

USPS Fraud and Counterfeit Industry Webinar

May 2024

Purpose

- To align and inform Shippers, Account Representatives, and Counterfeit Package Intercept Support (CPIS) Team
- To address concerns, questions, and clarifications pertaining to the August 1, 2024 payment check enforcement updates

Discussion Topics and Logistics

Discussion Topics

- Current & Desired Future State
- Common Terms
- Processes & Systems
- Non-Payment Metric Email
- Mitigating Package Intercept
- Q&A
- Conclusion

Logistics

- All participants are muted
- Use the Q&A feature for questions and technical issues
 - Questions will only be visible once answered
 - We will answer questions as we are able
 - Technical issues will be addressed individually
- Slides and recording will be shared on USPS Postal Pro page - <https://postalpro.usps.com/counterfeit-and-fraud>
- Email your Account Representative with any additional questions or concerns

Current &
Desired Future State

Current State

- Financial Impact
 - USPS and their customers have suffered significant financial loss because of counterfeit shippers
- Unmanifested Shipments
 - Hijacked MIDs
 - 100% Unpaid MIDs
 - Falsified Documentation
- Late Payment
 - Millions of shipments paid for hours or days after entry

Goals

- To deter and reduce fraud, counterfeits, and hijacking of MIDs
- To limit financial impact on USPS
- To ensure all shipments are manifested prior to the first machine scan
- To increase shipment visibility within USPS

New Processes

- Unmanifested or Late Manifested shipments will be intercepted at time of first scan
- Intercepted shipments will be subject to destruction
- Intercepted shipments will not be reimbursed
- There is not a process to retrieve intercepted shipments

Common Terms

Common Terms

- Identification Numbers
 - IMpb
 - MID
- Manifesting
 - Manifested On-Time
 - Manifested Late
 - Unmanifested
- File Types
 - SPEF
 - SSF
 - ICR

Identification Numbers

IMpb (Intelligent Mail Package Barcode)

- Entire Number is tracking number
- MID is embedded (red box)
- Service Type Code (STC) is embedded (blue box)



MID (Mail Identification Number)

- Package MID
 - The MID that appears on the physical package label (embedded in the IMpb/tracking number)
 - There can be many Package MIDs associated to a Manifest MID
- Manifest MID
 - The MID the Shipper manifests the shipments under in a manifest file
 - Manifest MID is not necessarily the same as a Package MID

Manifesting

Unmanifested

- No SPEF or SSF was associated with the shipment at time of first scan
- Unmanifested shipments will be seized after August 1

Late Manifested

- An SPEF or SSF was associated with shipment after the first scan
- The SPEF or SSF was received after the first scan
- Late Manifested packages will be seized after August 1

Manifested On-Time

- A file was associated with shipment at time of first scan
- Shipment will continue its journey as normal

File Types

What Is A SPEF?

- Stands For: Shipping Partner Event File
- What Does It Do:
 - Details package information for USPS while package is in Shipper's possession
 - Details Label Information – Addresses, IMpb
- Sent from: Webtools API, USPS Labels API, Third Party source
- Transmitted through: DTS (PDX, SFTP, EDI, AS2)
- Received by: PTR, eVS, USPS Ship

SPEF Enrollment

- Shippers need Shipping Partner certification through National Customer Support Center (NCSC)
- Shippers need to be certified in Program Registration
- List of Certified Shipping Partners - [Certified Full-Service Vendor Detailed List | PostalPro \(usps.com\)](#)

*Without certification, SPEFs will not be recognized by USPS systems

What Is A SSF?

- Stands For: Shipping Services File
- What Does It Do:
 - Provides rate ingredients to enable postage calculation

- Sent from: Webtools API, USPS Labels API, Third Party source
- Transmitted through: DTS (PDX, SFTP, EDI, AS2)
- Received by: PTR, eVS, USPS Ship

Manifesting - SPEF & SSF

- SPEF submission
 - Needs to be submitted prior to first scan
 - Allows for accompanying SSF to be submitted later

- SSF submission
 - Needs to be submitted prior to the first scan if there was not an SPEF
 - Can be submitted after the first scan if an SPEF is submitted prior to the first scan

What is an ICR File?

