



National Postal Forum

May 6, 2026

Agenda

- Introductions / Housekeeping
- Intelligent Mail barcode
 - History of the IMb
 - Types of IMbs
 - IMb Field Definitions
 - Service Type IDs

INTELLIGENT MAIL BARCODE



FORGING BOLD
HORIZONS

NPF - npf.org



Agenda

- IMb Options
 - Tracking
 - ACS
 - Physical piece handling
 - Electronic data
- IMb Quality Control
- Strategies for Success / IMb Resources

Introductions / Housekeeping

- Getting to Know Us
 - Mike Filipski, USPS
 - Lisa Bowes, SnailWorks
- Getting to Know You
 - Mail Owners?
 - Mail Service Providers?
 - Others?



THE HISTORY OF MAIL BARCODES



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The History of Mail Barcodes

- POSTNET™
- PLANET Code®
- Intelligent Mail® barcode – IMb

POSTNET™

- **Postal Numeric Encoding Technique**

The ZIP+4 of **55555-1237** yields a check digit of **2** for encoded data of **5555512372**
Together with the initials and terminal frame bars, this would be represented as:



- Introduced 1982 / Retired 2013

PLANET Code

- **Postal Alpha Numeric Encoding Technique**
- Specific to USPS CONFIRM Service, pre-IMb Tracing
 - identifies mailpiece class and shape
 - identifies the Confirm Subscriber ID
 - includes up to 6 digits of additional information that the Confirm subscriber chose, such as a mailing number, mailing campaign ID or customer ID



Types of Intelligent Mail barcodes

- Piece barcodes
- Tray barcodes
- Container barcodes



Container and Tray barcodes

30.1 6-digit Mailer ID Container Barcode Example

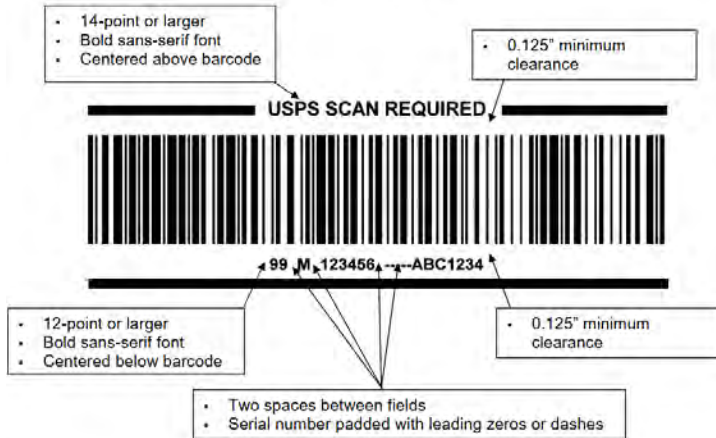


Figure 1: 24-Digit Mailer-to-Postal Label Example - 9 Digit Mailer ID



Figure 2: 24-Digit Mailer-to-Carrier Route Label Example - 6 Digit Mailer ID

Nesting



Nesting of Data

Unique Intelligent Mail Piece Barcode	Unique Intelligent Mail Tray Barcode	Unique Intelligent Mail Container Barcode
Intelligent Mail Barcode ID	IMTB ID	IMCB ID
00041000493000780241 3724500100	072451231000049300000010	99900019PS-TE5701295640
00041000493000780242 3724500101		
00041000493000780243 3724500102		
00041000493000780244 3724500103		
00041000493000780245 3724500104		
00041000493000780246 3724500105		
00041000493000780247 3724500106		
00041000493000780248 3724500107		
00041000493000780249 3724500108	072451231000049300000020	
00041000493000780250 3724500109		
00041000493000780251 3724500110		
00041000493000780252 3724500111		
00041000493000780253 3724500112		
00041000493000780254 3724500113		
00041000493000780255 3724500114		

Diagram illustrating the nesting of data:

- Pieces:** Individual mail pieces (rows 1-14) are grouped into two trays.
- Tray:** Two trays are shown, each containing 14 pieces.
- Pallet:** The two trays are grouped together on a pallet.

