

United States Postal Service®

# INDUSTRYALERT

## Mail Spoken Here

October 19, 2015

Keeping up with all the news affecting the mailing industry can be a bit challenging at times, but we're here to help with that.

### **Postal Service Releases 2015 Christmas Shipping Deadlines**

Are you planning to use the Postal Service to handle your Christmas shipping this year? If so, these dates will be important to know to be sure that your gifts reach their intended recipients by Christmas Day.

#### **Mail-by Dates (Domestic Services)**

- Dec. 15 – Standard Post  
*Ground service for less-than-urgent deliveries and oversized packages.*
- Dec. 19 – First Class Mail  
*Service for standard-sized, single-piece envelopes and small packages weighing up to 13 ounces with delivery in 3 business days or less.*
- Dec. 21 – Priority Mail  
*Domestic service in 1, 2, or 3 business days based on where your package starts and where it's being sent, variety of Flat Rate options.*
- Dec. 23 – Priority Mail Express  
*Fastest domestic service, guaranteed overnight scheduled delivery to most locations. Some restrictions and exceptions apply. Please note, Priority Mail Express postage refund eligibility is adjusted for shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25.*

#### **Mail-by Dates (International Services)**

Customers mailing internationally during the holidays are advised to review the chart below for specific deadlines based on the locations they are mailing to and the service they are using. When mailing and shipping internationally, customers must also follow necessary customs guidelines. Check out the [International Shipping](#) page on usps.com for more information.

<b>International Mail Addressed To</b>	<b>Global Express Guaranteed® (GXG)***</b>	<b>Priority Mail Express International™ (PMEI)</b>	<b>Priority Mail International® (PMI)</b>	<b>First-Class Package International Service™ (FCPIS)</b>
Africa	Dec-21	Dec-8	Dec-1	Dec-1
Asia/Pacific Rim	Dec-19	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8
Australia/New Zealand	Dec-19	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8
Canada	Dec-22	Dec-17	Dec-11	Dec-8
Caribbean	Dec-21	Dec-15	Dec-11	Dec-8
Central & South America	Dec-21	Dec-11	Dec-1	Dec-1
Mexico	Dec-22	Dec-15	Dec-8	Dec-8

Europe	Dec-21	Dec-15	Dec-11	Dec-8
Middle East	Dec-19	Dec-15	Dec-11	Dec-8

### **Mail-by Dates (Military)**

For items being shipped to military installations, complete deadlines for shipping to APO/FPO/DPO (Air/Army Post Office, Fleet Post Office and Diplomatic Post Office) destinations worldwide, as well as tips and guidelines are available on the [USPS.com website](http://USPS.com).

### **Meet ‘The Inspectors’**

The United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)—one of our nation’s oldest federal law enforcement agencies—is the topic of a new dramatic television series, *The Inspectors*.

The half-hour series airs on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. on CBS.

The Inspectors is a story that explains to the American public what an Inspector does day in and day out. The half-hour scripted drama is geared toward a general audience and focuses on consumer fraud and other postal crimes.

### **Privately Printed Customs Forms – National Re-Certification**

National re-certification is required for all mailers and vendors who have previously been approved to privately print customs declaration forms for international and/or domestic mail that requires a customs form.

Mailers currently authorized to privately print the customs declaration, but have not yet completed the Mailer Profile Update Form, can find the form and instructions on RIBBS at: [Customs Forms](#).

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the National Customer Support Center, Customs Forms at 877-264-9693 or by email at [customsformcert@usps.gov](mailto:customsformcert@usps.gov).

### **Updated PS Form 3811, Domestic Return Receipt**

Effective July 2015, the Postal Service revised the location of the Intelligent Mail package barcode (IMpb) on the sender’s address side of the PS Form 3811, *Domestic Return Receipt*, to improve the visibility of the service. Barcoding the return receipts and linkage to the mailpiece’s host extra service (i.e. Adult Signature Service, Certified Mail, Collect on Delivery (COD), Registered Mail, or Insurance for more than \$500) was first introduced May 31, 2015, to allow for end-to-end visibility.

PS Form 3811, *Domestic Return Receipt*, July 2015, can either be viewed by customers at [Forms and Publications website](#) or ordered online at the [USPS.com store](#).

For mailers who privately print PS Form 3811, *Domestic Return Receipt*, the certification process, as stated in Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) 503.1.7.2, must be followed for the revised form. The April 2015 version of the return receipts may continue to be used until supplies are depleted.

