

United States Postal Service®

INDUSTRYALERT

Mail Spoken Here

The electronic newsletter summarizing recent Postal Service news and developments

We Are With You!

**To all who are impacted by or assisting people impacted by “Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey”!
We will continue to work to get mail service restored to your area!**

As impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additionally, Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

USPS making key investments

As recently reported in NewsLink, Postmaster General Megan Brennan recently said at the National Rural Letter Carriers Association convention that “the Postal Service is improving the customers’ experiences by investing in employees and new technology”. “The future is all about the customer.” We have to listen and quickly adapt to their needs.” USPS is continuing to strengthen its training programs and empowering employees to address customers’ needs, she reported.

“Our customers have a choice on who they do business with. When we commit to adding value, we build loyalty and trust,” the PMG said. The Postal Service is also offering digital platforms like *Informed Delivery*, a feature that provides residential consumers with digital previews of their incoming mail. Other new platforms include Informed Visibility, which offers insights into how mail moves through the postal network.

In addition to discussing workforce development and innovations at each of these meetings, the PMG addressed efforts to return the Postal Service to financial stability.

Discontinued Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) for Product Tracking & Reporting (PTR) System

FINAL REMINDER: Convert to a Secure Transmission Method by August 31, 2017

For additional information, reference the FTP Fact Sheet posted on PostalPro at <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3636>. Contact the USPS Confirmation Services Technical Support Team

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.

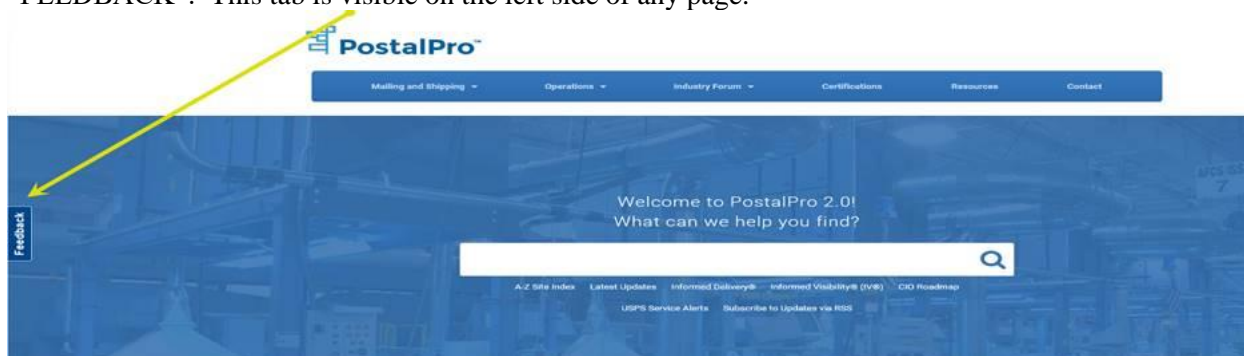
IMb Tracing Support for File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Extended

The Postal Service has extended the date for IMb Tracing and Informed Visibility (IV) for customers who utilize non-secure FTP **from September 30, 2017 to November 30, 2017** to allow them more time to transition to secure options within Informed Visibility (IV). On December 1, 2017 the Postal Service will no longer support FTP for mailers enrolled in IMb Tracing or Informed Visibility (IV) and all must have converted to a secure option within IV. The IV application has functionality to assist the mailing industry to transition to SFTP.

Migration documentation for IV is available on both PostalPro under Informed Visibility (<https://postalpro.usps.com/visibility-and-tracking/informed-visibility-iv>). The Informed Visibility Help Desk can be contacted at InformedVisibility@usps.gov for additional information.

PostalPro Website! The source for updated Mailer Information!

The Postal Service redesigned the mailer information website, RIBBS into PostalPro. The websites have been running parallel since December 16, 2016. USPS continues to encourage the mailing industry to make the switch to PostalPro and to help make recommendations for its improvement. We recognize the input of MTAC Workgroup 176 and their commitment to the PostalPro project. Everyone can make a recommendation for the improvement of the PostalPro website by simply using the blue bar entitled “FEEDBACK”. This tab is visible on the left side of any page.



The web address for PostalPro is <https://postalpro.usps.com/>

MTAC Work Group 176 and USPS are continuing to perform custom search edits to ensure documents are easier to find. Also more items are being added to the A-Z index to give an additional way to find information. As requested, the Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) are becoming more descriptive. This addition will not replace the current node system; for example: the URL for publication 205 will still work as: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/3724> but will also work as the alias <https://postalpro.usps.com/pub205>.

As you can see, USPS is at work to continue to improve the customers' experience with PostalPro. Visit the site today and provide your feedback. Your feedback is important!

Reminder: First-Class Mail Parcels transfer to the Competitive Price Listing

On August 9, 2017, the Postal Regulatory Commission (“PRC”) approved the transfer of the First-Class Mail Parcels (“FCMP”) product from the market-dominant product list to the competitive product list. The approved new rates (13 rate cells in total) can be viewed on the Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com and will go into effect on September 3, 2017.

