

United States Postal Service®

# INDUSTRYALERT

May 12, 2016

## Mail Spoken Here

*An electronic newsletter summarizing recent USPS news and development.*

### PMG Testifies Before Congress

On Wednesday, May 11, 2016, PMG Megan J. Brennan called on Congress to enact legislation to help the Postal Service, saying the organization's financial challenges are "serious but solvable." During testimony before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Brennan said USPS has worked with stakeholders on several provisions that can achieve broad support.

To watch a recording of the full hearing, click here: <https://oversight.house.gov/hearing/reforming-the-postal-service-finding-a-viable-solution/>. Similarly, Brennan's written testimony can be found here: [http://about.usps.com/news/testimony/2016/pr16\\_pmg0511.htm](http://about.usps.com/news/testimony/2016/pr16_pmg0511.htm)

### Return Scans Get New Name

Merchants and Parcel Return Service (PRS) reverse logistics providers are about to see new names for well-known scans. The two renamed scans indicate that the merchants' reverse logistics providers have picked up return parcels at USPS® facilities. If the scan is performed at a Retail Delivery Unit or a Return Sectional Center Facility the mailer will now see the following, "Tendered to Return Agent." – ***Shipping Products and Services, New Products and Innovation, 4-14-16***

### 2017 Irresistible Mail™ Award First Quarter Deadline is June 25th

The Irresistible Mail™ Award launched at the 2016 National Postal Forum is expanding. This year we will have four quarterly winner mail pieces that will compete to be crowned as Grand Champion at the 2017 National Postal Forum and receive the 2017 Irresistible Mail Award. The Mail Owner, Agency, and Printer of each quarterly winner will be recognized.

The award recognizes innovative and effective mail piece designs. These designs may include (but are not limited to) the use of shapes, sizes, textures, colors, personally targeted content, specialized inks, conversions to digital, or uncommon enclosures.

Entry is free and easy. The entry form and the complete rules can be found at [www.irresistiblemail.com/award](http://www.irresistiblemail.com/award). Mail pieces must have been mailed at least once since July 1, 2015 to be eligible. Submissions for Quarter One must be postmarked by June 25, 2016, and received by June 30, 2016.

### Global Trade Compliance: Customs Form Changes at Retail – Coming Soon!

Effective June 5, two new initiatives will take place at **all retail** locations. This change does not affect Commercial mailers.

Priority Mail International Flat Rate Envelopes and Small Flat Rate Priced Boxes will be moving from the First Class parcel international stream to the air parcel stream. This change will align all USPS branded PMI products into the same product classification stream. Sales & Service Associates (SSA) will use the PS Form 2976-A Customs Declaration Form in place of the PS Form 2976.

The second initiative is the simplification of the customs declaration forms. Customers will be provided a **new hardcopy PS Form 2976-R** at Retail to replace the hardcopy forms of the PS Form 2976, 2976-A, and 2976-B. The PS Form 2976-R is a multi-ply non-barcoded customs declaration form that will be used as a "worksheet" by the SSA to enter the customs declaration data into the system.

### USPS Updates Expedited Packaging Labels

A recent change of several forms and boxes will make shipping expedited packages easier. The March 2016 version of the Priority Mail Label 228, was made available April 15, 2016, is slightly larger than its predecessor and vertically oriented. The full dimensions are 4<sup>1/4</sup>" x 5<sup>3/4</sup>".

This means that customers will have more room in the "to" and "from" addressing area, potentially reducing the looped packages due to unclear addressing. The tick marks on expedited packaging supplies are now vertical and mirror the size and shape of the label. The Postal Service will transition to the new label once the current stock of old labels has been exhausted.

Both Commercial and Retail customers are advised to deplete any remaining old labels before ordering the new version. The new supplies can be ordered on the Postal Store, located at <https://store.usps.com/store/>.

Sites should not refuse packages containing older boxes or labels. Our recommendation is that customers order the new supplies once their stock of the previous version is depleted.



## Promotions 2016

This year we have a very active Promotions Calendar that is filled with opportunities! Create a new mailpiece, experiment with a new medium, or promote a product! There are OPPORTUNITIES GALORE, to EXPLORE, the world of USPS Promotions!

