service®

# INDUSTRYALERT

January 18, 2024

## REMINDER: Payment Required Prior to Shipment of Domestic Mail Packages

As part of our commitment to improve efficiency, improve security, and enhance visibility and transparency for our customers, the US Postal Service is issuing an industry alert regarding several changes for customers shipping domestic mail packages. As a reminder, all mailers must pre-pay postage, fees, and charges for extra services before entering a mailing into the Postal network.

- Effective January 31, 2024, all WebTools Labels customers must implement the use of passwords.
  - <https://www.usps.com/business/web-tools-apis/evs-label-api.pdf>
- Effective March 1, 2024, the WebTools APIs for Global Direct Entry customers will be retired. Customers can migrate to the USPS API Platform or work with a vendor to generate labels and manifests.
- Effective July 14, 2024, the WebTools labels API will be retired. Customers can migrate to the USPS Labels API or leverage a vendor.
  - USPS APIs can be found at <https://developer.usps.com/>
  - Available APIs may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/apis>
  - Instructions for enrolling in USPS APIs can be found at <https://developer.usps.com/getting-started>
  - The Domestic Label API may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/api/71>
  - The International Label API may be found at <https://developer.usps.com/api/75>
- The Postal Service intends to begin enforcement of payment documentation prior to mailing. Any packages that bear a shipping label or permit imprint indicating that postage has been paid but do not have valid proof of payment prior to entry may be considered abandoned.

This requirement aligns with existing language in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM). The DMM makes clear that the “mailer is responsible for proper payment of postage” and “Postage on all mail must be fully prepaid at the time of mailing.” See DMM at Section 604.6.1. Further, the Postal Service may treat items mailed with counterfeit postage as abandoned. See DMM at Section 604.8.4. Consequently, packages bearing a shipping label with a Mailer ID (MID) where payment has not been received or scheduled may be considered abandoned and are subject to potential interception and destruction.

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