



eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 9, 2011
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST

Attendees

Jim Wobensmith, Lisa Copeland, Julie Kang, Jaclyn Tubbin, Kim May, Charley Patterson, Larry Molter, Sean Smith, Mike Egle, Roger Franco, Robert Myers, Crystal Stefanko, Hal Ellis, Cathy Byrne, Patrick Stegall, Sharon Harrison, Brian Esser, Laine Ropson, Arlene Peterson, Jay Zeman, Marsha Martines, Doug King, Dawn Whitney, Emil Aquino, Marcella Hartman, Laurie Juran, Meenakshi Nagarajan, Mark Dropp Rich Gebbie, Richard Porras, Edward Stashluk, Juliaann Hess, Vicki Bosch, Jennifer Howard, Dave Guinther, Tony Wells

Welcome – Juliaann Hess

- Roll Call

PTS Status – Juliaann Hess

- PTS August Release
 - Scheduled for implementation on 8/28/11
 - Dispatch Scan at Retail Unit and Plants – 2 types of “closeout/dispatch” event codes
 - SF – “Dispatched to Sort Facility” (Acceptance Scan)
 - EF – “Dispatch from Sort Facility” (Enroute Scan)
 - Shipping Services Program Registration Interface Modifications
 - The current feed from Program Registration to AMDC will be changed so that Program Registration will send the information directly to PTS instead of AMDC (Moved to the October Release)
 - Shipping Partner Event Files Modification to support Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb)
 - Shipping Partner Event File
 - Shipping Partner Error/Warning Data File
- New Patch PTS September release (9/18/2011)
 - Adding new edit to verify Express Mail Corporate Account (EMCA) Numbers
 - Applies to legacy Express Manifests Only
 - Identifies Invalid EMCA and Federal Agency Account Numbers
 - Suppress errant container scan events on Track & Confirm
 - USPS.com

- Web Tools
 - Infrastructure chance to support corporate call center
 - PTS October release (10/16/2011)
 - eVS Reconciliation Extracts
 - PTS portion done in October Release
 - eVS portion implemented in November
 - Electronic Firm Sheet
 - Providing an automated delivery of a file with firm sheet content to commercial customers
 - EDI Header/Detail Change (Infrastructure Change)
 - Modifications to improve EDI processing
 - The change is **NOT** adding any additional data to the customer files
 - File compression for Extract Files
 - Compressed or uncompressed extract files will be available
 - All Extract Files
 - Confirmation/error/warning files
 - Extract files include the following:
 - Electronic Firm Sheet
 - Postage Payment Extract
 - Reconciliation Extract (when implemented)
 - Scan Event Extract File (1.3, 1.5, and 1.6 (when implemented))
 - Unmanifested File
 - The following options for extract files will be provided
 - GZIP
 - WINZIP
 - ZIP
 - Uncompressed
 - AS2 customers will select the same file compression method for both the Confirmation/Error/Warning files and the Extract Files
 - File compression will not be available for EDI customers
 - Input was solicited from the eVS/PTS User Group
 - Shipping Services Program Registration Interface Modifications
 - Interfaces with Program Registration accessed via Business Customer Gateway
 - Allows users to self serve to apply for mailer IDs and other features
 - Retires legacy account management profile system used for package customers
 - Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Final Rule Highlights and Dates
 - Septemeber 2011 – Publish final rule
 - January 22, 2012
 - Delivery Confirmation at no charge
 - Commercial parcels only
 - Excludes Standard Mail
 - Includes the new Parcel Select Light Weight Product

- Unique barcode required for presort and destination entry pricing
- IMpb required for PC Postage Vendors
- Transition period until July 2, 2012
- Can use the simplified banner text for the legacy barcode format
- Richard P. noted that this only gives customers 3 months to make the change.
- John M. noted that the July 2, 2012 date is in conflict with a date presented by John Gullo and Jim Cochran.
- January 7, 2013
 - IMpb required
 - For package tracking and extra services barcodes
 - To receive presort and destination entry pricing
 - Shipping Services Electronic Manifest Version 1.6 required
 - ZIP + 4 Code or destination delivery address must be included in the file
 - Allow exception process for customers who can't make the date.
 - Jaclyn questioned the late change with the January 7th date.
 - John M. followed up that the date is consistent between the two organizations. There also hasn't been any industry response regarding the date change.
- PTS Message Board, Release Notes, and Release Schedule can be accessed from RIBBS. The URL to link was shared.

eVS Status – Vicki Bosch/Jennifer Howard

- Future Planned Releases
 - November 6, 2011 Release – PostalOne! (Jennifer Howard)
 - Additional Postage Adjustments
 - Presort validation in eVS
 - Content eligibility adjustment
 - Reconciliation extract for postage adjustments
 - Sampling enhancements (Vicki explained sampling process; the sub group will pick back up soon.)
 - Addressing sampling issues that result in filtered samples
 - Automated validation of small sample sets for PAF
 - Obtaining additional samples from other sources
 - Presort Rate Eligibility Adjustment
 - Packages aggregated by mail class and mailing date to define a mailing
 - Mailer must meet piece or pound minimums as defined in DMM for First-Class Mail, Standard Mail, Parcel Select, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail
 - Presort Rate Eligibility Exception Report will list “mailings” that failed and will be recalculated as part of the