- Stands For: Indicium Creation Record
- What Does It Do:
 - An ICR File is the proof of payment file for PC Postage Shippers
- Sent from: Shipper's Own Software
- Transmitted through: PDX
- Received by: NMATS (National Meter Accounting and Tracking System)

Manifesting - ICR File

- PC Postage Providers must upload an SSF prior to first scan
 - SSF data needs to match ICR file
- NMATS receives ICR file once per day with prior day's data
 - Results in all ICRs being late

Processes & Systems

Key USPS Processes & Systems

- USPS Ship
- USPS Labels API
- WebTools API
- Click N Ship
- Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU)
- My PO
- Operation Santa
- Premium Forwarding Service – Commercial (PFSC)
- Scan Form
- Meter Strips

USPS Ship

- What Does It Do:
 - Processes manifests
 - Will replace eVS
 - Conducts payment check
- Accessed Via: Business Customer Gateway (BCG)
- Receives: SPEFs and SSFs from Shippers via DTS and PTR
- Sends: Payment Check result (Yes/No)

USPS Label API

- What Does It Do:
 - Allows Shippers to create, pay, and print labels
 - Generates SPEF (GX or AL event) at time of label creation
 - Can generate SSF at time of label creation if Shipper wants to pay at that time
- Accessed Via: Business Customer Gateway (BCG), Apigee Platform
- Receives: Shipper and payment information
- Sends: SPEF and SSF to USPS Ship

WebTools API

- What Does It Do:
 - Generates SPEF (GX or AL event)
 - Generates SSF
 - Accessed Via: API Call from Shipper
 - Receives: Shipper and payment information
 - Sends: SSF to PTR; then ultimately eVS for payment
- *USPS Labels API is the successor to WebTools API (currently in operation)

Click N Ship

- What Does It Do:
 - Prints label
 - Enters address information
 - Creates SSF
- Accessed Via: Click N Ship Business Pro App
- Receives: Customer Information
- Sends: SSF to PTR.

Omitted Services

- Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU)
- My PO
- Operation Santa
- Premium Forwarding Service – Commercial (PFSC)
- Scan Form
- Meter Strips

*As of today, these services are not impacted. They are still being reviewed through different processes

Third Party Systems

- USPS is not responsible for Third Party software issues that affects manifesting or file submission
- Utilizing Third Party systems may result in the need for a greater time window for processing
- If Third Party systems are having issues, it is their responsibility to inform USPS

USPS Recommendations

- Using WebTools API or USPS Labels API for manifesting as it provides automatic submission of an SPEF and SSF.
- Update operating procedures to submit files more frequently and/or prior to first scan.

Non-Payment Metric Emails

Email Table

Important [Company Name] Mailer Metrics from [Pull Start Date] to [Pull End Date]:

Total Pieces	Total pieces with on-time payment	Pieces with late Manifests*	Unmanifested Pieces**
1	0	1	0

*Pieces with quality SPEF and SSF after the first scan are considered late. Pieces must have either a quality SPEF or SSF at the time of the first scan to be considered manifested and avoid interception.

**Pieces with no SSF and SPEF are considered Unmanifested. These pieces must be manifested and paid prior to induction to avoid interception.

- Total Pieces: total shipments received by USPS
- Total Pieces with on-time payment: number of pieces that were 100% compliant
- Pieces with late Manifests: number of pieces that were unmanifested but eventually received a manifest
- Unmanifested Pieces: number of pieces that were not manifested by time of first scan

Email Data File

- Parcel ID Code
- Manifest MID
- Package MID
- Earliest Scan Date
- SPEF Submission
- SSF Submission

Parcel ID Code	Manifest MID	Package MID	Earliest Scan Date	SPEF Submission	SSF Submission
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9200112345678933400874	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:07 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM

Parcel ID Code

- The same as an IMpb or Tracking Number
- Aids in researching shipment information

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Manifest MID

- The MID the Shipper manifests the package under in a manifest file
- Manifest MID is not necessarily the same as a Package MID

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Package MID

- The MID that appears on the physical package label (in the IMpb/tracking number)
- There can be many Package MIDs associated to a Manifest MID

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Earliest Scan Date

- This is the time of the first scan at a USPS facility
- Early/late files are based off this date/time stamp

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SPEF Submission

- Details the date and time a SPEF was submitted
- If a value is not present, a file was not received by USPS

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9200112345678943434530	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:28 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678922133452	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:48 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933436581	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:16 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678976487939	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:06:18 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678951534252	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:34 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933439917	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:41 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678920437873	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:04 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933432435	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:23 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678988434430	987654321	123456789	4/17/2024 4:30:58 PM	4/17/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/17/2024 6:20:31 PM
9200112345678933400874	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:07 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM

SSF Submission

- Details the date and time a SSF was submitted
- If a value is not present, a file was not received by USPS

Parcel ID Code	Manifest MID	Package MID	Earliest Scan Date	SPEF Submission	SSF Submission
9200112345678903434252	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:59 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678963487684	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:06:14 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678935190458	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:42 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933435469	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:46 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678903430230	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:30 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933430982	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:06:04 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678943487133	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:06:23 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678923234904	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:23 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678943434530	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:28 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678922133452	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:48 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933436581	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:16 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678976487939	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:06:18 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678951534252	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:34 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933439917	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:05:41 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678920437873	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:04 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678933432435	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:23 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM
9200112345678988434430	987654321	123456789	4/17/2024 4:30:58 PM	4/17/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/17/2024 6:20:31 PM
9200112345678933400874	987654321	123456789	4/16/2024 4:04:07 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM	4/16/2024 5:24:39 PM

