

The Future

**SAVINGS, SUPPORT,
SORTATION:
2026 REFINEMENTS & ADDITIONS**

RATE CASE | JAN 2026

**5 Key Takeaways to Prepare
for the Changes**

BCC
SOFTWARE
A BLUECREST COMPANY

re-inforcements

BCC Software Is Here to Help!

As the USPS continues to modernize its pricing and logistics systems, **BCC Software is here to help you stay ahead** of the curve. Our industry-leading mailing software, data quality tools, and postal optimization services are fully aligned with USPS changes and ready to support you with:

Seamless software updates that include revised postage statements, rates (competitive USPS product only), and Mail.dat/Mail.XML schema.

Consultative guidance to help you adapt your workflows, mail entry strategies, and packaging to avoid surcharges.

Proactive customer communication tools to help you educate your clients on how these changes impact their mailings.

Integrated support for incentives and promotions, so you can unlock cost savings and improve campaign ROI.

Dedicated customer support and training, ensuring you're never left navigating postal changes alone.

All information is up-to-date as of **December 15th (2025)** as released by the USPS.

To access the **extensive database** in our industry leading Customer Portal — or to **open a case** to work with our Customer Service team, please click on this link:

[BCC CUSTOMER PORTAL 2.0](#)

An Introduction to Adam

Adam Koester is the **Director of Product Management** at **BCC Software**, a BlueCrest Company. With over 10 years at BCC Software, Adam has developed deep expertise across both technical and customer-facing domains. His comprehensive understanding of mailing software solutions and postal industry standards makes him a key resource for customers, partners, and internal stakeholders alike. Adam chairs the Mailing Software Development Group within the **Delivery Technology Advocacy Council (DTAC)**, where he leads collaboration across the industry to align software innovation with USPS requirements. He also serves on the **Postal Early Exchange Committee (PEEC)**, contributing to early discussions on USPS program changes. Adam is a presenter at events like **BCC Software's InfoXchange**.

LIVE Q&A

Adam and Rosine will return with another live Q&A in July 2026 in support of the

July Rate Case

An Introduction to Rosine

Rosine Gray is a **Support Supervisor** at **BCC Software**, a BlueCrest Company, where she has over 15 years of dedicated experience providing **outstanding customer service**. For more than 5 years, she has led the support team with a focus on operational efficiency, team development, and customer satisfaction. Rosine brings **robust expertise** in the USPS mailing industry, offering valuable insight into postal regulations, mailing best practices, and software applications that support business mailers. Her deep knowledge of USPS standards and evolving postal requirements has made her a **trusted resource** for both customers and colleagues.

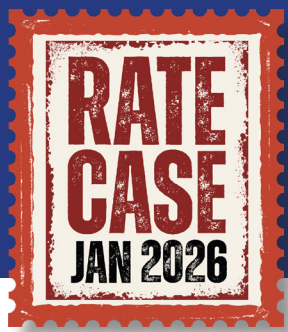
Our Summary Of The Upcoming Rate Case



» **POSTAL ONE: LIVE ON 1/4/26** « » **RATE CASE: LIVE ON 1/18/26** «

- New postage statements released, including **updated fields** reflecting new rates (competitive USPS product only).
- Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications updated, requiring **software and workflow alignment** for PostalOne! acceptance.
- New **"Total Savings"** section added to postage statements to summarize discounts, incentives, and promotions applied.
- 2026 USPS promotions updated, with **refreshed eligibility** and documentation requirements.
- SCF shape-based label lists introduced, supporting USPS's shift toward **shape-driven processing** rather than class-based routing.
- **Plus One** product finalized, with early-year support for flats in BCC Presort and Mail Manager.
- Mixed Bound Printed Matter can now be prepared as **bundles on pallets**, not just sacks—improving logistics and handling.





Key Considerations for Mailing Service Providers (MSPs)

