

Domestic Mail Service Standards

USPS Web Tools™

**Application Programming Interface
User Guide**

Version 3.2 (05/26/2021)



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1.0 Introduction to Web Tools

This document contains a Reference Guide to the Package Service Standards APIs. See the [Developers Guide](#) to learn the administrative process for gaining access to the Web Tools APIs as well as the basic mechanism for calling the APIs and processing the results. The Developer’s Guide also contains information on testing and troubleshooting.

Note: The Request Parameter sections present the XML input tags for generating live requests along with the restrictions on the values allowed. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Also, be aware of the maximum character amounts allowed for some tags. If the user enters more than those amounts, an error will not be generated. Web Tools will simply pass in the characters up to the maximum amount allowed and disregard the rest. This is important since the resulting value could prevent a correct response.

When building the XML request, pay particular attention to the order and case for tags. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Remember that all data and attribute values in this document are for illustration purposes and are to be replaced by your actual values. For instance, a line of sample code may be:

```
<DestinationZIP>12345</DestinationZIP>
```

In this instance, you will replace “12345” with the destination Zip Code for your request.

1.1 Before you get started:

For information on registering and getting started with Web Tools, please refer to the Step-By-Step guide found on the Web Tools [Technical Documentation Page](#).

2.0 Priority Mail Service Standards API

2.1 Overview

The Priority Mail Service Standards API receives requests and returns the number of days (on average) it will take a Priority Mail package to arrive at its destination. Ensure that end-users understand that these are service standards and not guaranteed commitments. The Priority Mail Service Standards API processes a single request.

2.1.1 API Signature Table

Scheme	Host	Path	API	XML
https://	secure.shippingapis.com	/ShippingAPI.dll?	API=PriorityMail	&XML=(see below)

2.2 Request Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
PriorityMailRequest	Required		(Alias)	
PriorityMailRequest / USERID	Required	This attribute specifies your Web Tools ID. See the Developers Guide for information on obtaining your USERID. For Example: <USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">	String	
PriorityMailRequest / OriginZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid. Either the first 3 digits or first 5 digits of the Zip Code are entered between the open tag and close tag. For example: <OriginZip>90210</OriginZip>	String	

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
PriorityMailRequest / DestinationZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid and must be 5 digits. For example: <DestinationZip>20770</DestinationZip>	String	
PriorityMailRequest / DestinationType	Optional	Destination Type for package. Valid Values: "1" = PO-Addressee – Street (Default Value) "2" = PO-Addressee – PO Box "3" = Hold For Pick-up For example: <DestinationType>1</DestinationType>	String	Enumeration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 2 • 3
PriorityMailRequest / PMGuarantee	Optional	Default "N"	Boolean	
PriorityMailRequest	Required once		(Alias)	

2.2.1 Sample Request

```

Request: PriorityMail:
<PriorityMailRequest USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
</PriorityMailRequest>
    
```

2.3 Response Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
PriorityMailResponse	Required		(Alias)	
PriorityMailResponse / OriginZip	Required	OriginationZip sent in request.	String	
PriorityMailResponse / DestinationZip	Required	DestinationZip sent in request.	String	
PriorityMailResponse / Days	Optional	Numbers of days expected to deliver.	String	
PriorityMailResponse / IsGuaranteed	Optional	Is the delivery guaranteed.	String	
PriorityMailResponse / Message	Optional	Service Standards Messaging. Appears when applicable. For example:<Msg>Your shipment may be delayed due to transportation issues.</Msg>	String	
PriorityMailResponse / EffectiveAcceptanceDate	Optional	Effective Acceptance Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	
PriorityMailResponse / ScheduledDeliveryDate	Optional	Scheduled Delivery Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
PriorityMailResponse	Required		(Alias)	

2.3.1 Sample Response

```

Response: PriorityMail
<PriorityMailResponse>
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
<Days>4</Days>
</PriorityMailResponse>
    
```

3.0 Package Services “StandardB” API

3.1 Overview

The Package Services “StandardB” API receives requests and returns the average number of days it will take a package to arrive at its destination. There are four types of Package Services: Standard Post, Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail, and Media Mail. The Package Services “StandardB” API processes a single request. Ensure that end-users understand that these are service standards and not guaranteed commitments.

