

# Intelligent Mail<sup>®</sup> Barcode

what's going on with  
your mail?



imagine the  
possibilities

# Intelligent Mail<sup>®</sup> Barcode

bringing Xtreme visibility  
into the mail



## What Is the Intelligent Mail® Barcode for Letters and Flats?



The Intelligent Mail barcode is the next generation in the evolution of U.S. Postal Service® barcode technology. It offers an alternative to using multiple barcodes on a mailpiece and increases the amount of information carried on letters and flats, allowing for expanded tracking capability and greater visibility into the mailstream.

## What Are the Benefits of Using the Intelligent Mail Barcode?

Usage of the Intelligent Mail Barcode offers significant advantages over using POSTNET™, PLANET Code® and other barcodes:

- Provides more overall data capacity
- Allows mailers to have a greater number of uniquely identifiable mailpieces
- Allows mailers to request multiple services while utilizing a single barcode
- Provides more free space on a mailpiece for mailers to use
- Positions mailers to participate in future service offerings

## How It Works

The Intelligent Mail barcode is a height-modulated barcode comprised of 65 bars – each of which exists in one of four distinct possible states: Ascender, Descender, Tracker and Full. This “4-state” structure results in up to 31 digits of data in about the same amount of space as the 11 or 13 digits of the POSTNET or PLANET Code, respectively.

Intelligent Mail barcodes have either a 6 or 9-digit Mailer ID (MID) assigned by the Postal Service, and respectively, a 9 or 6-digit Serial Number assigned by the mail owner/agent, as seen below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Bar-code ID (2N)	Service Type ID (3N)		Mailer ID (6N)			Serial Number (9N)									ZIP™ Code (None, 5, 9 or 11N)															

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Bar-code ID (2N)	Service Type ID (3N)		Mailer ID (9N)						Serial Number (6N)			ZIP™ Code (None, 5, 9 or 11N)																		

## Field Definitions

**Barcode ID** - Identifies the presort makeup in conjunction with an Optional Endorsement Line -- most users will leave it as “00”.

**Service Type ID** - Identifies special service requests or mail class when used for automation rate discounts without any services.

**Mailer ID** - Postal Service assigned: uniquely identifies mail owner/agent.

**Serial Number** - Mailer assigned: allows for the unique identification of each mailpiece or mailing.

**Routing ZIP Code™** - Must contain a proper ZIP Code to obtain automation rate discounts.

## What’s the Timeline?

**Today** – Your business can apply the Intelligent Mail barcode on letters and flats and use them for OneCode ACS™ for address change services and for OneCode Confirm™ for tracking. Barcoded mailpieces are acceptable for automation discounts with or without services, as long as mailings meet the automation discount requirements. Barcode uniqueness is not necessary. This is referred to as the *Basic Option*.

**May 2009** – A *Full-Service Option* has been proposed that will require a unique Intelligent Mail barcode, a unique Intelligent Mail Tray barcode, a unique Intelligent Mail Container barcode, electronic documentation, and appointment scheduling. The proposed Full-Service Option will have separate pricing. Additionally, it has been proposed that the full-service mailings will enjoy the benefits of free address correction and “start-the-clock” information which will document when the Postal Service has taken possession of each mailing.

**May 2010** – It has been proposed that the Intelligent Mail barcode would be required in lieu of POSTNET to receive automation discounts.

## How Do I Get Started?

For more information on the Intelligent Mail barcode visit: [ribbs.usps.gov/onecodesolution](http://ribbs.usps.gov/onecodesolution).

At this site you will find:

- Intelligent Mail barcode Technical Resource Guide
- Encoder software
- Specifications
- Barcode fonts (standard & compact)