01

New Postage Statements + Updated Mail.dat/Mail.XML Specifications

02

January 2026 Promotion Support Updated

03

SCF Shape-Based Label Lists Support

04

Plus One Product Implementation Finalized

05

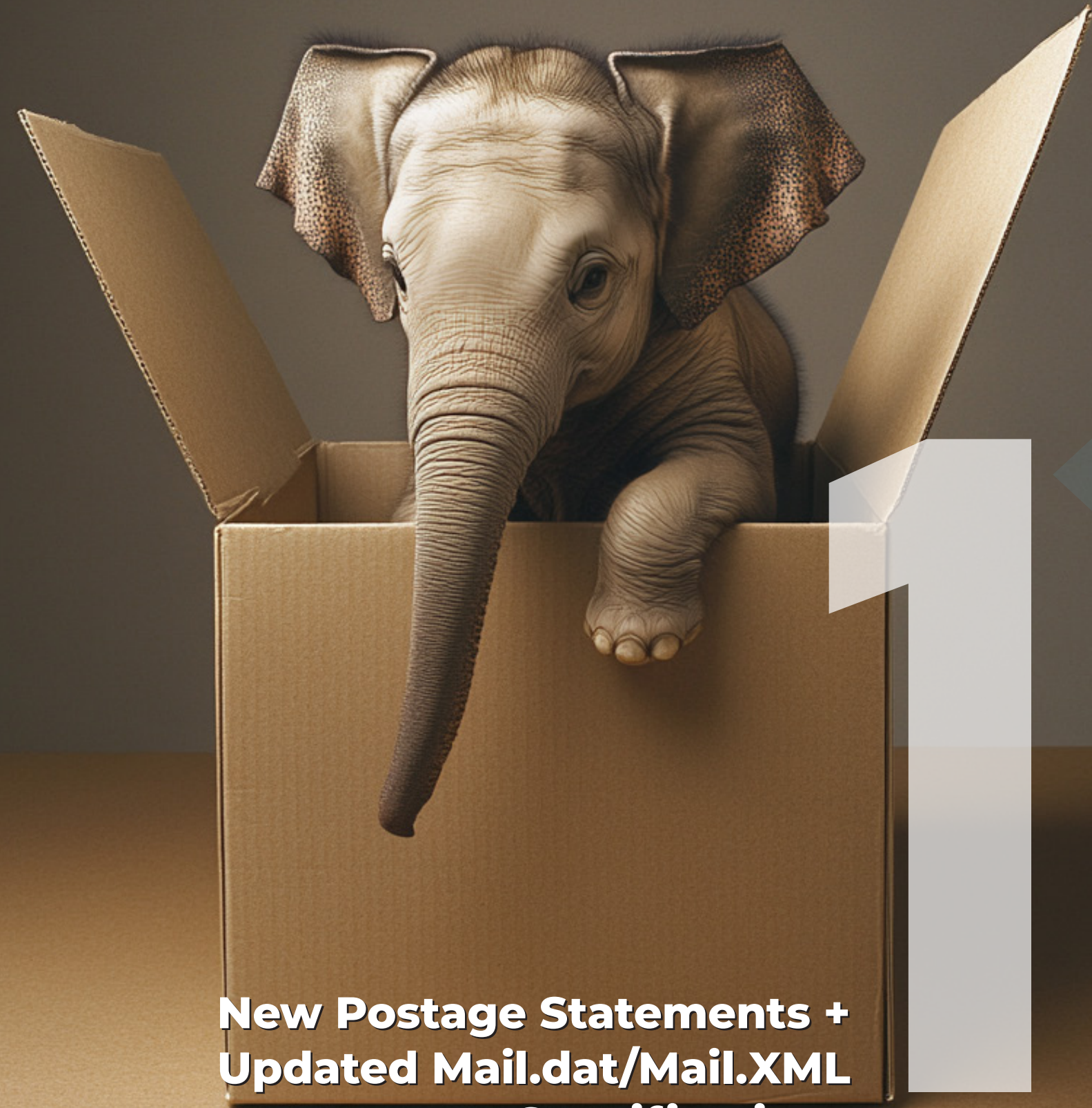
Mixed Bound Printed Matter Allowed for Bundles on Pallets

Ready Access To The Best Customer Service Team In The Postal Industry



100% of BCC Software's Customer Support Technicians are Certified Mailpiece Design Professionals through the USPS®.





New Postage Statements + Updated Mail.dat/Mail.XML Specifications

re • fresh

New Postage Statements + Updated Mail.dat/Mail.XML Specifications

Overview

January brings a full refresh of postage statements across all major classes, reflecting updated rates (competitive USPS product only) and newly introduced USPS products. The corresponding Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications are also updated, meaning software providers and mailers must ensure their systems are compatible well before January. These updates affect how jobs are validated, transmitted, and finalized within PostalOne!, impacting acceptance processes and electronic documentation.

New “Total Savings” Summary on Postage Statements

Postage statements will now include a prominent section that totals all discounts, incentives, and promotions applied to the mailing. This offers mailers greater transparency into how their campaigns benefit from USPS programs and helps marketing and finance teams quantify ROI. It also enables easier auditing and clearer communication with clients about postal savings.