After implementation, the FCMP product will become a new “Retail” rate category within the existing First-Class Package Service (“FCPS”) product. The new “Retail” price category will be called “First-Class Package Service-Retail” while the existing FCPS price category will be renamed “First-Class Package Service-Commercial.” The new FCPS-Retail product has the same characteristics as the former First-Class Mail Parcels product.

USPS Marketing Mail (Standard Mail) Markings and Labels Update

The Postal Service published a DMM Advisory on Friday, June 30, 2017, and Friday, July 7, 2017 providing updates about the rebranding of Standard Mail as USPS Marketing Mail™. The update stated the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on a timeline for implementation for the required use of new postage markings, permit imprint indicia, and sack, tray, and pallet labels. As information, this messaging applies to all USPS Marketing Mail shapes.

We updated the Domestic Mail Manual and Quick Service Guides in the applicable preparation sections and added the statement “Customers should not convert to the USPS Marketing Mail markings until a date is announced.”

We continue to receive requests to test the new name and to convert to the new markings since the new name appeals to many customers. If you are interested in testing, please respond to the DMM Advisory email address at dmmadvisory@usps.com with your name and contact information. Testing data will assist all customers as we move forward with implementation. In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until we publish the final details through a *DMM Advisory* and *Industry Alert*.

The *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) and DMM Advisories are available on *Postal Explorer*® (pe.usps.com) To subscribe to the DMM Advisory, send an e-mail to dmmadvisory@usps.com. Simply indicate, "Subscribe" in the subject line.

Postmaster General's Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC)

The Postmaster General's Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) is a venue for the Postal Service to share technical information with mailers, and to receive their advice and recommendations on matters concerning mail-related products and services, in order to enhance customer value and expand the use of these products and services for the mutual benefit of Mailing Industry stakeholders and the Postal Service.

The MTAC Open Session and Reception are held quarterly on Tuesdays starting at 1 p.m. Non-members may attend the open session. MTAC Membership meetings and Focus Group discussions are on Wednesdays for MTAC members. Sessions are held at the Postal Service's National Headquarters located at 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, D.C. 20260-0004. [MTAC membership](https://postalpro.usps.com/mtac#section-2) is open to associations. The link is, <https://postalpro.usps.com/mtac#section-2>. **Proposed MTAC 2018 Meeting Dates** are: February 27-28, March 1; June 12-14; October 2-4 and December 4-6, 2018.

The Perfect Bundle Improving Bundle Preparation

“Ensuring that bundles prepared by mailers remain intact throughout the handling of the bundle during Postal Service mail processing is a critical issue.”

A bundle is simply a secured group of mailpieces that are for a specific presort separation. The processing of bundles in the Postal Service has come a long way over the years. Formerly, a completely manual operation, the Postal Service has introduced mechanization and automation to the process over the past several decades.

The Perfect Bundle – Publication 248



Unless mailers dropship bundles directly to delivery units, bundles must undergo multiple handlings **before** they are delivered. We have found that in this multi-step process, bundles can and will break open if the bundles are not properly secured. When bundles break, the contents become loose pieces and require manual handling. Another process that can affect the security of a bundle occurs when sacks or pallets must be loaded onto and unloaded off of vehicles. During this process the contents could shift and loosen the bands or shrink wrap.

Transporting the containers that have bundles in them can cause additional stress on the security of the bundle. With all of this handling, if the bundles were not properly secured when they were prepared, customer and postal processing operations could end up with loose pieces spread across the operation.

With the new postal automated bundle sorting equipment, bundles with the address on the top piece obscured by opaque or colored strapping or other obstructions must be handled manually, increasing costs and slowing processing and possibly delaying delivery of that mail. The Perfect Bundle helps your bundled mail get as close to the delivery point as possible, as quickly as possible and in the same good condition as when the bundle was prepared. To find out more about “**The Perfect Bundle**” and how to avoid the issues mention in this article go to <http://about.usps.com/publications/pub248.pdf> .

Postal Bulletin

Postal Bulletin 22473 (8-3-17) <https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2017/pb22473/pb22473.pdf>

DMM Revision: Extra Service and Refund Clarifications
DMM Revision: Merchandise Return Service

DMM Revision: Pallet Label
DMM Revision: Return Receipt Service
IMM Revision: IPA and ISAL Price Groups

Postal Bulletin 22474 (8-17-17) <https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2017/pb22474/pb22474.pdf>

Publication 52 Revision: New Mailing Standards for Lithium Batteries

Postal Bulletin 22475 (8-31-17) <https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2017/pb22475/pb22475.pdf>

IMM Revision: Additional Availability of Electronic USPS Delivery Confirmation International Service

Additional Resources:

FRN: [Federal Register Notices](#)

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.

Please visit us on the Postal Service [Industry Outreach](#) website.

Thank you for your support of the United States Postal Service. -USPS Marketing

To subscribe or unsubscribe to Industry Alerts, please hit reply and send us your request.

Privacy Notice: For information regarding our privacy policies, visit www.usps.com/privacypolicy.