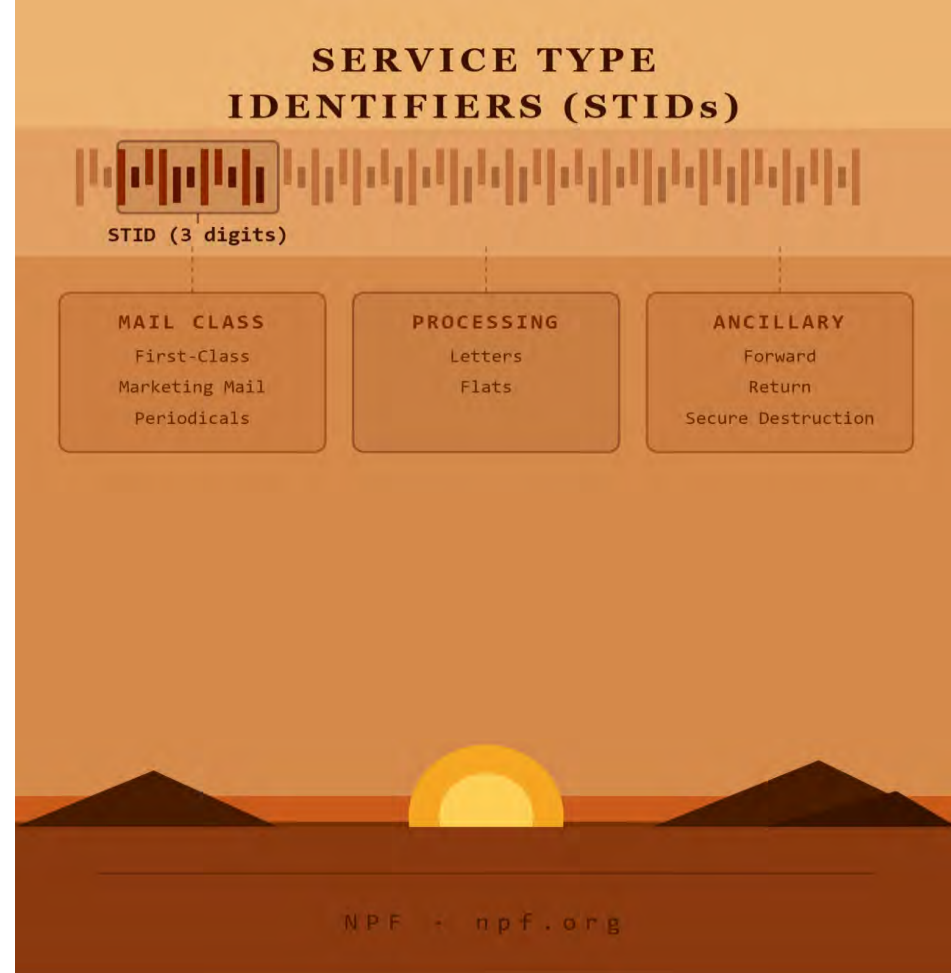
Example Data for eDoc

IMb Fields – Mailpiece Barcodes

Intelligent Mail Barcode for Letters and Flats: 6-Digit and 9-Digit Mailer IDs																														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Barcode ID (2N)		Service Type ID (3N)			Mailer ID (6N)						Serial Number (9N)									Routing Code (0, 5, 9, or 11N)										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Barcode ID (2N)		Service Type ID (3N)			Mailer ID (9N)									Serial Number (6N)						Routing Code (0, 5, 9, or 11N)										

Service Type IDs

- What's Required
 - Class of Mail
 - Full Service or Basic
- What's Optional
 - Tracking
 - UAA handling and data requests



IMb Options

- What Options Are Available?
 - Tracking
 - Physical piece handling if Undeliverable As Addressed
 - Return to Sender
 - Secure Destruction for First Class Mail
 - Forwarding, even for Marketing Mail
 - Address Correction Service data



Selecting the Right STID - Don't Gamble!

- Considerations
 - What is the Class of Mail?
 - Is the mail Basic or Full Service qualified by presort?
 - Do you want to track with Informed Visibility?
 - Address Corrections physical piece and data handling
 - Physical Undeliverable-As-Addressed handling?
 - Securely destroyed
 - Discarded
 - Forwarded
 - Returned
 - Default by mail class handling



STIDS

- Main STID Table
 - First Class
 - Periodicals
 - Marketing Mail
 - Bound Printed Matter
 - Political Mail / Ballot Mail
 - Miscellaneous
 - Priority
 - Reply Mail
 - Share Mail