What It Means

January introduces a **comprehensive refresh** of postage statements, including updated Mail.dat and Mail.XML specifications, along with a new “Total Savings” summary section.

Mailers and software providers must adapt to **new rates (competitive USPS product only)**, revised fields, and refined validation rules. The changes affect how jobs are prepared, transmitted, validated, and accepted in PostalOne!, while also giving marketing, finance, and client-facing teams **immediate visibility** into USPS discounts, promotions, and incentives to simplify ROI tracking and auditing.

Early system updates are critical to ensure **uninterrupted processing**.

- - - - - **Updated schemas and field structures** require software vendors to modify Mail.dat/Mail.XML exports and align with revised PostalOne! validation rules.
- Technical Impacts**
- - - - - **Presort and acceptance workflows** must correctly populate new postage statement data—including class-level updates, product codes, rate cells, and aggregated total savings fields.
- - - - - **Reporting and eDoc systems** need updates to capture, reconcile, and present total USPS savings accurately for internal analysis and client-facing dashboards.

SHAPE SORTING IS DA BEST!

SCF Shape-Based Label Lists Support

re-shape

SCF Shape-Based Label Lists Support

Overview

USPS is continuing its network modernization effort, and a major shift is taking place:

Sortation will increasingly be aligned to the shape of the mailpiece rather than just the class (Marketing Mail vs Periodicals, etc.).

This means that SCF Label Lists are being reorganized around processing equipment optimized for letters, flats, and parcels. For presorters, this may affect entry points, drop-ship planning, palletization strategies, and container makeup. Mailers will need updated labeling logic to ensure correct routing under the shape-driven network model.

What It Means

The USPS network redesign is shifting sorting logic from class-based to **shape-based processing**, reorganizing SCF Label Lists to reflect letter, flat, and parcel equipment paths. This introduces changes to entry planning, palletization, and container makeup, making **presort logic updates essential**.

- - - - - **Labeling list updates** must be integrated so presort systems assign SCFs based on shape-optimized routing rather than traditional class-based lists.
- Technical Impacts**
 - - - - - **Revised containerization rules** will change how pallets, bundles, and trays are built, potentially shifting drop-ship strategies and logistics planning.
 - - - - - **Entry point recalculations** will be necessary as shape-driven routing may alter transportation plans, discounts, and induction timing.

Plus One Product Implementation Finalized

Overview

USPS has finalized specifications for **Plus One**, a product that allows advertisers to add a single marketing piece to a Marketing Mail letter or flat mailing at a low incremental cost.

- BCC Software solutions—including Presort and Mail Manager—will begin supporting Plus One for flats early in the year.
- This enables mailers running flats campaigns to take advantage of the product sooner, unlocking new revenue opportunities for direct mailers and MSPs.