## **USPS is reinventing mail with Informed Delivery™-- *Name change from (Real Mail Notification)***

### **New consumer service that enhances hardcopy mail**

This fall, New Yorkers are going to experience a new kind of mail. The United States Postal Service is rolling out Informed Delivery™ service where users can get a preview of their daily mail the morning of the delivery. Waiting for that check to come through the mail? You will know in the morning what you'll find in your physical mailbox later on that day.

- New consumer service that enhances hardcopy mail
- Integrates direct mail and digital marketing channels
- Provides multiple impressions and the potential for interactivity
- Targeting My USPS users in NY Metro ZIP Codes (066, 069, 100-119)
- Registration available at Informed Delivery™ October 30

### **Informed Delivery™ Mailers:**

- USPS finalizing mailer agreement by October 30
- Once mailer signs agreement USPS will customize pilot testing with mailer
- Currently 33 mailers interested in participating
- Must apply a unique mailer ID to all mailpieces participating in test



### ***New USPS Vice President of Corporate Communications***

On October 16, 2015, the U.S. Postal Service announced that Janice Walker will be joining their ranks as Vice President of Corporate Communications. Ms. Walker will be responsible for all aspects of internal and external communications; leading efforts to advance public understanding of USPS products, services, and corporate mission.

With over 30 years of corporate communications, non-profit leadership, and public relations agency experience, Janice has an extensive background in public affairs, community engagement, crisis and issue management, brand management, and product promotion. Previously, she served as Vice President of Corporate Communications for First Marblehead Corp., as well as, numerous communications positions over a 20-year career with Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C., including Vice President of News and Public Affairs, and Director of Regional Communications

### ***Commercial Priority Mail***

On October 16, 2015, the U.S. Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission of proposed price changes for its Shipping Services products to take effect next year, following the conclusion of the holiday season. The filing does not include any price increase for First-Class Mail or any other Postal Service Mailing product such as the Forever stamp.

The new prices, if approved, represent the first price increase in more than three years for commercial Priority Mail. The average price increase for Priority Mail is 9.8 percent; when calculated over the three-year period since the last increase, the overall Priority Mail price change averages less than 3.3 percent per year.

The PRC will review the prices before they are scheduled to become effective on Jan. 17, 2016. The complete Postal Service price filing with the new prices for all Shipping Services products can be found on the PRC website under the Daily Listings section: [Click here.](#)

## ***Did You Know?***

The U.S. Postal Service processed more than 34 million address changes in 2014.

## ***Published Mailing Standards Documents***

### **October 2015:**

DMM: Postage Evidencing Systems – Legibility of Postage (PB, 10/15)

### **September 2015:**

IMM: Foreign Office of Exchange Code for IPA and ISAL Service to Brazil (PB, 9/17)

General: Tracking Suppression of Import Registered Mail (PB, 9/17)

General: Parcel Return Service (PRS) Expansion (PB, 9/3)

### **August 2015:**

DMM: Periodicals Marked Copy (PB, 8/20)

DMM: Business Reply Mail (PB, 8/20)

DMM: Premium Forward Service Commercial (PB, 8/20)

DMM: Clarification of Scans as Evidence of Mailing and the Placement of Collect on Delivery Forms (PB, 8/6)

IMM: Priority Mail International Insurance to Bahamas (PB, 8/6)

### **July 2015:**

DMM: Postage Evidencing Systems – Revised Procedures for Collection of Postage Discrepancies (PB, 7/23)

### **June 2015:**

DMM: Mandatory Use of Customs Declaration PS Form 2976-B on APO/FPO/DPO Priority Mail Express (PB, 6/25)

IMM: Preparation Requirements for Priority Mail Express International Shipments (PB, 6/25)

General: National Recertification for Mailers Privately Printing Customs Declaration Forms (PB, 6/11)

General: Free Mail Program for U.S. Armed Forces (PB, 6/11)

*\*Red means new additions since the last [Mail Spoken Here](#) was issued on September 14, 2015.*

For your reference:

FRN: [Federal Register Notice](#)

PB: [Postal Bulletin](#)

[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*, mailing standards [Federal Register](#) notices, and the [Postal Bulletin](#).

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*Mail Spoken Here is brought to you by the Office of Industry Engagement and Outreach, Consumer and Industry Affairs; bringing you the latest news on mail coming from the Postal Service.*

*It is our intent to provide an ongoing news recap of all mailing requirements, Federal Register notices, Postal Bulletin articles, and webinars. We'll keep you posted on any comment-period requirements, and let you in on upcoming events or changes to standards when the information is available.*

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