3.1.1 API Signature Table

Scheme	Host	Path	API	XML
https://	secure.shippingapis.com/	shippingapi.dll?	API=StandardB	&XML=(see below)

3.2 Request Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
StandardBRequest	Required		(Alias)	
StandardBRequest USERID	Required	This attribute specifies your Web Tools ID. See the Developers Guide for information on obtaining your USERID. For example: <USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">	String	
StandardBRequest / OriginZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid. Either the first 3 digits or first 5 digits of the Zip Code are entered between the open tag and close tag. For example: <OriginZip>90210</OriginZip>	String	
StandardBRequest / DestinationZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid and must be 5 digits. For example: <DestinationZip>20770</DestinationZip>	String	
StandardBRequest / DestinationType	Optional	Destination Type for package. Valid Values: “1” = PO-Addressee – Street (Default Value) “2” = PO-Addressee – PO Box “3” = Hold For Pick-up For example: <DestinationType>1</DestinationType>	String	Enumeration • 1 • 2 • 3

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
StandardBRequest	Required		(Alias)	

3.2.1 Sample Request

```
Test XML Request:
<StandardBRequest USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
</StandardBRequest>
```

3.3 Response Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
StandardBResponse	Required		(Alias)	
StandardBResponse / OriginZip	Required	OriginationZip sent in request.	String	
StandardBResponse / DestinationZip	Required	DestinationZip sent in request.	String	
StandardBResponse / Days	Optional	Numbers of days expected to deliver.	String	
StandardBResponse / Message	Optional	Service Standards Messaging. Appears when applicable. For example:<Msg>Your shipment may be delayed due to transportation issues.</Msg>	String	
StandardBResponse / EffectiveAcceptanceDate	Optional	Effective Acceptance Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	
StandardBResponse / ScheduledDeliveryDate	Optional	Scheduled Delivery Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	
StandardBResponse	Required		(Alias)	

3.3.1 Sample Response

```
Test XML Response:
<StandardBResponse>
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
<Days>7</Days>
</StandardBResponse>
```

4.0 First Class Mail Service Standards API

4.1 Overview

The First Class Mail Service Standards API receives requests and returns the average number of days it will take a package to arrive at its destination. The First Class Mail Service Standards API processes a single request. Ensure that end-users understand that these are service standards and not guaranteed commitments.

4.1.1 API Signature Table

Scheme	Host	Path	API	XML
https://	secure.shippingapis.com/	shippingapi.dll?	API=FirstClassMail	&XML=(see below)

4.2 Request Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
FirstClassMailRequest	Required		(Alias)	
FirstClassMailRequest USERID	Required	This attribute specifies your Web Tools ID. See the Developers Guide for information on obtaining your USERID. For example: <USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">	String	
FirstClassMailRequest / OriginZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid. Either the first 3 digits or first 5 digits of the Zip Code are entered between the open tag and close tag. For example: <OriginZip>90210</OriginZip>	String	
FirstClassMailRequest / DestinationZip	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid and must be 5 digits. For example: <DestinationZip>20770</DestinationZip>	String	
FirstClassMailRequest / DestinationType	Optional	Destination Type for package. 1 = PO-Addressee – Street (Default) 2 = PO-Addressee – PO Box 3 = Hold For Pick-up For example: <DestinationType>1</DestinationType>	String	Enumeration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 • 2 • 3
FirstClassMailRequest	Required once		(Alias)	

4.2.1 Sample Request

```

Request: FirstClassMail
<FirstClassMailRequest USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
</FirstClassMailRequest>
    
```

4.3 Response Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
FirstClassMailResponse	Required		(Alias)	
FirstClassMailResponse / OriginZip	Required	OriginationZip sent in request.	String	
FirstClassMailResponse / DestinationZip	Required	DestinationZip sent in request.	String	

