

PostCom News Archives September 2017

National News

September 30

DCVelocity: The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is testing a product where it picks up e-commerce orders held at retail stores on Saturdays for deliveries to residential addresses on Sundays. The product, which is being piloted in 20 U.S. markets, is designed to support ship-from-store programs being implemented by retailers as they build and refine their strategies for omnichannel fulfillment, where product can be pulled and delivered from any location that is in close proximity to the end customer. USPS currently serves 21,000 U.S. retail stores. However, many stores are in markets not served by the pilot, said Dennis R. Nicoski, USPS' manager, field sales strategy and contracts. The pilot effort is designed to leverage USPS' ubiquitous delivery network for the potential benefit of other retailers. By law, USPS is required to pick up and deliver to every U.S. address; it currently serves 156 million addresses.

September 29

Lexology: The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit found that federal government agencies have standing to challenge a patent in covered business method (CBM) review under the America Invents Act (AIA). *Return Mail, Inc. v. United States Postal Service*, Case No. 16-1502 (Fed. Cir., Aug. 28, 2017) (Prost, CJ) (Newman, J, dissenting). Return Mail owns a patent directed to allowing returned mail to be processed automatically through the exchange of data files between computers. After being sued for infringement of Return Mail's patent, the US Postal Service (USPS) filed a petition for CBM review, arguing that the claims were directed to ineligible subject matter under § 101. In response, Return Mail argued that USPS did not have standing under the AIA to petition for CBM review, and also argued that the claims were patentable. The Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) disagreed, finding that USPS had standing, and instituted CBM review. The PTAB ultimately held that the challenged claims were directed to ineligible subject matter. Return Mail appealed.

September 28

FedScoop: A new report from the U.S. Postal Service's inspector general has found that the agency's software license management program is noncompliant with both its policies and industry best practices. [The report](#) looks at USPS efforts to manage its software license management environment—on which the agency spent \$174 million in fiscal 2016 alone—finding delays in efforts to deliver an updated system and contract management flaws. One such instance of noncompliance penalties occurred in fiscal 2015, when the USPS racked up \$26.8 million in penalties it paid to a supplier for “inappropriate software license usage for two applications.” The report found that the USPS's IT Acquisition Support group, which manages the agency's software license inventory, does operate a database of license information that it monitors annually for contract compliance, but it is done manually. Officials told the OIG it could take them three weeks or more to determine the contract compliance of larger software contracts.

September 27

Post&Parcel: UPS has announced that it expects to hire around 95,000 seasonal employees to support the increase in package volume that will begin in November and continue through to January 2018. The full- and part-time seasonal positions, which will be primarily package handlers drivers and driver-helpers, have long been an entry point for permanent employment at UPS.

Caribbeanbusiness: Given the magnitude of the devastation caused by Hurricane María in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Postal Service said Tuesday it will begin some limited service Wednesday. “We are looking for more of our employees still but those we reach are being provided with supplies and with the opportunities, in most cases, to return to work in some form,” USPS spokeswoman Maureen P. Marion told Caribbean Business. She said the San Juan, Bayamón, Carolina and Mayagüez main branches, as well as the Marina and Carolina's Pueblo stations, and the Santurce and Cayey post offices will be opening for package and post office box pickup from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Customers should present identification. Postal employees will hand out mail for customers who receive street delivery, she said.

WashingtonPost: Mail carriers do their best in all kinds of weather, no question. But the unofficial Postal Service motto promise of “swift completion” can be derailed by in-house human factors. And in some cases, those delays have been covered up, an investigation found, by intentional employee manipulation. The number of late deliveries is staggering. In a [letter last week to Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan](#), Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) expressed his “great concern about the U.S. Postal Service Inspector General (OIG) [audit report](#) finding that the US Postal Service has been inaccurately reporting delayed mail across a number of facilities, directly impacting mail service for millions of customers.” The OIG estimated that during the year ended Feb. 28, “mail processing facilities underreported late arriving mail by about 2 billion mailpieces” — that's billion with a “b.” Furthermore, another OIG investigation substantiated allegations of “time manipulation and inaccurate reporting of delayed mail.”

September 26

USPSBlog: **Postal Service's Green Initiatives Pay Off in Latest USPS Sustainability Report** The Postal Service™ is known for its iconic delivery vehicles and blue collection boxes, but did you know we are also making efforts to be greener? We work hard every day across the United States and US Territories to reduce our impact to the Earth while delivering mail to our nation's homes and

businesses. Simple steps such as taking the most efficient route when driving helps us to reduce our delivery vehicle fuel usage. In addition, we work on large impact projects such as installing a state-of-the-art solar power generation system in California. Each year we measure our progress toward our sustainability goals and share our performance with our customers. The [Annual Sustainability Report](#) communicates information on the past year's achievements and gives a sneak peek into our plans for the coming year.

GovExec: The three largest unions have reported a surge in the number of dues-paying members since Trump's election. Unions also have claimed a number of early victories in preserving resources and benefits for their members during the new administration. They have worked behind the scenes to scale back the steep cuts to the federal workforce and to federal employee retirement programs Trump proposed in his fiscal 2018 budget, and they have enjoyed some early signs of success on Capitol Hill.

Post&Parcel: Secured Mail, part of The Delivery Group, has won the Technology Innovation Award at the Logistics Awards 2017. The Awards recognise operational excellence and celebrate the very best companies within the logistics and supply chain sector.

September 25

BizJournals: In today's tightly connected supply chain, a localized disaster — regardless of where it takes place — can have global implications. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma provide another stunning reminder of how far such disasters can reach. It is no exaggeration to say that, in the weeks and months to come, the whole world will feel their after-effects. For supply chain managers confronting a disruption, the first-level reaction is to consider which customers, products, facilities, employees and suppliers are at the greatest risk. What is the overall revenue exposure, and how long it will take to recover? Infrastructure damage to ports, airports and roads can also have immediate supply chain effects. And when supply chains are tight, any hiccup can drive supply-demand imbalances. Supply chain managers possess two main tools for mitigating such effects: redundancy and operational flexibility.

September 24

localnews8: The calendar may say September, but the United States Postal Service is busily preparing for what is anticipated to be a record holiday season. Last season, USPS carriers delivered a record 808 million packages which is a 15 percent increase from the previous year. Postal officials forecast another double-digit increase in packages again this year, and so USPS is hiring more than 100 employees to work at processing facilities and Post Offices in southern Idaho with most of the positions located near the Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Twin Falls and Boise areas.

September 23

Post&Parcel: Target is expanding the coverage for its Restock next-day essentials delivery service to eight new US markets. The retailer has been testing the service over the summer in Dallas, Denver and Minneapolis. In a [statement](#) issued yesterday (21 September), Target said it is now expanding the Restock coverage to include Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C./Baltimore areas. Customers can choose from a range of 15,000 "essential" items and orders placed online by 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday will be delivered next day for \$4.99.

Post&Parcel: US retailer Walmart has announced that it is teaming up with August Home and Deliv to test new delivery concepts, which including putting groceries in customers' refrigerators. August Home is a developer of smart locks and smart home accessories; and Deliv is a crowd-sourced on-demand delivery company. Sloan Eddleston, VP, Walmart eCommerce Strategy & Business Operations, explained that the test will involve Deliv drivers accessing the customers' homes using a one-time passcode for their August Home smart locks. "As the homeowner," explained Eddleston, "I'm in control of the experience the entire time — the moment the Deliv driver rings my doorbell, I receive a smartphone notification that the delivery is occurring and, if I choose, I can watch the delivery take place in real-time."

USPSNewsLink: Hurricane Irma has proven no match for the Postal Service employees who are leading [recovery efforts](#) in the Caribbean and the southeastern coastal areas. Like employees in all the affected communities, USPS workers in the Florida Keys, one of the hardest-hit regions, are relying on grit, dedication and postal pride to restore normalcy. The Postal Service employees' efforts in the Florida Keys and other affected areas have impressed colleagues across the nation — including Southern Area VP Shaun E. Mossman. "Postal employees are committed to service, including during times of crisis," he said. "Even in the face of personal loss, employees throughout areas impacted by Irma showed up to work, ready to deliver for our customers." Mossman said he appreciates the leadership of the district managers, their teams and the special recovery team working on site in South Florida to restore full mail service to residents. "I am extremely proud of the entire Southern Area team and the dedication, strength and commitment they've shown."

September 21

PIWorld: Beginning January 1, 2018, Quad/Graphics will supply paper purchasing, printing and mail/distribution services for all 13 of Bluestem Brands online retail brands. Currently, Quad/Graphics prints catalogs and provides premedia services, including prepress, digital photography and video production, for the online retailer's Fingerhut and Gettington brands. Soon, Quad/Graphics will begin printing catalogs for 11 additional brands, all of which are under Bluestem's Orchard portfolio. The newly signed multi-year contract valued at more than \$450 million over the term.

DCVelocity: FedEx Corp. said that, effective late January, it will apply so-called dimensional pricing—rates based on a package's dimensions instead of its weight—to its "SmartPost" service, in which FedEx parcels are inducted deep into the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS's) vast infrastructure for last-mile deliveries. Separately, Memphis-based FedEx said it will apply a 2.5-percent surcharge on all shipments that are billed to a third party that is neither the shipper nor the consignee. The action would mostly hit large e-tailers with steep shipping discounts that instruct third parties like fulfillment houses and so-called drop-ship vendors to use the e-tailers' account numbers when the e-tailer discounts are greater than the third party's price breaks.

September 20

DenverPost: The United States Postal Service is gearing up for the busy holiday shipping season by hiring scores of people in Colorado, [Denver 7 reports](#). Officials said USPS will hire more than 1,000 workers at post offices and mail processing facilities up and down the Front Range corridor. Open positions include mail carriers, assistant and associate carriers and postal support workers. The postal service is looking to fill a variety of different shifts, with wages ranging from \$12.00 to \$17.40 per hour.

KTVH: A new government report shows 2 billion pieces of mail were delayed in delivery over the course of one year. Montana's U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, who sits on the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, which oversees the Postal Service, has demanded accountability for the reported intentional delays. Tester's press release stated that postal employees have reported that supervisors have been intentionally delaying mail in order to meet arbitrary quotas and goals. However the report did not outline or identify deliberate delays. In the release, Tester also called it unacceptable and demanded the Postal Service immediately fix the problem to ensure that families and small businesses receive timely mail service.

PubExec: Declining demand is supposed to cause lower prices, but the magazine industry's key suppliers are likely to defy the law of supply of demand in 2018, with both paper companies and the U.S. Postal Service raising prices by a little – and perhaps by a lot. In our [print forecast for 2017](#), we warned that “significant moves in the currency markets . . . could be especially disruptive for U.S. buyers of magazine-quality paper.” What we know for sure is that postal officials are planning to increase Periodical rates an average of about 2% in January. Co-mailed and large-circulation titles will pay less than the average, while smaller titles that don't co-mail will pay more. But the big worry is the unknown – what will come out of the Postal Regulatory Commission's 10th anniversary review of the law that established the inflation-based cap on rate increases.

FedSmith: Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) recently sent a letter to Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan expressing concerns about reports of mail being inaccurately reported, and in some cases, intentionally misreported. One of the reports in question was issued by the [Postal Service Office of Inspector General in August](#). It found that from March 1, 2016, through February 28, 2017, mail processing facilities underreported late arriving mail by about 2 billion mailpieces. The report said that the problems generally stemmed from a lack of training for the employees. Consequently, the IG recommended that management require formal training for all personnel involved in supervising, conducting, and reporting daily mail counts. The IG report did not, however, make reference to mail that was deliberately delayed or misreported. In his letter, Tester also referenced a separate investigation in which he said “Postal Service supervisors manipulated mail delivery records and inaccurately reported delayed mail” and that “employees have reported mail being intentionally delayed in order to meet local goals of having workers in their offices at arbitrary times.”

Senate.gov: U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota are calling for the United States Postal Service (USPS) to take immediate action after the USPS Inspector General found that serious management problems potentially contributed to an estimated 2 billion pieces of delayed mail being inaccurately reported as delivered on time. “For too many Missourians, delayed mail could mean missing a dose of a medication or losing out on a contract because a small business couldn't get shipments on time,” said McCaskill, the top-ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. “Falsely marking mail as delivered when it hasn't been is unacceptable, and USPS needs to take action now to improve their customer service in Missouri and across the country.” The USPS Office of the Inspector General found last month that pieces of mail were processed after the established cut-off time and inappropriately marked as delivered due to a lack of management training and oversight.

Post&Parcel: Responding to the growing demand for electric vehicles, Kuehne + Nagel has launched “KN BatteryChain”, which it claims is the first integrated supply chain solution for lithium batteries. KN BatteryChain complies with international dangerous goods regulations and is certified against ISO9001 and the automotive standard ISO16949. The solution spans from transportation by sea, air, rail and road from the manufacturer to the assembly line to warehousing for production logistics and aftermarkets as well as returns of used and faulty batteries from dealers.

GrubNews: Amazon's tentacles are extending even further into booze delivery, a realm known for giving almost every would-be “disrupter” a headache, thanks to all the legal and logistical problems associated with shipping alcohol. Just to scratch the surface: USPS won't deliver at all, and UPS and FedEx will, but only if specific requirements are met. Back in August, the company very quietly added a handful more cities where Prime members can pay \$8 for one-hour beer, wine, and spirits delivery (or get it for free, if they'll wait two hours). This service is now available in a total of 12 cities: Cincinnati, Chicago, Columbus, L.A., Minneapolis, New York, Phoenix, Portland, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. Another 20 are supposed to be added soon.

PostalNews: FedEx Express, FedEx Ground and FedEx Freight, subsidiaries of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX), will increase shipping rates effective January 1, 2018. FedEx Express will increase shipping rates by an average of 4.9% for U.S. domestic, U.S. export and U.S. import services. FedEx One Rate pricing will increase by an average of 3.5%. FedEx Ground and FedEx Home Delivery shipping rates will increase by an average of 4.9%. FedEx SmartPost rates will also change. FedEx Freight shipping rates will increase by an average of 4.9%. This rate change applies to eligible FedEx Freight shipments within the U.S. (including Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands), between the contiguous U.S. and Canada, within Canada and between the contiguous U.S. and Mexico. FedEx Freight rates within Mexico will also change. Effective January 22, 2018, a Third Party Billing Surcharge will apply to FedEx Express and FedEx Ground shipments that are billed to a third party.

NewsTribune: U.S. Sens. Claire McCaskill and Heidi Heitkamp want Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan to take immediate action to improve U.S. Postal Service operations. In a two-page letter sent to Brennan Monday, they cited an Aug. 10 Postal Service Inspector General's audit report finding that, “when extrapolated nationwide the number of delayed mail pieces was staggering — approximately 2 billion pieces over a one-year span.” Both senators are Democrats — McCaskill from Missouri and Heitkamp from North Dakota — and both are members of the Senate's Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In a news release

announcing the letter, McCaskill said: "For too many Missourians, delayed mail could mean missing a dose of a medication or losing out on a contract because a small business couldn't get shipments on time. "Falsely marking mail as delivered when it hasn't been is unacceptable, and USPS needs to take action now to improve their customer service in Missouri and across the country."

WRDP: Louisville's letter carriers are delivering the mail on high alert while facing the growing threat of dog attacks. The United States Postal service is launching a new campaign in high-bite areas across the city. The United States Postal Service is sending postcards with safety tips to areas served by the downtown, Iroquois and Annshire postal stations. These are the service areas with the highest dog bite rates in all of Louisville. The cards advise homeowners to place pets in a separate room and close the door before opening the front door to receive mail. USPS also suggests to keep pets leashed when they're roaming in your yard, even if it's fenced in. Finally, avoid allowing your kids to be handed mail in your pet's presence, because this can be seen as a threat.

