



**MAILERS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**eVS/PTS User Group**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, July 11, 2013**

**3:30pm – 4:30pm EST**

**Attendees:**

Bobbi Richardson, Vicki Bosch, Henry Chau, Delisa Barr, Doug Ferguson, Ed Stashluk, Dave Guinther, Heidi Gapinski, Juliaann Hess, Stacy Ibarra, Jeff Waite, John Medeiros, John Wittington, Joe Rothwein, Julian Thomas, Ron Kecman, Pete Klausner, Andy Lundgren, Mark Riffey, Robert Myers, Paula Stoskopf, Joel Prescott, Margaret Reese, Richard Porras, Roger Franco, Shawn Baldwin, Walter Resch, David Stachovitz, Joseph Trinchitella, Neal Vereen, Kate Westermann, Nicole Wilson, Sean Chappell, Crystal Stefanko, Alvin Serrano, Lee DeVasier, Francine Mowka, Malai Sethuraman, Priya Nagarajan

**Welcome – Kate Westermann**

- Roll Call

**Federal Register Proposed Rule – Kate Westermann**

- New standards to enhance package visibility – ‘IMpb 2.0’
  - Published July 11, 2013
  - Comments due on or before August 1, 2013
  - Proposed implementation date – January 26, 2014
  - IMpb requirement will apply to all commercial parcels
  - Destination delivery address and/or delivery point validated 11-digit zip code required January 25, 2015
  - Proposed per-piece fee will be charge for non-compliant pieces instead of losing presort/destination entry pricing

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

**\*IMpb only by Jan 2015**

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

- Electronic documentation and Shipping Services File (SSF) requirements
  - By/For – must identify the mail owner and mailing agent in SSF 1.6 or higher, Mail.dat and Mail.xml by use of unique MIDs
  - Transaction ID
  - Payment/Permit Account #
  - Method of Payment
  - Post Office of Account
  - File edits simplified (same as eVS)
  - SSF transmission prior to tender to USPS
- Proposes elimination of Certified Mail service for Priority products
  - Signature confirmation with restricted delivery alternative
- Identification of hazardous materials and live animal shipments
- No Commercial Base or Commercial Plus pricing for meter customers not meeting requirements
- IMpb needed for 'baked-in' insurance on Priority Mail
- Requires IMpb on all Merchandise Return Service parcels
- Eliminates BRM for parcel-shaped returns
- Exceptions by Mail Class
  - Bound Printed Matter (BPM) Parcels
    - BPM parcels may use Mail.dat in lieu of SSF
    - Effective October 20, 2013, with PTS and PostalOne! software releases
  - Priority Mail
    - Priority Mail flats in a high-speed environment may use IMb and Mail.dat or Mail.xml documentation in lieu of IMpb
      - No extra services, International or Priority Mail Express permitted with this option
      - Requires USPS approval
      - Does not qualify for 'baked-in' insurance
  - Priority Mail Express
    - USPSCA (US Postal Service Corporate Account) users are excluded from the IMpb requirements
  - Standard Mail Parcels
    - Standard Mail Marketing and Standard Mail Non-Profit parcels will require an IMpb or a unique IMb.
      - Includes product samples
      - Excludes Regular and Non-Profit Standard Mail product samples with simplified address or Detached Address Labels
    - All Standard Mail parcels using unique IMbs may use either Mail.dat or Mail.XML in lieu of the SSF
    - Standard Mail parcels presorted and containerized to 5-digit level may use IMbs
    - IMbs must remain unique for 180 days

**BPOD Update – Kate Westermann**

- 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 were billed July 5 for the April 22 – June 3 time period

**Future PTS-II Releases – Kate Westermann**

- July 28, 2013 – Supports Product Simplification
  - Includes the 1.2 and 1.4 releases
  - Container events will be tracked in PTS-II
  - Production deployment outage window estimated 6 – 8 hours, beginning 12:00AM July 28, 2013
    - Incoming files will be staged starting at 10:00PM
    - No posting or extracts
  - Migration of EDW-PPR data from Legacy to PTS-II
  - TEM deployment
    - Monday, July 15 12:00AM – 3:00AM ET deployment timeframes
    - No production outage during deployment
- PTS Release 1.5 – September 15, 2013
  - Assess impact to Confirmation Error/Warning files
    - Survey will be sent with options for receiving address validation warnings/errors
  - Turn on Address validation error/warning message in files in October 2013
  - Improve efficiency with deployment of dynamic routing
  - New Shipping Partner Events file version 3.0

Event Status	Shipping Partner Event Code	Description
New	83	Tendered to Postal Service
*New	84	Arrived at Agent Facility
*New	85	Depart Agent Facility
*New	86	Delivered by Agent to Merchant
*New	87	Final Disposition by Agent

\*apply to Parcel Return Service only

- PTS Release 1.6 - October 20, 2013
  - Impb Compliance Validation
  - Mail.dat translation to Shipping Services v 1.7 for BPM parcels
  - New Scan Event Extract file version
  - Remaining features for new SSF format
    - Overlabeling
    - Logical container records

