

## Counterfeit and Fraud Prevention FAQ's

### *General Questions:*

1. What is the first scan?  
First scan refers to when the shipment receives a 10-scan on Mail Processing Equipment.
2. What can I do to minimize the number of unpaid pieces at the time of entry?  
To reduce the occurrence of unpaid pieces at the time of entry, USPS recommends that a Shipper provide payment documentation prior to mailing any shipment that bears a shipping label imprint or permit imprint.
3. Is Premium Forwarding Services - Commercial (PFSC) affected by the new process?  
PFSC packages will not be affected by this process.
4. Will there be a grace period for manifests submitted after the first scan?  
No.
5. If a manifest is sent after a piece has already been intercepted, will the piece be delivered or will the Shipper be refunded.  
No. The manifest was late, and any monies submitted after will be lost.

### *Intercept Questions:*

1. If a package has been intercepted, can a Shipper pay to retrieve it?  
No. The package will not return to the mail stream.
2. Is there a possibility that my pieces are being intercepted now?  
The postal service uses various methods to identify and prevent the circulation of fraudulent pieces. If any pieces are flagged as fraudulent, intercept measures are currently in effect.
3. How do I add a MID to the Non-Intercept Lst?  
To add a MID to the Non-Intercept List, the Shipper is to contact their Account Representative and the CPIS email ([BWJXQ0@usps.gov](mailto:BWJXQ0@usps.gov)) with the MID number(s), a reason, and the duration (for Shipper system outages).
4. How do I add an/a IMpb/MID to the Intercept List?  
To add an/a IMpb/MID, the Shipper is to contact their Account Representative and CPIS email ([BWJXQ0@usps.gov](mailto:BWJXQ0@usps.gov)) with the IMpb/MID number(s) and a reason.

## *File Questions*

1. What is an SSF and SPEF?  
SSF's are the proof of payment or manifests that Shippers must submit prior to a piece being inducted. SPEF's can be added and allow shipping partners and other shipper to provide their customers with additional visibility before USPS receives the packages or the SSF.
2. What is the benefit of submitting an SPEF?  
SPEF's will act as proof of intent to pay, allowing for an SSF to be submitted after the first scan and as late as 23:59:59 the same day. This is the only instance when the USPS will accept a "late" file.
3. How do I submit an SPEF?  
SPEF's can be submitted via the same methods that an SSF would be submitted. More details are included in Publication 199.
4. Will there be a daily report identifying pieces that are intercepted? If not, how does a Shipper know what pieces were intercepted?  
A daily report does not currently exist. Shippers can obtain interception information by looking at the tracking details of the IMpb.

## *Systems Questions*

1. What happens if a system outage prevents a Shipper from transmitting information?  
If a Shipper, encounters an outage with any of their systems, they are to contact USPS using the Outage phone number.  
\*The phone number has not been established at this time.
2. What happens if there is an outage with a USPS system?  
If USPS has a system outage, USPS will revert to the current process of intercepting items on the Intercept List/ If a piece is not on the Non-Intercept List, it will be delivered. Live payment checks will cease until the outage is rectified. Furthermore, USPS will continue collecting manifest data for quality mailer scoring.
3. Will late loads occur if Shippers are utilizing PostalOne! to generate manifests?  
Mail.dat files should be uploaded 2 hours prior to shipments arriving at USPS processing facilities. Larger volumes of shipments will need a larger time window between manifestation and shipment delivery to a USPS facility.
4. Will late loads occur if Shippers are utilizing non-USPS systems to manifest shipments?  
Shippers will need to ensure that Third Party software is submitting manifests timely and that USPS is receiving the data timely. Just because the Third Party software is sending

manifests prior to the first scan does not mean that USPS is processing the manifests at that time.

5. How will these changes affect USPS SHIP?

There will not be a change. Please note that if one is not sending an SPEF file, it is best to send your manifests in as early as possible because the time it takes USPS Ship to process manifests depends on how many packages are on the manifest, how many manifest files USPS Ship is currently processing, how many corrections USPS Ship makes to the manifest, etc.