



**eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday October 11, 2012
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST**

Attendees

Walker Fenz, Margaret Reese, Malai, Kevin, John Medeiros, Jeff Waite, Emil Aquino, Doug Ferguson, Bob Bovolacco, Arlene Peterson, Wade Stephen, Vicki Bosch, Peter Furka, Stacy Ibarra, Ryan Seipp, Nicole Wilson, Mark Dropp, Margarete Reese, Kathleen Westermann, Kathleen Warnaar, Jim Wibensmith, Jennifer Nam, Jennifer Howard, Chris, Andy Lundgren, Jacqueline Tubbin, Robert Bovolacco (Pitney Bowes), Oscar Vazquez, Mark Riffey, Richard Porras, Doug Ferguson. Marsha Martinez, Bobbi, Arlene Peterson, Jim Wobensmith, Dan Obrien, Lisa Renfroe (Digital Shipper), Kevin Elkin, Levent Gencolglu, Dave Guinther, Lisa Copeland

Welcome – Vicki Bosch

- Roll Call

PTS Status – Juliaann Hess (Presented after the eVS Status and Industry Feedback)

- IMpb Next Milestone Date (January 7, 2013*)
 - IMpb required for all tracking and Extra Services barcodes
 - IMpb required for parcels claiming presort and destination entry pricing
 - Shipping Services File Version 1.6 or higher required
 - ZIP+4 Code or destination delivery address required in the file
 - * Proposing to shift implementation date to January 28, 2013 to coincide with January 2013 Price Change.
- Intelligent Mail Package Barcode (IMpb) Update
 - Customers must submit an Exception Form and letter requesting additional time to come into compliance.
 - Mail letter and form to:
 - Jim Cochrane,
 - Vice President, Product Information
 - USPS Headquarters
 - 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 3667
 - Washington, DC 20260-5626
 - Customers with exceptions continue to qualify:
 - For presort and/or destination pricing

- To mail parcels at prices for specific mail classes, such as Parcel Select Light Weight
 - IMpb Frequently Asked Questions published on RIBBS
 - High Level Compliance Metrics
 - By the numbers.....
 - 50.31% used IMpb month of September
 - 49.69% used Legacy month of September
 - 53.7% used IMpb as of October 5
 - Source: USPS Product Tracking System; for the week ending August 31, 2012
- Shipping Services File 1.7 Lite
 - PTS started accepting Shipping Services File version 1.7 as of June 24, 2012.
 - This version provides a solution for electronic/manifesting customers to submit Domestic mailing only.
 - The Recipient Name and Delivery Address is now on the D1 record versus the D2.
 - This version does not provide a solution for electronic/manifesting customers to submit
 - US Customs information electronically (D3 and D4)
 - New Container Record (C1) or
 - Including the original label number for pieces that have been over labeled
- PTS-II New Implementation Schedule
 - Current Status
 - Release 1.1
 - CAT – September 17, 2012
 - TEM – By October 15, 2012
 - Go Live Date – TBD (Delayed)
 - Includes New Shipping Services File Format
 - Release 1.2
 - Internal EDW Extracts – TBD (Delayed)
 - Release 1.3
 - January 2013 Price Change
- PTS Legacy Release 13.4.1 – January 2013 Price Change
 - Rate Indicators
 - AS – Critical Mail Letters with Signature Service
 - AC – Critical Mail Flats with Signature Service
 - Service Type Codes
 - 818 – Critical Mail Signature Service
 - 017 – PRS – Full Network Insurance <= \$200 (For non eVS Customers)

- 018 – PRS – Full Network Insurance > \$200 (For non eVS Customers)
 - 024 – PRS – Full Network
 - 701 – Express Mail PO-Add Signature Waived
 - 817 – Express Mail PO-Add Signature Requested
 - Extra Service Code
 - 981 – Signature Service
 - 420 – Return Service
 - 360 – Delivery Confirmation International
- PTS II TEM
 - Testing in the TEM Environment
 - Customers can start testing on October 15, 2012
 - Send names of designated testers to Tony Wells at Tony.L.Wells@usps.gov
 - Names will be forwarded to Lisa Copeland, Andy Lundgren, Kate Westermann and Ryan Seipp
- PTS Outages
 - Processing delays on September 7, 2012
 - Resolution: Two DB2 patches were applied to the PTS database which significantly improved processing
 - Configuration changes during EDI Scheduled Maintenance on September 23, 2012
 - Only EDI customers were affected
 - Processing delays on October 9, 2012
 - Resolution: Processing problems were resolved
 - All clear as of October 11, 2012 11:00 AM
- Peak Season Preparation
 - Additional storage was added October 6-7, 2012 during scheduled maintenance
 - Additional processors will be added within the next two weeks
 - Changes to system to stop sending PTS enroutes scans on “extraneous” barcodes
 - Increasing extract frequency for the largest volume customers
- National Postal Forum
 - Location: San Francisco, CA
 - Date: March 17-20, 2013
 - Website: www.npf.org

