

# LICENSING ANNOUNCEMENT

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

## AMS API TRANSITION TO SHA-256 TECHNOLOGY

**Primary Audience:** AMS API Licensees

### What:

To comply with the recommendations from the December 2014 Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit of the NCOA<sup>Link®</sup> program, the USPS® will transition the monthly AMS API data from SHA-1 to SHA-256 technology as the method for data encryption. In its findings, the OIG stated the SHA-1 technology did not comply with the current USPS security policies. As a result, the USPS adopted the SHA-256 technology to ensure adequate security protocols are in place. All AMS API licensees must begin using the SHA-256 data by **August 1, 2017**. After this date, products using SHA-1 technology will no longer be provided. All licensees will be notified once the SHA-256 becomes available.

In addition to the transition to the SHA-256 technology, AMS API will also include data enhancements to ensure addresses are standardized accurately, improving deliverability. Details on these improvements are listed below.

Category	Description
<b>PO Box™ Only Flag</b>	This flag is set when all ZIP™ codes in a facility only deliver to PO Boxes.
<b>ZIP5 Valid Flag</b>	This flag is set when the city/state corresponds to the ZIP Code regardless of whether a match is made.
<b>R777 Footnote</b>	This footnote is set when a match is made to an R777 carrier route.
<b>PBSA Footnote</b>	This footnote is set when a match is made to a PBSA record.
<b>PBSA # Sign Change</b>	If an address matches to a PBSA and the input unit designator is a pound sign (#). The pound sign (#) is returned regardless of the unit designator present on the record matched.
<b>Trailing Alpha</b>	If an address matches with a primary number trailing alpha exception and the address does not DPV® confirm, the alpha can be dropped to attempt a confirmation with just the numeric portion. However, it is not to be dropped on output.
<b>Suite<sup>Link®</sup></b>	If an address matches to Suite <sup>Link</sup> , the secondary information is to be returned immediately following the primary address information. Any extraneous secondary

	information that did not match must follow the Suite <sup>Link</sup> applied secondary information.
<b>Significant Leading Zero Fix</b>	This correctly stores and returns addresses with significant leading zeros (primary and secondary numbers).
<b>Out of Range Alias</b>	An out of range alias condition occurs when an alias has only been defined for certain ranges. If an alias was not defined for a specific range (but would be an exact match) and a change was made to the address to match another street, this change will no longer allow it.
<b>Preferred Alternate City</b>	When an input city is not a valid city to return, previously the default city was returned (unless there was an override at the ZIP + 4 <sup>®</sup> level). However it should be returning the city name that is actually associated with the non-mailing city name (which can be different than the default).
<b>New Military Abbreviations</b>	This correctly stores and returns addresses with new military abbreviations (OMC/UMR).
<b>Firm Name Fix</b>	Before the fix, firm names were being looked up in two places even if the first lookup was successful. This only attempts the second lookup when the first one fails.
<b>Match Level Change</b>	This is for Mainframe only. Previously we were incorrectly omitting the detection of military record matches. This will correctly identify them.
<b>New Military ZIP Code Fix</b>	Previously we were only restoring the military city and ZIP Code (when we modified it to make a match). However we were not restoring the parsed information.

Once the SHA-256 data becomes available, release notes for the new version will be provided in the AMS API Developer's Kit. To implement the new fields and footnote codes, you will need to make the appropriate changes to your software. Header files structures will be included with each release.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please submit them in writing to [ncoalink@usps.gov](mailto:ncoalink@usps.gov).