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
FirstClassMailResponse / Days	Optional	Numbers of days expected to deliver.	String	
FirstClassMailResponse / Message	Optional	Service Standards Messaging. Appears when applicable. For example:<Msg>Your shipment may be delayed due to transportation issues.</Msg>	String	
FirstClassMailResponse / EffectiveAcceptanceDate	Optional	Effective Acceptance Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	
FirstClassMailResponse / ScheduledDeliveryDate	Optional	Scheduled Delivery Date is returned when <DestinationType> is specified in the request.	String	
FirstClassMailResponse	Required		(Alias)	

4.3.1 Sample Response

```

Response FirstClassMail:
<FirstClassMailResponse>
<OriginZip>90201</OriginZip>
<DestinationZip>21114</DestinationZip>
<Days>3</Days>
</FirstClassMailResponse>
    
```

5.0 Express Mail Service Commitments API

5.1 Overview

The Express Mail Service Commitments API provides delivery commitments for Express Mail packages for the given Zip Codes to include package drop-off information. A user provides an origination and a destination Zip Code and an optional current or future date that the package will be shipped.

5.1.1 API Signature Table

Scheme	Host	Path	API	XML
https://	secure.shippingapis.com/	shippingapi.dll?	API=ExpressMailCommitment	&XML=(see below)

5.2 Request Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest	Required		(Alias)	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest USERID	Required	This attribute specifies your Web Tools ID. See the Developers Guide for information on obtaining your USERID. For example: <USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / OriginZIP	Required	5 Digit Zip Code of the package destination. For example:	String	

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
		<OriginZIP>90210</OriginZIP>		
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / DestinationZIP	Required	Origination and destination Zip Codes must be valid and must be 5 digits. For example: <DestinationZIP>20770</DestinationZIP>	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / Date	Required	Date package is shipped. Can be left blank. Can use formats MM/DD/YYYY or DD-MMM-YYYY. For example: <Date>05-May-2014</Date>	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / DropOffTime	Optional	Time package is shipped. This tag can be omitted or left blank. Use format HH:MM such as 13:30. For example: <DropOffTime>15:00</ DropOffTime >	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / ReturnDates	Optional	Indicates if Scheduled Delivery and Effective Acceptance dates should be returned. Specify 'true' or 'false'. For example: <ReturnDates>>true</ReturnDates>	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest / PMGuarantee	Optional	Indicator to display Guarantee information for applicable service types. "Y" = Yes, display "N" = No, do not display (Default Value)	String	Enumeration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y • N
ExpressMailCommitmentRequest	Required		(Alias)	

5.2.1 Sample Request

```

Request: ExpressMailCommitment
<ExpressMailCommitmentRequest USERID="XXXXXXXXXXXX">
<OriginZIP>63123</OriginZIP>
<DestinationZIP>89301</DestinationZIP>
<Date>05-26-2021</Date>
<DropOffTime>09:00</DropOffTime>
<ReturnDates>>true</ReturnDates>
<PMGuarantee>Y</PMGuarantee>
</ExpressMailCommitmentRequest>
    
```

5.3 Response Descriptions

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse	Required		(Alias)	
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / OriginZIP	Required	OriginationZip sent in request.	String	
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / OriginCity	Required	Originating City.	String	

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation		
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / OriginState	Required	Originating State.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / DestinationZIP	Required	DestinationZip sent in request.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / DestinationCity	Required	Destinating City.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / DestinationState	Required	Destinating State.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Date	Required	Date package shipped.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Time	Required	Time.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / ExpeditedTransMessage	Optional	Expedited Transportation Message. Returned when applicable and the request has the ReturnDates set to true.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / MsgCode	Optional	Message Code. Returned when applicable and the request has the ReturnDates set to true. <u>Valid Message Code</u> "TM103" = Your shipment may be delayed due to transportation issues.	String	Enumeration= • TM103		
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Msg	Optional	Message Text. Returned when applicable and the request has the ReturnDates set to true. For example:<Msg>Your shipment may be delayed due to transportation issues.</Msg>	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / EffectiveAcceptanceDate	Optional	Effective Acceptance Date. Returned when the request has the ReturnDates set to true.	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment	Optional	Holds the details of a commitment. Returned if valid.	(Group)			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Name	Optional	Commitment Name	String	Enumeration= • 1-Day • 2-Day • 3-Day • DPO • Military		
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Time	Optional	Commitment Time. (eg: 6:00 PM)	String			
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Sequence	Optional	Commitment Sequence <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px;">Seq #</td> <td style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 2px;">Service Standard</td> </tr> </table>	Seq #	Service Standard	String	Enumeration= • A0118 • B0118 • A0218
Seq #	Service Standard					

