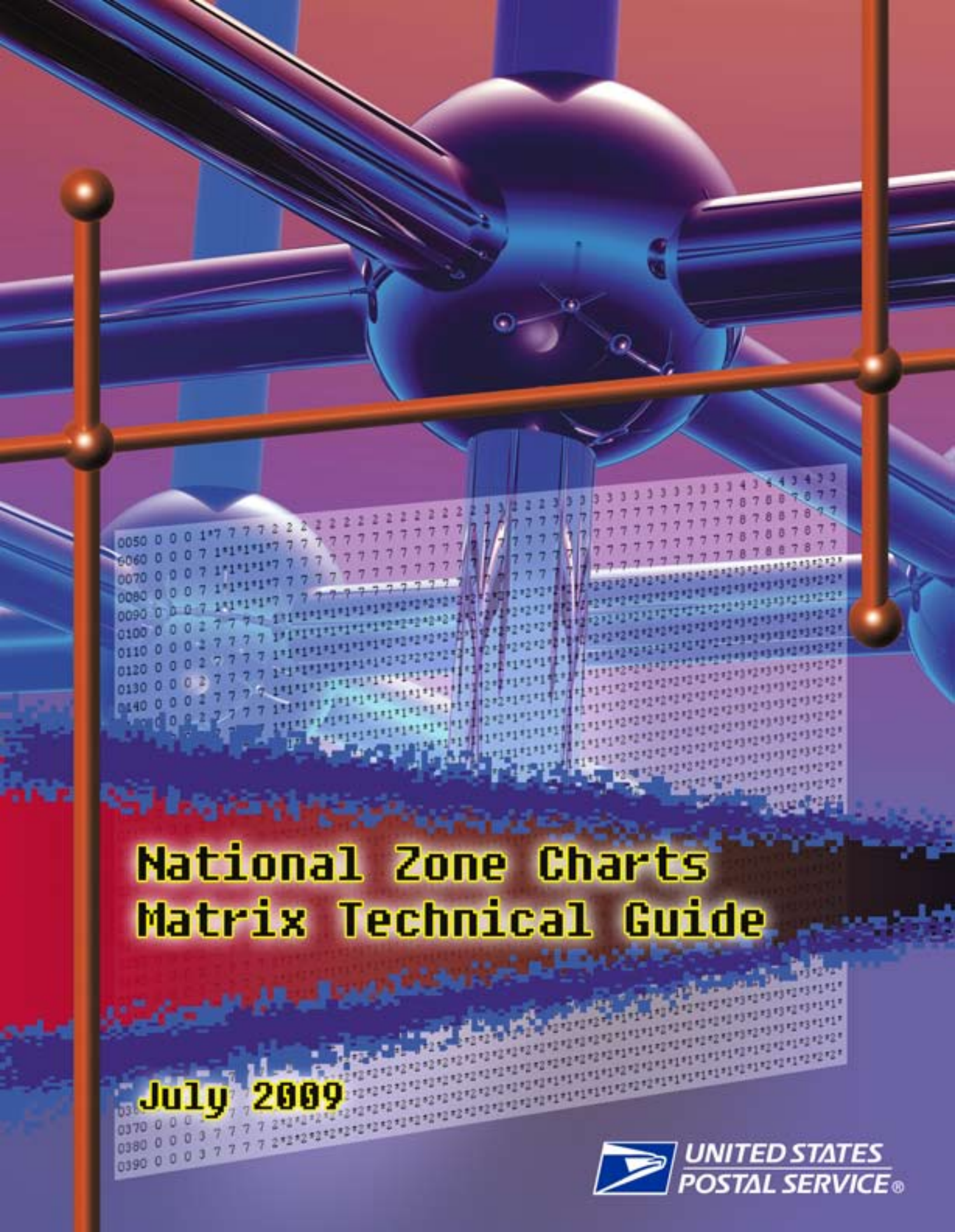

National Zone Charts Matrix Technical Guide

July 2009

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

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OVERVIEW

The National Zone Charts Matrix was developed to assist mailers in applying the proper postage rates to a mail piece. Postage rates for zoned mail are based on mail piece weight and the distance the mail piece travels using these zone assignments. The matrix is used to determine the distance that a mailpiece travels based on the ZIP Code where the mailpiece enters the mailstream (origination) and the ZIP Code that will deliver the mailpiece to the addressee (destination). The origination and destination of a mailpiece is refered to as “ZIP pairing”. Zones are designated as "local" or 1 through 8. Please be advised that the matrix does not include postage rate information. Current postage rate charts for all classes of mail are located on-line at http://www.usps.com/prices/welcome.htm.

The Zone Charts are not “map based” as a time zone would be defined. The USPS zones are radial, measuring from the 3-digit ZIP origination point of the mailpiece, to the destination. The same destination could be zoned differently when mailed from different origination points. An example would be as shown below.

> A 5lb. package originating in Memphis, TN that is destined to Los Angeles, CA, using the ZIP pairing of 381 to 900, is Zone 7. However, the same 5lb. package originating in Las Vegas, NV to the same destination of Los Angeles, CA , using the ZIP pairing of 891 to 900 would be Zone 3.

