



# October 2024 Release Overview

## ***Proposed*** ***October 2024 Changes*** **CHANGE 1.0**

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## 1.0 Current Nonstandard Fee Structure

### 1.1 Nonstandard Length and Cubic Fees

The US Postal Service currently has a nonstandard length fee for Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, USPS Connect Local and Parcel Select packages when one or more of the following applies:

- A length greater than 22 inches but less than or equal to 30 inches
- A length greater than 30 inches

The US Postal Service has a cubic fee for Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, USPS Connect Local and Parcel Select packages when one or more the following applies:

- Cubic volume greater than 2 cubic ft

Both a length and a cubic volume fee may be assessed.

Table 1 -Current Nonstandard Fee Structure

Product	>22"	>30"	>2ft <sup>3</sup>
Priority Mail Express/Priority Mail	\$4.00	\$18.00	\$30.00
USPS Ground Advantage	\$4.00	\$8.40	\$18.00
PS DDU/DHUB	\$2.00	\$6.00	\$18.00
PS DSCF/DNDC	\$3.40	\$7.20	\$18.00
Any side >22" or >30"			
Pkg >2 ft <sup>3</sup> . (adds to >22" or "30" fees)			

### 1.2 Noncompliance Fee

A Noncompliance Fee is assessed when a scanned or sampled package has a length greater than 22 inches or cubic volume greater than 1 cubic ft and the package attributes provided in the manifest do not match the package attributes captured via the scan or sample. This fee is \$1.50.

## 2.0 Proposed Nonstandard Fee Structure

### 2.1 Nonstandard Fee

The US Postal Service is considering updating the rules for package Nonstandard fee structures. These fees are applicable to Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage, USPS Connect Local and Parcel Select packages to apply nonstandard fees based on zone and the following criteria:

- Length is > 22" and < 48", or width is > 18", or height is > 15"
- Length is > 48"
- Package Characteristics - prepared improperly or not capable of automation.
  - Tubes/Rolls
  - Shrink wrapped packages
  - Not in a shipping container
  - Label not fully on one side of the package

Only one charge per package applies and will be based on the greater fee.

## 2.2 Noncompliance Fee

A Noncompliance Fee is also assessed when a scanned or sampled package has a dimension greater than above or the package attributes provided in the manifest do not match the package attributes captured via the scan or sample.

## 2.3 Zone based Fee Structure

Nonstandard Fee amounts would be based on Zone configuration, and zones could be grouped together to determine a set fee amount.

Table 2 - Proposed Nonstandard Fee Structure

Zone/ Entry	Length > 22" and <48" Width > 18 inches Height > 15 inches	Length>48"	Package Characteristics (rolls, tubes, shrink-wrapped, no box, label not affixed to only one side etc.)
Zone 1 (Local S&DC/DDU)	\$	\$	\$
Zone 2 (DSCF-RPDC/LPC)	\$	\$	\$
Zone 3(DSCF-RPDC/LPC)	\$	\$	\$
Zone 4(DSCF-RPDC/LPC)	\$	\$	\$
Zone 5	\$	\$	\$
Zone 6	\$	\$	\$
Zone 7	\$	\$	\$
Zone 8	\$	\$	\$
Zone 9	\$	\$	\$

