Mail Spoken Here

The electronic newsletter summarizing recent Postal Service news and developments
July 31, 2017

USPS Address Management Updates

Effective August 1, 2017, USPS Address Management Products are Moving to a More Secure Encryption Method

The address data files used by the mailing industry are currently secured using the cryptographic function known as Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA-1) to protect the sensitive information contained within the file.

Since 2016, the United States Postal Service and its certified and licensed vendors have been transitioning to an even more secure version of this cryptographic hash function technology: SHA-256 (sometimes referred to as SHA-2). Many of these vendors have already started using the new SHA-256 data files. Effective August 1, 2017 the SHA-1 version of the data files will not be available.

The following software, products, or services used by the mailing industry are affected by this change:

- CASS™ and MASS™ Certified software or services (includes DPV®, LACS Link®, and Suite Link®) to validate, update, and standardize addresses
- NCOA Link® files used for Move Update processing
- DSF^2® for sorting addresses in delivery order and to identify vacancies
- RDI™ to identify Residential addresses

If you are unsure if the application or service you used has been updated, contact your service provider.

Seamless Acceptance Automated Assessments

Automated Seamless Acceptance Assessments for Mail Quality Metrics will occur August 2017 for July data. The assessments result in additional postage on those pieces in error above the established thresholds: Undocumented, Delivery Point, Nesting/Sortation, Postage, Weight, and Mail Characteristic. Automated email assessment notifications will be sent as described below on the 11th day of each month. These automated assessments will be included with the Full-Service and eInduction assessments.

Assessments are generated at the electronic documentation (eDoc) submitter Customer Registration ID (CRID) level when there are errors that exceed the established thresholds for a calendar month. The Postal Service will send automated email notifications to the user associated to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service for the eDoc submitters Business Customer Gateway (BCG) profile.

The Postal Service strongly encourages all Seamless Acceptance mailers to request access to the Verification Assessment Evaluator (VAE) service through the BCG. In the event that a VAE user is not identified, the automated email assessment notifications are sent to the associated BCG user roles in the following order of precedence:

- Verification Assessment Evaluator (Business Service Administrator (BSA) or User Role); if no VAE is identified notification is sent to:
- BSA for Manage Mailing Activity if there is no BSA for Manage Mailing Activity notification is sent to:
- BSA for alternate *PostalOne!* service: Audit Mailing Activity, eVS/PRS Customer, Scan Based Payment Customer.

Note: Only users associated to the BSA or user role for Verification Assessment Evaluator or Managed Mailing Activity services can view and take action on assessments.

UPDATED Pub 97 is now available!

Pub 97, Priority Mail Express Manifesting Business and Technical Guide, was updated January 2017 and is now posted online.

Changes to the updated Pub 97 include:

- Secure file transfer protocol updates.
- The current product name of Priority Mail Express.
- Updated URLs were added.
- Ownership of this publication has transitioned to:
  Manager Payment Technology
  Mail Entry and Payment Technology

Pub 97 Availability:

- Publication 97 is available only in electronic format for public users on the USPS Internet as follows:
  - Go to www.usps.com.
  - At the bottom of the page, under "ON ABOUT.USPS.COM," click on Forms and
  - Publications.
  - Click on Postal Periodicals and Publications.
  - Click on Publications.

http://about.usps.com/publications/pub97/welcome.htm

All previous issues of Publication 97 are obsolete.

Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
Reminder

Effective August 31, 2017, USPS will discontinue support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for mailers to send and/or receive shipping files and data through the Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) system. Mailers using FTP to send and/or receive shipping files and data through PTR will need to set up a secure transmission method utilizing one of the methods below:

Option1 - Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP)
SFTP is a secure connectivity option available to exchange files using USPS's SFTP server (or if the customer prefers, their own SFTP server). We support SFTP login using Key Authentication or username/password. USPS prefers AES or 3DES algorithms if you choose to encrypt your data using PGP (Pretty good privacy). We also support key login using OpenSSL keys rather than username/password login.

Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) con't:

Mailers must complete trading partner setup through our Data Transfer Services (DTS) group. Allow at least 30 days to complete this setup. For additional information refer Publication 199, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Verification System (eVS) Mailers, Section 6 Communications, 6.1 Transmission methods, "SFTP" at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf.