Tag Name	Occurs	Description	Type	Validation								
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>A0118</td> <td>1-Day at 6:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B0118</td> <td>1-Day at 6:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A0218</td> <td>2-Day at 6:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B0218</td> <td>2-Day at 6:00 PM</td> </tr> </table>	A0118	1-Day at 6:00 PM	B0118	1-Day at 6:00 PM	A0218	2-Day at 6:00 PM	B0218	2-Day at 6:00 PM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B0218
A0118	1-Day at 6:00 PM											
B0118	1-Day at 6:00 PM											
A0218	2-Day at 6:00 PM											
B0218	2-Day at 6:00 PM											
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location	Optional	Groups drop off location information.	(Group)									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / ScheduledDeliveryDate	Optional	Scheduled Delivery Date. Returned when the request has the ReturnDates set to true.	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / CutOff	Optional	Cut-Off Time.	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / Facility	Optional	Facility Type	String	Enumeration= <ul style="list-style-type: none"> POST OFFICE PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS COLLECTION BOX AIR MAIL FACILITY 								
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / Street	Optional	Facility Street	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / City	Optional	Facility City	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / State	Optional	Facility State	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / Zip	Optional	Facility Zip Code	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Commitment / Location / IsGuaranteed	Optional	Indicates if Guarantee is offered. Will only be returned if the PMGuarantee in the request is set to "Y". 1 = Guaranteed 2 = No Guarantee 3 = Temporary No Guarantee	String	Enumeration= <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 3 								
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse / Message	Optional	Message indicating over 200 location, when there are more than the 200 returned.	String									
ExpressMailCommitmentResponse	Required		(Alias)									

5.3.1 Sample Request

Response: ExpressMailCommitment

```
<ExpressMailCommitmentResponse>
<OriginZIP>63123</OriginZIP>
<OriginCity>SAINT LOUIS</OriginCity>
<OriginState>MO</OriginState>
<DestinationZIP>89301</DestinationZIP>
<DestinationCity>ELY</DestinationCity>
<DestinationState>NV</DestinationState>
<Date>26-May-2021</Date>
<Time>9:00AM</Time>
<EffectiveAcceptanceDate>2021-05-26</EffectiveAcceptanceDate>
<Commitment>
<CommitmentName>2-Day</CommitmentName>
<CommitmentTime>6:00 PM</CommitmentTime>
<CommitmentSequence>A0218</CommitmentSequence>
<Location>
<ScheduledDeliveryDate>2021-05-28</ScheduledDeliveryDate>
<CutOff>5:30 PM</CutOff>
<Facility>POST OFFICE</Facility>
<Street>55 GRASSO PLZ</Street>
<City>SAINT LOUIS</City>
<State>MO</State>
<Zip>63123</Zip>
</Location>
</Commitment>
<Commitment>
<CommitmentName>2-Day</CommitmentName>
<CommitmentTime>6:00 PM</CommitmentTime>
<CommitmentSequence>B0218</CommitmentSequence>
<Location>
<ScheduledDeliveryDate>2021-05-28</ScheduledDeliveryDate>
<CutOff>5:30 PM</CutOff>
<Facility>POST OFFICE</Facility>
<Street>55 GRASSO PLZ</Street>
<City>SAINT LOUIS</City>
<State>MO</State>
<Zip>63123</Zip>
</Location>
</Commitment>
</ExpressMailCommitmentResponse>
```