## 2.4 Technical Implementation Details

- **Online Reporting:** Yes – The online reports will be updated to include identification of type of assessment for each package.
- **Data Feeds:** Yes – The IV-MTR data feeds will need to include the identification of type of assessment for each package.
- **Postage Statement and SKU Changes:** Yes – Part S will include lines for three Nonstandard Fee types. These Part S lines will be included in the following statements: PS Forms 3600 FC (USPS Ground Advantage), PS Form 3600 PM (Priority Mail Express), PS Form 3605 (Parcel Select), and PS Form 3560 (Priority Mail Express. Note: this form is only automatically generated by the eVS application).
- **Mail.dat changes:** Yes – Mail.dat will be updated to reuse existing SFR Service Codes of L1, L3 and L4 to represent the three Nonstandard Fees types.
- **Mail.XML changes:** Yes – Mail.XML will be updated to reuse existing PostageStatementCreateRequest > ServiceCodes of L1, L3 and L4 to represent the updated Nonstandard Fees.
- **Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes:** Yes – New Extra Service Codes (879, 886, 887) will be issued to identify the updated Nonstandard Fee types.
- **Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File:** Yes – New Extra Service Codes (879, 886, 887) will be issued to identify the updated Nonstandard Fee types.
- **WebTools:** Yes – Domestic Rate Calculator API will be updated to include the Nonstandard Fee updates. The Rate Response will be updated to include the Nonstandard Fee related information.
- **USPS API:** Yes – Domestic Prices API will be updated to include the Fees for Nonstandard Fee updates.
- **Price Change Type / Product Type:** Competitive

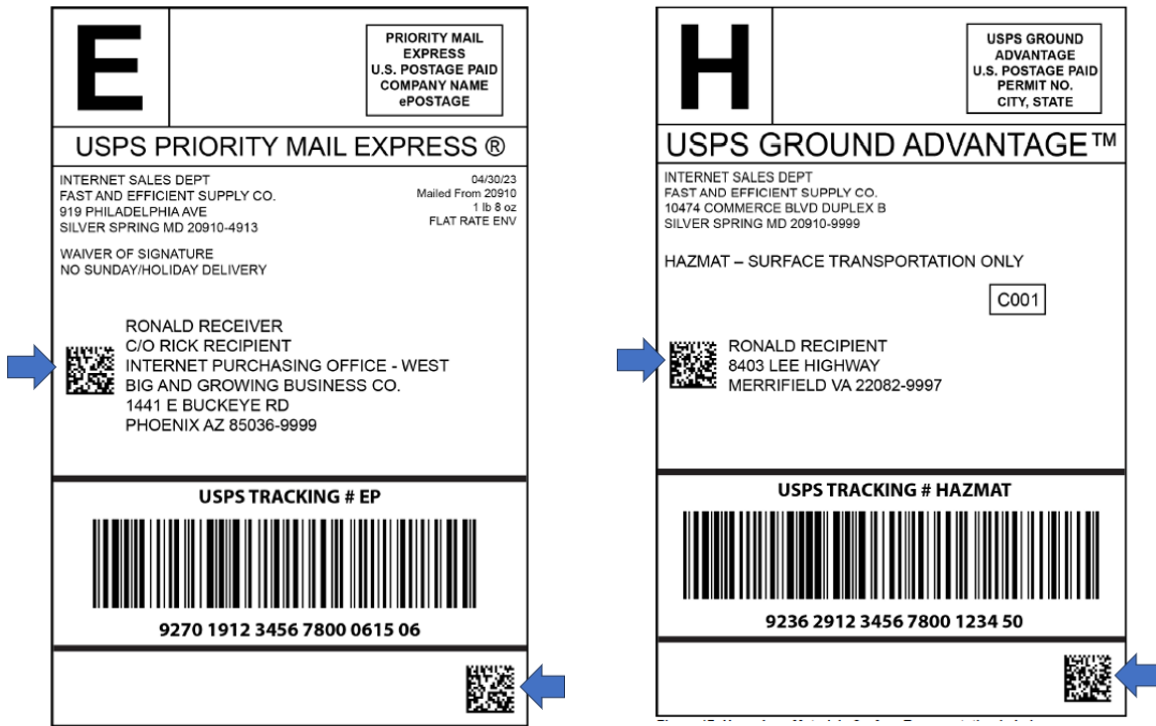
### 3.0 Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode (2D Barcode) – Noncompliance Establishment

The US Postal Service is considering updating systems/processes to detect the absence of Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode (IMmb, also known as 2D barcodes) on all shipping labels. This includes packages mailed as USPS Ground Advantage, Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express, Parcel Select, Media Mail, Library Mail, USPS Marketing Mail, Parcel Return Service and USPS Returns. The proposal includes requiring the IMmbs for all labels starting January 19, 2025. IMpb Compliance assessments for HAZMAT packages will begin January 19, 2025. This will bring our systems up to date for HAZMAT compliance. IMpb Compliance assessments for all other packages will begin April 1, 2025. This will prepare the US Postal Service systems to monitor and assess IMmb compliance on all shipping labels.