What It Means

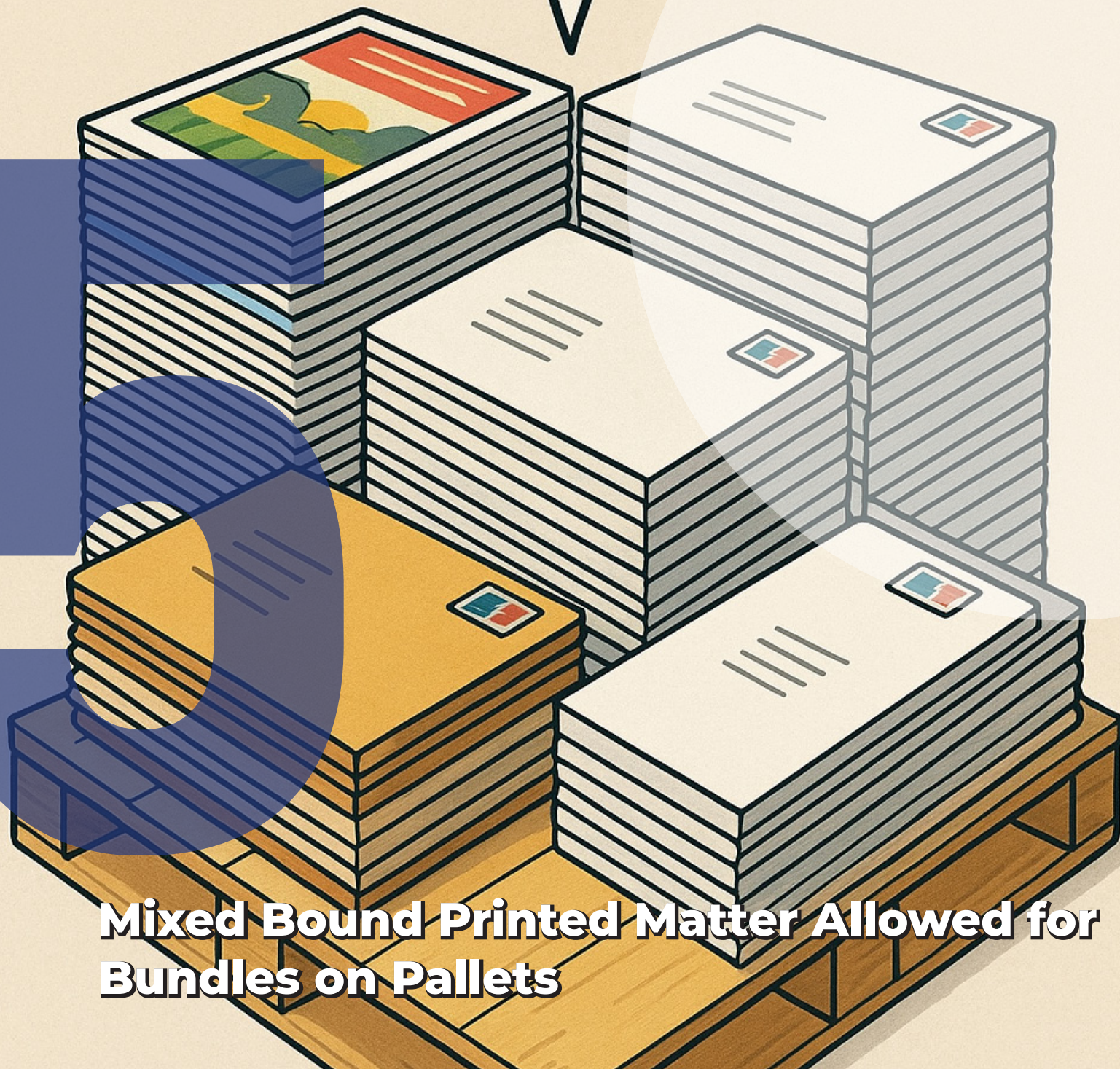
USPS has finalized requirements for **Plus One**, enabling mailers to attach a single additional promotional piece to a Marketing Mail letter or flat campaign at a **low incremental rate**. With support for flats rolling out early in the year, direct mailers can offer **expanded advertising opportunities** without major cost increases.

- - - - - **Implementation of new rate tables and eligibility rules** for Plus One in presort workflows, including flats support.
- Technical Impacts**
 - eDoc changes** to ensure correct representation of Plus One components, including piece relationships, enclosure indicators, and postage calculations.
 - Quality control updates** ensuring the additional component is validated, tracked, and containerized properly across all supported formats.



Plus One Product Implementation Finalized

Wahoo,
FINALLY!



Mixed Bound Printed Matter Allowed for Bundles on Pallets

re-mixed

Mixed Bound Printed Matter Allowed for Bundles on Pallets

Overview

Previously, Mixed BPM was restricted largely to sack preparation. With the January update, USPS now allows **Mixed Bound Printed Matter to be prepared as bundles on pallets**, improving logistics efficiency.

- Reduces manual handling
- Allows larger containerization
- Lowers transportation costs
- Improves stability and handling through the network

This is especially beneficial for **high-volume** educational, catalog, and book shippers.

What It Means

USPS now permits Mixed Bound Printed Matter (BPM) bundles on pallets—previously limited primarily to sacks—**significantly improving efficiency** for shippers producing books, catalogs, and educational materials. This supports larger, more stable loads, reduced touchpoints, and improved transportation economics

Technical Impacts

- - - - - **Updated palletization rules** must be reflected in presort systems to correctly build Mixed BPM bundles directly onto pallets instead of sacks.
- - - - - **Revised container labeling and documentation** ensuring PostalOne! recognizes the new BPM pallet configurations and entry structures.
- - - - - **Logistics optimization recalculations as palletization** reduces handling costs, increases stability, and enables more efficient freight planning.



re-reminder

Looking Ahead to July, 2026:

What to be preparing now for the July 2026 Rate Case

- Deeper USPS network **modernization** and **simplification**.
- **ADC tiers** are being removed and SCF-driven, **shape-based sortation** is expanding.
- Product categories—especially Marketing Mail, Periodicals, parcels and flats—will continue to be **restructured**.
- New Marketing Mail Product Category Added: **Heavy Printed Matter**.
- Legacy processing models (ADC, NDC) will **phase out**, affecting label lists, containerization rules, and entry-point strategies.
- Additional **alignment** across classes is expected, along with **consolidation** of rate categories.
- USPS is **increasing incentives** for efficient preparation, deeper SCF entry, and streamlined logistics.
- Mailers must stay current with evolving specifications and rely on adaptable software to **maintain compliance** and **maximize available savings**.
- The long-term direction points toward a **cleaner**, more **predictable** mailing environment with clearer product definitions and new opportunities for efficiency.

