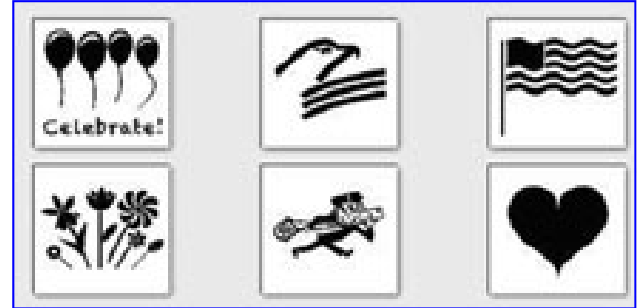


From APC to SSSMC

On April 2, 2012, the US Postal Service announced that as of April 12, 2012, a new pilot program will start at 10 different post offices around the USA that will vend new print-on demand "FOREVER" postage labels in 6 different user-selectable designs. The locations of the post offices themselves were not disclosed until April 11, 2012.



The kiosks that are vending these postage labels are converted "APC" (Automated Postal Center) kiosks that were re-branded as "SSSMC" (Self Service Stamp & Mailing Center) in late 2011.

The exhibitor lives in an area where two of the pilot program kiosks were available.

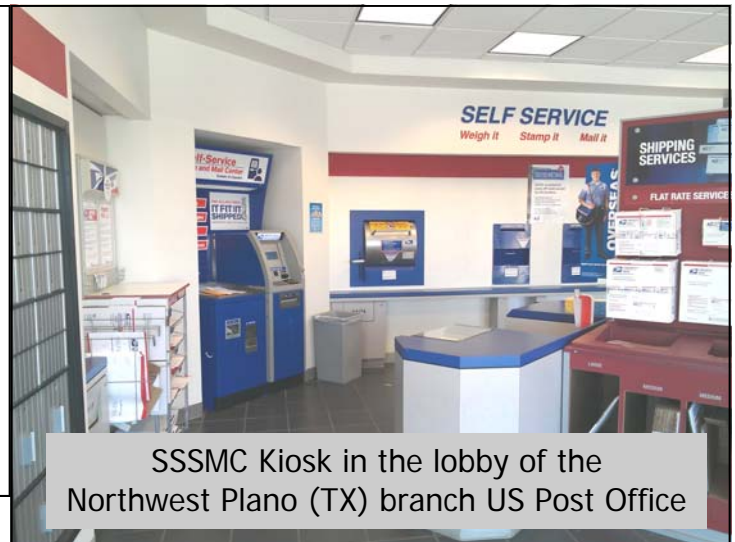
Between April 12 & September 30, 2012, all APC kiosks (approx. 2,500 of them) were to be

converted to vend the FOREVER stamp labels and newer versions of the "standard" barcode matrix design.

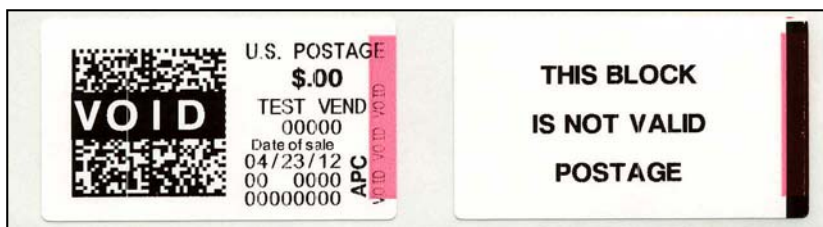
Pilot Post Office locations

14580 Webster, NY
 19711 Newark, DE
 28277 Charlotte, NC
 23060 Glen Allen, VA
 27615 Raleigh, NC
 35242 Birmingham, AL*
 ????? Boystown, NE*
 66062 Olathe, KS
 75025 Plano, TX
 75219 Dallas, TX

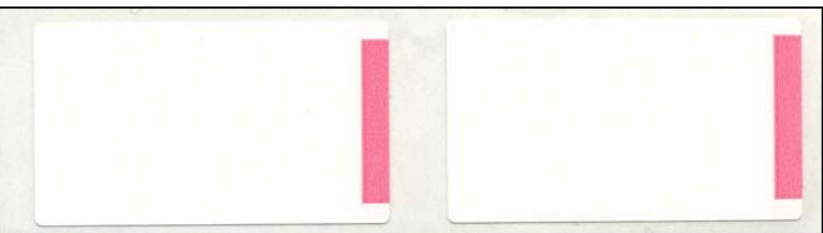
* not functional on 4/12/12



SSSMC Kiosk in the lobby of the Northwest Plano (TX) branch US Post Office



Test print from the NW Plano post office SSSMC machine. Only a date, but no indication as to which kiosk printed the label.



