



MAILERS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

eVS/PTS User Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2013

3:30pm – 5:00pm EST

Attendees:

Arlene Peterson, Bert Hamilton, Bobbi Richardson, Vicki Bosch, Henry Chau, Margaret Choiniere, Doug Ferguson, Peter Furka, John Gregory, Dave Guinther, Juliaann Hess, Jennifer Howard, Jennifer Nam, Jeff Waite, Jeffrey Mauser, Jim Wobensmith, Joe Mallozzi, John Medeiros, John Whittington, Ron Kecman, Peter Klausner, Levent Gencolglu, Andy Lundgren, Mark Riffey, Robert Myers, Paul Kowlakas, Paula Stoskopf, Richard Porras, Robert Bovolacco, Ryan Seipp, David Stachovitz, Stacy Ibarra, Richard Thornton, Joseph Trinchitella, Neal Vereen, Kate Westermann, Nicole Wilson, Alvin Serrano, Kai Fisher, Kevin Mintz, Alison Turner, Chaz Zweber, Angelique Mathwin, Crystal Stefanko, Garrett Hoyt, Peter Platt, Saul Coelho, Tanya Perry, Wade Stephen, Sean Chappell, Chet King, John Kilcoin, Marsha Martinez, Joe Rothwein

Welcome – Kate Westermann

- Roll Call

Business Customer Gateway upgrade – Alison Turner

- V 4.4 released Sunday, June 9, 2013
- Release notes, technical specifications, and guides posted on RIBBS June 10, 2013
- Link to the training presentation on RIBBS
 - https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_gateway/documents/tech_guides/BusinessCustomerGateway.pdf
- Link to the release notes for the June 9, 2013 changes
 - <https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=intellmailgateway>
- Patch release was deployed June 23, 2013
- Next patch release July 14, 2013

IMpb ACS and IMpb ACS with Shipper Paid Services – Kai Fisher and Chaz Zweber

- IMpb Address Corrections Service (ACS) is available for First Class, Periodicals, Parcel Select, Package Services including Library Mail and Media Mail, Standard Mail, Parcel Select Lightweight, Bound Printed Matter, Standard Post
- Shipper Requirements for IMpb ACS
 - Required to certify (or re-certify) their barcodes and files.
 - Must include the ZIP Code in the IMpb (9 digit preferred, 5 digit allowed).
 - Register the Mailer ID used in the IMpb for use with IMpb ACS
 - Select a preferred ancillary service and “option” for the MID(s)
 - Print an ancillary service endorsement on their parcels
 - Retrieve ACS notices and files via the SingleSource ACS fulfillment process via EPF
 - Use any Service Type Code you desire (IMpb ACS is not dependent on the STC)
- Ancillary Services Available with IMpb ACS
 - Address Service Requested (*Option 1**)
 - ACS on Forwarded Parcels – forwarding postage collected from addressee
 - Return postage collected at return address (no ACS)
 - Change Service Requested (*Option 1**)
 - ACS on all UAA Parcels – mail piece is discarded
 - Return Service Requested (*Option 2**)
 - ACS on all UAA Returned Parcels – return postage collected at return address
 - Electronic Service Requested
 - Optional printed endorsement that may be used when a preferred ancillary service is identified and desired
 - The “option” is not printed with the ancillary service endorsement
- IMpb ACS with Shipper Paid Services (January 2014)
 - IMpb ACS with SPS* is available for:
 - Parcel Select
 - Package Services including Library Mail and Media Mail
 - Standard Mail® & Parcel Select Lightweight
 - Bound Printed Matter
 - Standard Post
 - *Shipper Paid Forwarding and Return options are available
- Shipper Requirements for IMpb ACS with SPS
 - Required to certify (or re-certify) their barcodes and files.
 - Must include the ZIP Code in the IMpb (9 digit preferred, 5 digit allowed).
 - Register the Mailer ID used in the IMpb for use with IMpb ACS w/SPS
 - Select a preferred ancillary service and shipper paid service “option” for the MID(s)
 - Use Shipping Services File Record Version 1.7 or. Specific fields will be required.
 - Print an ancillary service endorsement on their parcels
 - Retrieve ACS notices and files via the SingleSource ACS fulfillment process via EPF