September 19

PostalNews: UPS today announced it will place in service three medium-duty electric trucks from Daimler Trucks Fuso brand, called the eCanter. The company will be the first commercial customer in the U.S. to use this series-produced vehicle. UPS will deploy the trucks in the U.S. at locations to be determined. The new EV trucks build on UPS's Rolling Laboratory fleet of more than 8,500 alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles. The all-electric medium-duty truck is Daimler Trucks answer to the public's need for a zero-emission, zero-noise truck for inner-city distribution. The FUSO eCanter has a range of approximately 62 miles and a load capacity of two to three tons – depending on body and usage. The vehicle's electric powertrain contains six high voltage lithium ion battery packs with 420 V and 13.8 kWh each. In comparison with a conventional diesel truck, Daimler says it offers savings of more than \$1,000 in operating costs for approximately every 6,200 miles.

USAToday: The central battleground in America's war on super-potent synthetic opioids is a concrete and corrugated steel mail facility at one of the country's busiest airports. In fiscal year 2016, officers seized seven fentanyl packages; this year, they've seized 64 so far, with another half-dozen suspected fentanyl packages in the pipeline for testing. Sixty percent of U.S.-bound international mail comes through the JFK facility. Customs officers cannot examine every one of the 1 million packages that pass through the JFK facility every day. So they use information from law enforcement and other sources to help them narrow their search. Country of origin is a key factor. Most of the fentanyl coming into the U.S. is from China, which has a robust pharmaceutical industry and thousands of underground labs manufacturing counterfeit and illicit drugs.

September 18

Post&Parcel: The auto makers Renault, Nissan and Mitsubishi have announced a new six-year plan – called Alliance 2022 – for developing common platforms for electric and autonomous vehicles. In a [statement](#) issued, the companies said that main objectives of the plan are: More than 9 million vehicles to share four common platforms, Proportion of common powertrains to rise from a third to three-quarters of total volumes, Additional synergies expected from electrification, connectivity and autonomous technologies, 12 pure electric models to be launched, utilizing common EV platforms and components, 40 vehicles to be launched with autonomous drive (AD) technology, To become an operator of robo-vehicle ride-hailing services.

Post&Parcel: Fluence Automation, the new company which was formed following a spin-off from Bell and Howell in August, has announced it is "set to deliver fresh innovation in the sorting and labeling equipment and software industry for companies worldwide that handle large volumes of mail and parcels". The new company provides customers with an integrated suite of solutions – sorting, high-speed encoding and labeling equipment – backed by an array of software offerings and customer support.

MiamiHerald: Check your mailbox. It should be starting to fill up again — unless you're in parts of Northwest Miami-Dade, north Broward and the Lower Keys. "Most of our Post Offices are open for business and we are delivering to homes and businesses, wherever it is safe and accessible to do so," according to Friday night's statement from the U.S. Postal Service.

September 15

FedNews: The Postal Service's traditional method of measuring its interactions with the public, a count of transactions, far understates the number of visits to postal facilities, an IG report has said. The 877 million transactions in fiscal 2016 is only about a third of the number of individual "foot traffic" visits, a report said, based on surveys, sampling at more than 30 sites and modeling techniques. "In reality, most visits do not include a transaction. Instead, customers may check a PO Box, pick up shipping materials, or deposit a letter in the slot. These actions are key elements of the Postal Service's value chain, and omitting them dramatically underestimates customers' use of post offices," it said. Better tracking of foot traffic could help USPS decide on need for physical space at its facilities as well as "to make more informed decisions about its retail network, improve sales and customer service, and better assess potential opportunities for retail partnerships."

DMA: A proposed change in postal rates targeted at the nonprofit sector has leaders at the [Data & Marketing Association](#) (DMA) – formerly the Direct Marketing Association – seeking public comments in opposition by Monday, Sept. 18. Mail, as many know, comes in variety of classes from first class and on down, said Xenia Boone, general counsel for the DMA and executive director of the DMA Nonprofit Federation & Email Experience Council. The average increase is expected to be around the consumer price index (CPI) of 2 percent, but nonprofits would pay close to a 4 percent increase on top of the CPI, per the United States Postal Service's (USPS) vice president of pricing and costing. Leadership at the DMA are concerned about the subclass-focused price increase on a precedential level as it takes mailers to a time of greater pricing uncertainty as was the case prior to CPI. Boone said that the actual cost will vary from organization to organization, some attributing mailing costs as the highest organizational cost after staffing. Potential future pricing volatility for such a prominent expense has the potential to create challenges in budgeting, she added.

ACMA: If you have yet to come across [this article](#), which appeared on September 6th in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *NY Daily News*, and other major news outlets, it's worth a read, *but* with a grain of salt. Before you click on it, in a nutshell the article

says the “Postal Service is currently petitioning the agency that oversees it, the Postal Regulatory Commission, to grant the biggest change to its pricing system in a half century: the authority to lift a cap on postal rates. The commission’s decision is expected within weeks.” Rest assured, the USPS has *not* filed for such an increase. The headline of the story, “Analysis: Postal woes demand jump in stamp price to 60 cents,” relates to the price increase needed to close the gap in postal finances in once fell swoop.” (You also can [click here](#) to read a clarifying statement the USPS just released this afternoon.) What we do know right now is the Postal Service will have the authority to file for a CPI-capped rate increase within the next month or so, and that amount will fall much more closely in line with the relatively small increases in recent years.

September 14

BLS: The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.4 percent in August on a seasonally adjusted basis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Over the last 12 months, the all items index rose 1.9 percent. Hurricane Harvey had a very small effect on survey response rates in August. Price collection late in the month was disrupted in 2 of the 87 collection areas.

September 13

Linns: At a time when mail volume continues to drop precariously and stamp sales are slumping, the United States Postal Service’s Office of Inspector General has produced a report with a surprising number. The new report says there are far more people visiting the nation’s 30,000 post offices than the Postal Service’s official estimates indicate. In a white paper published Sept. 11, the inspector general says it believes 2.7 billion people visited the Postal Service’s retail outlets in fiscal 2016, a number more than triple the USPS official estimate of 877 million. That’s the conclusion of “[Billions Served: Foot Traffic at the Post Office](#),” the new paper pointing out that much of the traffic actually is at what the inspector general describes as the Postal Service’s “mega” locations, about 450 large post offices that have “as much foot traffic as Best Buy stores.”

September 12

AAF.org: The United States Congress and the White House are expected to release a federal tax reform proposal in the next few weeks. Members of the House and Senate tax-writing committees are currently working to determine how to pay for the bill. Advertising is at great risk. In a meeting this week with representatives of the ad industry a senior tax advisor to a member of the Senate leadership told us that advertising “is on the chopping block for sure” and may be close to a “done deal.” The House version of the last comprehensive tax reform proposal in 2014 would have created a \$169 billion tax on advertising over 10 years. It looks as if Congress and the Trump Administration may be going down that road again. It is vital that you and other members of your company or ad club contact your Senators and Representative and urge them to oppose any effort to place a tax on advertising by reducing the amount of advertising a business may claim as a normal and necessary business expense. You can find contact information for your Senators [here](#) and Representatives [here](#).

HomelandPrepNews: Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the United States Postal Service (USPS) should assess whether the costs of the new Electronic Advance Data (EAD) program outweigh the benefits. In 2014 and 2015, USPS and CPB launched two pilot programs at the New York International Service Center (ISC) to target some pieces of mail for inspection using some of the EAD received through data-sharing agreements with foreign postal operators. Under these programs, CBP tagged certain mail for inspection. When USPS employees scan a tagged item, they receive an alert and set the item aside. Locating targeted mail once it arrives at an ISC, however, has presented challenges. USPS was only able to provide 82 and 58 percent of the tagged mail for the two pilot programs. In its report, GAO recommended that USPS and CBP set measurable performance goals for pilot programs and evaluate the costs and benefits of EAD targeting programs as compared to other targeting tactics. CBP and USPS agreed with the recommendations. CBP plans to implement them by Feb. 28, 2018.

September 11

FedScoop: A new report from the U.S. Postal Service’s inspector general has found that while the agency offers a number of Application Programming Interfaces, or APIs, for its customer base, it is not utilizing the user data from them as a predictor of future needs. [The report, which examined USPS’s Web Tools API strategy](#), found that the agency’s 34 APIs—which included digital services like package tracking, price calculation and shipping labels that could be used by both customers or be incorporated into e-commerce websites—were configured and managed with industry best practices. USPS also offers more external solutions than competitors like DHL, UPS and FedEx, the report said. But while it collects user data from its APIs and distributes it to stakeholders, USPS does not analyze the data to develop strategies for future API needs. The report said that agency management had yet to determine a group within the organization that was responsible analyzing and making strategy determinations from the user data.

September 10

TimesTribune: Given Congress’ politically paralyzed lack of performance over the last decade, many members might view a 22 percent postage rate increase as a means to hold down the flow of angry letters. They should, however, recognize that boosting the cost of a stamp from 49 cents to 60 cents negatively would affect the economy and the government itself in many ways. Despite decreased mail volume, many Americans still heavily use conventional mail. And governments still use it as the primary means of official correspondence. Three states use it exclusively to conduct elections. All of that should prompt legislators to attack the U.S. Postal Service’s deep financial problems from the other side of the ledger.

September 9

WSVN: United Postal Service representative tells 7News that the company secured their facility and suspended service in order to allow employees to seek shelter prior to Irma's arrival in South Florida. UPS says they will make "every effort to provide service and commitment" to their customers once it is safe to do so. Federal Express [released a list of affected cities](#) in the southeast that have had their service suspended, showing most of Florida will be unable to receive deliveries until after the storm passes. According to a USPS news release, delivery and retail operations, as well as drop shipment acceptance, has been suspended until further notice. Residents served by the following post office zip codes will experience adjusted USPS operations:

CyclingNews: The whistleblower lawsuit against Lance Armstrong will not go to court this fall. USA Today reported that the case has been postponed until May 2018 because of a scheduling conflict involving one of his attorneys, John Keker, who together with Elliot Peters has represented Armstrong in the case since it was filed by Floyd Landis and his attorney, and later taken on by the US Government. District Judge Christopher Cooper accepted the request and moved the trial's start date from November 6, 2017 to May 7, 2018.

September 8

MiamiHerald: The United States Postal Service has suspended mail delivery to the Florida Keys amid a mandatory evacuation order for the islands and Hurricane Irma approaching likely landfall in South Florida this weekend. The agency said all 11 of its post offices would stop delivering mail and shipments through Monday, Sept. 11 and provide more information on when service will be restored when conditions improve. The Keys issued a mandatory evacuation order this week telling visitors to leave the islands Wednesday and residents to get out Thursday.

FoxOrlando: The U.S. Postal Service Suncoast District is preparing for the arrival of Hurricane Irma by advising customers that normal service operations in the path of the storm may be affected in the event of unsafe conditions such as high winds, flooding, or impassable roads. In an abundance of caution, and to ensure the safety of both postal customers and employees, the Postal Service is temporarily adjusting operations at some Post Offices. Customers may call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-274-8777) for updated information and visit the USPS Service Alerts website at <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome/htm> and the PostalPro website at <http://postalpro.usps.com/>.

September 7

Post&Parcel: The US House has passed a bill which will pave the way for more widespread test of autonomous vehicles on US roads. The [bill](#) - entitled the "Safely Ensuring Lives Future Deployment and Research In Vehicle Evolution Act" [H.R. 3388] or "SELF DRIVE Act, for short - passed on a voice vote yesterday (6 September). Amongst other measures, the bill would enable the the federal government authority to exempt automakers from some safety standards that are not applicable to the technology, and also allow for far more self-driving cars to get on the roads. The bill would permit the deployment of up to 25,000 self-driving vehicles in its first year, rising to 100,000 vehicles annually in the third year. This would be a significant increase on the number of vehicles that have been tested on US roads so far (through agreements with various state-level bodies). The US Senate's Commerce committee are reportedly working on a Senate bill for autonomous vehicles.

September 6

ABC: The largest one-time price increase in the history of the U.S. Postal Service may happen soon. It is seeking to raise prices of mailing letters and packages by 20 percent to avoid bankruptcy and improve delivery services, [the Associated Press reports](#). The cost of a stamp would move from 49 cents to 60 cents. The USPS acknowledges a decline in mail has been part of decreased income, but also says Congress is partly to blame because of burdensome retiree health benefit costs. The USPS is petitioning the Postal Regulatory Commission to grant the change and give authority to lift a cap on postal rates. A decision is expected sometime this month, [the AP says](#). One concern with the increase in delivery pricing is with mailers such as magazines and greeting cards. Those industries fear a 20-percent price increase will be catastrophic for them.

September 2

Post&Parcel: Global technology provider Pitney Bowes has announced that its second annual Parcel Shipping Index has revealed a 48% increase in global parcel volume between 2014 and 2016. According to the report, parcel volume grew from 44 billion parcels in 2014 to 65 billion in 2016, and the increase in growth shows no sign of slowing down, with the Index estimating parcel growth will continue to rise at a rate of 17-28% each year between 2017 and 2021. The Index measures parcel volume and spend for business-to-business, business-to-consumer, consumer-to-business and consumer consigned shipments with weight up to 31.5kg (70 lb), across 13 major markets including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the UK and the USA. China, a new addition to this year's Index and by far the largest market examined, grew parcel volume by 52%. The USA (13 billion) and Japan (9 billion) were also among the largest markets by parcel volume. In terms of investment, the USA ranked highest, spending US\$96bn on parcel shipments, followed by China at US\$60bn and Japan at US\$22bn.

Ecommercebytes: Don't panic if you print your shipping labels online, but sellers who purchase postage for First Class Packages at the Post Office should be aware of a change in rates that goes into effect on Sunday. On August 9, 2017, the Postal Regulatory Commission ("PRC") approved the transfer of the First-Class Mail Parcels ("FCMP") product from the market-dominant product list to the competitive product list. The approved new rates (13 rate cells in total) can be viewed on the Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com and will go into effect on September 3, 2017. There is no change in the rates for online sellers printing postage online.

TRTWorld: Disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong sought Friday to delay until next year his long-awaited battle against a \$100 million lawsuit over whether he committed fraud by doping, currently set for trial in November. In an application to the federal court in Washington where the case will be heard, Armstrong, who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for using performance

enhancing drugs, said there was a scheduling conflict that would prevent one of his lawyers from appearing on November 7 when proceedings are due to get underway. The US Justice Department is seeking \$100 million in damages from Armstrong, claiming he defrauded the government when he cheated while riding for a team sponsored by the US Postal Service (USPS).

September 1

FedSmith: The Postal Service Office of Inspector General recently concluded that the Postal Service had violated the Hatch Act during the 2016 election by granting 2,776 days off of leave without pay to help the union in its campaigning efforts. Although the IG said the Postal Service violated the Hatch Act, it did not recommend any disciplinary action. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has now taken an interest in the matter and recently sent a letter to the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General asking to take a closer look at their findings and documents from the investigation. The letter does not state whether or not the House Committee plans to hold a hearing to look into the matter further. That presumably is something the Committee would decide after it reviews the requested information from the IG.

TheEagle: Some mail service resumed in ZIP codes that begin with 778 Thursday, but U.S. Rep. Bill Flores of Bryan says that the inconvenience to businesses and residents should have been rerouted in the first place. Aside from calls from constituents looking for ways to help the Harvey-ravaged coast, Flores said his office has received many calls from Brazos Valley residents upset that post offices closed. Flores says he doesn't blame these constituents. The postal service, he says, should have better prepared for Hurricane Harvey and kept its promise to use Bryan as a backup processing center when it moved the service to Houston a few years ago. USPS began sending all mail to a processing plant in north Houston in 2011 and shut down the Bryan processing center in 2012, citing potential savings of \$4 million each year by outsourcing processing.

WashingtonExaminer: The Postal Service has a legal monopoly to deliver first-class mail and non-urgent letters. It is the only entity that can put something into a mailbox or through a mail slot. It is legally obliged to provide the service at the same level and price nationwide. That means, even with mail volume down 40 percent since 2006, the Postal Service still must visit 155 million mailboxes every day. Since 2007, the Postal Service has been required to allocate 5.5 percent of its fixed costs to package delivery and to incorporate that into its pricing. That figure made sense then, but today, 25 percent of the Postal Service's business is package delivery. And thanks to features of the Amazon deal – such as Sunday delivery, grocery delivery, even delivery from fish markets to local restaurants – the expenses have climbed.

