

**Suite**Link®

# **IMPROVING DELIVERABILITY THROUGH SECURE TECHNOLOGY**

SuiteLink

**USER TECHNICAL REFERENCE**

**United States Postal Service®**

**National Customer Support Center**

**June 13, 2011**

**Version 3**

# USPS<sup>®</sup> Suite<sup>Link</sup><sup>®</sup> Software Developers Guide Table of Contents

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## Introduction

Suite<sup>Link</sup> is a data only product containing Business address information specifically identified as high rise default records as a result of CASS<sup>TM</sup> processing. This data only product provided by the USPS allows developers to create a software interface that will have the capability of appending the secondary designator and value to a business address providing the input address is determined to be missing a secondary or has invalid secondary. The addition of the secondary designator and value will allow delivery sequencing where it would otherwise not be possible.

This product and technology is patented and licensed by the United States Postal Service<sup>®</sup> (USPS<sup>®</sup>). By virtue of reading this documentation, the company and or business entity, which includes employees, entered into a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

## Administration

The USPS provides support for this system through the National Customer Support Center (NCSC) in Memphis TN. For all administration and technical information regarding this product please contact the Suite<sup>Link</sup> department at 800-589-5766 or email at [ncoalink@usps.gov](mailto:ncoalink@usps.gov).

## Disclaimer

The USPS makes no warranty or representation either expressed or implied, with respect to the Suite<sup>Link</sup> technology and/or the computer system in which it is contained, including its correctness, quality, performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

The USPS will not be liable for direct, indirect, special, incidental, consequential, or other similar damages arising out of use of, or inability to use, the Suite<sup>Link</sup> technology and/or computer system, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

## Developer Specifications and Requirements

For the purpose of clarity, developer is synonymous with vendor, or any other term that implies a creator of a software system developed for the purpose of communicating and interfacing with the USPS Suite<sup>Link</sup> system.

The sole intent of the Suite<sup>Link</sup> system is to provide data back to the customer for the purpose of updating an address list that will be used for mailing purposes. Development of an interface system must incorporate USPS guidelines and specifications contained in this document as well as any requirements contained in the USPS Suite<sup>Link</sup> License Agreement and Performance Requirements.

Any advertising or marketing promotions that mention and/or imply a relationship with the USPS Suite<sup>Link</sup> technology must be approved in writing prior to its use, by the USPS National Customer Support Center (NCSC). The approval of any advertisement or marketing material is a requirement and is inclusive to all developers, vendors, licensees, sub-contractors and users that directly or indirectly utilize the USPS Suite<sup>Link</sup> system.

Due to the sensitive nature of USPS provided data, the system employs a secure technology approach, designed and created by the USPS. The sensitivity of the data and customer data requires a high level of security and accuracy with respect to the use of the data in any electronic process. Any interface system that provides for, or allows data transfer between the interface and any other location or device, must enable the user/licensee to ensure that no information obtained from the Suite<sup>Link</sup> system is intercepted, copied, rerouted, stored, retained, archived, or used for any purpose other than explicitly authorized in the license agreement. All addresses prior to submission to the Suite<sup>Link</sup> interface system must be processed by the users/licensee's CASS Certified<sup>TM</sup> software. **To obtain the best possible results from the Suite<sup>Link</sup> process, the USPS recommends the ZIP + 4<sup>®</sup> and City State databases utilized by the CASS Certified software be updated monthly.**

The purpose of this document is to communicate the Suite<sup>Link</sup> technical specifications to prospective developers of interface systems. This includes sequences of processing records, data exchange, record layouts and field definitions. However, as with any system, future testing, and experiences may warrant modifications to the Suite<sup>Link</sup> requirements and/or details. This document, and the information contained herein, is provided for your exclusive use, to guide your Suite<sup>Link</sup> interface development efforts, and must not be provided to anyone outside of your organization, including customers, licensees, or potential licensees.

It is **required and necessary** to incorporate the reading of the **Suite<sup>Link</sup> License Agreement** to obtain the requirements of a potential licensee and to ensure that the developed interface and/or licensee can meet these requirements. The completed Suite<sup>Link</sup> system will require exact specifications with regard to processing in addition to statistical and other reporting requirements that will be contained in the above document.

The interface can not remove, ignore or drop any other name information except as prescribed in this document and the associated License Performance requirements. This document does not supercede the License Performance Requirements.

## Computer Hardware Specifications

The Suite<sup>Link</sup> data product will be fulfilled by one Digital Video Disc's (DVD). It is suggested that the minimum system requirements for this system is 512MB RAM and 700MB of disk space.