- Use any Service Type Code you desire (IMpb ACS is not dependent on the STC)
- Ancillary Services Available with IMpb ACS with SPS
 - Address Service Requested
 - ACS on Forwarded Parcels - forwarding postage collected from shipper *
 - Address Service Requested (*Option 2 w/SPForwarding*)
 - ACS on Forwarded Parcels - forwarding postage collected from shipper *
 - ACS on Returned Parcels - return postage collected at return address
 - Address Service Requested (*Option 3 w/SPForwarding & Return*)
 - ACS on Forwarded & Returned Parcels – forwarding and return postage collected from shipper *
 - Change Service Requested (*Option 2 w/SPForwarding*)
 - ACS on Forwarded Parcels – forwarding postage collected from shipper *
 - ACS on UAA Nixie or not forwardable – mailpiece is discarded
 - Return Service Requested (*Option 3 w/SPReturn*)
 - ACS on UAA Returned Parcels - return postage collected from shipper *
 - *ACS Fees and Forwarding and/or Return Postage and Fees are billed monthly via the SingleSource ACS billing process.

PTS-II Implementation Challenges - Resolved – Ryan Seipp

- Customer Daily Extract Events were not created during a certain time period
 - Fix implemented on 6/4/13
 - Replays completed on 6/6/13
 - International Deliveries should expect to see data on extract files between 5/12/13 and 5/18/13
- Firmbook customers
 - Customers who sent manifested pieces that had events dates from 4/20/13 through 5/17/13
 - Customers who sent unmanifested pieces that had event dates from 4/20/13 through 5/24/13

BPOD Update – Ryan Seipp

- Weekly runs continue out of PTS-Legacy
 - Delivery occurring at approximately 2:30pm EST Mondays
- Working on final fixes to make the customer reference number static
 - Will send update when we switch BPOD provisioning to PTS-II
- “Pay as Compiled” customers will be billed since cutover – April 21, 2013
 - On July 5, customers will be billed for the April 22 – June 3 time period

Future PTS-II Releases – Kate Westermann

- July 28, 2013 – Supports Product Simplification
- August 2013 – New Shipping Partner Event File and Address Validation Enhancements
 - New file includes fields for delivery address

- October 2013 – Impb Compliance Validation and Mail.dat to Shipping Services v 1.6

New Service Initiatives – Kate Westermann

- Acceptance Event for 5630 SCAN form
 - An '03' Acceptance event will be created instead of a 'TM' event
 - A system-calculated acceptance is created, similar to a 99M calculation
 - This is currently slotted for July 2013
- Carrier Release Indicator
 - Improve visibility on packages endorsed "Carrier-Leave if No Response"
 - Provide better tracking of performance and delivery trends
 - Allow for fewer redelivery attempts

Waiver of Signature/Carrier Release Values	Description	Class of Mail
Y	Mailer request wavier of signature on delivery for Priority Mail Express	EX and EX with Return Receipt for Merchandise
N	Mailer does not request waive of signature on delivery for Priority Mail Express.	EX and EX with Return Receipt for Merchandise
1	Mailer requests Carrier Release	
2	Mailer does not request Carrier Release	
Null		

Product Simplification – Kate Westermann

- Product Changes
 - Priority Mail
 - Priority Mail 1-, 2-, 3-day
 - Priority Mail Express for Overnight Service replaces Express Mail
 - Priority Mail International
 - Priority Mail Military/DPO
 - Baked-in Insurance for Priority Mail (proposed)
 - Priority Mail carries Insurance up to \$50
 - Priority Mail Express carries Insurance up to \$100
- Address Verification – October 2013
 - PTS-II will be performing address verification
 - Eliminate the use of bad characters/invalid addresses
 - Improve efficiency with deployment of dynamic routing
 - Feedback needed from customers on either:
 - Receiving a separate CEW report with just address warnings – can you handle 2 CEW files against the same EFN? OR
 - Receiving a separate file with only address warnings