Unprinted strip of the small label. It is used by both the FOREVER and the standard barcode design SSSMC postage labels.

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Forerunners

The new "FOREVER" postage labels from the SSSMC replace the "ATM Booklet Stamps" that were previously sold by the older APC machines (and those rebranded as SSSMC's in late 2011).

The ATM booklet stamps came out of the slot underneath the keypad.

When these machines were converted to printing the new FOREVER stamps, this slot is no longer used.

Prior to the new style, only single labels could be purchased (these also came out of the slot on the right)



The ATM Booklet Stamps have the same dimensions as US currency.

(An older style APC stamp, note larger size face value)



(Newer style stamps, note smaller size value and the "APC" inscription on the side)

Forerunners



The unconverted kiosks also dispensed large "Return Receipt / Certified Mail" combination labels; these came from the middle slot of the machine.

On the unconverted kiosks, the left slot was used to dispense the large style postage label such as the one shown below.

F	 U.S. POSTAGE \$.45 FCM LETTER 75074 Date of sale 04 / 17 / 12 02 1P00 09241298 APC <small>FC0117300 106220</small>
USPS® FIRST-CLASS MAIL®	
0 lb. 0.60 oz.	
SHIP TO:	
PLANO TX 75094 	
ZIP	 (420) 75094

DO NOT USE

PS Form 3811V, March 2005 (PSN: 7530-07-000-0300)

Domestic Return Receipt

Sender: Complete this section

- Complete item 2.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.
- Article Number

Complete this section upon Delivery:

A. Received by (Printed name) B. Date of Delivery

C. Signature Agent
 Addressee

D. Is delivery address different from item 2? Yes
 No (YES, enter delivery address below)

TEAR HERE

NOTE: If only a Return Receipt was purchased, follow steps 1 through 3 below. If only Certified Mail™ was purchased, go directly to step 4 on the other side. For proof of mailing, you must take your mailpiece to a Postal Service counter.

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. -- FOLD AT DOTTED LINE

CERTIFIED MAIL™


9171 9690 0588 3031 0545 57

The APC to SSSMC conversion



August 20, 2012 - Pre-Conversion



August 21, 2012 - Post-Conversion

On the surface, not much looks different between the unconverted APC kiosk on August 20 versus the converted APC on August 21 at the Garland, TX location (Zip Code 75043).

So what exactly IS different?

The only 2 "external" differences noticeable to the postal patrons are:

- 1) The middle output bin is now deeper and the label above it says "Postage" whereas previously it said "Forms".
- 2) The label above the right output slot now has a "black" label over it whereas previously it said "stamps".

Other physical changes to the kiosks are "internal", such as:

- 1) New Computer (these units run a version of Windows XP called "Windows Embedded POS-Ready 2009")
- 2) New LCD monitor.
- 3) New touch-screen pad (goes in front of the LCD monitor).
- 4) Replace the UPS (uninterruptible power supply) batteries.
- 5) Various cables, brackets & connectors because of the updated internal components.

IBM has a 27 page booklet entitled "APC Technology Refresh - Upgrade Instructions" that their technicians follow when upgrading the kiosks.