## Software Developer Kit Contents

The contents included will provide enough information to develop an interface to the Suite<sup>Link</sup> data only product. The sample code and data files are provided for educational purposes in the development of a Suite<sup>Link</sup> interface. It is not intended, recommended or implied that the utilization of the actual code included will produce a certifiable and/or production ready Suite<sup>Link</sup> interface. All code included unless otherwise stated will be Micro Focus COBOL.

The Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) is an integral part of this development. Additional information on SHA can be found on the internet using "SHA" or "SHA-1" for the search criteria or visit <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips/fips180-2/fips180-2.pdf>. This interface utilizes "big-endian" examples. Additional information on "big-endian" can be found on the internet using "endian" for the search criteria. Even though "big-endian" examples are used it is possible to incorporate this into a "little-endian" environment.

### DVD1 contents:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| DATA DVD | Contains tables and/or data files required for the Suite <sup>Link</sup> system. The data will only be in a FLAT FILE format similar to other USPS Link products. |
|----------|---|

### Software Developer Kit (SDK):

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| slk010c0.cbl     | Sample source code needed to guide in the development of a Suite <sup>Link</sup> interface system. The sample code is provided for educational purposes in the development of a Suite <sup>Link</sup> interface. It is not intended, recommended or implied that the utilization of the actual code included will produce a certifiable and/or production ready Suite <sup>Link</sup> interface. |
| suitelinksdg.doc | Documentation to guide in the development of a Suite <sup>Link</sup> interface system  |

**Please note:** The Software Developer Kit will only be available via email.

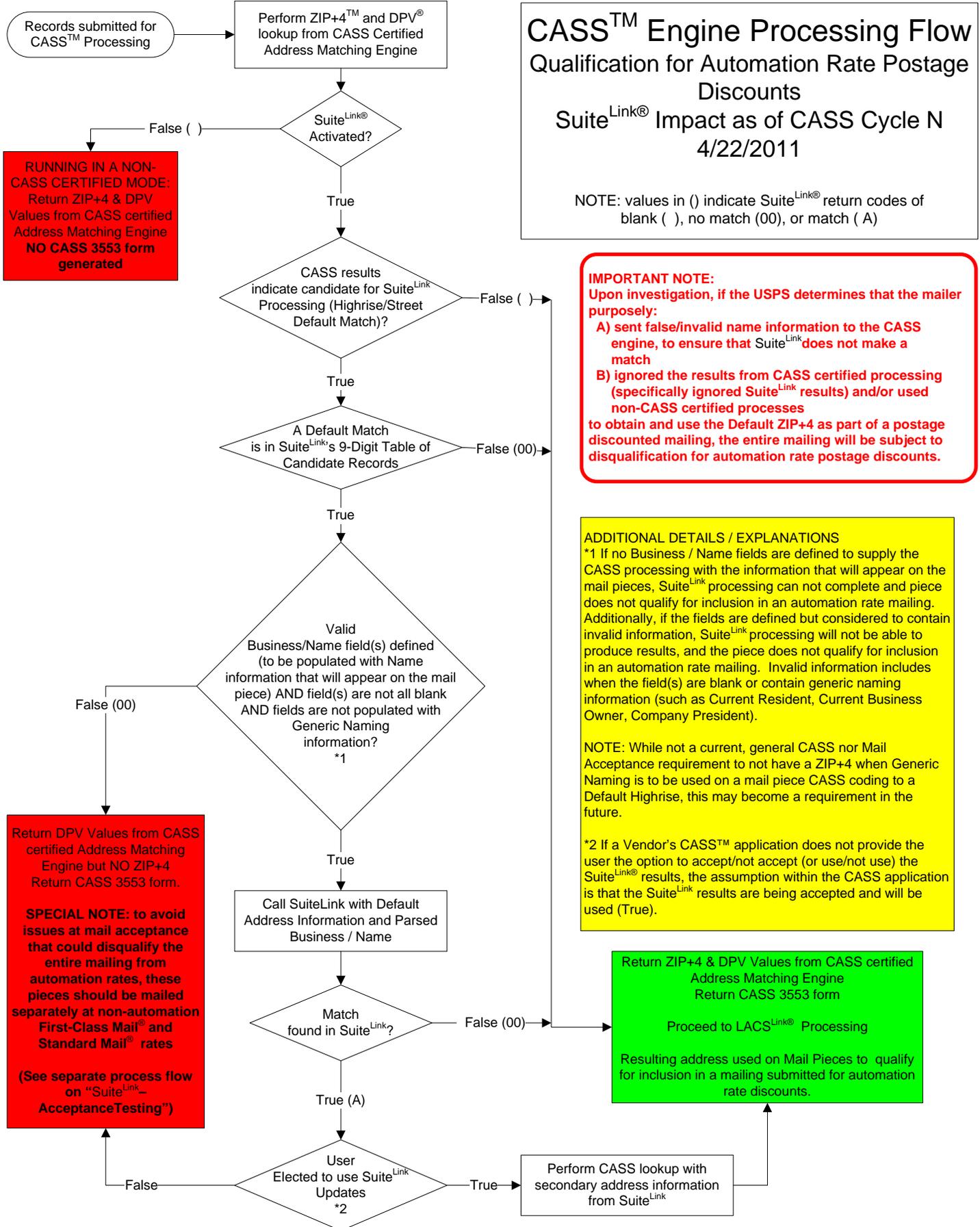
# CASS<sup>TM</sup> Engine Processing Flow