Email Updates

- Quality Shipper Score to be added in June
- Data logic has been updated
- All Shippers, regardless of compliance, will receive emails noting their Shipper Score and Compliance

Mitigating Package Intercept

Intercept List

- List composed of MIDs and IMpbs that are vetted as 100% unpaid
- Shipments on Intercept List are automatically intercepted

Non-Intercept List

- List is composed of MIDs
- Shipments on list are allowed to pass through without the threat of being intercepted
- Mail Owner will be financially responsible for all shipments on a Non-Intercept List (includes IMpbs which are fraudulent)
- Useful if Shippers do not want to deal with late manifests
- Will be used in cases of Shipper system outages (temporarily)

How To Add To Intercept/Non-Intercept List?

1. Shipper provides list of
 - A. Intercept List - IMpb/MID(s) they want intercepted
 - B. Non-Intercept List - MID(s) they do not want intercepted
2. Shipper informs their Account Representative of the request
3. Account Representative informs CPIS Team (BWJXQ0@usps.gov)
4. CPIS Team will review the activity on the IMpb/MID(s)
5. CPIS Team will inform the Shipper and their Account Representative of findings
6. CPIS Team, Account Representative, and Shipper, align on an Intercept/Non-Intercept plan

Seized Packages

- Shipment was seized due to IMpb/MID on the Intercept List
- Shipment was seized due to failed SPEF/SSF association

Latest Update

The package associated with this tracking number was found to bear counterfeit postage and is now considered Postal Service property under USPS regulations and will not be delivered. You are encouraged to contact the sender/merchant and/or your credit card company, as applicable, to seek a refund or other available recourse.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:



Alert

Seized by USPS for Counterfeit Postage

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility

MID NY DISTRIBUTION CENTER
February 8, 2024, 6:40 pm

[See All Tracking History](#)

[What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?](#)

Latest Update

The package associated with this tracking number did not have proper postage applied and will not be delivered. You are encouraged to contact the sender/merchant to seek reshipment, refund, or other available resources.

Get More Out of USPS Tracking:



Alert

Undeliverable due to Improper Postage

Arrived at USPS Regional Facility

MID NY DISTRIBUTION CENTER
February 8, 2024, 6:40 pm

[See All Tracking History](#)

[What Do USPS Tracking Statuses Mean?](#)

Outages – USPS System

If the USPS cannot process manifests due to a USPS outage or system failure:

- Live payment validation will revert to current process of intercepting Intercept Listed MIDs and IMpbs
- USPS will still collect payment data for Quality Shipper score
- Live payment validation will be resume after USPS confirms they can properly upload manifests

Outages - Customer

Customer System Outages: If a Shipper cannot upload a manifest, there are two options to avoid their packages being intercepted:

- USPS is working on a call-based solution
- Provide MID(s) that USPS will not intercept until the outage is over

***IMPORTANT:** If a Shipper does not provide the USPS with a notification of the outage, they will be responsible for all pieces intercepted during the outage

Quality Shipper Status

- Obtaining Quality Shipper Status ensures shipments will not be intercepted
- Quality Shipper Score will be recalculated weekly
 - Sunday-Saturday calculation for next Monday-Sunday
- Quality Shipper Score based on present and past payment behavior
- If Quality Shipper Score falls below a certain threshold, shipments will be subject to being intercepted again
- Plan to include status in Non-Payment Metric emails (weekly) in June

Questions?
Please use the Q&A feature

Conclusion

What Is Next?

- Continue to send Non-Payment Metric emails (includes June addition of Quality Shipper Scorecard)
- Refine and distribute FAQs based on your feedback
- Host Postal Pro website - <https://postalpro.usps.com/counterfeit-and-fraud>
- Distribute External Talking Points

What Can You Do?

- Review PowerPoint and recording to become knowledgeable of basics
- Share PowerPoint and recording with your colleagues
- Consider using USPS systems for manifesting
- Review the webpage for updated communication-
<https://postalpro.usps.com/counterfeit-and-fraud>
- Ensure you receive Industry Alerts - IndustryAlert@usps.gov

Who To Contact?

- Reach out to their Account Representative with any concerns
- If do not have an Account Representative, use Counterfeit Package Intercept Support BWJXQ0@usps.gov

Future Webinars

- June 13 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_21OifeqLSR6kaLF1iJ9FxQ
Meeting ID: 161 040 9133
Password: 970190
- June 20 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_RhDk0xekSwio4maRgLrwEg
Meeting ID: 160 888 9606
Password: 09104
- July 11 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
Meeting URL: https://usps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5_nnYdOcQBAPVkk-Q_8saQ
Meeting ID: 160 209 5233
Password: 262085