IMpb Transition –

- Intelligent Mail Package Barcode Update – week of June 1 – June 7

Industry Overview			
Shippers/Mailers	% IMpb Compliance	% Including ZIP+4 and/or Address	Shipping Services File Version 1.6 % Compliance
Consolidators	92.20%	57.75%	98.77%
PC Postage	99.69%	97.81%	98.33%
All Other Mailers	75.43%	64.27%	59.32%
Total	91.37%	71.50%	91.05%

Source: PTS

- Mpb Compliance By Class Of Mail
(Mail classes included in January Federal Register Final Ruling)

Class of Mail	% IMpb	% ZIP4 and/or Address	% SSF 1.6
<i>Bound Printed Matter</i>	95.2%	46.4%	85.7%
<i>Library Mail</i>	98.1%	92.2%	91.8%
<i>Medial Mail</i>	97.9%	82.8%	89.4%
<i>First Class</i>	88.4%	90.5%	85.3%
<i>Parcel Select Lightweight</i>	94.1%	44.3%	98.7%
<i>Parcel Select</i>	90.1%	90.2%	98.7%
Total	91.5%	71.0%	93.7%

Source: PTS

- IMpb Compliance By Class Of Mail
(Mail classes to be included in Federal Register proposal)

Class of Mail	%IMpb	Address and/or % ZIP+4	% SS 1.6
<i>Standard Post</i>	66.1%	63.7%	61.6%
<i>Critical Mail</i>	100.0%	89.2%	99.4%

<i>Express Mail</i>	61.7%	76.9%	61.2%
<i>Priority Mail</i>	94.3%	91.9%	92.0%
<i>Standard Mail Marketing Parcels</i>	91.0%	2.4%	97.2%
<i>Standard Mail</i>	96.2%	0.5%	0.8%
Grand Total	93.1%	83.0%	90.1%

Source: PTS

Proposed Compliance Thresholds – Juliaann Hess

- Revised proposed thresholds to reflect gains during extended transition period

IMpb Compliance Category	Jan 2014	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Unique trackable barcode (legacy or IMpb)	98%	99%	100%*
ZIP+4/destination delivery address in file	93%	96%	100%**
Shipping Services file v1.6 or higher	95%	98%	100%

*IMpb only by Jan 2015

**Must contain street address/DPV 11-digit ZIP Code by Jan 2015

PUB 199 revision Integrating Content – Kate Westermann

- Draft submitted for review May 22, 2013
- Updates continuing

eVS Status – Vicki Bosch

- Upcoming eVS PostalOne! Releases
 - 2013 Planned Release Schedule
 - July 15, 2013 TEM Availability
 - July 28, 2013 Major
 - October 13, 2013 Minor/Maintenance
 - Proposed eVS: July 14, 2013
 - New look for reports
 - Improve the appearance of eVS reports including the landing page and mirror other Business Customer Gateway (BCG) reports
 - Improve navigation capabilities
 - BCG gateway improving the online registration and certification process (streamlined on-boarding)

- We appreciate any feedback related to usability of the reports including anything that is difficult to navigate to or takes too many clicks to get to the data you want to see
- New adjustments
 - IMpb assessment is being postponed until January 2014
 - Details for non-compliant packages will be provided by PTS
 - These will appear in a report similar to the current unmanifested report
 - We will determine the threshold for the month for eVS mailers and if outside the tolerance will be assessed additional postage
 - Incorrect packaging – Priority, Express, and Critical Mail
 - Packages presented in USPS packaging that are not manifested as the corresponding mail class will be identified and placed in a new report “Sample Incorrect Packaging Report”
 - The postage for these will be adjusted to the applicable Priority, Express, or Critical Mail postage (similar to current mis-shipped functionality)
- Fixes
 - International Addresses will be supported for postage statement submission
 - Mis-shipped Reconciliation Extract by mail class will be available
 - Mis-shipped Report will display the recalculated postage
 - Destination Entry Eligibility Exceptions Report will include Parcel Select Lightweight
- Proposed eVS: October 20, 1013
 - Easier on-boarding for eVS
 - New functionality
 - As new adjustments are established, these adjustments will be indicated as “Pilot Adjustment”
 - Once adjustments are validated as accurate, will be set to “Live Adjustment”
 - Fixes
 - Duplicate EFNs will not be processed
 - Weekly reconciliation extracts will be fixed for multiple classes of mail
- PUB 205 Updates
 - Currently available on RIBBS
 - Last update Publication 205 – April 21, 2013
 - Next update - August 9, 2013
- BCG Updates (June 9, 2013)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Business Customer Gateway

Save time
with automation, online ordering and online tools

Save money
with Automation Discounts and USPS Incentive Programs

Start mailing
"My order arrived the day before I expected, in perfect condition!"