FederalNewsRadio: The U.S. Postal Service heard back from more than 1.7 million customers last year, but is that feedback — both positive and negative — giving the agency enough constructive criticism to improve its services? A new USPS Office of Inspector General report has recommended some tweaks to the way the agency solicits feedback from both the public and its private-sector business partners. Those evaluations, which USPS collects through four customer satisfaction surveys, gets added into the Postal Service's Customer Insights (CI) Index, a “multi-channel barometer of the customer's satisfaction with the agency,” and factors into the pay-for-performance bonuses for postal executives and administrative workers. According to the USPS OIG's review of the CI Index data, the Postal Service received its most negative feedback on the delivery of mail and packages to the public. USPS received its most positive customer service feedback from its private-sector business service network, which includes major retailers and mailing industry companies.

PostalNews: In an abundance of caution, and to ensure the safety of both our employees and customers, the Postal Service is making temporary adjustments to its operations at all Post Offices/Stations/Branches and Finance Units within the 3-Digit ZIP Codes of 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778. This includes retail operations, mail delivery service, and mail collection. Business customers are advised that Business Mail Entry Units (BMEU) are included, as well as acceptance of drop shipments within these specified 3-Digit ZIP Codes. The Postal Service will not provide shipment of live animals destined for the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes until further notice: 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778. All **Priority Mail Express** service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes: 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778 is on hold until Friday, September 1, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

PostalNews: Today the U.S. Postal Service Rio Grande District will resume providing postal services on a limited basis, including some mail delivery and collections, and retail services at Post Offices recently affected by Hurricane Harvey where possible in Texas ZIP code areas beginning with 779, 782, 783, 784, 785 and 789, which includes the Rio Grande District's Gulf Coast, Central and South Texas areas affected by the storm.

International News

September 29

DENMARK: *Post&Parcel*: Danish postal solutions provider Lyngsoe Systems and what3words have developed a new solution that can scan 3 word addresses. In a [statement](#), what3words said the solution has been integrated into Lyngsoe Systems' Manual Image Capturing Stations (MICS).

NEW ZEALAND: *Post&Parcel*: New Zealand Post is committing to purchase goods and services from at least three social enterprises over the next 12 months. In a [statement](#), New Zealand Post defined social enterprises as entities that "operate commercial businesses to empower communities, and develop meaningful solutions for local benefits". Essentially, they make profits like traditional businesses – but they then reinvest or donate those profits to promote positive social change. New Zealand Post said that it is partnering with the Akina Foundation and will fund the development of an online marketplace where businesses will be able to buy from certified social enterprises. Training and support will also be given to social enterprises to help respond to procurement tender opportunities.

UNITED KINGDOM: *SuffolkFreePress*: Postal workers will vote on possible strike action next week in a running dispute with bosses over pay, working hours and pensions. The Communications Union (CWU) is in talks with Royal Mail to secure better conditions for its members. Royal Mail wants to scrap its current pension plan and replace it with another type of benefit scheme. But union bosses argue that workers would be worse off if the plans are finalised, and has pledged to consult its members over possible industrial action. Postal staff are due a pay rise in April, but claim the offer of a £375 increase is inadequate and does not reflect inflation.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *Post&Parcel*: The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has concluded that "one resounding message" came through clearly from its World Postal Business Forum in Geneva this week: Posts must use technologies to their full advantage to offer customer-centred services. Panellists' dialogue touched on challenges of the global logistics supply-chain, how to unblock barriers for cross-border e-commerce, payment solutions and the impact of cloud and mobile tech. They agreed that while technology is available, the Posts have not been agile in taking up these solutions, which could help them address e-commerce challenges. They also noted that technology would be important in unblocking the barriers currently facing cross-border e-commerce, such as lack of communication between supply chain partners like transport agents and Customs. UPU experts affirmed that the organization has already been working toward this, developing standards between organizations and deploying technologies, such as the Customs Declaration System (CDS), to facilitate these exchanges.

September 28

IRAN: *Post&Parcel*: The first private postal company from Iran made its global debut to the postal and parcel industry at POST-EXPO 2017 and is looking for industry partners to help it expand. Courier firm Tipax won a government-run auction to be Iran's first private postal operator earlier this year. From March 2018, the company will work alongside government-owned operator Iran Post as one of two private postal operators in the country.

JAPAN: *FT*: Japan Post plans to defy mounting criticism of its dealmaking ability and embark on a new round of domestic and global acquisitions, say bankers and others close to the former state-owned postal services giant. The company's renewed hunger for acquisitions has emerged just a few months after the president of Japan Post Holdings (JPH), Masatsugu Nagato, laid out the shortcomings of its earlier attempts at buying-in growth and reassured a press conference that the company could survive without acquisitions and would continue to grow "on its own".

The revival of Japan Post's interest in acquisitions has begun taking shape as the government confirmed on Wednesday it had raised ¥1.3tn from the sale of a new tranche of shares in JPH.

ROMANIA: *Romania-Insider*: The Romanian Post will be reorganized into regional profit centers, according to a memorandum the Government approved yesterday. Local managers will become more responsible in managing the budgets and attracting funds to develop the postal units in those regions. This is one of the measures included in the five-year strategic plan, which aims to revive the postal operator's activity. The Romanian Post should also use more efficiently the annual funds received from the Universal Postal Union (UPU), according to the memorandum. The company has received about USD 200,000 every year from UPU for investing in equipment such as scanners, scales, bar readers. Despite this, the postal operator has never used these funds.

September 27

CHINA: *eCommerceBytes*: Sellers in China will pay 13 percent more when mailing small packets to US shoppers beginning January 1st, according to a US government official. The US State Department responded to a Congressman's concerns about the financial impact of UPU Terminal Dues that allow for companies in some countries to mail small packets to US shoppers for extremely low rates, giving them an advantage over domestic sellers. Congressman Kenny Marchant had written a letter to Secretary Rex Tillerson in June stating he was "greatly concerned regarding the significant financial losses incurred by the USPS" as a result of the UPU conventions. Charles Faulkner of the Bureau of Legislative Affairs at the State Department responded in a letter in July. Readers [may recall](#) that the nearly 200 member countries of the UPU establish new terminal dues every four years, with the next rates taking effect in 2018. The purpose of the UPU Terminal Dues (TD) system is to compensate destination countries for the cost of handling, transporting and delivering letter-post items from abroad - so of course the US also pays other postal services for mail sent to those countries.

CHINA: *Post&Parcel*: Alibaba is making an additional investment of RMB5.3bn (US\$807m) to increase its ownership of Cainiao to a majority stake of 51%. The e-commerce group already owns 47% of its logistics affiliate. When the deal completes next month,

Alibaba will also get an extra seat on Cainiao's board of directors, increasing its representation to four out of seven seats. Alibaba said this \$15.2bn investment will be used to "increase R&D in logistics data technology, as well as for development of smart warehousing, smart delivery and global logistics infrastructure".

LITHUANIA: *Post&Parcel*: Lithuania Post has announced that it has been implementing a new mobile postie service in rural areas. In a statement sent to Post&Parcel today (27 September), Lithuania Post said that because of "rapidly decreasing" populations in some rural areas, it has had to develop innovation solutions to continue providing postal services in a financially viable manner. As a result, the company closed 77 "rarely visited" post offices and replaced them with 124 mobile posties who provide all postal services by visiting people's homes or in "designated service provision locations". The mobile posties are fully equipped with tablets, mobile phones, portable receipt printers and scales and regularly update their knowledge with remote and direct training.

PHILIPPINES: *NorthBoundAsia*: Cebu Central Post Office postmaster Marilyn Omar said on Tuesday they are not threatened by the advent of new technology because postal mail, or snail mail, will always be there. People nowadays communicate online through e-mail and social media, but despite these communication platforms which are readily accessible and more convenient, Omar said the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) will remain in business. "Even though the number of personal mails has decreased, the volume of business mails is still on a high rate. Ever since before, postal mails have grown because of business mails," Omar said. "In the Cebu Central Post Office alone, the average mail posted per month ranges from 150,000 to 200,000, and most of those are business mails. The rise of technology doesn't matter to us, as letters will always be there," Omar added.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: Unmanned Life, a startup developing software able to control and coordinate different types of aerial and ground-based drones, has won the inaugural Postal Innovation Platform (PIP) Startup Innovation Jury award at POST-EXPO 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Held for the first time during POST-EXPO 2017, the world's leading event for the postal and parcel sector, the Postal Innovation Platform's Startup Jury competition invited 12 startups to present their products and services to an expert panel of five judges. The aim of the competition is to find developments that have the potential to change the postal and logistics market, or even create a new market. Unmanned Life has developed 'middleware', software that serves as an intermediary between systems software and an application, for the management of drones. Unmanned Life believes companies that want to run systems of autonomous drones in the future, such as postal and parcel companies that aim to automate sorting centers, will require their 'autonomous drones as a service' (A-DaaS) software.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: Royal Mail has launched a new service that will give overseas customers of UK-based retailers a more convenient way to track their parcels. Tracked email notifications, available as a free add-on with all Royal Mail International Tracked products, is designed to ensure customers have a clearer idea of where their order is as it travels to its final location. Initially available to customers who have a business account with Royal Mail, the service provides recipients with a series of push emails alerting them when their item has left the UK, arrived at the receiving country, entered and cleared customs, and been delivered or delivery has been attempted. As the tracking notifications are delivered direct to the customer's inbox, there is no need for customers to log in to a separate website for an update. This delivers a more streamlined and transparent service, giving consumers added confidence in their retailer. The system will also let recipients know when their delivery has arrived or whether it is still in customs.

September 25

AUSTRALIA: *Post&Parcel*: Australian parcel courier reseller PACK & SEND has announced new parcel delivery options and improved pricing for its Online Self-Service booking solution. In a statement sent to Post&Parcel today (25 September), PACK & SEND said that under its new solution, most parcel weights and destinations for deliveries within Australia will provide cost savings over Australia Post published prices. "Further, depending on the destination and parcel weight," added PACK & SEND, "international courier deliveries can provide significant savings (up to 45%) on Australia Post published prices."

BRAZIL: *Prensa*: After a week, the strike for the preservation of the rights of postal workers in Brazil continues, with prospects of incorporating all grassroots unions into it. Launched on September 19, the measure is backed by 30 of the 31 unions affiliated to the National Federation of Postal, Telegraph and Related Workers (FENTECT). Only the state of Roraima has not joined the strike so far. The time is critical and the demands for awareness on the part of the whole category since the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated with the Postal and Telegraph Company (ECT) is for everyone, said the Workers' Single Confederation (CUT) in a statement.

IRAN: *FinancialTribute*: Iran will be connected to the financial services system of the Universal Postal Union, which is similar to global transaction network SWIFT, the chief executive of Iran Post Company said. "The UPU's International Financial Services, an electronic network for money transfers plus applications to access it, will be officially launched in Iran by December 21," Hossein Mehri was also quoted as saying by Fars News Agency. Mehri reiterated that IFS is active in 170 countries and its launch will ease global financial transactions, including electronic payments, for Iranians. "Iran has paid \$30,000 in network royalties and coordinated network tests with four countries, while agreements with five other countries will be reached soon," he said.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: The British Roads Minister Jesse Norman has called on UK businesses to lead research into low emission technology for lorries, as well as cars and vans. In a [statement](#) issued yesterday (21 September) by the Department for Transport, UK companies were urged to compete for up to £15m of funding. The Roads Minister said: "We have made important progress in lowering emissions and are always looking at further ways of improving air quality. "Lorries cause a third of the UK's transport CO₂ emissions and simple new technologies can have the greatest impact in reducing the harmful pollutants of freight.

September 24

NIGERIA: *DailyTrust*: The Bank of Agriculture (BOA) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) to deliver effective financial inclusion for rural farming communities across the country. The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Bank, Kabiru Mohammed Adamu said the pact became necessary in order to build an

extensive network of physical and technological driven delivery channels that would enable farming communities, value chains players and the rural economy have easy access to financial services in close proximity. The bank will benefit from NIPOST's 1184 post offices and about 600 functioning postal agents and post shops, which are mostly located closer to rural farmers.

September 23

IRAN: [PressTV](#): Iran will be connected to the financial services system of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), which is similar to global transaction network SWIFT, Chief Executive of Iran Post Co Hossein Mehri says. The UPU's International Financial Services (IFS), an electronic network for money transfers plus applications to access it, will be officially launched in Iran by the end of the Persian month of Azar on December 21, he said. IFS, Mehri said, is operational in 170 countries and its launch will give Iranians the provision of global financial transactions, including electronic payments.

September 22

MEXICO: [ABC](#): Mexico is reeling from a magnitude 7.1 earthquake which struck near Mexico City Tuesday killing more than 200 people. In the aftermath of a major earthquake, service may be suspended or delayed over safety concerns or due to disruptions. ABC10 reached out the the U.S. Postal Service to see if it was still possible to send packages to the Mexico City area. A USPS spokesperson advised checking out the online [Service Alerts](#) page where the agency updates information about service in areas affected by natural disasters and other events. According to a current alert, inbound and outbound operations are suspended at Mexico City International Airport, meaning nothing is flying in or out of the International Mail Processing Centres (IMPC) with the codes MXMEXD, MXMEXB and MXMEXE. FedEx also provides [Service Alerts on their website](#) and updated their page Thursday.

ROMANIA: [SeeNews](#): Romanian state-controlled postal operator Posta Romana said on Friday it will buy 180 vehicles from Renault Commercial Roumanie and Ford Romania for about 12.5 million lei (\$3.2 million/ 2.7 million euro) without VAT. Supplementing the car fleet will thus make the company's business more efficient by correlating the capacity of the vehicles with the shipping volume, Posta Romana said in a press release. The car fleet of the company will increase by 100 small-capacity vans and 80 medium-capacity vans, all equipped with diesel engines, the EURO 6 pollution standard. These will be purchased in financial leasing, which will take place for a period of 4 years and will be delivered by the two companies within 90 days of signing the contracts.

September 21

AFRICA: [SABC](#): The Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services is hosting a two-day Cultural Diversity in Digital Society Conference at Walter Sisulu University Health Resource Centre in Mthatha, in the Eastern Cape. The department has identified Eastern Cape due to its richness in culture and customs. It has called on the AbaThembu Kingdom and universities to engage each other on integration of culture and the digital world.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: [UPU](#): Postal chief executives have wrapped up their discussions at the second annual UPU World CEO Forum in Moscow with a clear vision for postal transformation. The event, organized by the UPU and hosted by Russian Post between 17-19 September, gathered nearly 60 postal chief executives from around the globe to discuss "Leading multidimensional growth: the hows and whys of postal strategy". "After gathering our CEOs for a second time, it is clear that this forum is a vital space for our postal executives to put their heads together to find ways to drive the sector forward. With participants from all corners of the world represented at this forum, we have heard a diversity of proven strategies that CEOs can take back to their Posts," said UPU Director General Bishar A. Hussein.

September 20

AUSTRALIA: [Post&Parcel](#): Australian courier service provider Sendle is partnering with DHL eCommerce. Sendle will manage the domestic pickups from Australia's SMEs and DHL eCommerce will then provide global delivery through its international network.

MEXICO: [Post&Parcel](#): E-commerce platform Mercado Libre Mexico is partnering with UPS to offer its users more delivery options. UPS will offer solutions exclusively for Mercado Envíos Full, a logistics service offered by Mercado Libre to its sellers for storage and shipping solutions. To make the inventory management process at Mercado Libre's distribution center more flexible, UPS will implement Application Programming Interfaces (API's), allowing Mercado Libre to create shipping labels, track packages and provide buyers with visibility into their shipments. Through the partnership with UPS, Mercado Libre will provide customers with access to the UPS Express Saver small package service, which offers guaranteed next day delivery, by end of the day in major cities throughout Mexico.

