

Frequently Asked Questions

Standardized Periodicals Critical Entry Times

BACKGROUND:

The Postal Service is standardizing Critical Entry Times (CET) for Periodicals nationally to ensure that we can process Periodicals as efficiently as possible and reduce costs. These CETs were developed through a partnership with industry representatives.

1. What happens to my mail if I miss the applicable CET?

To the extent practical, mail arriving after the CET will be processed within that days operating window if we have sufficient capacity for the most efficient processes available at that location.

2. FAST does not allow me to make appointments for mixed loads whenever the facility is open. How is this going to work?

System changes will be necessary to allow mixed Periodicals drop shipments to be scheduled when a facility is open and staffed. These changes are scheduled to be implemented by the January enhancement release. Until then, mixed Periodicals drop shipments should to be scheduled as 100% Periodicals loads. FAST will not allow scheduling outside the drop ship acceptance window if the appointment content contains anything other than 100% Periodicals. The scheduler should enter "Mixed Periodicals" in the comments section when scheduling the appointment followed by the classes contained in the drop shipment.

For example: "Mixed Periodicals - Periodicals (#), Standard (#), or Package Services (#)". The scheduler would enter the number of pallets or bed-load pieces for each mail class in the parenthesis.

3. Does this policy change the CET processing of DDU entered Periodicals?

No. This policy does not affect the CET processing of DDU entered Periodicals.

4. If there are only a few FSS Zones in a 3-Digit or SCF Facility, what CET applies to my 3-Digit/SCF pallet?

Any container with mixed FSS and non-FSS zones will need to meet the FSS CET of 0800 in order to receive a bundle sort prior to FSS processing.

5. If a 3-digit pallet is destination entered with a mix of FSS and non-FSS zones at 1400, will the mail for the non-FSS zones be considered to have met the CET of 1600 and be processed for the next delivery day?

Mail in a 3-digit container for a 3-digit area, which has any FSS zones would be subject to the FSS CET of 0800.

6. If the goal is to process most Periodicals on automation, what happens to newspapers that are non-machineable and arrive after the CET?

For non-machineable newspapers which arrive after the CET and require bundle distribution, facilities with automated or mechanized bundle sorting equipment will merge these with other incoming mail classes and sort for delivery. The mixed containers will be identified as including NEWS when dispatched to delivery units. In facilities without bundle sorting equipment, there will be no change in the processing of newspapers since manual sorting of these bundles is the most efficient process for these facilities.