Label stock changes for the kiosk:

Bin	Unconverted	Converted
Left	Z-fold Large Labels	Rolls of Large Labels
Middle	Z-Fold Return Receipt & Certified Labels	Z-Fold Small Labels
Right	ATM Booklets & Rolls of Small Labels	Not Used after 24 Hrs



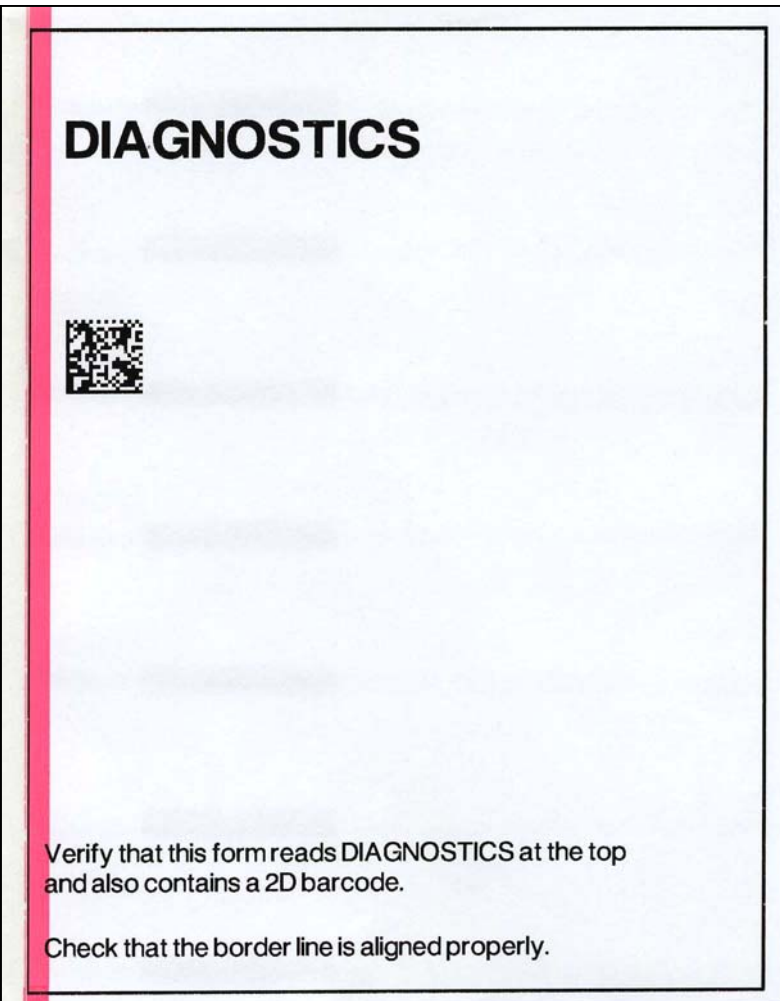
Unconverted middle output bin



Unconverted Kiosk output bins

Diagnostic Test Labels

Immediately upon the initial conversion of the APC kiosk, the IBM technician runs several “diagnostics” tests to ensure that the large and small label printers function properly, such as proper printing alignment.

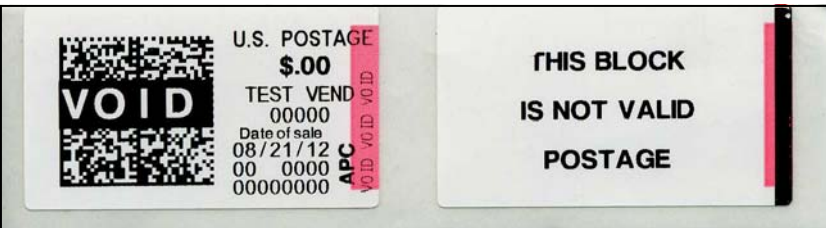


Only the IBM technician can print these particular diagnostics labels.

The USPS personnel in charge of routine maintenance (such as replacing postage label stock and receipt paper (have a different set of test printouts available to them).