UNITED KINGDOM: [Post&Parcel](#): Royal Mail has launched a service that will give overseas customers of UK-based retailers a more convenient way to track their parcels. Tracked Email Notifications is now available as a free add on with all Royal Mail International Tracked products. Royal Mail provides retailer with a link that they can embed into an email to their overseas customers. This will enable customers to select the notifications that they would like to receive, as well as their preferred language (and the languages supported include: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Danish, Russian and Greek). The service is available in all countries that Royal Mail sends International Tracked products to with the exception of Argentina and Ecuador.

UNITED KINGDOM: [Post&Parcel](#): myHermes has launched a new Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) solution which it says will enable SME retailers and online marketplace sellers to provide their own customers with improved visibility over delivery. The free service – which is also available to Hermes Business Account holders – will see myHermes provide the end customer with a four-hour time window on the retailer's behalf. Notifications will be sent to the consumer via email on the morning of their parcel delivery. The ETA solution applies to all packages booked via the myHermes website, regardless of whether they are picked up by a courier or dropped off at one of 4,500 myHermes ParcelShops.

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel*: Europa Road has launched a “Money Back Express” (MBX) service, which will offer customers a full refund of freight charges if Europa fails to deliver to the customer’s defined and agreed transit time. Europa said that this is “something which no other logistics business is currently offering on express shipments which move through a network”. Europa Road Sales Director Dionne Redpath said: “MBX is a straightforward guarantee and is simple in its offering. If we fail to achieve the criteria of the express – which is very unlikely of course! – but if we do, the customer will receive a full refund of freight charges for that shipment swiftly and with no discussion.

September 19

AUSTRALIA: *TheAustralian*: Australia Post has joined air express parcel delivery companies in opposing a fresh push by internet giant Amazon to overhaul the way GST would be collected on low-value internet purchases. While the government’s new laws will require online marketplaces to collect the GST at the time of sale for imports worth less than \$1000, US retail giant Amazon is instead arguing for a “modernised transporter model” that would instead see logistics companies collect the tax on parcels they deliver.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION: *Belta*: The Belarusian national postal service Belpochta is discussing the future of postal services at the second international forum of heads of postal operators in Moscow, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian embassy in Russia. As noted at the forum held under the aegis of the Universal Postal Union, “rapid changes in the global economy, the implementation of innovations, and soaring online trade require prompt introduction of digital technologies in the work of one of the world’s oldest services.” It was emphasized during the meeting with Russian colleagues that one of the common tasks is the transformation of postal services into efficient profitable enterprises in accordance with the new economic and technological reality without losing their social functions. The postal business needs to develop information infrastructure and actively implement modern automated systems in its logistics infrastructure.

September 18

FRANCE: *Post&Parcel*: Chronopost is set to start making parcel deliveries on Sundays in cities and towns across France from next month. The service is scheduled to begin on 19 November – just in time for the Cyber Week and Christmas peak session. Deliveries will be made between 9am and 1pm. According to sources, the service will be able in cities across France, including Lyon, Nice, Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Toulon, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Montpellier, Rennes, Grenoble, Nantes, Reims, Lille and Strasbourg.

QATAR: *ThePeninsulaQatar*: Under its transformation process to keep up with the digital age and diversify its portfolio of products and services, Qatar Post yesterday launched its new identity unveiling new logo. Minister Al Sulaiti underlined that Qatar Post has all the strategic elements to achieve the ambition in developing the quality of postal services and the communication sector in general in line with Qatar Vision 2030. He stressed the commitment to provide full support to Qatar Post to complete all the necessary requirements for transformation to the business system, to enhance the economy of the sector and increase the quality of services according to international standards.

September 17

INDIA: *Mathrubhumi*: Postal Department gets ready to conquer the market by competing with huge banking institutions in digital transactions. Postal RuPay cards that can be used to withdraw money from ATM are in use nowadays. The department plans to introduce a new type of card fitted with microchip, which can be used for multiple purposes and digital transactions.

PAKISTAN: *PakObserver*: Federal Minister for Postal Services Maulana Ameer Zaman said that problems of the employees associated with postal services would be addressed on priority by utilizing all resources. Addressing a ceremony held here at GPO, he said, post office being a social welfare department was delivering services at its best. Over 40,000 employees were working in that government institution, whereas the livelihood of over 4 million people was associated with it. He directed the department’s officers to present feasible suggestions for introducing reforms in the department to make it more welfare oriented. Maulana Ameer Zaman said he would approach the federal government to release the frozen funds of the department.

UNITED KINGDOM: *FT*: The chief executive of Royal Mail faces her biggest test since the privatisation of the postal operator four years ago, as a bitter industrial dispute over pensions and pay threatens to end in strike action. The row exposes deep challenges at the 501-year-old organisation, which is undergoing a wide-ranging modernisation to adapt to the digital age. With paper correspondence in terminal decline due to electronic communications, Royal Mail is seeking to harness the boom in ecommerce by growing its parcels business and investing in technology. The broad restructuring will involve cutting costs, not least the significant wage bill of the 140,000-strong workforce at its core UK business. The decision to close a pension scheme has angered the Communication Workers Union, whose members are now voting on whether to take industrial action.

September 15

CANADA: *CBCCA*: As chartered banks abandon small communities around the country, some say it’s time for Canada Post to step up and take on the role. Canada was served by postal banks for about a century before the system was dissolved in 1968. The federal government is currently [conducting an independent review of Canada Post](#) "to ensure Canadians receive quality postal services at a reasonable price."

FINLAND: *YLE*: Most mail deliveries will be less frequent in some of Finland’s cities under a new Postal Act that took effect on Friday. The law loosens the speed-of-delivery requirements imposed on the postal service, Posti. The change is part of moves to open the sector to competition. Letters will still be delivered five days a week through most of the country. However in urban areas with early delivery of newspapers, letter distribution services will be open to bidding from private companies next year. In these areas, Posti is now only obliged to deliver letters and cards thrice weekly. Newspapers and magazines are not covered by the Postal Act. In

bigger Finnish towns, morning papers deliveries are arranged by the publishers whereas in the sparsely-populated countryside papers are brought to homes along with the regular post.

INDIA: *IndianExpress:* Shortage of staff at four post offices in the city has prompted the Pune Postal Department to, for the first time, 'outsource' some of its work. It has tied up with nine Outsource Postal Agents (OPAs) on the basis of work-based payments, and the OPAs have been filling in for the delivery staff since April. The OPAs carry out jobs such as booking, picking up and delivering speed post, registered post, business parcel and express parcel within the city.

NEPAL: *Himalayan:* The Postal Services Department spends nearly all of its annual budget of Rs 3.5 billion paying its 20,000 odd employees, 60 per cent of whom work for merely a couple of hours a day. According to PSD sources, 96 per cent of the budget is spent on salary of employees. Of the remaining Rs 845 million, 26 per cent goes for the remuneration of 10,000 contractual employees working for outposts known as Additional Postal Service. These contractual employees are required to work for about two flexible hours a day. On an average, they draw a salary of Rs 6,500 per month.

September 14

CANADA: *Cision:* Postal workers are in Yellowknife today at Canada Post's Annual Public Meeting, bringing a message to the directors of the crown corporation: innovate, expand, and include Northern residents' needs in plans for the postal service's future. Canada Post's own secret postal banking study declared the idea a "win-win" and "a proven diversification strategy". But postal banking could do more than preserve Canada Post's financial self-sufficiency. Communities across this country need access to financial services. The big banks are still closing branches and abandoning rural Canada. Financial services offered through the post office – the largest retail network in the country – would help support northern local economies. A revived postal bank would be the most accessible bank in the country.

September 13

IRELAND: *FineExtra:* Payment Cloud Technologies (PCT), the London-based FinTech business, has today announced that its cloud-based digital banking platform bank.VISION is now live on a national scale with An Post, Ireland's largest postal service provider. bank.VISION has enabled An Post to launch its new Smart Account, a payment account with all the benefits of a standard current account, with two unique additional features: Digital wallets that allow for the subdivision of spending, budgeting and bill payments; and Smart Rewards, a cash-back loyalty scheme that benefits customers who use the account at selected retailers. Ireland has one of the highest rates of digital banking adoption in Western Europe, with 41% of consumers using online banking and 32% using mobile banking more than they did 12 months ago.

September 11

GERMANY: *Post&Parcel:* DPD Germany's new €16m parcel sorting centre in Steinen has started operations. The facility, which is located close to the Swiss border, became operation on 5 September. Currently around 80 staff are working at the 30,000 square metre site and the company said there is room for significant expansion. In the initial stages, the facility will be handling up to 10,000 packages a day.

JAPAN: *BorneoBulletin:* Japan said Monday it would sell off another chunk of the country's massive postal service in a share listing expected to raise about \$12 billion. Tokyo is unloading up to 990 million shares in Japan Post, or about 22 per cent of its outstanding shares, after an initial public offering in 2015 that began a long-delayed privatisation of the state-owned behemoth. The latest sale could raise 1.3 trillion yen (\$12 billion) based on Monday's closing price of 1,321 yen. The selling price will be decided between September 25 and 27, the finance ministry said.

LITHUANIA: *Post&Parcel:* Lithuania Post has reported that it is has increased the speed at which it processes imported parcels by as much as 25% as a result of implement "LEAN" operational principles at its logistics centre in Vilnius. "Following the re-distribution of human resources and improvement of work stations, in every 24 hours, we now distribute more imported postal items by a quarter. Parcels are sorted faster, and they reach not only post offices, but also the addressee, more rapidly, which is our fundamental goal," said Algirdas Šimonis, Operations Director of Lithuania Post. Essentially, LEAN is a methodology that eliminates waste and boosts efficiencies. The company started preparing to apply the LEAN principles at the Vilnius centre two years ago.

September 8

PAKISTAN: *ProPakistani:* The Senate Standing Committee on Communications was briefed about the budget details of Postal Services for the years 2016-17 and 2017-18. During the meeting, it was told that the required budget for 2016-17 was Rs 20 billion, but was given an approved budget of Rs 16 billion. The meeting was also told that the expenditures of Postal Services amounted to Rs 20 billion.

September 7

UNITED KINGDOM: *Post&Parcel:* The UK Climate Change and Industry Minister Claire Perry has announced the launch of MERIDIAN, new government-backed and industry-led brand for the development of Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) technology. Jointly funded by the government and industry, MERIDIAN will create a "cluster of excellence" for testing driverless vehicles along the M40 corridor between Coventry and London. The government has also today published its Centre for Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) [Global Market Value report](#) which predicts the global market for CAV technology could be worth £907bn in 2035.

September 6

GERMANY: *Post&Parcel*: DHL Parcel and Volkswagen are launching a joint pilot project in Berlin which will see DHL staff delivering parcels to the trunks of VW cars. In a [statement](#) issued today (9 September), Deutsche Post DHL Group said that Volkswagen will deploy 50 VW Polos that selected customers can use as mobile addresses for their DHL parcel deliveries. The selected participants will receive a VW Polo that they can use to test the service for four weeks. The vehicles are already fitted with the required equipment for in-car delivery, called “We Deliver.”

UNITED KINGDOM: *BirminghamNews*: Postal workers are to be balloted for industrial action over pensions and other issues. Members of the Communication Workers Union will vote in the coming weeks on whether to launch a campaign of industrial action. The move follows lengthy talks over planned changes to the pension scheme which have failed to reach an agreement.

September 5

JAPAN: *JapanPost*: Japan Post Holdings, which announced a loss in its first full year as a listed company, is poised to announce details of an estimated \$12bn share sale, say people close to the process. It is the first equity offer from group since its record-breaking IPO two years ago. In 2015, as the culmination of a decade-long process to privatise the company that runs Japan’s largest bank, largest insurer and largest single employer outside the civil service, the state sold 11 per cent of Japan Post, which in turn sold 11 per cent in its two financial subsidiaries.

ROMANIA: *Romania-Insider*: The postal services market went up by 8% last year, reaching RON 2.6 billion (EUR 570 million), according to the local telecom regulator ANCOM. Some 236 companies operated on this market last year. The top ten players had a share of 87% of the turnover on this market. The volume of postal items processed in Romania went down by 15% last year, to 554 million. The number of items sent within the country went down by 13% to 522 million while the number of international expeditions dropped by 40% to 32 million.

September 4

AUSTRALIA: *HeraldSun*: Australia Post customers are set to again shoulder price increases, despite the postal giant’s rising profits. The postal service is lifting the cost of domestic parcels, prepaid express post envelopes and satchels and some international letters, as well as mail redirection and holds. Customers were hit with price rises on many of the services last year, months after the cost of a standard stamp was jacked up to \$1. From October 2, customers sending parcels within Australia will be slugged up to 35c more, depending on size. Express post envelopes will rise from \$6.10 to \$6.40, while a single 500g satchel jumps from \$10.85 to \$11.35. The cost of posting a letter to the US, UK and Europe will increase 5c to \$3. General mail direction for three months rises from \$46.35 to \$53.10, while two-week mail lifts from \$30.85 to \$35.30. But the cost of stamps, posting Christmas cards within Australia and business mail remain unchanged.

GERMANY: *Ecommercebytes*: DHL has further expanded its European parcel network. The postal company is now able to offer its cross-border services for online customers in Ireland and Romania, while Croatia and Bulgaria will join the network in November. Deutsche Post DHL Group [announced](#) the addition of the four countries today. Through partnerships with An Post, the state-owned postal service provider from Ireland, and Urgen Cargus, a private parcel service from Romania, two more countries are added to DHL’s European parcel network for cross-border ecommerce. By partnering with postal service Hrvatska Posta and Rapido, Croatia and Bulgaria will also join the list later this year. By adding additional countries to its network, DHL wants to continue its development in the European ecommerce industry and offer customers an extensive infrastructure. The ultimate goal is to be present in all key European ecommerce markets by the end of 2018.

UNITED KINGDOM: *FT.com*: Royal Mail was a faller on Monday as the London market drifted lower in its quietest session of the year. Growing fears of a national postal strike sent Royal Mail sliding 1.6 per cent to 386p. The Communication Workers Union will ballot members shortly on industrial action unless Royal Mail management “significantly shift their position” on pensions, pay and strategy, CMU general secretary Dave Ward said in the Huffington Post. Industrial action is unlikely to harm Royal Mail much in the short term as letter and parcel volumes will shift to other days, said Liberum. However, the broker also expected a strike to “amplify” the problems already facing Royal Mail as customers redouble efforts to reduce mailouts and use rival package delivery services.

September 3

JAPAN: *AsianNikkei*: Japan Post thinks drones can help it cut costs. So next year it will start using the flying objects to carry mail from post office to post office. The postal service also plans to test self-driving cars by the end of the current fiscal year, through March. The company hopes to fully introduce drones for transportation between some post offices by the end of the 2020s. In the initial phase, drones will be used to carry mail from big post offices to smaller ones on the fringes of delivery areas. After developing viable technologies during this phase, the company will consider using drones to deliver parcels to homes.

September 2

UNITED KINGDOM: *TheSun*: The Communication Workers Union, which represents 110,000 Royal Mail employees, says it will decide next week whether to recommend a ballot on a potential walkout over changes to their final-salary scheme. Deputy general secretary Terry Pullinger told CWU members industrial action is their “ultimate weapon” adding: “If it has to go the most difficult route, so be it.” Royal Mail pays about £400million a year into the pension pot but claims that bill could more than double to over £1 billion if changes are not made.

September 1

SRI LANKA: *Adaderana:* The Joint Postal Trade Unions' Front stated that trade union action would be taken in near future owing to the failure of the authorities to provide solutions to their demands. Co-convenor of the Front, H. K. Kariyawasam stated that trade union action previously taken by them had been called off based on an agreement arrived at with the Secretary to the Prime Minister. He accordingly explained that they would once again take action as the authorities had failed to comply with the previously arrived at agreement.

