



eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 13, 2011
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST

Attendees

Halle Damm, Jeffrey Waite, Kim May, Dawn Whitney, Robert Myers, John Medeiros, Mark Dropp, Roger Franco, Timothy Gerling, Lisa Copeland, Marcella Hartman, Marsha Martinez, Richard Porras, Sean Smith, Hally Damm, Crystal Laper, Brad Obert, Vicki Bosch, Andy Lundgren, Juliaann Hess, Bobbi Richardson, Audrey Meloni, Jennifer Howard, Rosie Settles, Peter Klausner, Robert Myers, Lisa Hyater, James Garnett, Rosie Johnson, Tony Wells

Welcome – Juliaann Hess

- Roll Call

PTS Status – Juliaann Hess

- New Patch PTS September release was implemented on 9/18/2011
- PTS October release (10/16/2011)
 - Updated Functionality for “Dispatched from Sort Facility” EF Event Code
 - The time of the EF event will not be displayed on Track & Confirm or in customer extracts
 - Event description updates included in the customer extracts
 - EF – “Dispatched from USPS Sort Facility”
 - OD – “Processed at USPS Destination Facility”
 - A1, U1, R1 – “Arrive USPS Sort Facility”
 - L1, T1 – “Depart USPS Sort Facility”
 - Event Code C1 will no longer be extracted
 - Errant container-generated scans are suppressed in the customer extract file
 - Changes to Support New Returns Service Portfolio and Scan Based Payment
 - Additional Services Codes
 - 450 – Scan Based Payment
 - 455 – Returns Service
 - New Service Type Codes
 - 019 – Priority Mail Return Service

- 020 – First-Class Package Return Service
 - 022 – Ground Return Service
 - 040 – Priority Mail Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 596 – Priority Mail Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 597 – First-Class Package Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 598 – Ground Return Service Insurance <= \$200
 - 599 – Priority Mail Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 600 – First-Class Package Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 601 – Ground Return Service Insurance > \$200
 - 040 – Priority Mail Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 041 – Priority Mail Signature Confirmation with SBP
 - 042 – First Class Delivery Confirmation with SBP
 - 043 – First Class Signature Confirmation with SBP
 - 740 – Critical Mail SBP Letters
 - 741 – Critical Mail SBP Flats

- PTS October release (10/30/2011)
 - 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
 - A customer asked if they would need to do anything to compress their files? Dawn Whitney ans: Customers will have the option to compress. If they do nothing, the files will come as normal (uncompressed).
 - Action Item: Juliaann will send screenshots of what it will look like on Program Registration.
 - 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
- PTS November release (11/13/2011)
 - Modifications to the Federal Agency Account Validation
 - Capture and report the use of an invalid Express Mail Corporate Account and Federal Agency Account
 - Modifications to the eVS Duplicates Extract - Infrastructure
 - Exclude mail pieces with “Refused”, “Return to Sender”, or “Forward” Scans
 - Modified selection criteria for eVS and PRS mail pieces to reduce the number of false duplicates
 - The Duplicate Extract format will remain the same from PTS to eVS
- Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Final Rule Highlights and Dates
 - Septemeber 17, 2010 – Published Advance Notice
 - April 18, 2011 – Published Proposed Final Rule
 - September 27, 2011 – Published Final Rule
 - January 22, 2012
 - Free tracking, including confirmation of delivery
 - Commercial parcels only
 - Excludes
 - Standard Mail
 - Package Services
 - Bound Printed Matter
 - Media Mail
 - Library Mail
 - Includes the new Parcel Select Light Weight Product
 - Unique barcode required for presort and destination entry pricing
 - Transition period until July 2, 2012
 - Excludes Standard Mail
 - Includes Package Services and Parcel Select Lightweight
 - IMpb required for PC Postage Vendors
 - Transition period until July 2, 2012

- Simplified banner text for the legacy barcode format
 - “USPS Tracking #” or “USPS Signature Tracking #”
 - 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
 - Customer exception process requested through VP, Product Information

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
 - 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 Discrepancies Report is available from the Postage Statement Summary
 - Presort Rate Eligibility Adjustment table was presented.
 - Presort Eligibility Exception Report will list “mailings” that failed and will be recalculated as part of the monthly adjustment
 - Jennifer presented a screenshot of the Presort Eligibility Report
 - 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
 - Jennifer shared a screen shot of the Mail Class Detail Report
 - 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
 - Manifest Header Error Report – “Rolled Back with Error”
 - Jennifer presented a screen shot of the Manifest Error Report
 - Reconciliation Extract
 - 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”
- eVS Known Issues
 - Destination Entry Validation
 - Delayed NDC/SCF “go live”
 - 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
- eVS Future Planned Releases
 - January 22, 2012
 - Price Change – new products including Standard Mail Marketing and Parcel Select Lightweight
 - Mailers are asked to certify manifests and labels for new products
 - Courtesy file evaluation
 - Printer Friendly reports
 - Reconciliation and Refund Management

- e-Mail notifications to designated mailer contact(s) at each stage of the reconciliation period (1st, 11th, 21st/actual)
 - Mailer has the ability to request a reconciliation review or refund through eVS
 - Mailer can view status of open reviews/refunds in eVS
 - Mailers and vendors are expected to certify new products before shipping
 - 10 labels, 100 manifest records per mail class
 - November 28th (*tentative*) Courtesy file testing – eVSHQ@usps.gov
 - eVS Manifest Errors, eVS Payment Extract
 - December 12th (*tentative*) – NCSC begins accepting files and labels for evaluation and certification
 - January 8th – eVS/PostalOne! Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) available
 - January 22nd – eVS/PostalOne! Release
 - John M. asked what happens if the mailer is self certified? Jennifer Ans. We're asking that everyone go through the same certification process
 - April 1, 2012
 - Requirements documents finalized in October
 - Nov 4, 2011 publish initial tech specs
 - Tentatively planned
 - 3rd Party Payment
 - Sampling/reconciliation enhancements
 - June 24, 2012
 - Requirements in development (November 25th)
 - Nov 14, 2011 publish initial tech specs
 - Tentatively planned
 - International Mail
- 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

- Overview of the new Scan Based Payment Return Services
- Discuss what plans are in place to fix Sampling Error for Standard Mail Postage Calculation

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 11/10/2011 at 3:30pm.*