## Qualification for Automation Rate Postage Discounts

### Suite<sup>Link</sup><sup>®</sup> Impact as of CASS Cycle N

#### 4/22/2011

NOTE: values in ( ) indicate Suite<sup>Link</sup><sup>®</sup> return codes of blank ( ), no match (00), or match ( A )

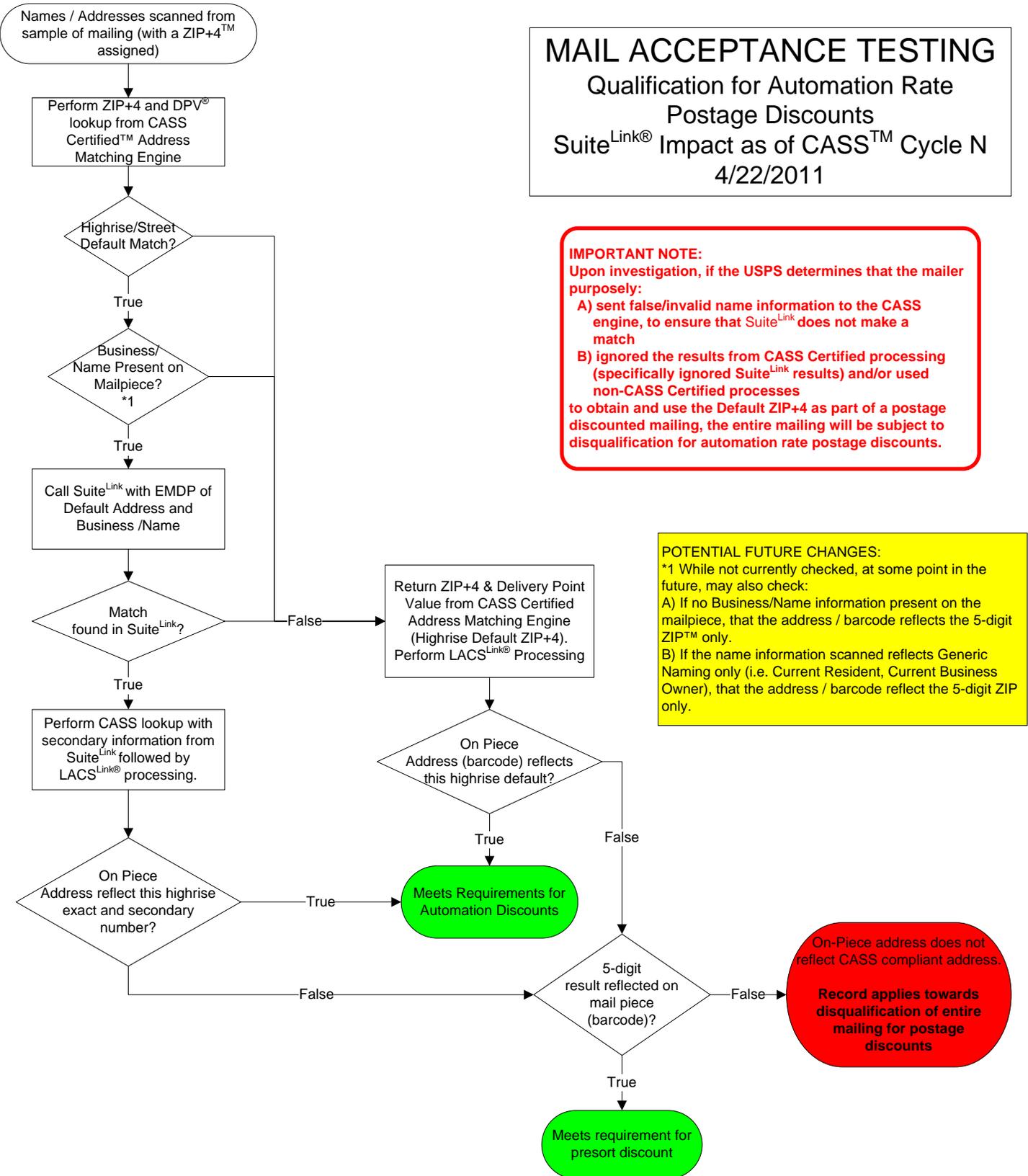


**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
Upon investigation, if the USPS determines that the mailer purposely:  
A) sent false/invalid name information to the CASS engine, to ensure that Suite<sup>Link</sup> does not make a match  
B) ignored the results from CASS certified processing (specifically ignored Suite<sup>Link</sup> results) and/or used non-CASS certified processes to obtain and use the Default ZIP+4 as part of a postage discounted mailing, the entire mailing will be subject to disqualification for automation rate postage discounts.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS / EXPLANATIONS**  
\*1 If no Business / Name fields are defined to supply the CASS processing with the information that will appear on the mail pieces, Suite<sup>Link</sup> processing can not complete and piece does not qualify for inclusion in an automation rate mailing. Additionally, if the fields are defined but considered to contain invalid information, Suite<sup>Link</sup> processing will not be able to produce results, and the piece does not qualify for inclusion in an automation rate mailing. Invalid information includes when the field(s) are blank or contain generic naming information (such as Current Resident, Current Business Owner, Company President).  
NOTE: While not a current, general CASS nor Mail Acceptance requirement to not have a ZIP+4 when Generic Naming is to be used on a mail piece CASS coding to a Default Highrise, this may become a requirement in the future.  
\*2 If a Vendor's CASS<sup>TM</sup> application does not provide the user the option to accept/not accept (or use/not use) the Suite<sup>Link</sup> results, the assumption within the CASS application is that the Suite<sup>Link</sup> results are being accepted and will be used (True).

**MAIL ACCEPTANCE TESTING**  
 Qualification for Automation Rate  
 Postage Discounts  
 Suite<sup>Link</sup> Impact as of CASS<sup>TM</sup> Cycle N  
 4/22/2011

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
 Upon investigation, if the USPS determines that the mailer purposely:  