Void Test Labels

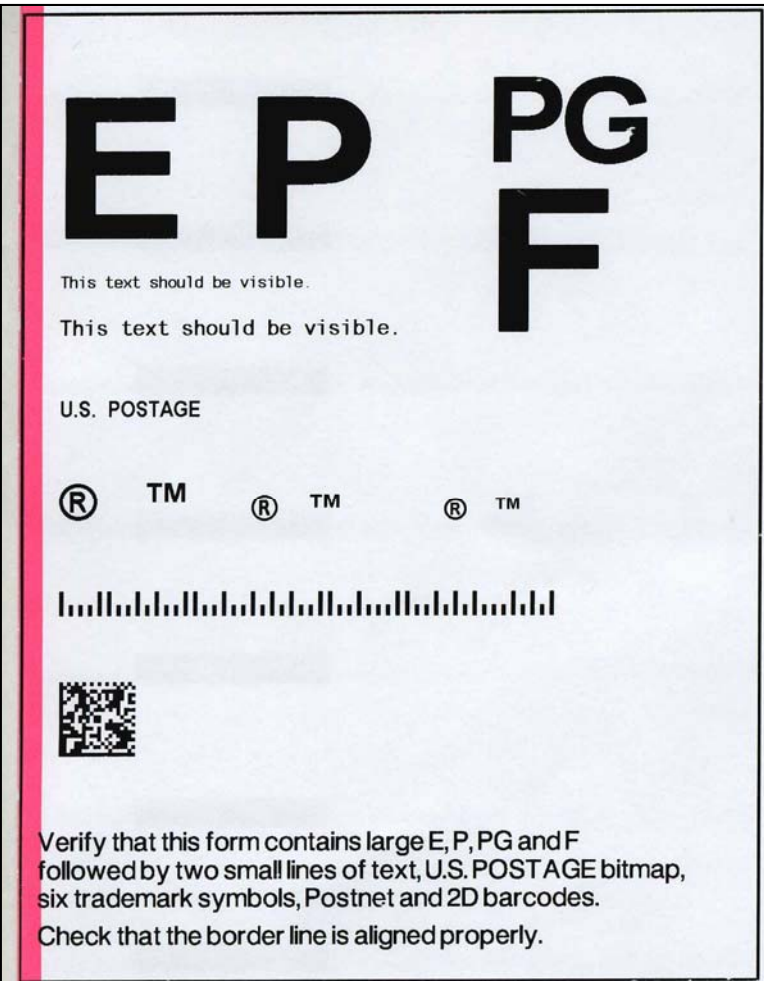
To ensure that all label varieties print properly, USPS personnel can print a variety of "test" labels (IBM technicians do not have access to this).



Test print of the small label that is used for both the "forever" and the "standard" (barcode matrix) design labels.

While the "Fold-Here" version label is not actively available on the kiosk menu, the test print verifies that it will print properly when needed.

The test labels are basically generic and do not identify the origin (the Zip Code is 00000 and the serial number is zeros also).



Of the 3 basic label types, the large test label is the only one that does not emulate the look of the actual version of that label.

All of the test labels on this sheet are from the date of conversion (8/21/2012) at Zip Code 75043 (Garland, Texas).

Below: Test "Certified Mail" label.



Verify that this form contains large E, P, PG and F followed by two small lines of text, U.S. POSTAGE bitmap, six trademark symbols, Postnet and 2D barcodes. Check that the border line is aligned properly.

**TP07
Self Test**

Receipt Printer

Manufacturer : WINCOR-NIXDORF
Serial Number : 71409117
Printer ID : 99
Interface : USB V1.1
Power : 26,1 V
Line Temperature : 28,3 °C
PCB Version : D
Revision Level : 7
EEPROM Status : **!! ERROR !!**

Printing Resolutions

Hor./Vert. Resol.: 203 dpi/203 dpi
Print Line Resol.: 203 dpi

Font Settings

Font A size : 14 * 24
Font B size : 10 * 17

Memory Switches

Auto Line Feed : disabled
Endurance Test : disabled
Black mark sensor: disabled
Retractor : disabled
Short Presenter : disabled
Paper width : 80.0 mm
Max. Loop length : 210 mm
Max. Power : 100 W
After power on,
no start position: present paper
Print Density
LIGHT [-6..-3..0..+3..+6] DARK
^

Distances

Tof-Cutter : 127 (15.8 mm)
Mark distance : 0 (0.0 mm)
Mark adjustment : 0 (0.0 mm)

EEPROM Sensor Values

PAPER_END : 88 CAL (88)
PRESENTER_OUT : 115 CAL (115)
PAPER_NEAR_END : - ERR
MARK_SENSOR : 0 - (133)
TOP_OF_FORM : 94 CAL (94)

Software Modules

Firmware : 06.05
Booter : 01.00
Loader : 02.08
Verified : OK
Power Up Test : 01.01
Checksum : OK
Character Set : 02.01
Name : StdCodePages
Checksum : OK
Space Page (FT A): ---
Name :
Checksum : OK
Space Page (FT B): ---
Name :
Checksum : OK

Pixeltest

Receipt Printer Tests

To ensure that the receipt printer prints properly, there are also test prints for it. Receipt printouts need to be legible as they will contain the tracking numbers that postal patrons need to check on their mail pieces.