eVS Status – Vicki Bosch

- Recent Issues
 - File delays from PTS
 - eVS has received data from PTS
 - eVS will be loading data as we can
 - eVS file loading may not be caught up until early next week
 - You may see newer manifests loaded before older manifests
 - eVS will ensure all files are reconciled for the previous month's period before reconciliation emails are sent to customers.
 - Help desk phone number to call if you have problems with your files: 877-264-9693
 - Question from Oscar Vazquez - Should customers expect similar problems going into peak season; recent outages
- Release Updates
 - 2012 Planned Releases
 - PostalOne! 32.0
 - October 14, 2012
 - May be additional patches to correct issues
 - Note: there are potential eVS updates in any of the upcoming releases. eVS can't fully implement until PTS implements
 - 2013 Planned Release Schedule
 - January 13, 2013 TEM Availability
 - January 27, 2013 Major
 - April 7, 2013 Minor
 - July 15, 2013 TEM Availability
 - July 28, 2013 Major
 - October 13, 2013 Minor
- International Mail in eVS
 - Shipping Services File Format v1.7
 - August 19, 2012
 - Domestic products only
 - no International products
 - D1 and D2 records
 - Limited testing capability for v1.7 (eVS TEM only) – available now
 - Full support for International products and D3 and D4 records – delayed until January 2013 (tentative)
- Release Update: October 14, 2012 (PostalOne! 32.0)
 - Fixes
 - Postage Calculation
 - Bound Printed Matter rounding will be corrected
 - Extract Fixes
 - eVS Reconciliation extract will total manifest postage
 - Version 2.0 will be available.

- Recommended for customers using IMpb with multiple extra services and/or are planning to ship international mail
 - Report Fixes
 - On the landing page the Postage Adjustment from Manifest Errors count will update
 - eVS variance report will display records for all statements
 - Postage statement summary link will be fixed for the display error “page not found”
 - New Functionality
 - Option to receive reconciliation extract weekly
 - Shipping Services File Format v2.0 (pipe delimited format)
 - Limited testing capability (eVS TEM only)
 - Note: Full support – delayed until PTS2 deployment
- eVS: January 27, 2012
 - New products
 - Critical Mail with Signature
 - Elimination of Parcel Select Regional Ground
 - ‘RG’ = Regional Ground (ONDC and Basic)
 - Product Changes
 - Parcel post now restricted to retail only
- Critical Mail
 - New Product: Critical Mail with Signature
 - eVS will accept Rate Indicator ‘AS’ to identify the Critical Mail Letter with Signature and Rate Indicator ‘AC’ to identify the Critical Mail Flat with Signature.
 - eVS will also accept 3-digit Service Type Codes (STCs) unique to Critical Mail and the following Extra Service Combinations.
 - A chart was presented with all of the 3-digit Critical Mail service type codes and extra services.
- Updates on eVS postings on RIBBS
 - Publication 205 Updates
 - January Appendix G with new products for and changes for January is available now on RIBBS
 - Available mid October
 - Publication 205
- STC vs. Mail Class
 - If STC and Mail Class are not in agreement: STC always trumps Mail Class
 - If the rate ingredients based on the STC-derived Mail Class are not a valid combination, Detail Record will error out

Industry Feedback

- How can we fix/reconcile Manifest Errors where the Rate Ingredients are correct and the Service Type Code is wrong resulting in an increased postage charge?
- When will the Overlabel Correction functionality be available for the 1.7 file format that would allow for both the Original PIC and the Corrected PIC be visible on USPS Track and Confirm? This function is needed to Correct Incorrect Service Type Codes.
- When will Rates for DDU Misshipped pieces be corrected for pieces 13 oz or less? Currently Parcel Select Rates are built into calculations instead of First Class Mail prices.
- Status of the unmanifested calculations
- When will the sampling match how packages are entered into the Postal Network?
- Notice for the HAZMAT change. This was noted in Postal Bulletin on July 12, 2012 and then in Federal Register notice. Is the PB the formal communications with the Industry? Can we be briefed on the changes?
- Update on the discussion to reconcile the L606 and the Dropship files. We are still getting charged the missort rate.

New SubGroup for IMpb Thresholds

- Assembling an MTAC Task Team to determine IMpb Compliance Thresholds
- Stemmed from August 2012 MTAC Sessions and eVS/PTS User Group Meeting
- Email John Medeiros at jmedeiros@dhlglobalmail.com if interested in participating on the Task Team
- Please send your email response to John by September 24, 2012
- Note: Richard Porras suggested that we hold off until we clarify the purpose of the sub group.

Action Item Review

- Send the Exception Form out to the group
- Can the numbers reported in the “High Level Compliance Metrics” slide be based on users in order for it to be a better representation of the industry?
- USPS will consider establishing a link between the carrier and the facility.
- Special Session to have more detailed discussion/analysis on the 1.6/2.0 Extract file data elements
- Industry should provide Tony the names of the designated testers for the PTS-2 TEM environment
- Create new subgroup meeting for IMpb thresholds
- Per John’s request, a notification will be sent out to the group when Appendix G becomes available.
- Move the destination entry validation information to the eVS landing page

Questions / Comments

- Everyone should review the domestic rates that have been recently announced.

Action Items

- Provide help desk phone number to call if customers have problems with your files: 877-264-9693
- Schedule IMpb Threshold kickoff meeting for Wednesday October 17, 2012 at 3:30 pm; send the objective/purpose of the subgroup to the user group distribution list.
- Give Bob Moran and Judy Adams a heads up on possibly speaking at the next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for *Thursday 11/08/2012 at 3:30pm.*