- Infrastructure changes

**Product Simplification – Kate Westermann**

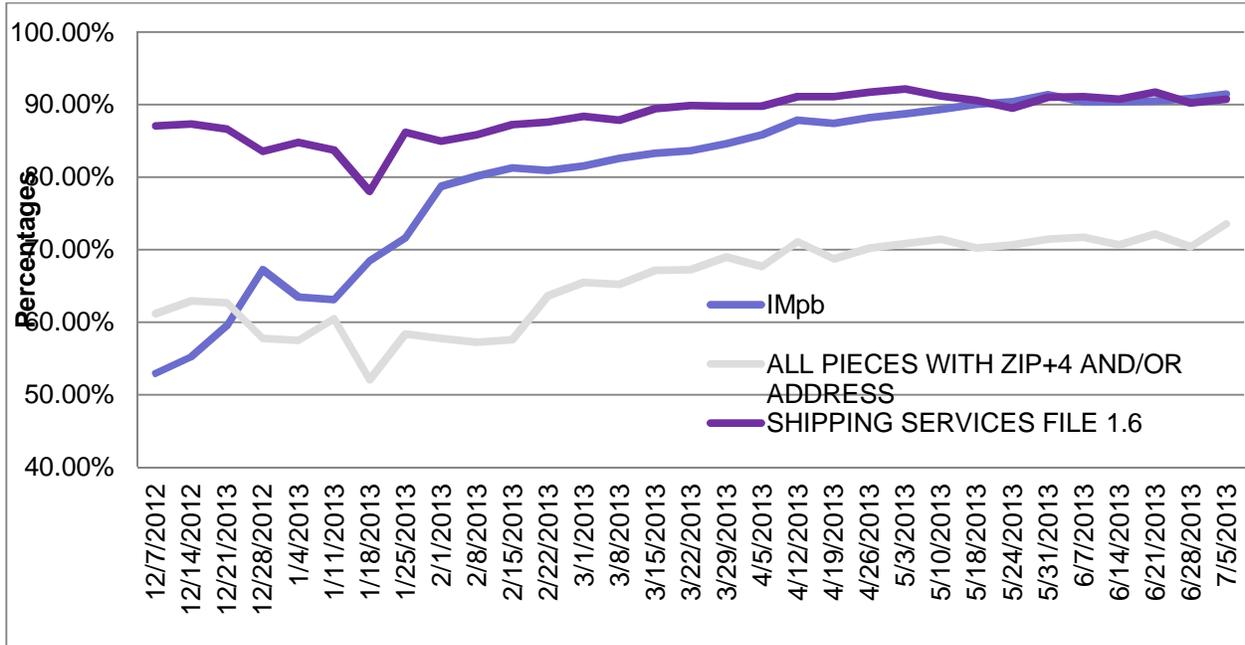
- Priority Mail Express replaces Express Mail
  - Day-Specific (1- or 2-day)
  - Priority Mail Express International replaces Express Mail International
  - Priority Mail Express Military replaces Express Mail Military
  - Priority Mail Express DPO replaces Express Mail DPO
  
- Priority Mail now features Day-Specific
  - Priority Mail 1-, 2-, 3-day
  - Scheduled delivery day based on Origin-Destination pair
  
- Baked-in Insurance for Priority Mail (approved June 24, 2013)
  - Priority Mail carries insurance up to \$50 or \$100 depending on business rules and payment channel

Current Name	New Name & Add-On	Features
Express Mail  Flat Rate Open and Distribute Reship	<b>Priority Mail Express</b> 1-Day 2-Day <b>International</b> <b>Military</b> <b>DPO</b>	Money-Back Guarantee Delivery by Noon or 3:00 PM Sunday Delivery (fee or waived) \$100 Indemnity Coverage USPS Tracking
Priority Mail 2 to 3 Day  Critical Mail Cubic Flat Rate Open and Distribute Regional Rate Boxes Reship	<b>Priority Mail</b> <b>1-Day</b>	Not Guaranteed USPS Tracking <b>\$100 Insurance (Commercial)</b> <b>\$50 Insurance (Retail)</b>  Weight-Based Insurance for International (no change)
	<b>Priority Mail</b> <b>2-Day</b>	
	<b>Priority Mail</b> <b>3-Day</b>	
	<b>Priority Mail</b> International <b>Military</b> <b>DPO</b>	

**Label 400 USPS Tracking Expansion – Kate Westermann**

- i) Label 400 on every parcel instead of 'Pink Top' labels
- ii) All USPS Tracking parcels without extra services
- iii) Same label used in Manual Offices and Contract Postal Units
- iv) Effective August 16, 2013

**IMpb Transition as of July 5, 2013**



Source: PTS

**Pub 199 revision – Integrating Content – Kate Westermann**

- Circulating internally for review
- 10-day clearance process
- Should be cleared and posted July 28, 2013 to coincide with Price Change