USPS Marketing Mail®					
Address Correction Option		Basic or Nonautomation		Full-Service	
		Without IV® MTR*	With IV® MTR*	Without IV® MTR*	With IV® MTR*
No Address Corrections – No Printed Endorsement		301	311	261	271
Manual Corrections **		702	042		
OneCode ACS®	Address Service Requested Opt 1** \$	090	142		
	Address Service Requested Opt 2** \$	334	585		
	Change Service Requested Opt 1** ♻️	092	242		
	Change Service Requested Opt 2** ♻️ \$	513***	586***		
	Return Service Requested Opt 2** \$	272	262		
Full-Service ACS™	Address Service Requested Opt 1** \$			091	143
	Address Service Requested Opt 2** \$			550	548
	Change Service Requested Opt 1** ♻️			093	243
	Change Service Requested Opt 2** ♻️ \$			567***	231***
	Return Service Requested Opt 2** \$			529	587



STID Table Cautions

- Secure Destructions STIDs that are not included on the STID Table
- Share Mail STIDs are not included on the STID Table
- Political Mail / Ballot Mail / Election Mail STIDs



STID Tables

SECURE DESTRUCTION SERVICE TYPE ID TABLE

Class of Mail	Address Correction Option	Basic & Non-auto option w/o IV- MTR*	Basic & Non-auto option with IV- MTR*	Full-Service w/o IV- MTR*	Full-Service with IV- MTR*
First-Class Mail Letters & Flats	OneCode ACS [®] Format Change Service Requested - Opt 1 w/Secure Destruction				
	OneCode ACS Format Change Service Requested - Opt 2 w/Secure Destruction				
	Full-Service ACS [™] Format Change Service Requested - Opt 1 w/Secure Destruction				
	Full-Service ACS Format Change Service Requested - Opt 2 w/Secure Destruction				
	Traditional ACS [™] Format Change Service Requested - Opt 1 w/Secure Destruction – printed endorsement required				
	Traditional ACS Format Change Service Requested - Opt 2 w/Secure Destruction – printed endorsement required				





Political vs Ballot Mail Definitions

- Political Mail
 - any material mailed for campaign purposes by a registered political candidate, campaign committee, or committee of a political party, or political message mailing by a political action committee (PAC), super PAC, or other organization engaging in an effort to influence or drive voter mobilization.
- Ballot Mail
 - a mailpiece sent to or from an authorized election official containing a live ballot that may be used to cast a vote in an election.
 - NOTE: Ballot Mail is a subset of Election Mail; however, only live ballots may use Ballot Mail STIDs.
 - For other Election Mail (sample ballots, voter registration, polling place locations, absentee applications, polling place notifications) use the appropriate FC or MM STID for the mail class and ACS/IV-MTR services desired.

IMb Quality Control

- Readable is great, but...
- Content Matters!
- Translate and Match
- Catch errors before it's too late



Strategies for Success

- Range Uniqueness Management
 - Is 45 days enough?
- Understand and Utilize Options – No Fear!
 - Tracking options
 - ACS piece handling and data delivery options – get creative
 - Forwarding options
 - Timing options
 - Secure Destruction options for First Class



True or False?

- There is no CRID in an Intelligent Mail barcode
- Political Mail is its' own Class of mail
- Barcode data is used to trigger Informed Delivery notifications
- **Extra Credit** – What year was the first Postal barcode introduced?



PostalPro Guides

Intelligent Mail® Barcode

The Intelligent Mail® barcode (IMb) is used to sort and track letters, cards and flats and offers greater versatility by allowing many services to be requested and embedded within one barcode. The Intelligent Mail barcode combines the data of the existing POSTNET™ and the PLANET Code® barcodes, as well as other data, into a single barcode.



Intelligent Mail® Container Barcode (IMcb)

The Intelligent Mail® Container barcode (IMcb) will be applied to Mailer-generated container labels and is designed to be scanned at acceptance and at other points throughout transportation and processing. The Intelligent Mail Container barcode allows each container to be associated with a unique mailing and facilitates tracking of containers throughout the mail processing network.



Intelligent Mail® Tray Label

All tray label production systems are being transitioned to produce a 24-digit Intelligent Mail® (IM®) tray label in support of the USPS® "100% Visibility" strategy. The IM tray label allows for the unique identification of every tray, tub, and sack traveling throughout our mail processing and delivery network.



Resource Links

- Intelligent Mail <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailing>
- STIDs (Service Type IDs) <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailing/service-type-identifiers>
- Secure Destruction for First Class <https://postalpro.usps.com/mailing/secure-destruction>

IMb Resources

- PCC Postal Customer Councils
- MTAC
Mailers Technical Advisory Committee
- Mailing Associations
 - Mailer's Hub
- Leader's Connect



Contact Us

Mike  michael.v.filipski@usps.gov

Lisa  lbowes@snailworks.com



See you next year in Orlando, Florida!