The National Zone Charts Matrix contains information provided by U. S. geological survey files of established latitude and longitude coordinates of USPS® 3-digit ZIP services areas, known as the sectional center facilities, or SCFs. The matrix includes a list of these SCF coordinates. Distances are computed using the coordinates of the Sectional Center Facility (SCF) servicing the origination ZIP Code and the coordinates of the SCF servicing the destination ZIP Code.

The SCF serves as the processing and distribution center for post offices in a designated geographic area defined by the first three digits of the ZIP Codes of those offices. Distances are computed using the coordinates of the Sectional Center Facility (SCF) servicing the origination ZIP Code and the coordinates of the SCF servicing the destination ZIP Code. Labeling List L005 contained in the on-line *DMM*®, located at http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/labeling_lists.htm, provides a listing of 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes sorted at the SCF level. An annual subscription to the Labeling Lists data files is available for purchase through the National Customer Support Center, NCSC. An order can be found at http://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=labelinglists.

Actual Zone Charts can be found on-line free of charge at http://postcalc.usps.gov/Zonecharts/.

DEFINING A ZONE

Local Zone

The local zone applies to mail deposited at any post office for delivery to any address within the delivery area of that post office. Check with your local post office for specific details regarding the ZIP Codes that qualify for local zone in your area. The National Zone Charts Matrix does **not** contain local zone information since local zones are at the 5-digit ZIP Code level.

Non-Local Zone

Non-local zones are defined numerically as follows.

Zone	Distance
1	Non-local zones within a 50 mile radius of the point of origination
2	50 to 150 mile radius
3	150 to 300 mile radius
4	300 to 600 mile radius
5	600 to 1000 mile radius
6	1000 to 1400 mile radius
7	1400 to 1800 mile radius
8	1800 miles and over

MAIL CLASSES REQUIRING ZONE CHARTS

Shown below is a list of mail classes that require a current zone chart and the associated mail class rate chart to determine accurate postage for the mailpiece.

- Priority Mail®
- Package Services
  - Parcel Post – Parcel Select®
- Bound Printed Matter
  - Destination Bulk Mail Center (DBMC)
  - Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF)
  - Destination Delivery Unit (DDU)
- Periodicals Mail

MATRIX GENERAL FILE INFORMATION

The matrix file contains only active 3-digit ZIP Codes.

File Name = Format2.txt

File Format = ASCII text file

Approximate File Size = 2MB

Record Length = 2003

First Record Of File = Publish Date

MATRIX FILE STRUCTURE

Description	Start Position	End Position	Field Length
Originating ZIP Code	1	3	3
Zone to Destination: ZIP 001	4	4	1
DBMC Entry Discount Indicator†: ZIP 001	5	5	1
Zone to Destination: ZIP 002	6	6	1
DBMC Entry Discount Indicator: ZIP 002	7	7	1
Zone to Destination: ZIP 003	8	8	1
DBMC Entry Discount Indicator: ZIP 003	9	9	1

This format continues for each 3-digit ZIP to the end of the matrix file.

Zone to Destination: ZIP 998	1998	1998	1
DBMC Entry Discount Indicator: ZIP 998	1999	1999	1
Zone to Destination: ZIP 999	2000	2000	1
DBMC Entry Discount Indicator: ZIP 999	2001	2001	1
Carriage Return Line Feed	2002	2003	2

† Indicates ZIP Codes within the same BMC as the origin ZIP Code.

MATRIX ZONE DETERMINATION

See the matrix file example in the following section for reference of this determination.

Origin ZIP Code	Destination ZIP Code	Zone	DBMC Entry Discount Indicator
005	001	0	
005	005	1	*
005	006	7	
006	003	0	
006	005	7	
006	006	1	*
010	005	2	
010	006	7	
010	010	1	*

MATRIX FILE EXAMPLE

```
0         10        20        30        40        50        60        70        80        90        100
07082009
0050 0 0 0 1*7 7 7 7 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 2 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 4 4 3 4 3 3
0060 0 0 0 7 1*1*1*1*7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 8 7 8 7 7
0070 0 0 0 7 1*1*1*1*7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 8 7 8 7 7
0080 0 0 0 7 1*1*1*1*7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 8 7 8 7 7
0090 0 0 0 7 1*1*1*1*7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 8 7 8 8 7 8 7 7
0100 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0110 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0120 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0130 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0140 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0150 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0160 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0170 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0180 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0190 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0200 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0210 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0220 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0230 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0240 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0250 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0260 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0270 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0280 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0290 0 0 0 2 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0300 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0310 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0320 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0330 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0340 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*2*2*
0350 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*1*1*
0360 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*1*1*
0370 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*2*2*2*2*2*3*2*3*3*2*3*1*1*
0380 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*1*2*2*1*2*2*2*
0390 0 0 0 3 7 7 7 7 2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*2*2*2*1*1*1*1*1*1*2*1*2*2*1*2*2*2*
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ORDER FORM INFORMATION

The *National Zone Charts Matrix & Labeling Lists Product Order Form* [PS Form 8184] can be found on the RIBBS™ web site located at http://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=zonecharts. Or, call 800-238-3150 to request a copy via fax or email.

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