What It Means

The July rate case offers more than a mid-year pricing update—it provides a **clear preview** of where USPS is heading as it continues to modernize and simplify its network. With the removal of ADC tiers, expanded SCF-driven sortation, and restructuring of key product categories, USPS is moving toward a more consistent, shape-based processing environment designed to reduce complexity and improve efficiency across the board.

These changes are part of a multi-phase evolution that will continue into 2026 and beyond. Mailers should anticipate additional alignment between classes—particularly Marketing Mail, Periodicals, and heavier printed formats—as well as further consolidation of rate categories and refinement of parcel and flat workflows. As legacy models like ADC and NDC processing fall away, label lists, containerization rules, and destination-entry strategies will continue to evolve.

re·view

What It Means (continued)

USPS is also signaling an expanded focus on incentives that reward efficient preparation, deeper SCF entry, and streamlined logistics. Mailers who stay current with updated specifications and rely on software that adapts quickly will be best positioned to maintain compliance, control costs, and take full advantage of emerging discounts as the network transforms.

Ultimately, the roadmap ahead points toward a cleaner, more predictable mailing environment—one where simplified structures, modernized processing, and better-defined product categories create new opportunities for savings and operational clarity. Staying aligned with these changes now ensures you're ready for the innovations and efficiencies still to come.

ADC Removed; SCF Sortation Expanded; Rate Categories Consolidated

In July, USPS is taking a significant step in simplifying the network by removing **Area Distribution Centers (ADCs)** from the sortation structure.

- ADC tiers are replaced with expanded SCF sortation
- Several rate categories collapse into fewer, more consistent groupings

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This consolidation supports USPS's network modernization goals and reduces complexity for presorters and logistics planners.

Periodicals Pricing Restructured to Resemble Marketing Mail

Out-of-County Periodicals pricing gets a major overhaul:

- Base rate tables are redesigned
- Rate structure is shifted to be more parallel to Marketing Mail
- Preparation requirements will align more closely with shape-based processing

This is intended to standardize processes across classes and make cost models more predictable for publishers.

Removal of Bundle, Container, and Pallet Charges for Periodicals

Periodicals will no longer be subject to the traditional bundle, container, and pallet surcharges. Instead, USPS is expanding:

- SCF Pallet Discounts
- Direct Container Discounts

re·act

What It Means (continued)

These changes reward mailers who prepare cleaner, more efficient containers and enter deeper into the USPS network. It reduces complexity and encourages efficient logistics planning.

Final Removal of NDC for Marketing Mail Parcels

The long-planned removal of Network Distribution Centers (NDCs) for Marketing Mail Parcels is completed in July.

- All parcel routing must follow the updated SCF-based model
- Preparation logic must reflect the discontinuation of NDC entry points

Mailers will need updated software and container-routing logic to remain compliant.

New Marketing Mail Product Category Added: Heavy Printed Matter

To accommodate non-fulfillment printed pieces that don't fit cleanly into existing categories, USPS introduces a new product category:

Heavy Printed Matter Overview

This fills a gap in Marketing Mail for heavier, content-rich printed items that are not parcels and not typical flats—such as large-format brochures, product guides, or thick promotional content.

- Provides more accurate rates
- Helps USPS align processing and cost models
- Gives mailers better categorization for high-density printed materials



PDF DOWNLOAD

A single page format of this PDF is available for download at this link:

bccsoftware.com/1-26-rate-case-digest

All Rate Case documentation referenced in this publication is derived directly from USPS Postal Pro and is available at this link:

POSTAL PRO



ISSUE DATE: 12/15/25 (BW)

BCC Software creates innovative postal software solutions and provides extensive Data Marketing Services (DMS) for thousands of customers across the United States. The company was founded in 1978 and is headquartered in Rochester (NY) with offices in Seattle (WA) and La Crosse (WI).

To learn more about BCC Software, please visit bccsoftware.com.

The Future

**CLOSED FOR
RENOVATIONS
WILL REOPEN IN SUMMER**

RATE CASE | JULY 2026

The Inevitable Sequel

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