

## Committee: Work Group #172 - PAVE Modernization

Interim Recommendation

Final Recommendation

### Purpose of the Workgroup

This workgroup was formed to identify an approach to enhance the current PAVE and related certification processes. The PAVE process validates that mailing software meets the DMM requirements for presort.

### Participation and Discussion Format

**Industry Leadership:** Bob Schimek, Director Postal Affairs Satori Software, Inc.

**USPS Leadership:** Carlos Cruz, Business Mailer Support Analyst, USPS

The group primarily consisted of Mailing Industry software vendors, Mail Service Providers and Postal Service representatives. The roster included the following:

Bob Schimek, Satori Software; Carlos Cruz, USPS; Steve Belmonte, Accuzip; Randy Ford, USPS; Stan Meglin, PBPS; David Propst, PBPS; Ty Inman, Midsouth Tech; Cesar Valles, NPI Sorters; Danielle Aleman, Wilen Gp; Brad Hill, Interlink; Stephen Colella, CalMark Gp; Mark Rheaume, Accuzip; Christopher Moning, USPS; Anthony Aruldoss, Anchor Software; Shawn Baldwin, BCC Software; Peter Furka, USPS; Lynda Hurley, Dingley Press; Ed Wanta, USPS; Bill Towery, USPS; Jim Garber, Interlink; Tom Glassman, Wilen Gp; Dewitt Crawford, USPS; Lue Harris, USPS.

### Recommendations

The Presort Accuracy Validation and Evaluation (PAVE) certification as it currently exist should be migrated to software testing within the current Full Service certification process. Two other certification processes are also dependent on PAVE.

- Zone Analysis Program (ZAP) certification
  - ZAP serves a critical role for both the USPS and the mailing industry. Periodical mailers that use ZAP approved products are able to avoid a manual required annual audit to confirm that zone calculations are being performed correctly. USPS has confirmed that the ZAP certification listing is frequently referenced to confirm ZAP certified software is being used and these time consuming audits are being avoided, benefiting both the USPS and the mailing industry.
  - The Postal Service has confirmed that validation of zone calculations are currently being performed as a part of eInduction verifications. This validation will be migrated to Full Service certification.

- The proposed updates to the Full Service Matrix includes the addition of “Zone Discount” certification item.
- All ZAP references in Postal documentation will need to be updated to reference the “Zone Discount” certification item on the Full Service Matrix.
- MAC Batch certification
  - The Postal Service researched how much mail is leveraging MAC Batch manifesting and discovered that minimal mail volume is using MAC Batch that is not also Full Service.
  - Based on this information, it is recommended that MAC Batch certification be discontinued and the USPS work with the few outstanding mailers to migrate them to Full Service.
  - USPS will need to remove verbiage referencing MAC Batch certifications (such as in Pub 401 and RIBBs).
  - While MAC Batch certification will be discontinued, the option of printing the manifest key line should continue to be allowed for mailers that are using it for mail production quality monitoring.

PAVE needs to continue to be supported until the required changes and any recommended changes to the current Full Service certification process are complete.

- The USPS has extended the current PAVE cycle until December 31, 2016.
  - The USPS will determine at that point if a full PAVE recertification cycle will be required or if the current certification cycle will be extended further.
- Software providers have requested the ability to beta test the modified Full Service Certification process before officially transitioning away from PAVE.
  - Industry is requesting a 90 day overlap between when the new Full Service certification testing officially begins and when the PAVE certification cycle officially ends.

Software vendor testing will transition into the Full-Service Certification model by leveraging and expanding the current format. The Work Group recommends that the Full-Service Certification be expanded to include the following recommendations:

- Required changes to the current Full-Service Certification listing:
  - Expanded Presort Validations
    - USPS has documented additions in the updated matrix listing and the PAVE modernization future state document
  - Addition of ZAP Validation
    - New “Zone Discount” column has been added to the matrix listing
  - MAC Batch certification officially retired and current mailers migrated to Full Service
  - Separate the current certification listing into two tabs. One sheet for MSP’s and one sheet for Software Providers. Both sheets would have the same layout. (Currently added to proposed worksheet)
  - DMM must be updated to reference the Full Service Certification Matrix
    - USPS will need to determine if “advanced sortation’s” require certification

- RIBBS must be updated to reference Full Service Certification Matrix
- Recommended changes:
  - Presort certification for letters and flats (PAVE) should be integrated into Full-Service Certification
    - USPS has documented additions in the updated matrix listing and the PAVE modernization future state document
  - USPS will provide test deck for certification testing
    - Test deck will contain address data. Vendors will be expected to CASS process the list and add any additional data fields that may be required to perform the certification test. For example, the addition of a Carrier Route field to perform a Carrier Route sortation.
    - The USPS will add a four digit sequence number field, it will reset to “1” for each 5-digit ZIP in the test file. For Example if there are 500 records for 54601, the sequence numbers will run from 1 to 500. This field will be used for walk sequence testing to eliminate the cost of having the list processed by a DSF provider.
  - Update the Full-Service Certification request form:
    - To include all new tests items
      - USPS has documented additions in the updated matrix listing and the PAVE modernization future state document
    - To include current Mail.dat and Mail.XML versions.
  - USPS to determine certification testing cycle(s)
  - Documented guidelines for certification of new versions of software.
    - It is recommended that only areas of change require retesting and the remaining certifications from the previous version of software carry forward to the new version.
  - USPS to provide a specific knowledgeable support contact for discussion on grading logic, DMM interpretation, and other questions concerning test failures.
  - System should feature an override for USPS to manually adjust results when system logic does not match correct interpretation of DMM requirements .

## **Conclusion [for Final Recommendation of a concluding committee.]**

MTAC WG172 was organized in an effort to establish a recommendation for PAVE modernization. While researching PAVE, two related programs, MAC Batch and ZAP, were brought into scope. The workgroup has concluded that USPS should upgrade PAVE to an expanded Full Service Certification process and discontinue MAC Batch and ZAP certifications.

The opinion of the Work Group is that current PAVE, ZAP, and MAC Batch certification processes can be officially migrated into the Full Service Certification Matrix once the “Required” recommendations have been successfully completed.