The US Postal Service implemented the [Intelligent Mail Matrix Barcode \(IMmb\)](#) technology in 2023. The IMmb is based on the GS1-DataMatrix. The labeling requirements add two (2) supplemental GS1-DataMatrix IMmb barcodes to the standard shipping label layouts. The two required GS1 IMmb barcodes shall be positioned on the shipping label per the following guidelines.

ID	Label Element	Requirements
*	Barcode Content	The data payload of the IMmb shall match the traditional, GS1-128 Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb). This includes the usage of GS1 application identifiers (AIs).
1	Symbology	GS1 DataMatrix
2	Symbol Size	20x20 (Mapping matrix size: 18x18). The square form of the GS1 DataMatrix symbol shall be used. <b>Note:</b> <i>The dimensions of the barcode itself is a function of the matrix and X-dimen</i>
3	Finder Pattern Location	The symbol shall be oriented such that the “L” finder pattern is located in the lower, left-hand corner of the symbol when the shipping label is upright.
4	X-dimension (mils/inches)	Target- 20 mil (0.020”); Min:19 mil (0.019”); Max:22mil (0.022”) X
5	Quiet (Clear) Zone	A quiet zone equal of at least 0.10” shall be observed around all four sides of the symbol. No print or marks shall in this area.
6	GS1 DataMatrix Placement	1. Left of the Delivery Address in the Address and Delivery Information Segment, and 2. in the lower right corner of the shipping label (in the “Additional Information and User Segment” section) beneath the Identification Bars (aka Railroad tracks). Please see figure 1 below.
7	Symbol Reflectance & Contrast	Minimum/Maximum Reflectance The reflectance value of the darkest bar within the barcode symbol (Rmin) shall be equal to or less than half the reflectance value of the lightest space (Rmax), when measured in the red spectral range between 630 nanometers (nm) and 675 nm. $R_{min} \leq 0.5R_{max}$ Symbol Contrast Symbol contrast is the difference between the highest reflectance value (Rmax) and the lowest reflectance value (Rmin) within the barcode symbol, including the quiet zones. The symbol contrast shall be greater than 40 percent. $SC = R_{max} - R_{min}$ $SC \geq 40\%$
8	Barcode Quality	At least 70 percent of the barcodes in each mailing shall have an overall symbol grade of “B” or better when measured with the appropriate aperture size in the red spectral range between 630 nanometers (nm) and 675 nm. The remainder shall measure no less than a Symbol Grade of “C”. Specified symbol grades are based upon the ISO/IEC 15415 - Information technology — Automatic Identification and Data capture Techniques — Barcode Symbol Print Quality Test Specification — Two-dimensional Symbols which recommends a method of measuring the quality parameters of printed barcode symbols. The different symbol grades indicate print quality. Only the use of the appropriate aperture for the specific X-dimension of the barcode symbol under consideration will guarantee that the grade obtained from measurement of this symbol is the correct grade according to the ISO/IEC 15415 specified method

The two required GS1 IMmb barcodes shall be positioned on the shipping label (sample figures below).



