



April 2016 Release Overview

Pre Release Document

This document is prepared and based on the knowledge available at the time of its printing and any content found herein is subject to change prior to the release.

Version 2

February 25, 2016

The Release Numbers for the Spring 2016 release are:

43.0.0.0 for *PostalOne!*[®]

33.0.0.0 for FAST

22.0.0.0 for SASP

16.0.0.0 for Program Registration

The following trademarks are owned by the United States Postal Service:

ACS[®], CASS[™], CASS Certified[™], Certified Mail[™], DMM[®], FAST[®], First-Class[™], First-Class Mail[®], Full-Service ACS[™], IM[®], IMb[™], IMb Tracing[™], Intelligent Mail[®], OneCode ACS[®], OneCode Solution[®], PLANET Code[®], *Postal One!*[®], POSTNET[™], Postage Statement Wizard[®], Postal Service[™], Priority Mail[®], Registered Mail[™], RIBBS[™], Standard Mail[®], The Postal Service[®], United States Postal Service[®], USPS[®], USPS.COM[®], ZIP[®], ZIP Code[™], ZIP + 4[®] and ZIP+4[™]

Idealliance[®] Mail.XML[™] and Mail.dat[™] are registered trademarks of the International Digital Enterprise Alliance, Inc.

Sun[™], Sun Microsystems[™], and Java[™] are trademarks or registered trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Microsoft[™], Microsoft Windows[®], and Microsoft Internet Explorer[®] are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

All other trademarks used are the property of their respective owners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 RELEASE SUMMARY	1
1.1 Postage Statements	1
1.2 Technical Specifications	1
2.0 CHANGES BY MAIL CLASS	1
2.1 First-Class Mail	1
2.2 Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit)	1
2.3 Periodicals	1
2.4 Package Services	1
2.5 Domestic Extra Services	1
2.6 Other Domestic Services	1
2.7 International Extra Services	1
2.8 Mailing Fees	2
3.0 <i>POSTALONE!</i> SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS	2
3.1 Support of 2016 Mailing Promotions	2
3.2 Mailer Scorecard Enhancements	2
3.3 eVS Enhancements	2

1.0 Release Summary

On February 25, 2016, the Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) of its intent to rollback Market Dominant prices.

The USPS anticipates that it will be required to deploy a price change release on April 10, 2016. The *Postal One!*[®] release is scheduled for advanced deployment on March 27, 2016.

There are no structural changes required, only price cell changes. The Mailing Services (Market Dominant) classes that are subject to price changes include First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Standard Mail, Package Services, and First-Class Mail International. Mailing Services prices for Extra Services and Annual Permit Fees are also subject to change. In the event the Postal Service is required to adjust prices as a result of the expiration of the right to continue the exigent surcharge, the Postal Service anticipates that it will provide notice of the resulting prices by filing with the Postal Regulatory Commission 45 days before the effective date of the removal of the exigent surcharge.

Also identified are USPS products or programs that would require *PostalOne!* system enhancements. These items are not associated with the potential Market Dominant price cell changes. Refer to section 3.

1.1 Postage Statements

While the Postal Service intends to publish price files, drafts of the postage statements and a listing of changes to postage statements on February 5, 2016 on Postal Explorer: http://pe.usps.gov/default_html.asp, the official date for when these prices will become effective is April 10, 2016.

1.2 Technical Specifications

The Mail.dat 14-2 and 15-1, and Mail.XML 15.0A and 16.0 specifications for eDoc and Postage Statement Functionality and the Shipping Services File versions 1.6, 1.7 and 2.0 are not impacted by these potential changes. There are no structural changes requiring specifications changes.

2.0 Changes by Mail Class

2.1 First-Class Mail

To support the First-Class Mail price cell changes, the USPS potentially will institute price cell changes in PS Form 3600 FCM.

2.2 Standard Mail (Regular and Nonprofit)

To support the Standard Mail Regular and Nonprofit price cell changes, the USPS potentially will institute price cell changes in PS Form 3602-R and PS Form 3602-N.

2.3 Periodicals

To support the Periodicals price cell changes, the USPS potentially will institute price cell changes in the PS Form 3541.

2.4 Package Services

To support the Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail Media Mail, and Alaska Bypass price cell changes, the USPS potentially will institute price cell changes for Package Services in PS Form 3605, sections Parts A (Bound Printed Matter) and B (Library Mail and Media Mail), and for Alaska Bypass.