Postal/Industry News

September 30

Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — James Crews Station, Kansas City, MO](#) Using data analytics designed to identify lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors found discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the James Crews Station in Kansas City, MO. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xnqmH>

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 45913–45914 [2017–21080] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 45914 [2017–21016] [\[PDF\]](#) Parcel Select Negotiated Service Agreement , 45915 [2017–21015] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement , 45914 [2017–21011] [\[PDF\]](#) 45914 [2017–21012] [\[PDF\]](#) 45914 [2017–21013] [\[PDF\]](#) 45914–45915 [2017–21014] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 29

Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — Anderson, IN, Post Office](#) Using data analytics, OIG auditors identified discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the Anderson (IN) Post Office. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xnqBe>

September 27

Office of the Inspector General:

Mobile System Review - Our Audit Report assesses whether mobile POS devices and applications in post offices are being managed in accordance with Postal Service policy and best practices. Read the full report here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRh88>

Assessing Postal Service Employee Engagement Activities - In July 2015, the Postmaster General emphasized employee engagement as a top priority for the U.S. Postal Service and a number of engagement activities were developed to assess and improve employee engagement. Following a congressional request, OIG auditors implemented a study to assess the effectiveness of the engagement activities. To read the findings of the audit report, go to: <https://go.usa.gov/xRhNm>

Software License Management - OIG auditors assessed whether the Postal Service’s software license management program is functioning according to USPS standards and industry best practices. Read our findings and recommendations in the audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRSS7>

Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — Central Square Post Office, Cambridge, MA - Using data analytics designed to identify lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors found discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the Central Square Post Office in Cambridge, MA. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRSSz>

September 26

Office of the Inspector General: [Retail and Customer Service Operations in the Philadelphia Metropolitan District](#) Retail and customer service operations are integral parts of the Postal Service, which aims to provide customers with a positive retail experience and efficient customer service operations. Our latest audit report examines these operations in the Philadelphia Metropolitan District, including customer satisfaction, mail timeliness, retail customer service and other productivity goals. Read the findings and the full report at: <https://go.usa.gov/xRStP>

Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — William Penn Annex, Philadelphia, PA OIG auditors identified discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments using data analytics to examine lost and stolen stamp shipments at the William Penn Annex Post Office in Philadelphia. The latest audit report reviews whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRSsZ>

Industry Alert: USPS Shipping Products and Services Webinar Series Tuesday, October 3, 2017; Thursday, October 5, 2017; and Tuesday, October 10, 2017 Join us as the Postal Service continues to host its series of informational webinars on a variety of products and services. The webinars will focus on service enhancements, features, benefits, how to get started, and onboarding information to acquire the knowledge and skills to effectively use the service. [Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. EDT](#) –

[Online Refunds for Priority Mail Express® and Extra Services. Online filing for Indemnity Claims. Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. EDT](#) – [Intelligent Mail Device \(IMD\) Full Acceptance at Non-Retail System Software \(RSS\) Sites. Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. EDT](#) – [Elimination of Four Extra Service forms](#)

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 44860–44861 [2017–20528] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 24

Industry Alert: Latest Issue of [Mail Spoken Here](#)

Office of the Inspector General: [Airport Delays](#) It’s not only travelers that have to deal with delays at the airport. It turns out that incoming mail has to deal with this problem too. The US Postal Service isn’t necessarily at fault when inbound international mail is

delayed. While on a plane and even after it's unloaded but not yet tendered to the Postal Service, inbound international mail is the responsibility of the foreign postal operators and their agreements with air carriers or ground handlers. However, the USPS is tasked with monitoring the progress of delayed international mail. In a recent audit, the Office of Inspector General evaluated the USPS' monitoring practices. Read more about the process, and the audit in our latest "Pushing the Envelope" blog: <https://go.usa.gov/xRJ7Z>
Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne!® Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.2.0 is complete and the system is available. If you experience any issues, contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at (800) 522-9085. Release notes are posted on PostalPro at: <https://postalpro.usps.com/node/4166>.

September 23

Federal Register: Postal Service - Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 44673 [2017–20414] [PDF] 44673–44674 [2017–20415] [PDF] 44673 [2017–20416] [PDF]

September 22

Federal Register: Postal Service - Meetings; Sunshine Act, 44473 [2017–20394] [PDF]

Office of the Inspector General: Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments — Fremont, CA, Post Office Using data analytics examining lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors identified discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the Fresno, California Post Office. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRJyh>

Postal Service Retiree Funds Investment Strategies - The Postal Service participates in three retirement plans, two pension plans: the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), the Federal Employee Health Benefits Fund (FERS), and the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund (PSRHBFF) which are set up to prefund and provide retiree health benefits. The three are invested solely in U.S. Treasury securities and are considered as riskless since there is virtually no possible loss of principal. However, all three are underfunded to varying degrees. This shortfall can be addressed in several ways, including lowering liabilities and/or increasing assets. In a new white paper, OIG auditors explored ways to improve the asset returns on all three funds. Read the full white paper here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRJww>

Industry Alert: Attention Business Customer Gateway and PostalOne! Users: Customer Registration will be upgrading its database to a newer version of Oracle this Sunday morning. During this time (3:00 AM CT – 9:00 AM CT), account changes will be unavailable: this includes account creations, account edits, and password changes. An outage page will be displayed to online users who try to access these services. A full outage is expected for a 5-minute period from 8:00 AM CT – 8:05 AM CT (no account activity will be available). During the partial outage, account logins will be supported. The following message has been posted on the Business Customer Gateway, which helps to explain the outage (usps.com users are also impacted in the same ways): The Business Customer Gateway will be impacted by internal USPS system maintenance on Sunday, September 24, 2017 from 3:00 AM CT - 9:00 AM CT. During this time, certain account-change actions will be unavailable - users will be unable to create new BCG accounts, edit existing profiles, change passwords, add business locations, etc. Users will, however, be able to log-in to the system and navigate to other integrated applications accessible via the Business Customer Gateway. Our team will be online Sunday morning to confirm the database changes and will let you know if there are any problems that will impact users outside the posted maintenance window.

September 21

Federal Register:

- **Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products**, 44221–44222 [2017–20129] [PDF]
 - **Postal Service - Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement**, 44222 [2017–20063] [PDF]
-

September 20

Office of the Inspector General:

Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments – Bensalem, PA, Post Office here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRuwf>

Insider Threat Program here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRuwe>

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 44006–44007 [2017–19979] [PDF]; 44007–44008 [2017–20027] [PDF]

Industry Alert: Subscribe to New IV Insights Newsletter The IV Insights newsletter is a new bi-weekly newsletter published to inform the mailing industry on the latest news for the Informed Visibility (IV) application. IV is a data-powerhouse that makes it convenient to track letter and flat mailpieces, bundles, handling units, and containers in a single, consolidated system as opposed to tracking this data separately via *IMb Tracing®* and *PostalOne!®*. This newsletter will provide information on the transition from IMb tracing to IV. Not only does IV provide superior, consolidated mail tracking functionality over IMb Tracing, but because IMb Tracing utilizes non-secure file transfer protocol (FTP) technology it will no longer be supported after November 30, 2017. If they want to receive the IV Insights newsletter, send an email to IVFEEDBACK@usps.gov to be added to the distribution list.

September 19

Office of the Inspector General: Mail Carrier Sentenced For Stealing Gift Cards from Mail Read the full press release [here](#).

September 17

Office of the Inspector General: [Delivery After Dark](#) The Postal Service’s goal is to have its carriers off the street by 6 p.m. However, a recent audit of the Bay Valley found that only 75% of carriers returned to the office by 6 p.m. This has many implications for the Postal Service. Our recent blog examines how the growth of ecommerce and parcel delivery has contributed to changes in the network and delivery. Read our blog and share your thoughts here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRzjz>

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products. 43577–43578 [2017–19695] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 15

Industry Alert: 2018 National Postal Forum Early Registration The National Postal Forum (NPF) has opened early registration for 2018 NPF in San Antonio, May 6 – 9. The NPF is the premier mailing and shipping event to learn about the new innovations and technologies in the industry. Join your peers from around the country to attend workshops and hear from the top voices in the mailing industry. This year marks the NPF 50th anniversary and is sure to be memorable and valuable to all attendees. To register, visit the [NPF website](#) and login to your existing account or create a new profile. If you register before February 17, 2018 you are eligible to receive an Early Bird Discount. To learn more about registration options and opportunities to save, visit www.npf.org for details.

Office of the Inspector General: [Independent Report on Employee Benefits, Withholdings, Contributions, and Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Reporting Submitted to the Office of Personnel Management](#) The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Office of Inspector General asked us to assist the OPM assess the reasonableness of U.S. Postal Service employee benefit withholdings, enrollment information, and Postal Service benefit contributions, and to assist OPM in identifying and correcting errors related to processing and distributing Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) payroll deductions. This attestation engagement is an annual requirement of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. See the attestation report here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRtGH>

September 14

Office of the Inspector General:

[Oversight of Contracting Officer Authority](#) The contracting officer (CO) plays an essential role in carrying out the solicitation, award, management and termination of a contract. The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) uses tripwires to identify anomalies in a variety of areas. Tripwires are analytic tools that look at specific behaviors and patterns that are strong indicators of improper activity, in this case, COs exceeding their delegated contracting authority. Our latest audit report examines Postal Service controls over COs exceeding this authority. Read our findings at: <https://go.usa.gov/xRtCH>

[Management of Overtime in the Northeast Area](#) Overtime pay is a premium that the U.S. Postal Service pays its non-management employees. Postal Service headquarters’ field budget group establishes the agency’s annual overtime budget, which is the planned percentage of overtime allocated for each Postal Service area. For fiscal years (FY) 2015 and 2016, the Northeast Area reported actual overtime percentage of workhours of 12 percent annually, the highest level for the Postal Service in any area. In a new report, OIG auditors assessed the management of overtime in the Northeast Area. For their findings and recommendations, read the report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRtbg>

Industry Alert: *Important Information for Mail Acceptance Related to Hurricane Irma* Mail Acceptance at BMEUs impacted by Hurricane Irma Mailers are being informed of BME availability through the Industry alerts.

Mail Acceptance: As BMEs come on line, they will be placed in contingency mode in the event a file or postage statement was or cannot be submitted at the time of mailing.

The following instructions are provided for continuation of operations in the event a mailer is not able to submit an electronic postage statement to the USPS due to a USPS outage or mailer issue.

1. BMEUs and DMUs will maintain the USPS Record of Mailings Log for each mailing presented. This log is used to reconcile the mailings to the *PostalOne!* dashboard once issue is resolved.
2. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically must be able to provide, either verbally or in written format, the following information:
 - Permit Holder
 - Total Pieces (An approximate total piece count can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact number of total pieces)
 - Total Postage (An approximate total postage amount can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact total postage for the mailing.)
 - Mailer Job ID
 - eInduction mailing: Yes or No (If yes, mailers are not required to create hardcopy PS Form 8125(s) or provide any additional documentation).
3. Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will continue to submit the hardcopy postage statement

· Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will be required to continue providing presort documentation with their mailings.

4. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically will not be required to provide presort documentation for any mailing submitted during a USPS or mailer issue/outage.

If mailers have any issues with mail acceptance during this incident, please contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

eInduction: Facilities accepting PVDS through the eInduction program will also remain on contingency for the period of time it takes to resume normal operations.

For eInduction mailings presented at the dock, PS Form 8125s are not required to be submitted. Mailers and Dock employees will follow the eInduction Contingency Plan. The instruction below are to be followed for eInduction containers:

1. Accept and scan all placarded containers

NOTE: If the load is a mixed load (containing eInduction containers and regular PVDS Mail) reconcile any containers to 8125 forms.

2. Collect 1 placard from each unloaded container for those not reconciled to 8125 forms
3. In the SV-IMD update all unresolved containers with a 99M barcode to Accept status
4. Release reconciled containers, and containers from which a placard was removed, into operations
5. Retain container placards and, for mixed loads, PS Form 8125s for reconciliation.

If eInduction mailings are held at the dock for any reason, mailers should contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614.

Non-eInduction mailings will continue to submit PS Form 8125.

Refund Requests for paid mail volume not tendered to the Postal Service due to Hurricane Irma

Some mail owners and mail service providers are deciding not to deliver mail volume due to the impacts of Hurricane Irma. Mail owners or mail service providers may request a refund for the postage amounts associated to mail pieces paid for, but not tendered to the Postal Service for delivery, by adhering to the following process:

Written notification, requesting a refund, must be provided to your local BME Manager. The following information must be included:

1. Date of mailing
2. Post Office where original postage was collected
3. Permit/USPS number used for original postage collection
4. Job ID or Postage Statement ID of impacted mailing
5. Total pieces not mailed
6. Total refund amount and:
 - A summary of containers (container ID or container #), total pieces by rate category (5-digit, 3-digit, etc.) and calculations used to determine requested refund amount.
 - 1. A signed statement indicating:
 - The mailpieces has been or will be destroyed,
 - Destruction Document with signatures that includes the name of the company and individual responsible for destroying the mailpieces along with the date of destruction
 - Reimbursement of postage through any insurance claims will not be pursued.

The local office will ensure all required information is included in the refund request and forward to the New York PCSC and Area Business Mailer Support analyst for review.

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission - New Postal Products, 43259–43260 [2017–19543] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service - Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 43260 [2017–19468] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement , 43260–43261 [2017–19469] [\[PDF\]](#) 43260 [2017–19470] [\[PDF\]](#) Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement , 43261 [2017–19471] [\[PDF\]](#) 43260 [2017–19472] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 13

Industry Alert: USPS Marketing Mail™ (Standard Mail®) Markings and Labels Update The Postal Service™ published a *DMM Advisory* on Friday, June 30, 2017, and Friday, July 7, 2017 providing updates about the rebranding of Standard Mail® as USPS

Marketing Mail™. The update stated the Postal Service continues to work with the industry on a timeline for implementation for the required use of new postage markings, permit imprint indicia, and sack, tray, and pallet labels. As information, this messaging applies to all USPS Marketing Mail shapes. The *Domestic Mail Manual* and *Quick Service Guides* in the applicable preparation sections were updated. Additionally, customers were advised that they should not convert to the USPS Marketing Mail markings until a date is announced.” No changes will be implemented prior to January 2019. The USPS continues to receive requests to test the new name and to convert to the new markings since the new name appeals to many customers. If you are interested in testing, please respond to this Advisory with your name and contact information. Testing data will assist all customers as we move forward with implementation. In the meantime, we continue to request that customers do not transition to the new markings until we publish the final details through a *DMM Advisory* and *Industry Alert*. For general questions on marketing mail or information on participating in testing please email ProductClassification@usps.gov.

Office of the Inspector General: Delayed Inbound International Mail The U.S. Postal Service accepts about 621 million pieces of inbound international mail per year, 95 percent of it is presented for processing through one of the USPS’ five International Service Centers (ISCs) after being unloaded from commercial flights. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) Letter Post Manual states that mail should be tendered at the ISC within one to two hours maximum after the airplane’s arrival, mainly falling under the responsibility of foreign posts. The OIG conducted an audit to evaluate the timeliness of mail arrival at the Postal Service’s ISCs. Read our findings and recommendations in the audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xReUW>

September 12

Industry Alert: Oregon Wildfires The Western Area is announcing the following impacts due to the Oregon Wildfires. The closed offices are being served by the Alternate Service Location designated below.