 A) sent false/invalid name information to the CASS engine, to ensure that Suite<sup>Link</sup> does not make a match  
 B) ignored the results from CASS Certified processing (specifically ignored Suite<sup>Link</sup> results) and/or used non-CASS Certified processes  
 to obtain and use the Default ZIP+4 as part of a postage discounted mailing, the entire mailing will be subject to disqualification for automation rate postage discounts.



**POTENTIAL FUTURE CHANGES:**  
 \*1 While not currently checked, at some point in the future, may also check:  
 A) If no Business/Name information present on the mailpiece, that the address / barcode reflects the 5-digit ZIP<sup>TM</sup> only.  
 B) If the name information scanned reflects Generic Naming only (i.e. Current Resident, Current Business Owner), that the address / barcode reflect the 5-digit ZIP only.

## Revisions

### Version 1

October 5, 2006 – original

### Version 2

February 4, 2009

#### **Updated the introduction section to state the following:**

This data only product provided by the USPS allows developers to create a software interface that will have the capability of appending the secondary number/identifier or suite number/identifier to a business address providing the input address is determined to be missing a secondary.

#### **Corrected minor trademark and punctuation issues**

### Version 2.1

April 28, 2010

#### **Updated Suite<sup>Link</sup>® to reflect as a registration.**

### Version 3

June 13, 2011

#### **Updated text under the Introduction section to state:**

This data only product provided by the USPS allows developers to create a software interface that will have the capability of appending the secondary designator and value to a business address providing the input address is determined to be missing a secondary or has invalid secondary. The addition of the secondary designator and value will allow delivery sequencing where it would otherwise not be possible.

#### **Updated text under the Developer Specifications and Requirements section to state:**

To obtain the best possible results from the Suite<sup>Link</sup> process, the USPS recommends the ZIP + 4<sup>®</sup> and City State databases utilized by the CASS Certified software be updated monthly.

#### **Added CASS processing and Acceptance Testing Flow Diagrams**