



Dear ACS Customer,

Beginning on Monday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the United State Postal Service® is updating software on all Mail Processing letter automation equipment. This change will enable the Redirection Intelligent Mail® barcode (R-IMb) on forwarding and return labels applied by the Postal Automation Redirection System (PARS). The R-IMb preserves the mailer-applied Service Type ID (STID), Mailer ID and Serial Number in the tracking portion of the IMb applied to their mail. The table below provides a diagram of the R-IMb that will be on the PARS label.

Mailer-applied IMb

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
Barcode ID	Service Type ID	Mailer ID & Serial Number (6 or 9 Digit MID & 9 or 6 Digit Serial Number)																		Routing ZIP Code (0, 5, 9. Or 11 Digits)										



Redirection IMb

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
93	Service Type ID	Mailer ID & Serial Number (6 or 9 Digit MID & 9 or 6 Digit Serial Number)																		Routing ZIP Code (5, 9. Or 11 Digits) of New Address if forwarded or Return Address if returned to sender										

This retention of the STID and tracking information enhances the visibility of mail that has been forwarded or returned. PARS automation without this software update receives a Postal IMb (P-IMb) on the forwarding or return label. Consequently, visibility of these mailpieces through IMb Tracing is lost, especially if the PARS label covers the mailer-applied barcode in the lower right corner of the envelope. The implementation of this change will provide customers with IMb Tracing data that was unavailable until now.

As deployment and activation of the software continues, it is likely that you will begin to see the R-IMb data in your ACS notices. When the original mailer-applied IMb contains a STID that requests ACS, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> PARS processing occurs, the R-IMb data will be provided in your ACS notice. This may occur when mail has been forwarded, but is undeliverable at the new address and is reprocessed in PARS. Here is a diagram to help explain that scenario:

Exhibit 1: Addressee moved from original address

Generic Solutions  
89101 E Green St  
Anytown NY 00000-0000  
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Mr First Last  
1005 Graceland Ave  
Somecity US 00327-4321

571 NFE 1080A14C0008/01/2015 ACS<--

LAST: FIRST  
4231 ELVIS PL  
NEWCITY US 00330-1234

The first forward generates and provides an ACS COA notice to the mailer. The mailer updates to the new address. The original mailer-applied IMb data is included in this ACS notice.

Exhibit 2: Addressee moved again from the address on forwarding label



The customer has moved again from the previous new address, so the mail is forwarded again. A subsequent ACS notice is provided to the mailer. The R-IMb from the address on the first label is provided in this ACS notice. The R-IMb has a barcode ID of 93 and the routing ZIP from the previous label.

Here is an example of the IMb data that will be included in your ACS notices:

	BC ID (2 Digits)	STID (3 Digits)	Mailer ID (6 or 9 Digits)	Serial # (9 or 6 Digits)	Routing Code (0,5,9, or 11 Digit ZIP)	Description
1 <sup>st</sup> ACS Notice Original IMb from Mailer IMb	<b>00</b>	<b>080</b>	<b>987654321</b>	<b>123456</b>	<b>00327432105</b>	Redirection IMb applied to the PARS label will have the ZIP Code of the new address: <b>9308098765432112345600330123431</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> ACS Notice R-IMb from previous new address label	<b>93</b>	<b>080</b>	<b>987654321</b>	<b>123456</b>	<b><u>00330123431</u></b>	Redirection IMb applied to PARS label will have ZIP of the new address from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> move: <b>9308098765432112345600327654334</b>

Notice that the IMb provided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> ACS notice reflects the R-IMb from the label of the new address applied the first time. This insures that any additional PARS processing will maintain the important information from the mailer-applied IMb, including ancillary services requested in the STID. It is also possible to receive an ACS Nixie notice with R-IMb information, if the mail is not deliverable and cannot be forwarded from the new address.

If your primary method of matching ACS notices to your mailing list is with the IMb data, you may need to use the 18-Digit tracking information (STID, Mailer ID, and Serial Number) to find a match. The 93 barcode ID and the routing ZIP Code will not match.

The automated or electronic address correction fees will apply when appropriate.

Please note that if you apply a Basic IMb requesting OneCode ACS<sup>®</sup>, and your IMb includes all zero's in the serial number, or if the serial number has been duplicated multiple times on different mail, the R-IMb ACS notices will not be fulfilled. If you wish to receive these notices, you must modify the serial numbers in your IMb so they are different for every piece.

EXCEPTION: Traditional ACS notices will be fulfilled with the original IMb or R-IMb that is included in the Traditional ACS notice, regardless of the content of the serial number.

The ACS Technical Guides will be updated to reflect these changes and will be posted at:  
<https://ribbs.usps.gov/acs/newACSformat/ACSFileFormatTechnicalGuide.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact the ACS Department via email at [acs@usps.gov](mailto:acs@usps.gov) or by phone 1-877-640-0724 (Option 1).

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United States Postal Service  
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