Test line 1 of 5
Test line 2 of 5
Test line 3 of 5
Test line 4 of 5
Test line 5 of 5

Receipt Printer Prin

0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

* If you can see this *
* print, Autoloading is *
* successful! *

Post-Upgrade Code Changes

Labels were studied that were printed on the same kiosk at Zip 75043:

- 1) The day prior to the conversion
- 2) Immediately after the conversion
- 3) One day after the conversion



August 20, 2012: Day before conversion (old style APC label):
PSD Number "02 1P00" (Pitney Bowes)
Kiosk serial # 09241293



August 21, 2012: Immediately following the conversion:
PSD Number is still "02 1P00" (Pitney Bowes)
Kiosk serial # 09241293

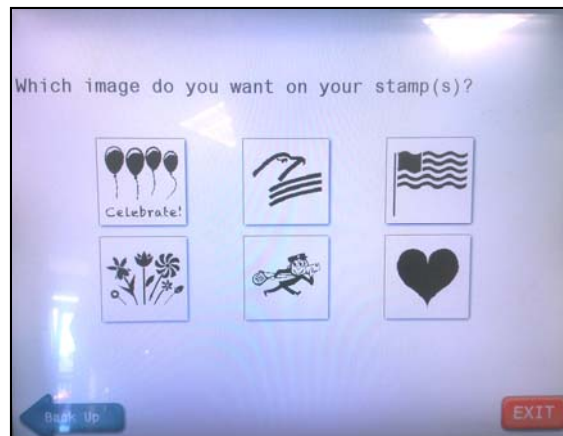


August 22, 2012: 1 day after the conversion:
PSD Number has changed to "06 2S00" (stamps.com)
Kiosk serial # changed to 08309225

While NOTHING has physically changed between August 21 & 22, the final remote "update" changes both the assigned PSD and serial #.

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

The most visible change with the converted SSSMC machines is the ability to print FOREVER stamps, which are on-demand thermally printed postage labels with 6 different user-selectable designs.



Currently, the value of "Forever" postage is 45¢.

The designs can be purchased in quantities of 1 to 100, vended in sheetlets of up to 10 stamps each.

The following strip, block or sheetlet combinations are possible:

- Strip of 1 (+ 1 not-valid label)
- Strip of 2
- Block of 3 (+ 1 not-valid label)
- Block of 4
- Block of 5 (+ 1 not-valid label)
- Block of 6
- Block of 7 (+ 1 not-valid label)
- Block of 8
- Sheetlet of 9 (+ 1 not-valid label)
- Sheetlet of 10



The sheetlet of 10 above is the earliest available to the exhibitor, purchased on April 18, 2012 (date code 221), just 6 days after the USPS announcement.

A purchase of 13 stamps results in a sheetlet of 10 and a block 3 postage labels + 1 "This Block Is Not Valid for Postage" label.



"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

"Balloons" [Celebrate!] Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint bar (due to clear coat issue on the pink facing stripe).



Early labels from the 75025 kiosk, purchased on April 18, 2012 (date code 222).

The thermal printer at this kiosk had some bad pins, thus causing white stripes (non-printed areas) to appear on the labels.

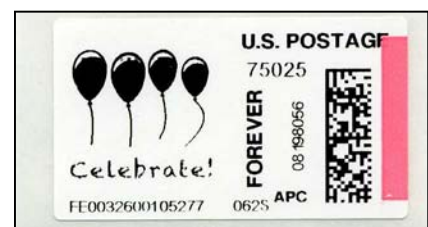
This is most noticeable as follows:

Left column labels:

- 2nd balloon from the left
- Letters "S" in US and Postage

Right column labels:

- 1st balloon on the right labels
- 2nd vertical pattern on the barcode matrix



At some point, the print heads on this kiosk were replaced.