**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
▪ January 2014	Price Change Release
  - 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
    - Note: IMpb assessments for non-eVS customers will have functionality requested for January 2014 as well
  - 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
- eVS: October 20, 1013
  - Proposed requirements submitted for October
  - 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
    - The Postage Discrepancy Report will now include STAT samples
    - The Manifest Summary Report will now show manifested postage
    - On Reconcile Sample Report – show correct sampled date instead of manifested date
- PUB 205 Updates
  - Currently available on RIBBS

# MTAC – eVS/PTS User Group – July 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- Last update Publication 205 – April 21, 2013
- Next update - August 9, 2013
- BCG Updates (June 9, 2013)

message Gateway USPS.com Help

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**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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Password

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**Sign in**

Not a registered USPS Business Customer yet?  
[Register for free](#)

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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](#)

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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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Welcome

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Mailing Services

Shipping Services

Other Services

Support

Manage Account

**Welcome, TESTERFOUR**

**Welcome to the NEW Business Customer Gateway!**

Use the menu on the left to navigate the site.

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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.

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Welcome

Inbox

Mailing Services

**Shipping Services**

Other Services

Support

Manage Account

**Shipping Services**

 **Shipping services help you deliver packages.**

Shipping online services allow customers to enroll and manage the various package product lines the USPS has to offer. The services currently available are listed below. You may access services directly from here that you have been approved for and request access to those you do not.

Your Locations:  
 CRID: 4429981, QUAD GRAPHIC SARATOGA SPRINGS, 56 DUPLAINVILLE RD. ▾

 **Balance & Fees (PostalOne!)** [GO TO SERVICE](#)

Monitor Balances & Fees associated to permit or publication accounts.

 **Dashboard (PostalOne!)** [GO TO SERVICE](#)

The PostalOne! Dashboard allows users to submit, search for and view jobs submitted electronically.

 **Electronic Data Exchange (PostalOne!)** [GO TO SERVICE](#)

PostalOne! establishes an electronic link between customers and the Postal Service, which helps manage every point of the business mailing process for time-efficient and cost-effective mailings.

 **Electronic Verification Service (eVS)** [GO TO SERVICE](#)

The Electronic Verification System (e-VS) allows high-volume package mailers and package consolidators to document and pay postage, including special service fees, using electronic manifest files.

 **Incentive Programs** [GET ACCESS](#)

USPS has developed promotions and incentives that will help businesses connect with customers and keep mail an essential part of the marketing mix.

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- BCG Updates (coming July 2013)

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Manage Mailing Activity

Restricted Information

eVS Monthly Account and Sampling Summary  
**LAHEEBPETS101**  
 Month 09 of Fiscal Year 2013 (06/01/2013 - 06/30/2013)

Report Date: 06/05/2013  
 Change Month and Year: June 2013 Show Data

Reports | Printer-Friendly View

**Mailer Information (Pending)**  
 Mailer Name: LAHEEBPETS101  
 Street Address: PO BOX 2856  
 City, State, ZIP Code: DETROIT, MI 48231-2856  
 CRID: 94539733  
 Master Mailer ID: 234324555  
 Mailer ID for Last Transmission of Month: 234324555

Authorized Mail Classes and Subclasses:

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

Monthly Account Summary | Monthly Sampling Summary | Monthly Adjustment Summary

**Monthly Account Summary**

Files and Postage Statements: Postage Statement Summary

Total Postage Calculation

	Pieces	Postage	Avg Per Piece Charge
<b>1. Manifest Postage :</b>			
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	
<b>2. Additional Postage Due:</b>			
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 PTS 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 noncompliance	0	N/A	N/A
g. Postage adjustment from Incorrect Packaging	0	N/A	N/A

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Manage Mailing Activity

eVS/PRS Dashboard - ABC 123 COMPANY

Manifest | Sample

Date Type:  Mailing  Transmission

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

Statement Status: All | Processed | N/A | Pending | Error | Closed

Entry Facility ZIP:

Postage Statement ID:

Transaction ID:

Permit Holder Permit #:

MID:

EFN(s):

PIC(s):

Show Data

# MTAC – eVS/PTS User Group – July 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes

## Industry Feedback – Kate Westermann

- No industry feedback to review

**Action Item Review**

- Industry recommend reconvening Task Team #19 to revisit compliance thresholds pursuant to January 2013 FR final rule
  - Tentatively scheduled for July 16, 2013 at 3:00pm ET
- USPS needs to poll the group for feedback concerning how they want to receive feedback on invalid address information.
  - Polling email to be sent out soon
- Shipping Information Systems to examine the preferability of Address and/or ZIP+4 issue in the SSF. Consult with Engineering, Operations and other stakeholders
  - USPS prefers both the Address and the ZIP+4 if available
  - USPS needs Address at a minimum

**New Action Items**

- Need to look into the Mail.dat file
  - PostalOne! does not support Priority Mail in the Mail.dat
  - Is the conversion of Priority Mail Mail.dat to Shipping Services File pulled from the January release?
- In the Federal Register notice include that those customers with expiring exceptions should request an extension if they need it. Exceptions will expire if customers do not request extensions.

**Questions/Comments**

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 3:30p EST