

Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act

On December 8, 2006, the House of Representatives passed the “Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act”. This bill was signed into law on December 20, 2006 and affects the way the USPS sets rates by making it a quicker/simpler ratesetting process. It also gives the USPS flexibility to stay competitive within the marketplace. Outlined below are a few points about the upcoming USPS rate change that we feel you should know:

IMPORTANT KEY POINTS

- New rates should be announced in January or February with implementation as early as May, 2008.
- The USPS has indicated that they will provide at least a 90 day notice to customers for market dominant services (now known as “mailing services”) which include First-Class Mail, Standard Class Mail, Periodicals and Packing Services, including single-piece Parcel Post.
- Future price changes for “mailing services” will increase no more than the rate of inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for each class of mail. *Refer to the Postal Regulatory Commission’s website (www.prc.gov) for the current CPI postal price cap.*
- USPS competitive products (now know as “shipping services”), which include Bulk Parcels and Expedited Products are not subject to a price cap.
- All price changes will occur annually on a predictable schedule.

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Have something you want in the next newsletter?

Send your thoughts or suggestions to
jeff.oleson@sigler.com

The DMPCC is planning both a Mailpiece Quality Control (MQC) and Executive Mail Center Manager (EMCM) course this year. We need 20 individuals for each class, so the first twenty companies who respond by March 30, 2008 will have first opportunities to send their employees.

Name of Contact _____

Company Name _____

Address _____

Number of attendees _____

Phone Number _____

Class sizes will be limited

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

February 2008

12th - 1:00 PM- Board Meeting
19th - Noon- Chapter Meeting

March 2008

11th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting

April 2008

8th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting
15th - Noon - Chapter Meeting

May 2008

13th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting
18th-21st - National Postal Forum
[National Postal Forum Registration Form npf.org](http://NationalPostalForum.RegistrationForm.npf.org)

June 2008

10th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting
17th - Noon - Chapter Meeting

July 2008

8th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting
15th - Golf Outing

August 2008

12th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting

September 2008

9th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting
17th - National PCC Day

October 2008

14th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting

November 2008

11th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting

December 2008

9th - 1:00 PM - Board Meeting



Industry Co-Chair Thoughts

The DMPCC Board has an exciting year planned with several educational opportunities.

Our Chapter meetings will be lunch and learn sessions to help you gain the knowledge you need to advance your careers.

Our Golf outing this summer will take on a different form of excitement and some opportunities for larger prizes.

This is also the year of our symposium. So if you know of speakers within your organization who would be willing to share their knowledge by teaching a class, please notify anyone on the board.

Just like any new year, 2008 has many changes and challenges ahead for us. As we all know, knowledge and understanding will help us in so many ways. Many of us no longer run mail, but do control a good portion of the financial budgets within our companies. By staying active in the DMPCC you will be aware of USPS changes and discounts available to make the right decisions for your mailroom.

In 2007 the DMPCC was recognized nationally with a Bronze award, this year we are looking to achieve a Silver level award by bringing you even more benefits as a member. Also if you would like to help us plan the DMPCC's future, our new and diverse board is still looking for a few more volunteers.

Good luck in your positions this year and make it a great 2008.

Burdette Elsbury

Intelligent Mail® Barcode

The USPS has released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which states that mailers will be required to use the Intelligent Mail® barcode to access automation prices for letters and flats as of January 2009. This notice was published in the Federal Register dated January 7, 2008, and the USPS will receive comments to this advance notice through February 21, 2008.

BACKGROUND ON INTELLIGENT MAIL®

Sometimes referred to as OneCode, IMB or the 4-State Barcode, the Intelligent Mail® barcode first became available in 2006 and today over two hundred mailer are taking advantage of this new-found intelligence. This new barcode offers more accurate and detailed information about mailings, plus participation in USPS special services that allow you to track individual mail pieces, correct addresses more easily, and more.

THE UPCOMING MANDATE

Based on the current proposal, in January 2009 automation discounts will no longer be available for mailers who use the POSTNET™ barcode. To qualify for the lowest postal rates, mailers must implement the new Intelligent Mail® barcode – a height-modulated barcode that encodes up to 31-digits of mailpiece data into 65 vertical bars. Unlike the POSTNET™ barcode, which only contains the routing code, the Intelligent Mail® barcode contains additional fields that encode mail class and special services, plus identify the mailer and the mailpiece.

Two options are proposed. For the “Full Service” option, which provides access to the full range of Intelligent Mail® benefits and services, special barcodes will also be required on letter trays, sacks and other containers, such as pallets. The mail piece identifier must remain unique for each 45-day period. Plus, mailers will be required to submit their postage statements and mailing documentation electronically. For the “Basic” option, mailers must use the new barcode and 31-digit data payload, but the added requirements for trays, sacks, pallets, reporting, etc., would not apply.

THE USPS PERSPECTIVE:

Intelligent Mail promises to raise the level of service that the USPS provides to its customers while helping to control costs in the face of new rate increase limits, higher fuel costs and changing workforce skills. Key elements of this initiative include new value added services, improved deliverability, more efficient operations and greater accountability.

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE:

How you implement the near-term mandate could have long term implications for your business. Choosing Full Service Intelligent Mail, for example, will make it easier to access and leverage insights and benefits, which today include the lowest postal rates, track-and-trace capabilities, address change services, cleaner-looking mailpieces, improved scanning, and the ability to participate in the new USPS Seamless Acceptance program.

THE OPERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE:

As the first mandated barcode change since the Postal Service invented POSTNET® back in 1980, some companies may find themselves in uncharted territory. In addition to new data and processing requirements, the graphics, fonts, coding and print specifications for the Intelligent Mail® barcode are different from any existing barcode used today. Companies must create the new barcode, plus eliminate any current barcodes such as POSTNET® or PLANET Code®.



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