Date code 277 = June 13, 2012

Also note that at this point, the PSD is "062S", not "0601"!

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

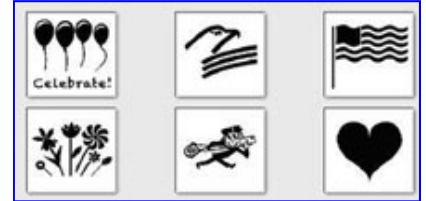
"Eagle" Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint (due to clear coat issues on the pink facing stripe).



A new stack of labels that had a proper clear coat over the red facing stripe makes for a better "solid" black overprint on the red stripe.

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

"Flag" Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint (due to clear coat issues on the pink facing stripe).



Many US definitive stamps already feature a flag design. Since these Forever labels replace the option at the kiosk for the ATM Booklet panes (which feature Liberty & Flag designs), having a patriotic design available was a logical choice.

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

"Flower" Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint (due to clear coat issues on the pink facing stripe).



While these issues can be bought in quantities of 1 to 100 labels, subject to an initial purchase of at least \$1, they are printed in a maximum sheetlet size of 10.

Any "odd" quantity (1, 3 .. 99, etc) purchased would always have the last label (on the bottom right) be "THIS BLOCK IS NOT VALID POSTAGE".

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

"Mr. Zip" Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint (due to clear coat issues on the pink facing stripe).



The "Mr. Zip" character was used by the US Post Office Department (predecessor to the US Postal Service) to encourage people to use the new "Zip Code" (Zone Improvement Plan) in the early 1960's and first appeared on the selvage of US postage stamp sheets in 1964. The Mr. Zip character was phased out in the late 1970's and was last seen on stamp selvage in January 1986. This is his rebirth!

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels

"Heart" Forever design in sheetlet of 9 stamps + 1 label with early "222" date (April 19, 2012) that also features the "gray" overprint (due to clear coat issues on the pink facing stripe).



The bad pins on the print head (causing unprinted white lines) are rather distracting on designs that feature large areas of black.

"FOREVER" Design Postage Labels - PSD Code change

In late June 2012, it was noticed that the "PSD" (Postal Security Device) code on the Forever labels had been changed from **0601** to **062S** (which it should have been to begin with).

Early **0601** label
Date code 221 (4/18/12)

Last known **0601** label
Date code 253 (5/20/12)

The earliest known **062S** label
Date code 270 (6/6/12).

The "standard" (barcode matrix) design has been **062S** all along (although it is shown as **06 2S00** on the these labels though).

Note: The large labels (not shown) have also used the **06 2S00** PSD code since the beginning.



It is theorized that the USPS might have been using the **0601** code during design or testing phases of the project and simply forgot to change the code.

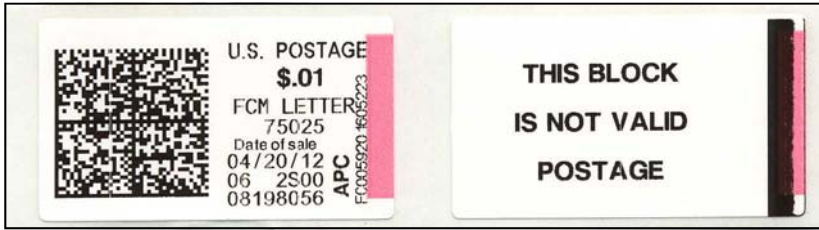
Both **0601** and **062S** is assigned to stamps.com (*06 2S00 is shown here on a Netstamp postage label*)

*The switch from **0601** to **062S** took place sometime in a 16-day period between May 21 & June 5, 2012.*