2.5 Domestic Extra Services

Potential changes to Extra Services fees for First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, Library Mail, Media Mail and Bound Printed Matter:

- Certificate of Mailing
- Collect on Delivery (COD)
- USPS Tracking - Standard Mail Parcels Electronic
- Insurance
- Insurance Restricted Delivery
- Registered Mail
- Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- Registered Mail COD
- Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery
- Return Receipt (*Form 3811*)
- Certified Mail
- Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- Certified Mail Adult Signature Required
- Certified Mail Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Signature Confirmation
- Adult Signature Required
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Certificate of Bulk Mailing (Form 3606-D)
- Return Receipt for Merchandise

2.6 Other Domestic Services

Other Domestic Services prices potentially will change, including:

- Address Correction Service
 - Manual address correction notices
 - Other than First-Class Mail (includes notices provided after 60 days for Periodicals full-service pieces and notices provided after 30 days for Standard Mail and BPM full-service flats)
 - Standard Mail letters (per additional notice)
(includes third and subsequent additional notices after 30 days for Standard Mail full-service letters)
- Per piece forwarding fee (when service is provided in conjunction with ACS and applicable ancillary service endorsements):
 - Forwarded Standard Mail Letter
 - Forwarded Standard Mail Flat
- Business Reply Mail per piece price
 - Qualified Business Reply Mail
- Caller Service and Reserve Number
- Post Office Boxes for (Market Dominant) sizes will also see a change (Sizes 1-5)
 - Customer Initiated Lock Replacement
- Parcel Airlift
- Address Management Systems (AMS) Products

2.7 International Extra Services

Potential changes to international Extra Services fees will include:

- Customs Clearance and Delivery Fee (First-Class Mail Intl only)
- International Business Reply Card
- International Business Reply Envelope (up to 2 ounces)
- International Certificate of Mailing
- International Registered Mail (First-Class Mail Intl only)
- International Return Receipt (First-Class Mail Intl only)

2.8 Mailing Fees

Annual Permit and Annual Account Maintenance fees potentially will also change.

3.0 *PostalOne!* System Enhancements

The Postal Service anticipates making the following changes, regardless of the status of the potential price changes noted in section 1 and section 2. Items in this section are not dependent on postage statement form changes, nor impacted by the potential Market Dominant price cell changes.

3.1 Support of 2016 Mailing Promotions

Changes will be made to the *PostalOne!* system to reflect the Emerging and Advanced Technology/Video in Print Promotion and 2016 Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion.

This year's 2016 Emerging and Advanced Technology/Video in Print Promotion allows participants to opt-in to use standard "A/B Testing" during the enrollment. Participants who opt-in to participate in A/B testing and who submit electronic postage statements using Mail.dat and Mail.XML, must continue to use the Characteristic Incentive code "ME" (Emerging Mobile Technology). In doing so, the mailing will receive the 2% discount at the time of mailing for the qualifying A pieces. A and B pieces are required to be reported on separate postage statements, using the existing postage statement generation variables. Since B pieces will not meet the requirements of the Emerging and Advanced Technology/Video in Print Promotion, they will not receive the 2% discount at time of mailing but may later qualify for A/B credits. To indicate that the mailing is participating in the Emerging and Advanced Technology/Video in Print Promotion and A/B Testing option, the Characteristic Content code of "OX" must always be used and reported in the Mail.dat Characteristic field or Mail.XML message. To redeem A/B credits, mailers must use the Characteristic Incentive code of "MT"; the permit number (selected during enrollment for the A/B Credit to accrue), must be in the Permit Holder field of the electronic postage statement.

This year's 2016 Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion will build on the success of the Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion in prior years. Mailers who satisfy the promotion requirements will receive a two-cent postage credit for each qualifying Business Reply Mail (BRM) and Courtesy Reply Mail (CRM) piece that is returned to the mailer during the promotion period. Mailers that participated in 2015's Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion and either meet or increase their volume of qualifying BRM and/or CRM pieces in 2016 will receive an additional cent (three cents total) for each returned BRM and CRM piece. Interested mailers must enroll in the 2016 Earned Value Reply Mail Promotion to qualify. Unused credits earned will expire December 31, 2016. No new technical requirements are expected by Mail.dat and Mail.XML postage statement submissions. However, if a mailer has earned both an A/B Credit and Earned Value Credit, the Mail.dat and Mail.XML Characteristics of *MT* and *RR* can be claimed for the qualifying mailing. The *PostalOne!* System will apply, in this order, the A/B Credit then the Earned Value Credit.

3.2 Mailer Scorecard Enhancements

Enhancements will be made to the Service Performance Measurement (SPM) Exclusions Tab of the Mailer Scorecard. SPM Exclusions provide mailers visibility into electronic documentation and mail preparation issues that cause mail to be excluded from service measurement. To further enable mailers to resolve mail preparation issues, drill-down capabilities will be added to the reporting to provide details into which mailings, jobs or containers were excluded for a particular exclusion reason.

3.3 eVS Enhancements

eVS will create a new Pending Mailer ID report to display sampled packages of which the eVS customer is still in Pending status. Customers who are in Pending Status should not be mailing until the status is Live. The new MID report will have the same functionality as the current *Unregistered MID Report* and it will provide visibility into sampled packages with pending MIDs (i.e., eVS customers who are in Pending status).