



**Product Tracking System  
Release Notes  
Release 12.4.1**

**External Use**

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE DOCUMENT**

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# Product Tracking System

## Release 12.4.1 Version 1 External Release Notes

The United States Postal Service (USPS) Product Tracking System (PTS) Release 12.4.1 will occur on January 8, 2012. Table updates and software changes will be applied 1/7/2012 – 1/8/2012. These Release Notes are prepared to notify you of the changes that will be implemented and how they will affect the following areas.

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# 1. Mailers and Shippers

The primary focus of PTS Release 12.4.1 is to continue implementing changes supporting the January 2012 price change. These enhancements include support for the following:

- Express Mail Flat Rate Box
- Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C
- Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing
- Standard Mail
- New PMOD Containers
- GXG Legal Envelope

For complete information on the January 2012 Price Change, visit the Pricing Page at <http://www.usps.com/prices/>.

The following items will be included in Release 12.4.1 and are of interest to external users who communicate electronically with USPS by sending electronic files containing package information.

## 1.1 Express Mail Flat Rate Box

Following the success of the Priority Mail Flat Rate Box, USPS is creating two Express Mail Flat Rate Boxes. These new boxes will allow customers to mail at rates from zones 1-8 and a flat rate for domestic Express Mail, and a twenty pound maximum weight for Express Mail International.

### 1.1.1 New Rate Indicators

Three new rate indicators will be created for use with the Express Mail Flat Rate Box. These new rate indicators will only be available with Express Mail items. The new rate indicators are described in the following table.

**Table 1 – New Rate Indicators for Express Mail Flat Rate Box**

Rate Indicator	Description	Domestic/International	Restrictions
E8	Express Mail Flat Rate Box PO to Addressee	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mail class Express Mail (EX) only</li><li>• Service level PO to Addressee only</li><li>• Maximum mail piece weight is country limit or 20 lbs.</li></ul>
E9	Express Mail Flat Rate Box Hold for Pickup (HFP)	Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mail class Express Mail (EX) only</li><li>• Service level Hold for Pickup (HFP) only</li></ul>
EE	Express Mail Flat Rate Box Sunday Holiday Fee	Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mail class Express Mail (EX) only</li><li>• Delivery option indicator Sunday/Holiday only</li></ul>

## 1.2 Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C

In response to customer requests, a larger size flat rate box is being provided, the Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C. The dimensions of the current large flat rate box limit the ability of customers to use USPS flat rate shipping.

### 1.2.1 New Rate Indicator

A new rate indicator will be created for use with the Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C. This new rate indicator will only be available with Priority Mail pieces. The new rate indicator is described in the following table.

**Table 2 – New Rate Indicator for Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C**

Rate Indicator	Description	Restrictions
C8	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mail class Priority Mail (PM) only</li><li>• Maximum mail piece weight is 25 lbs.</li></ul>

### 1.2.2 Available Rate Indicators for Priority Mail Regional Rate Box at Retail

Three rate indicators will be available for use with the Priority Mail Regional Rate Box at retail, including the new C8 rate indicator. The available rate indicators are described in the following table.

**Table 3 – Rate Indicators Available for Use with Priority Mail Regional Rate Box**

Rate Indicator	Description
C6	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A
C7	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B
C8	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C

## 1.3 Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing

Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing is being provided in response to Priority Mail commercial customers who use soft-packaging for shipping and who have expressed interest in soft-package cubic pricing. Currently, the Postal Service offers a competitive cubic-pricing structure for Priority Mail flats and parcels. Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing will be a new shipping alternative for commercial mailers of Priority Mail and Merchandise Return Service parcels who meet the volume threshold for cubic pricing (currently 250K annual Priority Mail pieces).

### 1.3.1 New Rate Indicators

Five new rate indicators will be created for Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing, as shown in the following table.

**Table 4 – New Rate Indicators for Priority Mail Soft-Pack Cubic Pricing**

Rate Indicator	Description
P5	Cubic Soft Pack and Padded Tier 1 (.10)
P6	Cubic Soft Pack and Padded Tier 2 (.20)

P7	Cubic Soft Pack and Padded Tier 3 (.30)
P8	Cubic Soft Pack and Padded Tier 4 (.40)
P9	Cubic Soft Pack and Padded Tier 5 (.50)

## 1.4 Standard Mail

With this release, the S2 (Standard Mail Nonprofit) and SA (Standard Mail) mail classes will be renamed. In addition, mail classes S3 (Standard Mail Enhanced Carrier Route) and S4 (Standard Mail Nonprofit Enhanced Carrier Route) will be removed.

For all products, PTS will no longer accept processing categories 6 (Not Flat Machinable (Less Than 6 Ounces)) or 7 (Not Flat Machinable (6 Ounces or More)).

### 1.4.1 New Mail Class Descriptions

The existing S2 and SA mail classes will be renamed for Standard Mail. The new mail class descriptions are shown in the following table.

**Table 5 – Renamed Classes of Mail for Standard Mail**

Mail Class	Description
S2	Standard Mail Marketing
SA	Standard Mail Fulfillment

## 1.5 New PMOD Containers

Currently full and half size trays are available for PMOD (Priority Mail Open and Distribute) customers who mail letters. With this release, seven container types, and associated pricing options, will be made available for commercial mailers. Customers using this service will remit payments through PostalOne!, Shipping Assistant, and the Postage Statement.

### 1.5.1 New Rate Indicators

Seven new rate indicators will be created for PMOD (Priority Mail Open & Distribute). These new rate indicators will be available for use only with mail pieces having a PMOD service type code and/or PMOD additional service. The new rate indicators will be allowed in all electronic file versions and types that support PMOD. The new rate indicators are described in the following table.

**Table 6 – New Rate Indicators for PMOD**

Rate Indicator	Description
O1	Full Tray Box
O2	Half Tray Box
O3	EMM Tray Box
O4	Flat Tub Tray Box
O5	Pallet (NSA and Contracts Only)
O6	Full Pallet Boxes (NSA and Contracts Only)
O7	Half Pallet Boxes (NSA and Contracts Only)

## 1.5.2 New Container Types

Five new container types will be created for PMOD (Priority Mail Open & Distribute). The new container types are described in the following table.

**Table 7 – New Container Types for PMOD**

Container Type	Description
OA	Open & Distribute Full Pallet Boxes
OE	Open & Distribute EMM Box
OK	Open & Distribute Half Pallet Boxes
OP	Open & Distribute Pallet
OT	Open & Distribute Flat Tub Tray Box

## 1.6 GXG Legal Envelope

With this release, the GXG (Global Express Guaranteed) Legal Envelope will be provided. This product is being offered to support the needs of GXG customers who ship legal size documents, as roughly 80% of GXG shipments are documents. Document shipments in USPS supplied envelopes are not DIM weighted, and the GXG Legal Envelope will also not be DIM weighted. The GXG Legal Envelope will not be flat rate.

### 1.6.1 New Rate Indicator

A new rate indicator will be created for the GXG Legal Envelope, as described in the following table.

**Table 8 – New Rate Indicator for GXG Legal Envelope**

Rate Indicator	Description
LE	Legal Envelope

### 1.6.2 New Packaging Indicator

A new packaging indicator, 4, will be created for the GXG Legal Envelope.