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# POSTAL NEWS

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## **Postal Service puts an end to the paper trail *PostalOne!*, *Postage Wizard* strive for “paperless” mail acceptance**

Washington, DC – Saving at least 15 million pieces of paper in postage statements annually is one benefit. Saving time and money are the most important benefits.

The U.S. Postal Service is making every effort to help its 2.5 million business mail customers switch from hardcopy postage statements to a seamless, electronic acceptance method designed to improve efficiency and maximize ease.

Customers will be able to submit postage statements electronically and gain online access to postal accounts in *PostalOne!*, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This electronic documentation, or “e-Documentation,” provides the greatest flexibility and ease to customers, said Susan Plonkey, vice president, customer service.

“By encouraging the electronic submission of postage documents and providing online access to permit and account information, the Postal Service is working to meet the growing business needs of its customers,” Plonkey said.

Business customers are being encouraged to open *PostalOne!* accounts. *PostalOne!* integrates mail planning and production with work flow and allows automated postage payment, mail entry scheduling and reconciliation.

The changes allow customers to submit their postage statements and supporting documentation electronically, directly to the Business Mail Entry Unit, using Postage Statement Wizard (part of the *PostalOne!* services), Mail.dat or Web Services. Customers will be able to access all mailing transactions and financial statements at a time and place that is convenient to them.

Mail.dat is one of two ways *PostalOne!* offers to process medium- to high-volume business mailing information, directly from a customer’s computer. The system is used across the mailing supply chain and throughout the industry. Web Services resides on a company’s computing platform and uses the company’s existing systems to retrieve and store data.

Customers can rely on the Postal Service’s IT help desk to make the transition to the electronic systems. Customers also can call the *PostalOne!* Help Desk at 800-522-9085 for assistance.

e-Documentation is one way the Postal Service is working with the mailing industry to make mail acceptance and induction easier. Several workgroups composed of Postal Service employees

and industry representatives have been working together to find solutions. These workgroups report findings and make recommendations through the Mailers' Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC).

MTAC allows the Postal Service to share technical information with its customers and receive advice and recommendations from mailers on matters concerning mail-related products and services. MTAC has more than 70 members, representing some of the largest mailers in the country. The committee is meeting today (Nov. 1) and Thursday at Postal Service headquarters.

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Since 1775, the Postal Service and its predecessor, the Post Office Department, have connected friends, families, neighbors and businesses by mail. It is an independent federal agency that visits more than 144 million homes and businesses every day and is the only service provider delivering to every address in the nation. The Postal Service receives no taxpayer dollars for routine operations, but derives its operating revenues solely from the sale of postage, products and services. With annual revenues of \$70 billion, it is the world's leading provider of mailing and delivery services, offering some of the most affordable postage rates in the world. The U.S. Postal Service delivers more than 46 percent of the world's mail volume—some 212 billion letters, advertisements, periodicals and packages a year—and serves 7 million customers each day at its 37,000 retail locations nationwide.