- **Online Reporting: Yes**
- **Data Feeds: Yes**
- **Postage Statement and SKU Changes: No Impact**
- **Mail.dat changes: No Impact**
- **Mail.XML changes: No Impact**
- **Shipping Services File (SSF) Changes: No Impact**
- **Indicium Creation Record (ICR) File: No Impact**
- **WebTools: No Impact**
- **USPS API: No Impact**
- **Price Change Type / Product Type: Competitive**

# Appendix A – Nonstandard Fee Updates

## Nonstandard Fee Implementation – Current

File Type	Field	22 < Length <= 30 (unit: inches)	Length > 30 (unit: inches)	Volume > 2 (unit: cu. Ft.)	22 < Length <= 30 (unit: inches) AND Volume > 2 (unit: cu. Ft.)	Length > 30 (Unit: inches) AND Volume > 2 (unit: cu. Ft.)
Mail.dat	Service Type	L1	L2	L4	L1 and L4	L2 and L4
Mail.XML	Service Code	L1	L2	L4	L1 and L4	L2 and L4
Shipping Services File (SSF)	Extra Service Code	881	882	883	884 OR 881 and 883	885 OR 882 and 883
Indicium Creation Record (ICR) file	Extra Service Code	881	882	883	884 OR 881 and 883	885 OR 882 and 883

Table 3

## Nonstandard Fee Implementation – Proposed

File Type	Field	Dimensions > 22" x 18" x 15"  <i>If any of the package dims are greater</i>	Length => 48"	Package Type  Rolls, tubes, preparation, no-package, shrink-wrap, etc.	Fee is configured based on Mail Class, Zones or Destination Entry
Mail.dat	Service Type	L1	L4	L2	Apply one (greatest of three)
Mail.XML	Service Code	L1	L4	L2	Apply one (greatest of three)
Shipping Services File (SSF)	Extra Service Code	New ESC 886	New ESC 887	New ESC 879	Apply one (greatest of three)
Indicium Creation Record (ICR) file	Extra Service Code	New ESC 886	New ESC 887	New ESC 879	Apply one (greatest of three)

Table 4

## Three Types of Nonstandard Fee – Proposed

The image below demonstrates the three types of nonstandard fees

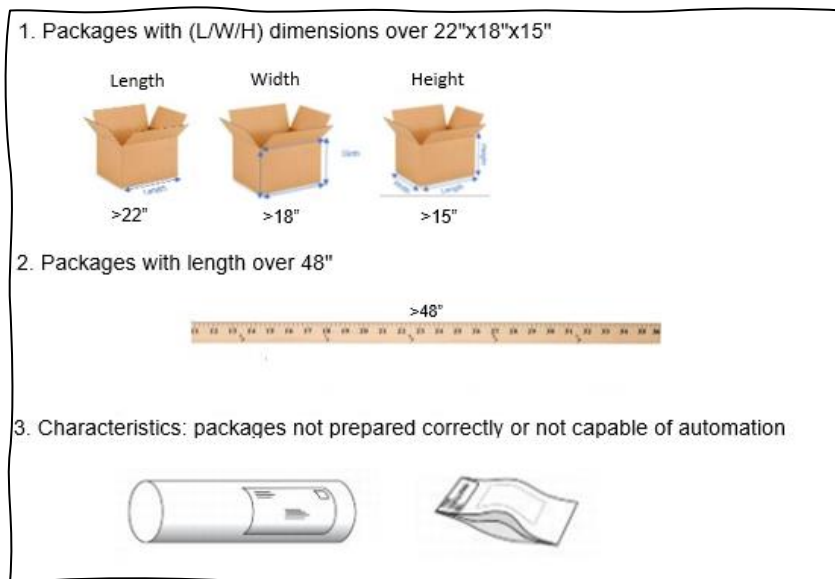


Figure 1



## ***Package Attributes***

Packages shipped by USPS will be assessed based on data within the following files. In addition to the data provided by the customers, USPS will use the scan and sample data from mail processing equipment to assess the fees.

- Shipping Services Files (SSF) – for permit imprint shippers that use SSF to pay for packages
  - Length, Width, Height
  - Extra Service Fees, Extra Service Codes
- Indicum Creation Records (ICR) – for PC Postage vendors that use ICR to pay for packages
  - Length, Width, Height
  - Extra Service Fees, Extra Service Codes
- Mail.dat/XML – for permit imprint shippers that use Mail.dat/XML to pay for packages
  - SFR/ServiceCode
  - Mail Piece Unit – Length, Width, Thickness