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Username
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Save time and money **managing your mailings online**. Get your message where you need it to go with **Every Door Direct Mail**. Use the **Intelligent Mail Small Business Tool** to manage your mail stream and maximize your discount.
[See full list of Mailing Services](#)

Shippers
Manage your returns with **Parcel Return Service**, use the **Electronic Verification System** to save paperwork by paying postage with electronic manifests.
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Business
Sign up for **USPS Promotions and Incentives**, save money with **Automation Discounts** and unlock the power of your **Mailer ID (MID)**.
[See full list of Business Services](#)

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Business Customer Gateway

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The Business Customer Gateway is your central hub for managing your USPS activity for your Business.
Within this site, you will find Business Service tools that you will need to monitor, track, and manage your mailing and shipping activities. You can access these Business Services using the tabs on the left. When you know which services are useful to your business, you can add them as your favorite services using the panel on your right.

Messages
There are no items that require your attention at this time.

Favorite Services
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MTAC – eVS/PTS User Group – June 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- BCG Updates (coming July 2013)

Permit	Company Name	Federal Agency Cost Code	Permit ZIP Code	Finance Number	CAPS Acct #

Files and Postage Statements: Postage Statement Summary	Pieces	Postage	Avg Per Piece Charge
1. Manifest Postage :			
a. Manifest postage from mailer's files	0	\$0.00	
b. Variance postage from USPS recalculation of mailer's data	0	\$0.00	
c. Total manifest postage	N/A	\$0.00	
d. Manifest postage paid	N/A	\$0.00	
2. Additional Postage Due:			
a. Postage adjustment from sampling postage adjustment factor (PAF)	N/A	\$0.00	
b. Postage adjustment from Manifest Errors	N/A	\$0.00	
c. Unmanifested parcels from PIS and Sampling scans	0	N/A	N/A
d. Mis-Shipped DDU parcels from Confirmation Services scans	0	N/A	N/A
e. Duplicate PIC assigned to multiple packages	0	N/A	N/A
f. Postage adjustment from IMsb non-compliance	0	N/A	N/A
g. Postage adjustment from Incorrect Packaging	0	N/A	N/A

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- Manage Mailing Activity
- Home
- Summary
- Balance and Fees
- Postal Wizard
- Electronic Data Exchange
- Mailing Reports
- Dashboard
- Manage Permits
- IMsb Tool
- e-VS Customer**
- e-VS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- Manifest Search
- eVS/PRS Dashboard
- Mailer ID Report
- Third Party Billing Reports
- Dispute Queue
- eVS Alerts
- PRS Customer**
- PRS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- eVS/PRS Dashboard
- Manifest Search
- Mailer ID Report
- SBP Customer (SBP)**

eVS/PRS Dashboard - ABC 123 COMPANY

Manifest Sample

Date Type: Mailing Transmission

Start Date: 05/30/2013 End Date: 06/06/2013

MID:

Statement Status: **All**
Processed
NAP
Pending
Error
Closed

EFN(s):

Entry Facility ZIP:

PIC(s):

Postage Statement ID:

Transaction ID:

Permit Holder Permit #:

[Show Data](#)



- Manage Mailing Activity
- Home
- Summary
- Balance and Fees
- Postal Wizard
- Electronic Data Exchange
- Mailing Reports
- Dashboard
- Manage Permits
- IMsb Tool
- e-VS Customer**
- e-VS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- Manifest Search
- eVS/PRS Dashboard
- Mailer ID Report
- Third Party Billing Reports
- Dispute Queue
- eVS Alerts
- PRS Customer**
- PRS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- eVS/PRS Dashboard
- Manifest Search
- Mailer ID Report
- SBP Customer (SBP)**

eVS/PRS Dashboard - ABC 123 COMPANY

Manifest **Sample**

Date Type: Sample Transmission

Start Date: 05/30/2013 End Date: 06/06/2013

MID:

Entry Facility ZIP:

Destination ZIP:

PIC(s):

Sample Source: **ALL**

Mail Class: **All**

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Manage Mailing Activity

- > Home
- > Summary
- > Balance and Fees
- > Postal Wizard
- > Electronic Data Exchange
- > Mailing Reports
- > Dashboard
- > Manage Permits
- > IMsb Tool
- e-VS Customer**
- > e-VS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- > Manifest Search
- > eVS/PRS Dashboard
- > Mailer ID Report
- > Third Party Billing Reports
- > Dispute Queue
- > eVS Alerts
- PRS Customer**
- > PRS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary
- > eVS/PRS Dashboard
- > Manifest Search
- > Mailer ID Report
- SBP Customer (SBP)**

Postage Statement Summary
ABC 123 COMPANY
Month 08 of Fiscal Year 2013 (05/01/2013 - 05/31/2013)

Report Date: 06/06/2013
Change Month and Year
May 2013 Show Data
[Daily Postage Statements Summary Report](#)

Manifest Mailing >> Postage Statement Summary
Click on a File Number to see the Postage Statement Detail report for that file number.

File Number	Mailing Date	File Type	Permit Number	Permit ZIP Code	Calc Postage (\$)	Variance (Packages)	Variance (\$)
Nothing found to display.							

Presort Eligibility Discrepancies

Mailings With Presort Discrepancies	
Total Presorted Mailings for Month	0

[Presort Eligibility Exception Report](#)

Destination Entry Exceptions
[Destination Entry Eligibility Report](#)

Content Eligibility Exceptions
[Content Eligibility Sampling Report](#)

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Industry Feedback – Kate Westermann

- Question from FedEx regarding the reconciliation process: In the reconciliation extracts, Manifest Errors are identified by the transmission date of the manifest – can this be changed to the mailing date for easier identification?
 - Date of mailing is in position 14 of the detail record for manifest errors and it was originally thought that this field was not being populated. After the meeting FedEx checked some recent versions of the file and found that the mailing date field is being populated.
- When will the latest Federal Register Notice be issued? Will there be a final notice?
 - Draft notice May 2013
 - Publish proposed rule June 2013
 - Publish final rule July 2013
 - Implement revised and expanded rules January 2014
- Mr. Cochrane said we can use either IMpb or Legacy barcodes to be in compliance. How long will this be an option?
 - Until January 2014
- Postal is changing the date they will begin assessing shipping services files for IMpb compliance. Are exception requests still being accepted?
 - USPS has extended the transition period as noted above and exception requests are still being accepted
- What are the new thresholds?

IMpb Compliance Category	Jan 2014	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Unique trackable barcode (legacy or IMpb)	98%	99%	100%*
ZIP+4/destination delivery address in file	93%	96%	100%**
Shipping Services file v1.6 or higher	95%	98%	100%

Action Item Review

- No action items to review

New Action Items

- USPS needs to poll the group for feedback concerning how they want to receive feedback on invalid address information.
- Industry recommend reconvening Task Team #19 to revisit compliance thresholds pursuant to January 2013 FR final rule
- Shipping Information Systems to examine the preferability of Address and/or ZIP+4 issue in the SSF. Consult with Engineering, Operations and other stakeholders
- New requirements for Shipping Services Files (proposed) to support package visibility:
 - SSF must be transmitted to the USPS prior to the physical presentation of the mailing for acceptance
 - Files must include the following fields:
 - Transaction ID (TID): Unique 12-digit number assigned to associate SSF to file transmissions. This field must follow the format of year, month, date, and number sequence number to be valid. A valid format is YYYYMMDD####. A single TID can be used to group multiple SSF together to represent a mailing.
 - Payment Account Number: USPS account number from which the mailing will be paid
 - Method of Payment: Approved payment method (permit imprint, meter, stamps) for the mail being entered
 - Post Office of Account: 5-digit ZIP Code of the post office issuing the permit number, meter license, or precanceled stamp, and should agree with the information on the postage statement

Questions/Comments

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 3:30p EST