<u>Closed Office</u>	<u>Alternate Service Location</u>
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BRIDAL VEIL 97010	Troutdale 97060
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47100 W Mill Rd	647 SW Cherry Park Rd
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Bridal Veil OR 97010-7010	Troutdale OR 97060-7060
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Locale Key - Z14789	Locale Key - Z15657
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Cascade Locks 97014	Stevenson 98648
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461 NW Wanapa St	90 SW Russell Ave
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Cascade Locks OR 97014-7017	Stevenson WA 98648-9198
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Locale Key – Z14834	Locale Key - Z17578
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Corbett 97019	Troutdale 97060
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36046 E Historic Columbia River Hwy	647 SW Cherry Park Rd
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Corbett OR 97019-7019	Troutdale OR 97060-7060
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Locale Key – Z14879	Locale Key – z15657
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As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Industry Alert: USPS Industry Webinar on Hurricane Irma Impact and Recovery The United States Postal Service is holding a webinar on Wednesday, **September 13, 2017 at 3:00 PM EDT**, to provide information and answer questions regarding hurricane Irma’s impact on Retail Operations, Delivery Operations and Drop Shipments. Please join us using the webinar information below on the day of the event. Thank you.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION Toll-Free Attendee Dial In: 866-381-9870 Event Plus Passcode: 85254818 Attendee Direct URL: <https://usps.webex.com/usps/onstage/g.php?MTID=ed87b9639eaec8115236d385ab059d06d>

If you cannot join using the direct link above, please use the alternate logins below:

Alternate URL:	https://usps.webex.com
Event Number:	391 152 093

Office of the Inspector General: [2.7 Billion Served](#) The Postal Service has the nation’s biggest retail network with over 30,000 post office locations. People visit post offices for many reasons beyond the 877 million transactional visits. Customers also stop by to pick up shipping materials and check their P.O. boxes. This raises the number of customer visits to an astounding 2.7 billion in FY 2016. The latest OIG Blog examines our recent white paper on foot traffic and how the Postal Service could use this data much like the private sector. Read the full blog here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRMxX>

Federal Register:

Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 42858–42859 [2017–19323] [\[PDF\]](#)

Postal Service: International Product Changes: GEPS 8 Contracts, 42859–42860 [2017–19237] [\[PDF\]](#); Product Changes: First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 42860 [2017–19278] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail and First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement, 42861 [2017–19277] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail Express and Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 42860 [2017–19276] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail Express Negotiated Service Agreement, 42861 [2017–19275] [\[PDF\]](#), Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 42860 [2017–19274] [\[PDF\]](#), 42861 [2017–19269] [\[PDF\]](#), 42860–42861 [2017–19270] [\[PDF\]](#), 42860 [2017–19271] [\[PDF\]](#), 42860 [2017–19272] [\[PDF\]](#), 42861 [2017–19273] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 11

Industry Alert: DMM Advisory Classification — keeping you informed about classification and mailing standards of the United States Postal Service **September DMM® Update** Postal Explorer® (pe.usps.com) is your source for up-to-date mailing standards. The *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM®) is fully searchable on Postal Explorer and features fly-out menus, cross-reference links, and an extensive subject index. Today, we updated our mailing standards to include the following changes: [Extra Service and Refund Clarifications](#) We revised [503.3.0](#) to clarify the services available under Certified Mail. We also revised [604.9.2](#) and [604.9.5](#) to clarify refund standards and delete redundant text. We published this information in the August 3, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.

Merchandise Return Service We revised [505.3.1.5](#), items a and b, for consistency, and revised item b to update the account volume required for Priority Mail Commercial Plus prices. We also revised the introductory text in [505.3.7.3](#) for clarity, and revised item [505.3.7.3b](#) to update the account volume required for Priority Mail Commercial Plus cubic prices. We published this information in the August 3, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.

Pallet Label We revised various sections of the DMM to standardize terminology in reference to pallet labels. For consistency with the terminology used for sacks and trays, we revised the DMM to use the term “label” exclusively and remove all references to “placard.” We published this information in the August 3, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.

Return Receipt Service We revised [503.Exhibit 1.4.1](#), to clarify the prerequisites when a mailer requests to use return receipt service. We published this information in the August 3, 2017, *Postal Bulletin*.

Office of the Inspector General:

Facility Condition Reviews — Western Area The post office lobby is the principal business office of the U.S. Postal Service. The lobby’s appearance directly affects the USPS’s image because it is the only close-up view of postal operations for many customers. There are over 7,100 Postal Service facilities in the Western Area. We reviewed 39 of them and assessed items related to building safety, security, maintenance, customer complaints, workplace environment, and workplace violence. This is the seventh in a series of audits assessing retail facility conditions nationwide. Read our findings and recommendations at: <https://go.usa.gov/xRMK2>

Mail Collection Box — Management of Service Status The 153,000 mail collection boxes across the nation are used to collect mail from customers by the U.S. Postal Service. USPS allows collection boxes to be placed in an out-of-service status temporarily if they are damaged and awaiting repair, removed for a parade, or cannot be collected due to unusual circumstances. Our objective in our latest audit was to assess the Postal Service’s processes for managing out-of-service mail collection boxes in the Great Lakes, Northeast, Pacific, Southern, and Western Areas. Read our findings at: <https://go.usa.gov/xRMK3>

Billions Served: Foot Traffic at the Post Office People visited post offices some 2.7 billion times in fiscal year 2016, according to a new U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) white paper. Up to this point, the Postal Service’s official statistic for customer visits has only included the number of transactions, which made up about a third of foot traffic last year. A more complete foot traffic estimate could help the Postal Service better manage its retail network for the benefit of the American people. The OIG also segmented post offices by size (Mega, Large, Small/Medium, and Micro) and surveyed the public about their post office use — finding that Millennials actually visit post offices more often than older generations, but for different purposes. Read [Billions Served: Foot Traffic at the Post Office](#). <https://go.usa.gov/xRMgU>

2.7 Billion Served People visited post offices some 2.7 billion times in the fiscal year 2016, according to a new U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) white paper. Up to this point, the Postal Service’s official statistic for customer visits has only included the number of transactions, which made up about a third of foot traffic last year. A more complete foot traffic estimate could

help the Postal Service better manage its retail network for the benefit of the American people. The OIG also segmented post offices by size (Mega, Large, Small/Medium, and Micro) and surveyed the public about their post office use — finding that Millennials actually visit post offices more often than older generations, but for different purposes. Read *Billions Served: Foot Traffic at the Post Office*. <https://go.usa.gov/xRMgU>

September 9

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 42711–42712 [2017–19198] [\[PDF\]](#)

Office of the Inspector General: [Internal Controls Over Stamp Stock Shipments – Genito Station, Midlothian, VA](#) Using data analytics examining lost and stolen stamp shipments, OIG auditors identified discrepancies in stamp inventory and shipments at the Genito Station in Midlothian, VA as well as the Brandermill Finance Station. The latest audit report examines whether internal controls over stamp stock shipments were in place and effective. Read our findings and recommendations in the full audit report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRFpS>

September 8

Office of the Inspector General:

[Oral Statement on Examining the Shipment of Illicit Drugs in International Mail](#) Acting Inspector General Tammy Whitcomb testified before the House Subcommittee on Government Operations hearing on “Examining the Shipment of Illicit Drugs in International Mail”. Read her oral statement here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRF9Y>.

[Supervisory Span of Control - Southern Area](#) The Postal Service uses the Supervisor Workload Credit (SWC) worksheet to calculate the number of employees that report to each supervisor (span of control). The Postal Service does not have a target for span of control, but it has increased from an average of 1:26 (26 employees for each supervisor) in FY 2003 to an average of 1:31 in FY 2016. Our audit report examines the span of control of individual post offices and the use of supervisor hours in the Southern Area districts. Read the full report here: <https://go.usa.gov/xRF5r>

[Application Programming Interface Strategy](#) The U.S. Postal Service currently offers 34 different Web Tools Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), which provide a means for web developers and customers to integrate online Postal Service information and services into their websites. For example, ecommerce companies can help their customers track orders shipped by the Postal Service directly from their own websites. Our OIG auditors examined whether Postal APIs are configured and managed to Postal Service standards and if they follow industry best practices. To read the findings, go to <https://go.usa.gov/xRFXX>

[Highway Contract Route Irregularity Reporting – Jacksonville Network Distribution Center](#) In FY 2016, the Postal Service spent over \$3 billion dollars for about 8,700 highway contract route (HCR) contracts. These contracts allow for the transport of mail between post offices, network distribution centers (NDCs), and other designated stops. An irregularity occurs when the HCR contractor does not satisfactorily perform a service, either non-chargeable when they are not at fault or chargeable when the contractor is at fault. In FY 2015 and 2016, the Postal Service reported 958,000 irregularities and received over \$46 million in reimbursements for chargeable irregularities. The OIG examined the effectiveness of reporting irregularities at the Jacksonville NDC, which had the highest reported increase in irregularities between FY 2015 and 2016. Read the report: <https://go.usa.gov/xRFmp>

September 7

Industry Alerts: From the US Postal Service: All postal operations in the Puerto Rico mainland are suspended. There will be no retail and delivery operations until further notice. With Hurricane Irma expected to impact the Caribbean islands, Priority Mail Express and shipment of live animals to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have been suspended until further notice.

Federal Register: Postal Regulatory Commission: New Postal Products, 42367 [2017–18925] [\[PDF\]](#)

September 6

Office of the Inspector General:

[Internal Controls Over Post Office Postage Meter Use- Canton Center, CT, Post Office](#) In the OIG’s latest internal controls audit report, we used data analytics to identify anomalies in postage meter use at the U.S. Postal Service’s Remotely Managed Post Office (RMPO) in Canton Center, CT. RMPOs offer part-time window service hours and are required to have a post office postage meter due to limited stamp stock requirements. Read the report to discover what we found and our recommendations for improvement: <https://go.usa.gov/xR6RB>

[Facility Condition Reviews- Pacific Area](#) The U.S. Postal Service operates more than 30,000 leased and owned retail facilities nationwide. Over 1,600 of these facilities are in the Pacific Area. We visited 56 of them, and in our new audit report, we assessed building maintenance, safety and security standards, and employee working condition requirements. We also assessed whether each facility was handicap accessible. This is the sixth in a series of audits assessing retail facility conditions nationwide. Read our findings and recommendations in the audit report: <http://go.usa.gov/xR6Qz>

[Surface Visibility Scanning — Western Area](#) The US Postal Service’s Surface Visibility Scanning network provides real-time tracking and management of mail containers and trailers. The network uses devices that update data through wireless connections. The

USPS' FY 2017 goal for accurate scanning was 91 percent. The OIG audited four facilities in the Western area for their compliance to the 91 percent scan rate threshold. Read our findings in the audit report: <http://go.usa.gov/xR6P5>

Industry Alert: Move Update *Correction to Assessment Start Date* The USPS is changing the method for measuring compliance for meeting the Move Update requirement to a Census based approach. Today the USPS measures compliance at an individual mailing level using a MERLIN machine. In the future, the USPS will use scans from Mail Processing Equipment to determine whether addresses for First-Class Mail and USPS Marketing Mail letters and flats, have been updated within 95 days of the mailing date. Compliance will be measured across a calendar month. This new process will result in several benefits, including enhanced mailing visibility and improved mail quality metrics over all mailings within a calendar month, rather than sampling at an individual mailing level. Results from the census verification method are displayed on the Electronic Verification tab of the Mailer Scorecard. Testing of the address verification data has been completed by an Industry task team and the mailer scorecard reports have been declared ready for use. **In March 2018, the Postal Service will begin assessments, based on February data, for Move Update metrics determined to be over the established threshold for the calendar month.** Mailers are encouraged to begin reviewing the results to ensure compliance with Move Update standards. Business Mailer Support will continue to host weekly Move Update calls for mailers who have questions or want additional information. The webinars will be held at 2:00 PM Eastern each Wednesday through November 29, 2017. Webinar information is:

Move Update Webinars

Date/Time: Wednesdays, through November 29, 2017; 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

Log on: <https://uspsmeetings.webex.com/uspsmeetings/j.php?MTID=m53f9300a999775c5f0cf6b81c52afd82>

Conference Code: 563 772 2130

Dial In: 1-855-860-7461

For further information regarding the Move Update Census Method please refer to Publication 6850 found on PostalPro at: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/581> or the Proposed Federal Register Notice found: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/3111>

Federal Register: Postal Service - Meetings; Sunshine Act ,42127 [2017–19021] [PDF], Product Changes: Priority Mail Negotiated Service Agreement, 42127 [2017–18770] [PDF] 42127 [2017–18771] [PDF] 42127 [2017–18772] [PDF]

September 5

Industry Alert: 2018 National Postal Forum Call for Papers The National Postal Forum (NPF) is inviting *industry* speakers to submit workshop proposals for the 2018 National Postal Forum in San Antonio, Texas. Proposals should deliver engaging and educational content that will highlight innovations in the shipping and mailing industry. Industry members submitting workshops, should log on or create a new account on the [2018 NPF Conference Portal](#) and complete the workshop presentation form. This process is for industry members **only**, postal employees will follow a separate process for submitting workshops at a later date. The deadline to submit workshop presentation forms online is Monday, October 2, 2017. For questions or comments regarding 2018 NPF presentations submission, please contact Laurie Woodhams (lwoodhams@npf.org).

Industry Alert: Informed Delivery® Advanced Webinar Series Continues September 12 and September 19, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. (EDT) On September 12 and September 19 the Informed Delivery advanced webinar series will continue for mail owners and mail service providers. These webinars will focus on the launch of the self-serve Informed Delivery Mailer Campaign Portal and how it will facilitate planning, entering, activating, and analyzing interactive mailer campaigns. The much anticipated Mailer Campaign Portal is scheduled to soft-launch in mid-September. At that time, the Informed Delivery Program Office will work with existing test mailers to begin self-serve campaign entries. The broader launch is anticipated in October. In July, [introductory webinars](#) (click to view) on Informed Delivery were conducted. These webinars provided our customers the basics of how this innovation works and how it enhances the value of hardcopy mail in a digital age by creating new opportunities to engage with existing and potential customers. The [August 15 and August 29 webinars](#) (click to view), covered the specific campaign elements required, including image specifications, MID and IMb Serial Number ranges, and submission methods.