For more information on the opportunities offered by the USPS, visit our Promotions and Incentives webpage on RIBBS. <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=mailingpromotions>



DMM Revision: **Periodicals Carrier Route Pallets**

Effective April 10, 2016, the Postal Service™ revised Domestic Mail Manual (DMM®), section 705.8.10.2, to facilitate the preparation of carrier route pallets. The complete sequence for preparing pallets is found in DMM 708.8.10.2 a-k.

This revision was published 3-17-2016 in Postal bulletin 22437. The new order impacts only the following 2 pallet types:

- a. 5-digit scheme carrier route pallets
- b. 5-digit carrier route pallets.

For your convenience, subsections “d” and “e” have been inserted below in sections “a” and “b” as appropriate.

DMM 708.8.10.2.a reads as follows:

a. **5-digit scheme carrier routes, required**, permitted for bundles only; allowed with no minimum. Pallet must contain only carrier route bundles for the same 5-digit scheme under [L001](#).

Labeling:

1. Line 1: [L001](#).
2. Line 2: "PER" or "NEWS," as applicable; followed by "FLTS" or "IRREG," as applicable; followed by "CARRIER ROUTES" (or "CR-RTS"); followed by "SCHEME" (or "SCH").

**For 5-digit destinations not part of [L001](#), 5-digit carrier routes pallet preparation begins with [8.10.2d](#).**

d. **5-digit carrier routes, required**, except for trays; permitted for bundles, sacks, and trays. Allowed with no weight minimum for bundles. Pallet must contain only carrier route mail for the same 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling:

1. Line 1: city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see [8.6.4c](#) for overseas military mail).
2. Line 2: "PER" or "NEWS," as applicable; followed by "FLTS," "IRREG," or "LTRS," as applicable; followed by "CARRIER ROUTES" (or "CR-RTS").

DMM 708.8.10.2.b reads as follows:

b. **Merged 5-digit scheme, required**, permitted for bundles only. Not permitted for bundles containing noncarrier route automation-compatible flats under [201.6.0](#).

Required for bundles containing all other flats or irregular parcels. Pallet must contain carrier route bundles and noncarrier route 5-digit bundles (automation price and/or Presorted price bundles) for the same 5-digit scheme under [L001](#).

Labeling:

1. Line 1: [L001](#).
2. Line 2: "PER" or "NEWS," as applicable; followed by "FLTS" or "IRREG," as applicable; followed by "CR/5D"; followed by "SCHEME" (or "SCH").

**For 5-digit destinations not part of [L001](#), merged 5-digit pallet preparation begins with [8.10.2e](#).**

e. **Merged 5-digit, required**, except for trays; permitted for bundles only. Not permitted for bundles containing noncarrier route automation-compatible flats under [201.6.0](#). Required for bundles containing all other flats or irregular parcels. Pallet must contain carrier route bundles and noncarrier route 5-digit bundles (automation price and/or Presorted price bundles) for the same 5-digit ZIP Code. Labeling:

1. Line 1: city, state, and 5-digit ZIP Code destination (see [8.6.4c](#) for overseas military mail).
2. Line 2: "PER" or "NEWS," as applicable; followed by "FLTS" or "IRREG," as applicable; followed by "CR/5D."

**For more information please contact your local district Mailing Requirements office.**

## Postal Regulatory Commission – USPS Reports

April 2016:

\*General: Updated Restrictions - Freely Associated States (PB, 4/28)

\*DMM Revision: Return Receipt for Merchandise (PB, 4/28)

\*DMM Revision: Mailer Endorsements for Parcel Select Lightweight Pieces (PB, 4/28)

\*DMM Revision: Minimum Paper Basic Weight Standards (PB, 4/28)

\*FRN: International Product Changes (4/22)

\*FRN: Mail Classification Schedule Changes Pertaining to Priority Mail International Flat Rate \*FRN -USPS Reports-  
USPS Report on PRC Rate and Service Inquiries for March 2016 (4/18)

Envelopes and Priority Mail International Small Flat Boxes (4/14)

***\*Purple means new additions since the last Mail Spoken Here was issued on March 4, 2016***

# # #

*Please visit us on the USPS [Industry Outreach](#) website.  
Thank you for your support of the United States Postal Service.  
--Consumer and Industry Affairs*

*To subscribe or unsubscribe to Industry Alerts, please hit reply to send us your request.*

**Privacy Notice:** For information regarding our privacy policies, visit [www.usps.com/privacypolicy](http://www.usps.com/privacypolicy)