Option2 - Electronic Data Interchange Internet Applicability Standard 2 (EDIINT AS2)
This option requires that the Business Partner use an EDIINT AS2 capable software product. Mailers must complete trading partner setup through our Data Transfer Services (DTS) group. Allow at least 30 days to complete this setup. For additional information refer Publication 199, Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Implementation Guide for Confirmation Services and Electronic Verification System (eVS) Mailers, Section 6 - Communications, 6.1 Transmission methods, "EDIINT AS2" at https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_package/documents/tech_guides/PUB199IMPBImpGuide.pdf.

Option3 - Parcel Data Exchange (PDX)
Parcel Data Exchange (PDX) is a web services application that interfaces between the USPS's PTR system and Customers to provide data transfer services. Customers can use this secure method to upload manifest files and receive scan event extract files. For additional information refer the PDX Online user guides on RIBBS at https://ribbs.usps.gov/evs/documents/tech_guides/pubs/PDXOnlineUserGuide.PDF.

Mailers using a USPS certified software vendor or a third party service provider, should contact them to determine the secure connectivity options available or consult your internal technical team prior to contacting the USPS.

Please contact the USPS Confirmation Services Technical Support Team with the selected option at delivery.confirmation@usps.gov or (877) 264-9693. If contacting via email please provide contact name, title, company name, email address and phone number.

For additional information, reference the FTP Fact Sheet posted on PostalPro at https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3636.

In addition:

Effective September 30, 2017, USPS will no longer support FTP for mailers enrolled in IMb Tracing or Informed Visibility (IV).

Migrations will be performed in two steps: First, IMb Tracing customers will be migrated to IV once the pilot is complete. That date will be shared with the impacted users when it is available. Then, IV participants will also need to transition to Secure FTP once they have migrated from IMb Tracing.

Migration documentation is available on both PostalPro and RIBBs under Informed Visibility (https://postalpro.usps.com/visibility-and-tracking/informed-visibility-iv), and the Informed Visibility Help Desk can be contacted at InformedVisibility@usps.gov.

July DMM Update

Postal Explorer® (*pe.usps.com*) is your source for up-to-date mailing standards. The *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM®) is fully searchable on Postal Explorer and features fly-out menus, cross-reference links, and an extensive subject index. Monday, July 10, 2017, we updated our mailing standards to include the following changes:

Parcel Select Lightweight® Dimensional Criteria

We revised 201.7.6 and 201.8.5.3 to clarify the dimensional criteria of Parcel Select Lightweight® (PSLW) parcels. We published this information in the June 22, 2017, *Postal Bulletin.*

Preparing Pallets

We revised 705.8.0 to clarify the maximum number of pallets that may be stacked, and the securing method for trays prepared on a pallet. We published this information in the June 8, 2017, *Postal Bulletin.*

Domestic Mail Manual Simplification

We revised DMM in various chapters as we continue our simplification initiative without changes to standards to make it quicker, easier, and more convenient. To assist in this transition the Postal Service will post a crosswalk for each section of the DMM. We published this information in the June 8, 2017, *Postal Bulletin.*

Address Information System Services

We revised 509.1.0 to clarify the processes for obtaining delivery statistics and update the required method to receive product updates from the Postal Service. Additionally, various DMM subsections will also have minor revisions related to the aforementioned clarification and update. We published this information in the May 25, 2017, *Postal Bulletin.*

Our next scheduled DMM update is August 7, 2017.

Postal Bulletin

Postal Bulletin 22471 (7-6-17)   https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2017/pb22471/pb22471.pdf

- **DMM Revision**: Retail First-Class Mail Postage Payment Methods
- **DMM Revision:** Domestic and International Permit Imprint Application Fees
- **ELM Revision:** Reinstatement List Updates
- **IMM Revision:** International and Domestic Permit Imprint Application Fees

Postal Bulletin 22472 (7-20-17)   https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2017/pb22472/pb22472.pdf

- **ASM Revision:** Categories of International Mail Sealed Against Postal Inspection
- **Pull-Out:** Freely Associated States Restrictions

Additional Resources:

FRN: Federal Register Notice
PB: Postal Bulletin
PE: Postal Explorer is a mailer's resource for all information contained in the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM), International Mail Manual (IMM), Publication 52, *Hazardous, Restricted, and Perishable Mail.*
PostalPro: PostalPro is a mailer's resource for other information (i.e., Mailing and Shipping, Operations, Industry Forum, Certifications, Resources). This site will replace RIBBS.