Industry Alert: Public Perception of Self-Driving Technology for Long-Haul Trucking and Last-Mile Delivery Some of the world's biggest automakers and tech giants are investing billions of dollars into developing self-driving vehicles, but the public is more ambivalent about the concept. To understand how the public might react to self-driving postal vehicles, the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General administered a national survey investigating the public's reaction to this revolutionary idea. Read [Public Perception of Self-Driving Technology for Long-Haul Trucking and Last-Mile Delivery](#) at <https://go.usa.gov/xRHvq>

September 4

Industry Alert: Southern Area-Hurricane Harvey Update – MISSISSIPPI District

UPDATED: Monday, September 4, 2017 @ 4:00pm

Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices-with services being offered by an alternate location as shown:

- SARAH POST OFFICE, 1353 SARAH RD, SARAH MS 38665-9998
- RETAIL AND PO BOX OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:

- CRENSHAW, 609 BROAD ST, 38621-9998
- Retail hours for Crenshaw Post Office are:
 - Mon-Fri: 07:00-10:30, 11:30-2:00PM
 - Saturday: 09:00-11:00, Closed: Sun
- DROP SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY OPERATIONS HAVE MOVED TO:
 - SLEDGE, 130 WILLIAMS AVE, 38670-9998 Retail hours for Sledge Post Office are: Mon-Fri: 07:00-11:00 Closed: Sat/Sun

Industry Alert: *Southern Area-Hurricane Harvey Update* – Houston District -UPDATED

UPDATED: Monday, September 4, 2017 @ 7:00pm

All Priority Mail Express service has been restored for the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes:

- 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777 and 778

The Postal Service continues its suspension of LIVE animals destined for the following 3-Digit Zip Codes until further notice:

- 770, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, and 778

ALL OFFICES IN THE HOUSTON DISTRICT HAVE RESUMED NORMAL OPERATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF:

Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices-with services being offered by an alternate location as shown:

- LUMBERTON, 650 S MAIL ST, LUMBERTON 77657-9998
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR LUMBERTON HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - BEAUMONT, 5815 WALDEN RD, BEAUMONT TX 77707-9998
- DEWEYVILLE, 680 TX STATE HIGHWAY 272, DEWEYVILLE TX 77614-0001
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR DEWEYVILL HAVE MOVED TO:
 - BRIDGE CITY, 900 TEXAS AVE, BRIDGE CITY TX 77611
- MAURICEVILLE, 11424 HIGHWAY 12, MAURICEVILLE TX 77626-0016
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR DEWEYVILL HAVE MOVED TO:
 - BRIDGE CITY, 900 TEXAS AVE, BRIDGE CITY TX 77611
- ORANGE , 500 4TH ST, ORANGE TX 77630
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR ORANGE HAVE MOVED TO:
 - BEAUMONT, 5815 WALDEN RD, BEAUMONT TX 77707-9998
- SWEENEY, 301 E 2ND ST, SWEENEY TX 77480
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR SWEENEY HAVE MOVED TO:
 - LAKE JACKSON, 210 OAK DR S, 77566-9998
- BRAZORIA, 111 GAINES ST, BRAZORIA TX 77422
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR SWEENEY HAVE MOVED TO:
 - LAKE JACKSON, 210 OAK DR S, 77566-9998
- THOMPSONS, 222 OILFIELD RD, THOMPSONS TX, 77481
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR THOMPSONS HAVE MOVED TO:
 - ROSENBERG, 2103 AVENUE G, ROSENBERG TX, 77471
- ORANGE, 500 4TH ST, ORANGE TX 77630-9998
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR ORANGE HAVE MOVED AS FOLLOWS
 - 77630 ZIP CODE CUSTOMERS: BEAUMONT, 5815 WALDEN RD, BEAUMONT TX 77707-9998
 - 77611 ZIP CODE CUSTOMERS: BRIDGE CITY. 900 TEXAS AVE BRIDGE CITY TX 77611-9998
- DOWNTOWN BEAUMONT, 300 WILLOW ST, STE 1, BEAUMONT TX 77701-2296
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR DWTN BEAUMONT HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - BEAUMONT, 5815 WALDEN RD, BEAUMONT TX 77707-9998
- BEAR CREEK, 16015 CAIRNWAY DR, HOUSTON TX 77084-9998
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR BEAR CREEK HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - FLEETWOOD, 315 ADDICKS HOWELL RD, HOUSTON TX 77079-9998
- GLEN FLORA, 126 BRIDGE ST, GLEN FLORA TX 77443-0177
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR GLEN FLORA HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - WHARTON, 141 E MILAM ST, WHARTON TX 77488-9998
- KATY, KATY FINANCE, 5701 4TH ST, KATY TX 77493-9998
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR KATY FINANCE HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - KATY, 20180 PARK ROW DR KATY TX 77449-9998
- NOME, 2285 HIGHWAY 90, NOME TX 77629-0010

- ALL OPERATIONS FOR NOME HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - CHINA, 305 N BROADWAY ST, CHINA TX 77613-0016
- STOWELL, 3608 STATE HIGHWAY 124, STOWELL TX 77661-0045
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR STOWELL HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - WINNIE, 324 HIGHWAY 124, WINNIE TX 77665-0190
- WEST COLUMBIA, 350 W BRAZOS AVE, WEST COLUMBIA TX 77486-9998
 - ALL OPERATIONS FOR WEST COLUMBIA HAVE BEEN MOVED TO:
 - ANGLETON, 100 CANNAN DR, ANGLETON TX 77515-9998

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>.. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

September 2

Industry Alert: *Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Houston District Closures* The Southern Area and Houston District announce the following update to the impacts from Hurricane/Tropical Harvey: Updated: Saturday, September 2, 2017 @ 10:30am Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- Beaumont, 5815 Walden Rd, Beaumont TX 77707-9998
- Beaumont, Downtown Beaumont, 300 Willow St, Ste 1, Beaumont TX 77701-2296
- Beaumont, Tobe Hahn, 3910 N Dowlen Rd, Beaumont TX 77706-9998
- Brazoria, 111 Gaines St, Brazoria, TX 77422-2119
- Bridge City, 900 Texas Ave, Bridge City TX 77611-9998
- Buna, 332 TX State Highway 62, Buna TX 77612-0047
- Crosby, 133 Hare Rd, Crosby TX 77532-9998
- Devers, 102 S Gates St, Devers TX 77538-9800
- Deweyville, 680 TX State Highway 272, Deweyville TX 77614-0001
- Dickinson, 2515 Termini St, Dickinson TX 77539-9998
- Evadale, 225 FM 105, Evadale TX 77615-0105
- Fred, 20239 FM 92 S, Fred TX 77616-0017
- Glen Flora, 126 Bridge St, Glen Flora TX 77443-0177
- Groves, 6230 39th St, Groves TX 77619-9998
- Hamshire, 25142 Highway 124, Hamshire TX 77622-0015
- Hankamer, 9322 State Highway 61, Hankamer TX 77560-9800
- High Island, 2008 S 5th St, High Island TX 77623-0135
- Hillister, 283 FM 1013 Rd, Hillister TX 77624-0001
- Katy, Katy Finance, 5701 4th St, Katy TX 77493-9998
- Kingwood, 4025 Feather Lakes Way, Kingwood TX 77339-9998
- Liverpool, 2320 Main St, Liverpool TX 77577-8744
- Lumberton, 650 S Main St, Lumberton TX 77657-9998
- Mauriceville, 11424 Highway 12, Mauriceville TX 77626-0016
- Nome, 2285 Highway 90, Nome TX 77629-0010
- Oak Forest, 2499 Judiway St, Houston TX 77018-9998
- Orange, 500 4th St, Orange TX 77630-9998
- Orangefield, 5481 FM 408, Orangefield TX 77639-0197
- Port Arthur, 345 Lakeshore Dr, Port Arthur TX 77640-9998
- Port Bolivar, 2500 Broadway Ave, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0736
- Port Bolivar, Crystal Beach, 2200 Highway 87, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0717
- Raywood, 13615 Highway 90 E, Raywood TX 77582-9800
- Sabine Pass, 5424 Tremont St, Sabine Pass TX 77655-0310
- Saratoga, 17019 FM 770, Saratoga TX 77585-9702
- Silsbee, 111 W Avenue P, Silsbee TX 77656-9998
- Sour Lake, 665 6th St, Sour Lake TX 77659-0289
- South End, 3501 Avenue A, Beaumont TX 77705-9996
- Stowell, 3608 State Highway 124, Stowell TX 77661-0045
- Sweeny, 301 E 2nd St, Sweeny TX 77480-9998
- Thicket, 23394 FM 1293, Thicket TX 77374-0237

- Thompsons, 222 Oilfield Rd, Thompsons TX 77481-9800
- Vidor, 285 S Archie St, Vidor TX 77662-9998
- Votaw, 21598 Old Hwy, Votaw TX 77376-0015
- Wallisville, 20142 Interstate 10, Wallisville TX 77597-3024
- Warren, 120 County Road 1520, Warren TX 77664-0015
- West Columbia, 350 W Brazos Ave, West Columbia TX 77486-9998
- Wharton, 141 E Milam St, Wharton TX 77488-9998

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following office:

- Bear Creek, 16015 Cairnway Dr, Houston TX 77084-9998
 - All Operations For Bear Creek Have Been Moved To:
 - Fleetwood, 315 Addicks Howell Rd, Houston TX 77079-9998

Industry Alert: Southern Area Hurricane - Harvey Update – Houston District Closures. The Southern Area and Houston District announce the following update to the impacts from Hurricane/Tropical Harvey:

Updated: Saturday, September 2, 2017 @ 10:30am Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- Beaumont, 5815 Walden Rd, Beaumont TX 77707-9998
- Beaumont, Downtown Beaumont, 300 Willow St, Ste 1, Beaumont TX 77701-2296
- Beaumont, Tobe Hahn, 3910 N Dowlen Rd, Beaumont TX 77706-9998
- Brazoria, 111 Gaines St, Brazoria, TX 77422-2119
- Bridge City, 900 Texas Ave, Bridge City TX 77611-9998
- Buna, 332 TX State Highway 62, Buna TX 77612-0047
- Crosby, 133 Hare Rd, Crosby TX 77532-9998
- Devers, 102 S Gates St, Devers TX 77538-9800
- Deweyville, 680 TX State Highway 272, Deweyville TX 77614-0001
- Dickinson, 2515 Termini St, Dickinson TX 77539-9998
- Evadale, 225 FM 105, Evadale TX 77615-0105
- Fred, 20239 FM 92 S, Fred TX 77616-0017
- Glen Flora, 126 Bridge St, Glen Flora TX 77443-0177
- Groves, 6230 39th St, Groves TX 77619-9998
- Hamshire, 25142 Highway 124, Hamshire TX 77622-0015
- Hankamer, 9322 State Highway 61, Hankamer TX 77560-9800
- High Island, 2008 S 5th St, High Island TX 77623-0135
- Hillister, 283 FM 1013 Rd, Hillister TX 77624-0001
- Katy, Katy Finance, 5701 4th St, Katy TX 77493-9998
- Kingwood, 4025 Feather Lakes Way, Kingwood TX 77339-9998
- Liverpool, 2320 Main St, Liverpool TX 77577-8744
- Lumberton, 650 S Main St, Lumberton TX 77657-9998
- Mauriceville, 11424 Highway 12, Mauriceville TX 77626-0016
- Nome, 2285 Highway 90, Nome TX 77629-0010
- Oak Forest, 2499 Judiway St, Houston TX 77018-9998
- Orange, 500 4th St, Orange TX 77630-9998
- Orangefield, 5481 FM 408, Orangefield TX 77639-0197
- Port Arthur, 345 Lakeshore Dr, Port Arthur TX 77640-9998
- Port Bolivar, 2500 Broadway Ave, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0736
- Port Bolivar, Crystal Beach, 2200 Highway 87, Port Bolivar TX 77650-0717
- Raywood, 13615 Highway 90 E, Raywood TX 77582-9800
- Sabine Pass, 5424 Tremont St, Sabine Pass TX 77655-0310
- Saratoga, 17019 FM 770, Saratoga TX 77585-9702
- Silsbee, 111 W Avenue P, Silsbee TX 77656-9998
- Sour Lake, 665 6th St, Sour Lake TX 77659-0289
- South End, 3501 Avenue A, Beaumont TX 77705-9996
- Stowell, 3608 State Highway 124, Stowell TX 77661-0045
- Sweeny, 301 E 2nd St, Sweeny TX 77480-9998
- Thicket, 23394 FM 1293, Thicket TX 77374-0237

- Thompsons, 222 Oilfield Rd, Thompsons TX 77481-9800
- Vidor, 285 S Archie St, Vidor TX 77662-9998
- Votaw, 21598 Old Hwy, Votaw TX 77376-0015
- Wallisville, 20142 Interstate 10, Wallisville TX 77597-3024
- Warren, 120 County Road 1520, Warren TX 77664-0015
- West Columbia, 350 W Brazos Ave, West Columbia TX 77486-9998
- Wharton, 141 E Milam St, Wharton TX 77488-9998

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following office:

- Bear Creek, 16015 Cairnway Dr, Houston TX 77084-9998 All Operations For Bear Creek Have Been Moved To Fleetwood, 315 Addicks Howell Rd, Houston TX 77079-9998

September 1

Industry Alert: Friday, September 1, 2017 @ 6:00PM

The following offices will resume normal operations on Saturday, September 2, 2017:

- **Corpus Christi TX 78418**, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- **Ingleside TX 78362**, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, Ingleside TX, 78362-4139
- **Odem TX 78370**, Odem, 223 Main St, 78370-9998
- **Victoria TX 77901**, CPU Rogers Pharmacy, 4402 N Laurent St, Victoria TX 77901-2794
- **Westhoff TX 77994**, Westhoff, 16 Houston Ave, Westhoff TX 77994-9998

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

Corpus Christi TX 78401, Downtown Sta, 802 N. Tanchua St, Corpus Christi TX 78401-9998 Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX, 78404, Six Points Sta, 902 Ayers St, Corpus Christi TX 78404-9998

BME Operations are as follows:

- **779 Affected Areas BMEU Services to** Victoria Main Office, 312 S Main Street, Victoria TX 77901
- **783 Affected Areas BMEU Services to** Corpus Christi Main Office, 809 Nueches Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- **Aransas Pass TX 78335, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78335**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Aransas Pass TX 78336, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78336**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Bayside TX 78340**, 715 Third St, Bayside TX 78340-3019
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Gregory TX 78359, 102 W Fourth, Gregory TX 78359
- **Fulton TX 78358**, 301 Cactus St, Fulton TX 78358-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Meyersville TX 77974**, Meyersville, 2233 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville TX 77974-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Cuero TX 77954, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78373** 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Mail Pick Up Available in Retail Mobile Unit located in Port A, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78373**, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Port Lavaca TX 77979**, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria, James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Rockport TX 78381, Post Office Box Customers**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Rockport TX 78382, For residential customers with ZIP Code 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi, HP Garcia, 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469
- **Seadrift TX 77983**, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998

- Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Skidmore TX 78389**, Skidmore, 122 E Patricio St, 78389-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Mathis TX 78368, 121 S Bee St, Mathis TX 78368
- **Telferner TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, Telferner TX 77988-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Edna TX 77957, 603 Rose, Edna TX 77957
- **Woodsboro TX 78393**, Woodsboro, 501 First St, Woodsboro TX 78393-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Refugio TX 78377, 507 Osage, Refugio TX 78377

The following offices resumed DELIVERY/DROP SHIPMENT operations, Monday, August 28, 2017 – NO RETAIL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE until further notice.

- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78412**, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998
- **Refugio TX 78377**, Refugio, 507 Osage St, 78377-9998

As further impacts to USPS operations are identified, updated information will be posted to USPS Service Alerts website accessed through <http://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/welcome.htm> and the PostalPro website, <http://postalpro.usps.com/>. Additional Industry Alerts will be released as impacts warrant.

Industry Alert: EXAMINING THE SHIPMENT OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN INTERNATIONAL MAIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS HEARING DATE: SEPTEMBER 7, 2017 2:00 PM 2154 RAYBURN HOB

Industry Alert: Move Update The USPS is changing the method for measuring compliance for meeting the Move Update requirement to a Census based approach. Today the USPS measures compliance at an individual mailing level using a MERLIN machine. In the future, the USPS will use scans from Mail Processing Equipment to determine addresses for First-Class and USPS Marketing Mail, letters and flats, have been updated within 95 days of the mailing date, and compliance will be measured across a calendar month. This new process will result in several benefits including enhanced mailing visibility and improved mail quality metrics over all mailings within a calendar month, rather than sampling at an individual mailing level. Results of this census verification are displayed on the Electronic Verification tab of the Mailer Scorecard. Testing of the data has been completed by an Industry task team and the reports have been declared ready for use. In February 2018, the Postal Service will begin assessments, based on January data, for Move Update metrics determined to be over the established threshold for the calendar month. Mailers are encouraged to begin reviewing the results to ensure compliance with Move Update standards. Business Mailer Support will continue to host weekly Move Update calls for mailers who have questions or want additional information. The webinars will be held at 2:00 PM Eastern each Wednesday through November 29, 2017. Webinar information is:

Move Update Webinars

Date/Time: Wednesdays, through November 29, 2017; 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern

Log on: <https://uspsmeetings.webex.com/uspsmeetings/j.php?MTID=m53f9300a999775c5f0cf6b81c52afd82>

Conference Code: 563 772 2130

Dial In: 1-855-860-7461

For further information regarding the Move Update Census Method please refer to Publication 6850 found on PostalPro at: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/581> or the Proposed Federal Register Notice found: <http://postalpro.usps.com/node/3111>

Industry Alert: Important Information for Mail Acceptance Related to Hurricane Harvey Mail Acceptance at BMEUs impacted by Hurricane Harvey Mailers are being informed of BME availability through the Industry alerts.

Mail Acceptance: As BMEs come on line, they will be placed in contingency mode in the event a file or postage statement was or cannot be submitted at the time of mailing. The following instructions are provided for continuation of operations in the event a mailer is not able to submit an electronic postage statement to the USPS due to a USPS outage or mailer issue.

1. BMEUs and DMUs will maintain the USPS Record of Mailings Log for each mailing presented. This log is used to reconcile the mailings to the *PostalOne!* dashboard once issue is resolved.

2. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically must be able to provide, either verbally or in written format, the following information:

- Permit Holder
- Total Pieces (An approximate total piece count can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact number of total pieces)

· Total Postage (An approximate total postage amount can be provided if the mailer does not know the exact total postage for the mailing.)

· Mailer Job ID

· eInduction mailing: Yes or No (If yes, mailers are not required to create hardcopy PS Form 8125(s) or provide any additional documentation).

3. Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will continue to submit the hardcopy postage statement

· Mailers who normally submit hardcopy postage statements will be required to continue providing presort documentation with their mailings.

4. Postal Wizard, Mail.dat® and Mail.XML™ mailers who normally submit their postage statements electronically will not be required to provide presort documentation for any mailing submitted during a USPS or mailer issue/outage.

If mailers have any issues with mail acceptance during this incident, please contact the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800.522.9085.

eInduction: Facilities accepting PVDS through the eInduction program will also remain on contingency for the period of time it takes to resume normal operations. For eInduction mailings presented at the dock, PS Form 8125s are not required to be submitted. Mailers and Dock employees will follow the eInduction Contingency Plan. The instruction below are to be followed for eInduction containers:

1. Accept and scan all placarded containers

NOTE: If the load is a mixed load (containing eInduction containers and regular PVDS Mail) reconcile any containers to 8125 forms.

2. Collect 1 placard from each unloaded container for those not reconciled to 8125 forms
3. In the SV-IMD update all unresolved containers with a 99M barcode to Accept status
4. Release reconciled containers, and containers from which a placard was removed, into operations
5. Retain container placards and, for mixed loads, PS Form 8125s for reconciliation.

If eInduction mailings are held at the dock for any reason, mailers should contact the FAST Help Desk at 877.569.6614.

Non-eInduction mailings will continue to submit PS Form 8125.

Refund Requests for paid mail volume not tendered to the Postal Service due to Hurricane Harvey Some mail owners and mail service providers are deciding not to deliver mail volume due to the impacts of Hurricane Harvey. Mail owners or mail service providers may request a refund for the postage amounts associated to mail pieces paid for, but not tendered to the Postal Service for delivery, by adhering to the following process: Written notification, requesting a refund, must be provided to your local BME Manager. The following information must be included:

1. Date of mailing
2. Post Office where original postage was collected
3. Permit/USPS number used for original postage collection
4. Job ID or Postage Statement ID of impacted mailing
5. Total pieces not mailed
6. Total refund amount and:

– A summary of containers (container ID or container #), total pieces by rate category (5-digit, 3-digit, etc.) and calculations used to determine requested refund amount.

1. A signed statement indicating:

– The mailpieces has been or will be destroyed,

– Destruction Document with signatures that includes the name of the company and individual responsible for destroying the mailpieces along with the date of destruction

– Reimbursement of postage through any insurance claims will not be pursued.

The local office will ensure all required information is included in the refund request and forward to the New York PCSC and Area Business Mailer Support analyst for review.

Industry Alert: *Southern Area – Hurricane Harvey Update –Rio Grande District Updated: Friday, September 1, 2017 @ 11:51AM. The following offices resumed normal operations on Thursday, August 31, 2017*

- **Berclair TX 78107**, Berclair, 15864 Us Highway 59 S, 78107-9800
- **Bloomington TX 77951**, Bloomington, 41 E 2nd St, 77951-9800
- **Driscoll TX 78351**, Driscoll, 201 W Main, 78351-9800
- **Edna TX 77957**, Edna, 603 Rose St, 77957-9998
- **Edroy TX 78352**, Edroy, 17916 Highway 234, 78352-9800
- **Fannin TX 77960**, Fannin, 9931 Us Highway 59 N, 77960-9800
- **Goliad TX 77963**, Goliad, 151 W End St, 77963-9998
- **Inez TX 77968**, Inez, 126 Church St, 77968-9998
- **La Salle TX 77969**, La Salle, 1999 FM 616, 77969-9800
- **La Ward TX 77970**, La Ward, 13059 State Highway 172, 77970-9800
- **Lolita TX 77971**, Lolita, 8966 FM 1593, 77971-9998
- **Nursery TX 77976**, Nursery, 12685 Nursery Dr, 77976-9800
- **Placedo TX 77977**, Placedo, 5037 FM 616, 77977-9800
- **Thomaston TX 77989**, Thomaston, 264 Fordtran Rd, 77989-9800
- **Tynan TX 78391**, Tynan, 508 Highway 359, 78391-9998
- **Vanderbilt TX 77991**, Vanderbilt, 5825 FM 616, 77991-9800
- **Victoria TX, 77904, James Moody Station**, 2804 Sam Houston Dr, Victoria, TX 77904-9998

The following offices resumed normal operations on Friday, September 1, 2017

- **Taft TX 78390, Taft**, 110 Victoria Ave, 78390-9998

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- **Corpus Christi TX 78401**, Downtown Sta, 802 N. Tanchua St, Corpus Christi TX 78401-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX, 78404, Six Points Sta, 902 Ayers St, Corpus Christi TX 78404-9998

BME Operations are as follows:

- **779 Affected Areas BMEU Services to Victoria Main Office**, 312 S Main Street, Victoria TX 77901
- **783 Affected Areas BMEU Services to Corpus Christi Main Office**, 809 Nueches Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469

Until further notice, Retail Operations, Delivery Operations, and Drop Shipments have all been suspended at the following offices:

- **Aransas Pass TX 78335, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78335**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Aransas Pass TX 78336, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78336**, 634 S Commercial St, Aransas Pass TX 78336-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Bayside TX 78340**, 715 Third St, Bayside TX 78340-3019
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Gregory TX 78359, 102 W Fourth, Gregory TX 78359
- **Fulton TX 78358**, 301 Cactus St, Fulton TX 78358-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139
- **Meyersville TX 77974**, Meyersville, 2233 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville TX 77974-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Cuero TX 77954, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Post Office Box Customers in ZIP Code 78373** 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Mail Pick Up Available in Retail Mobile Unit located in Port A, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373
- **Port Aransas TX 78373, Customers with street delivery in ZIP Code 78373**, 1211 State Highway 361, Port Aransas TX 78373-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi TX 78405, Roy Miller Station, 1340 S Port Ave, Corpus Christi TX 78405
- **Port Lavaca TX 77979**, 1201 Half League Rd, Port Lavaca TX 77979-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria, James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Rockport TX 78381, Post Office Box Customers**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Ingleside TX 78362, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, 78362-4139

- **Rockport TX 78382, For residential customers with ZIP Code 78382**, 1550 FM 2165, Rockport TX 78382-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Corpus Christi, HP Garcia, 809 Nueces Bay Blvd, Corpus Christi TX 78469
- **Seadrift TX 77983**, 518 S Main St, Seadrift TX 77983-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Victoria James Moody, 2804 Sam Houston, Victoria TX 77904
- **Skidmore TX 78389**, Skidmore, 122 E Patricio St, 78389-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Mathis TX 78368, 121 S Bee St, Mathis TX 78368
- **Telferner TX 77988**, 319 FM 1686, Telferner TX 77988-9800
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Edna TX 77957, 603 Rose, Edna TX 77957
- **Westhoff TX 77994**, Westhoff, 16 Houston Ave, Westhoff TX 77994-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Cuero TX 77954, 301 E Main St, Cuero TX 77954
- **Woodsboro TX 78393**, Woodsboro, 501 First St, Woodsboro TX 78393-9998
 - Alternate location for mail pick up: Refugio TX 78377, 507 Osage, Refugio TX 78377

The following offices resumed DELIVERY/DROP SHIPMENT operations, Monday, August 28, 2017 – NO RETAIL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE until further notice.

- **Corpus Christi TX 78413**, Southside, 6742 Weber Rd, Corpus Christi TX 78413-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78418**, Flour Bluff, 10139 Security Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78418-9998
- **Corpus Christi TX 78412**, Gulfway, 1345 Crescent Dr, Corpus Christi TX 78412-9998
- **Ingleside TX 78362**, Ingleside, 2230 State Highway 361, Ingleside TX, 78362-4139
- **Odem TX 78370**, Odem, 223 Main St, 78370-9998
- **Refugio TX 78377**, Refugio, 507 Osage St, 78377-9998
- **Victoria TX 77901**, Cpu Rogers Pharmacy, 4402 N Laurent St, Victoria TX 77901-2794

Industry Alert: Southern Area - Hurricane Harvey Update UPDATED: FRIDAY, September 1, 2017 11:30 All **Priority Mail Express** service to the following 3-Digit ZIP Codes have been suspended until Tuesday, September 5th, 2017 at noon: **DALLAS DISTRICT**: 759 is suspended until Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at noon. **HOUSTON DISTRICT**: 770, 772, 773, 774, 774, 775, 776, 777, and 778 is suspended until Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at noon. The Postal Service is suspending the shipment of LIVE animals destined for the following 3-Digit Zip Codes until further notice: DALLAS DISTRICT: 759 HOUSTON DISTRICT: 770, 772, 773, 774, 774, 775, 776, 777, and 778

Industry Alert: Attention PostalOne! Users: PostalOne! Release 45.3.1.2 will deploy on Sunday, September 3, 2017 from 4:00 AM CT to 9:00 AM CT. The *PostalOne!* system will be available during this time. **PostalOne! Test Environment for Mailers (TEM) Release 45.3.1.2** will deploy on Sunday, September 3, 2017 from 4:00 AM to 9:00 AM CT and TEM will be available during this time.

Industry Alert: Postal Service Interactive National Map The Postal Service continues to monitor service impacts to areas affected by Hurricane Harvey. Industry alerts and service alerts will be issued to inform customers on the Post Office closures and other service impacts. In response to Hurricane Harvey the Postal Service has implemented a new [interactive national map](#) tool to visualize the operational status of postal facilities across the nation. The map can be refreshed to stay up-to-date on the latest facilities information. **Please note:** this interactive map is not intended to replace Industry Alerts as the official source of postal communication.

Industry Alert: LOUISIANA DISTRICT - Update As of Wednesday, August 30, 2017 @ 4:00PM All Louisiana District offices have resumed normal operations on Thursday, August 31, 2017: AVERY ISLAND RMPO 70513, 100 MAIN RD, AVERY ISLAND LA 70513-9998 **CAMERON POST OFFICE 70631**, 144 ADAM ROUX ST, CAMERON LA 70631-9998 **HACKBERRY POST OFFICE 70645**, 904 MAIN ST, HACKBERRY LA 70645-9997

Industry Alert: Houston District Update Updated: 4:30pm, Thursday, August 31, 2017 The Southern Area and Houston District are announcing the following updates from Hurricane/Tropical Storm Harvey. The following offices will resume receiving Drop Shipments On Friday, September 1, 2017 (The status of delivery and retail operations in these offices will be updated in a separate notice.)

- **Anderson TX 77830**, 1035 Highway 90 N, Anderson TX 77830-9998
- **Bedias TX 77831**, 3681 Main St, Bedias TX 77831-9812
- **Brenham TX 77833**, 309 N Market St, Brenham TX 77833-9998
- **Bryan TX 77801**, 2121 E Wm J Bryan Pkwy, Bryan TX 77801-9997
- **Burton TX 77835**, 500 N Railroad St, Burton TX 77835-9202
- **Caldwell TX 77836**, 201 N Main St, Caldwell TX 77836-9998
- **Calvert TX 77837**, 602 S Cedar Rd, Calvert TX 77837-9800
- **Chriesman TX 77838**, 136 Prairie St, Chriesman TX 77838-5000
- **College Station TX 77840**, 2130 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy S, College Station TX 77840-9998
- **Concord TX 77850**, 1117 County Road 3481, Concord TX 77850-9801
- **Conroe TX 77301**, 809 W Dallas St, Conroe TX 77301-9998
- **Cypress TX 77429**, 16635 Spring Cypress Rd, Cypress TX 77429-9998

- **Deanville TX 77852**, 6625 FM 111, Deanville TX 77852-4500
- **Dime Box TX 77853**, 1017 Stephen F Austin Blvd, Dime Box TX 77853-5366
- **Downtown Bryan TX 77803**, 210 W Wm J Bryan Pkwy, Bryan TX 77803-9998
- **Downtown Huntsville TX 77320**, 1315 10th St, Huntsville TX 77320-9998
- **First Colony TX 77479**, 3130 Grants Lake Blvd, Sugar Land TX 77479-9998
- **Flynn TX 77855**, 7782 FM 39 S, Flynn TX 77855-9800
- **Franklin TX 77856**, 216 E Decherd St, Franklin TX 77856-9803
- **Gause TX 77857**, 100 Main St, Gause TX 77857-9800
- **Hearne TX 77859**, 600 W 1st St, Hearne TX 77859-9998
- **Hempstead TX 77445**, 901 12th St, Hempstead TX 77445-9998
- **Humble TX 77338**, 1202 1st St E, Humble TX 77338-9998
- **Huntsville TX 77340**, 3190 Highway 30 W, Huntsville TX 77340-6431
- **Iola TX 77861**, 23329 FM 39, Iola TX 77861-5367
- **Katy TX 77449**, 20180 Park Row Dr, Katy TX 77449-9998
- **Katy Annex TX 77494**, 1331 Pin Oak Rd, Katy TX 77494-9998
- **Kingwood TX 77339**, 4025 Feather Lakes Way, Kingwood TX 77339-9998
- **Klein TX 77379**, 7717 Louetta Rd, Spring TX 77379-9998
- **Kurten TX 77862**, 12857 E SH Hwy 21, Kurten TX 77862-9700
- **Lyons TX 77863**, 14030 Hwy 36 S, Lyons TX 77863-9700
- **Madisonville TX 77864**, 310 N Commerce St, Madisonville TX 77864-9998
- **Magnolia TX 77355**, 815 Goodson Rd, Magnolia TX 77355-9998
- **Marquez TX 77865**, 208 VW Goodwin Blvd N, Marquez TX 77865-9998
- **Millican TX 77866**, 22200 FM 159, Millican TX 77866-9700
- **Montgomery TX 77356**, 20821 Eva St Ste H, Montgomery TX 77356-9998
- **Montgomery Annex TX 77356**, 21359 Eva St, Montgomery TX 77356-9997
- **Navasota TX 77868**, 115 Farquhar St, Navasota TX 77868-9998
- **New Baden TX 77870**, 199 FM 1940, New Baden TX 77870-4102
- **Normangee TX 77871**, 201 Hollis St, Normangee TX 77871-9801
- **North Zulch TX 77872**, 11337 5th St, North Zulch TX 77872-9800
- **Northgate College Station TX 77841**, 104 N Houston St, College Station TX 77841-9800
- **Panther Creek TX 77381**, 10800 Gosling Rd, Spring TX 77381-9998
- **Richards TX 77873**, 11002 FM 149, Richards TX 77873-2742
- **Sealy TX 77474**, 222 Moody St, Sealy TX 77474-9998
- **Sheridan TX 77475**, 1402 U S Highway 90A, Sheridan TX 77475-9800
- **Shiro TX 77876**, 19431 Highway 30, Shiro TX 77876-9800
- **Snook TX 77878**, 9999 FM 2155, Snook TX 77878-9800
- **Somerville TX 77879**, 199 8th St, Somerville TX 77879-9802
- **Spring TX 77373**, 1411 Wunsche Loop, Spring TX 77373-9998
- **Stafford TX 77477**, 4110 Bluebonnet Dr, Stafford TX 77477-9998
- **Sugar Land TX 77478**, 225 Matlage Way, Sugar Land TX 77478-9998
- **The Woodlands TX 77380**, 9450 Pinecroft Dr, Spring TX 77380-9998
- **Tomball TX 77375**, 122 N Holderrieth Blvd, Tomball TX 77375-9998
- **Washington TX 77880**, 23295 FM 1155 E, Washington TX 77880-6037
- **Wellborn TX 77881**, 14881 FM 2154, Wellborn TX 77881-9800
- **Wheelock TX 77882**, 11546 S FM 46, Wheelock TX 77882-9800