monthly adjustment; CSV, XLS, XML download and filter options on the report

- Adjustment follows monthly reconciliation process
- Presort Eligibility Exception Report will list “mailings” that failed and will be recalculated as part of the monthly adjustment
 - Report includes: Transmission Date, Mailing Date, Transaction ID, Mail Class (with link to EFNs), Pieces in Mailing, Weight of Mailing, Total eVS Recalculated Postage Paid, Total eVS Adjusted Postage Due, Total eVS Additional Postage Due
 - Jasmine from Smartpost asked if customers will be receiving a fines based on the recalculation.
- Mail Class Detail Report displays all files counted as part of the mailing for that mailing date
 - Report includes: Transmission Date, Mailing Date, Transaction ID, File Number, Sub-File Number, Permit Number, Entry Facility, Entry Facility ZIP, Pieces in Mailing, Weight of Mailing, Total eVS Recalculated postage Paid, Total eVS Adjusted Postage Due, Total eVS Additional Postage Due
- Ineligible Content Adjustment
 - Packages aggregated by mail class, MID and mailing date to define a mailing
 - At this time, only Bound Printed Matter and Media Mail are audited separately for content eligibility requirements as defined in DMM
 - Ineligible Content Postage Adjustment Report will list “mailings” that failed and will be recalculated as part of the monthly adjustment; CSV, XLS, XML download options on the report
 - Adjustment follows monthly reconciliation process
 - It was noted that this eliminates the letter process that was previously implemented.
- Ineligible Content Postage Adjustment Report will list “mailings” that failed and will be recalculated as part of the monthly adjustment
 - Report includes: File Number, Sub-File Number, Transaction ID, PIC, Destination Rate Indicator, Rate Indicator, Zone, Manifest Destination ZIP Code, Manifest Weight, Manifest Mail Class, Content Based Mail Class, Content Based Rate Indicator, eVS Calculated Content Based Postage, eVS Recalculated Manifest Postage Paid, eVS Additional Postage Due

- Ineligible Content Adjustment will be identified in the Monthly Adjustment Summary as “*MID Mail Class Mailing_Date*” Ex: 987654321 Bound Printed Matter 09072011
 - Monthly extract with individual adjustment data is generated at each point in the reconciliation process
 - 1st: N (Notice) – pending amounts
 - 11th: I (Interim) – proposed amounts
 - 21st or actual: A (Advice) – actual amount
 - File name will be eVSReconciliationExtract-9-digit Master MID-8-digit Date (YYYYMMDD)6-digit Time (HHMMSS).rxt (file extension)
EX: eVSReconciliationExtract-987654321-20110720142630.rxt
 - *NEW* eVS Pub 205 Appendix L Monthly Reconciliation Extract outlines file layout and format. Posted to RIBBS at:
https://ribbs.usps.gov/evs/documents/tech_guides/pubs/
- Sampling Updates
 - New web-based sampling option available to USPS PostalOne! users will allow sample collection at any USPS facility
 - Automation of additional validation of PAF calculations when there are less than 250 reconciled samples
 - Updates to Sampling Package Summary
 - Sample Package (WEB) identifies web-based as source
 - Identification of Extra Service discrepancies in red with asterisk
 - Addition of Adult Signature, Adult Signature Restricted Delivery, and Hold for Pickup as “Extra Services”
 - Removal of Certified Mail and Registered Mail as “Extra Services”
- Additional System Updates
 - Unmanifested Report
 - Automation of additional check digit validation for manually entered PICs in Unmanifested report
 - Manifest Header Error Report
 - EFNs listed with a “Rolled Back with Error” will be on a separate view
 - Manifest Header Rolled Back Report view includes: File Number, Date of Mailing,

Transmission Date, File Type, Transaction ID, Entry Facility ZIP, Permit Account Number, Method of Payment, Post Office of Account ZIP, File Record Count, Manifest Error, Date Reloaded

- eVS Known Issues
 - Destination Entry Validation
 - Continuing evaluation for October 1 NDC/SCF “go live”
 - Jennifer H. requested examples from customers
 - John M. asked if the warnings are set and if the validation will be consistent. Ans. Business rules are in place for any changes.
 - Duplicate PIC Adjustment
 - Working with PTS to identify and eliminate data errors
 - No implementation date at this time
 - November 6, 2011 – Scheduled Fixes
 - Unmanifested Average per Piece Charge Report XLS download from the Monthly Account Summary
 - Mis-shipped Report displaying Master MID rather than package MID
 - “Invalid Non-Incidental Enclosure Processing Category” warning in file version 1.6
 - Crystal from Smartpost asked if the Go Live in October is a warning.
 - Vicki B. noted that there was no feedback at the last meeting. Only one customer has provided feedback. USPS is still open to receiving feedback.
- eVS Future Planned Releases
 - January 22, 2012
 - Planned
 - Price Change
 - Printer Friendly reports
 - Reconciliation and Refund Management
 - April 1, 2012
 - Requirements documents finalized in October
 - Nov 4, 2011 publish initial tech specs
 - Tentatively planned
 - International Mail
 - June 24, 2012
 - Nov 14, 2011 publish initial tech specs
 -
 - Better navigation of reports (eVS Web pages)
 - Easier download of postage statement summary data
 - Reconciliation extract for monthly postage adjustments
- Location of January 2012 Release Notes RIBBS was shared.
- eVS Technical Support

- Established New Support Function
 - Located At NCSC Memphis
 - Call or eMail
 - 1-877-264-9693 Option # 4
 - eVS_Technical_Support@USPS.gov
 - Issue Resolution
 - Communication

Questions / Comments from Industry

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 10/13/2011 at 3:30pm.*