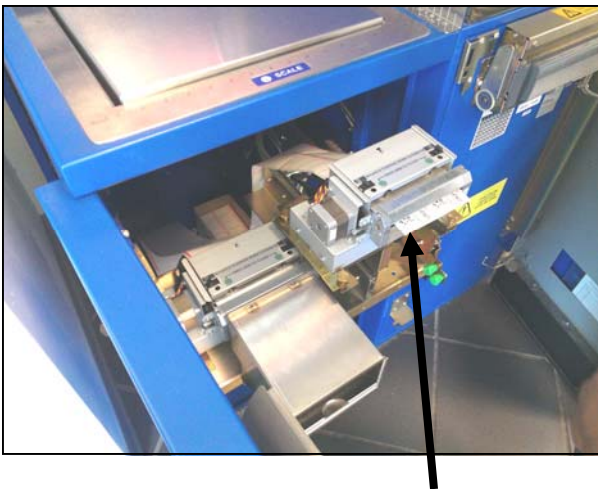
"Standard" Design Small Postage Labels

A carry-over from the older style APC (and certain newly branded SSSMC kiosks) is that a "standard" design postage label that features a large 2D matrix is still printed.



Differences between the old and new styles:

	<u>New:</u>	<u>Old:</u>
<u>Size:</u>	47mm x 26.5 mm	42 mm x 26 mm
<u>Stock:</u>	Z-fold paper, 10 strips between folds	Roll stock
<u>Format:</u>	Strip of 2 labels, no selvedge	Single, large selvedge
<u>Cutting guides:</u>	None	Black bar on back
<u>Pink Tagging:</u>	21.5 mm tall	26 mm (entire height)
<u>Clear coat:</u>	Underneath pink tagging	None
<u>Serial number:</u>	On right side, reading up	Below 2D matrix



The new small label is printed from the middle slot. Shown at the arrow tip is a label that is stuck in the printer due to some feeding malfunction.

The new SSSMC "Certified Mail" labels are issued on the same stock as the large labels (unlike its' predecessor). Both regular & Return Receipt varieties are available.

Certified Mail Labels



Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Small Postage Label

Standard design labels can be purchased two ways:

- 1) Manually entered postage value, starting at 1¢ (subject to an initial minimum purchase of \$1 from the kiosk).
- 2) By weighing a mail piece and choosing the mail class.



Manually entered denomination

Note: Vertical codes begin with:

IB = Indicia Based

IM = International Mail



Weighed Mail piece

Vertical code: EM00 1840 1705253
1st 2 letters indicate class of service
EM (=Express Mail), PM, FC or PP
Middle numbers are a purchase
sequence number
Last 3 numbers indicate date sold
(253 days since 9/10/2011)

Rate Class (EM HFPU =
Express Mail Hold For Pickup)

Zip Code & RDC Code (not on all labels)

Date Sold (labels are valid indefinitely)

PSD ID (Postal Security Device), 2-part code:

Manufacturer ID: 06 = stamps.com or
02 = Pitney Bowes

PSD model ID: 2S = stamps.com or
1P = Pitney Bowes

PSD serial nr.: 08205370

Note: When weighing & mailing an item, all menu choices ask how much postage has ALREADY been applied to the mail piece. The kiosk will then print a postage label for the remaining amount.

"Standard" Design Large Postage Labels

The large postage label size was also carried over from the older style APC kiosks. It also differs from the old style in several ways.



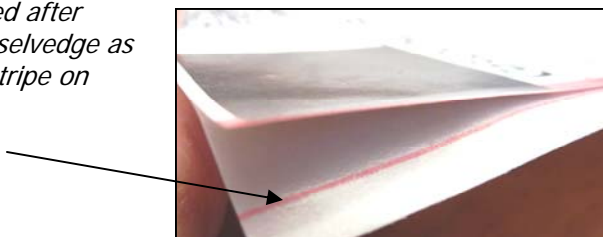
NEW

- Size:** 101.3 x 133.5 mm (4" x 5.25")
- Stock:** Continuous roll stock
- Gum:** PSA, ~13 mm with 5-6 mm gaps
- Backing Paper:** Black guide marks for cutter
Continuous
- Pink Tagging:** Continuous pink stripe on left
- Corners:** 90° angle

OLD

- 101.5 x 133.5 mm (4" x 5.25")
- Continuous roll stock, gaps
- PSA, continuous gum
- None
- Rouletting between labels
- None
- Rounded corners

Pink stripe is applied after die-cutting of side selvage as shown by the ink stripe on the backing paper

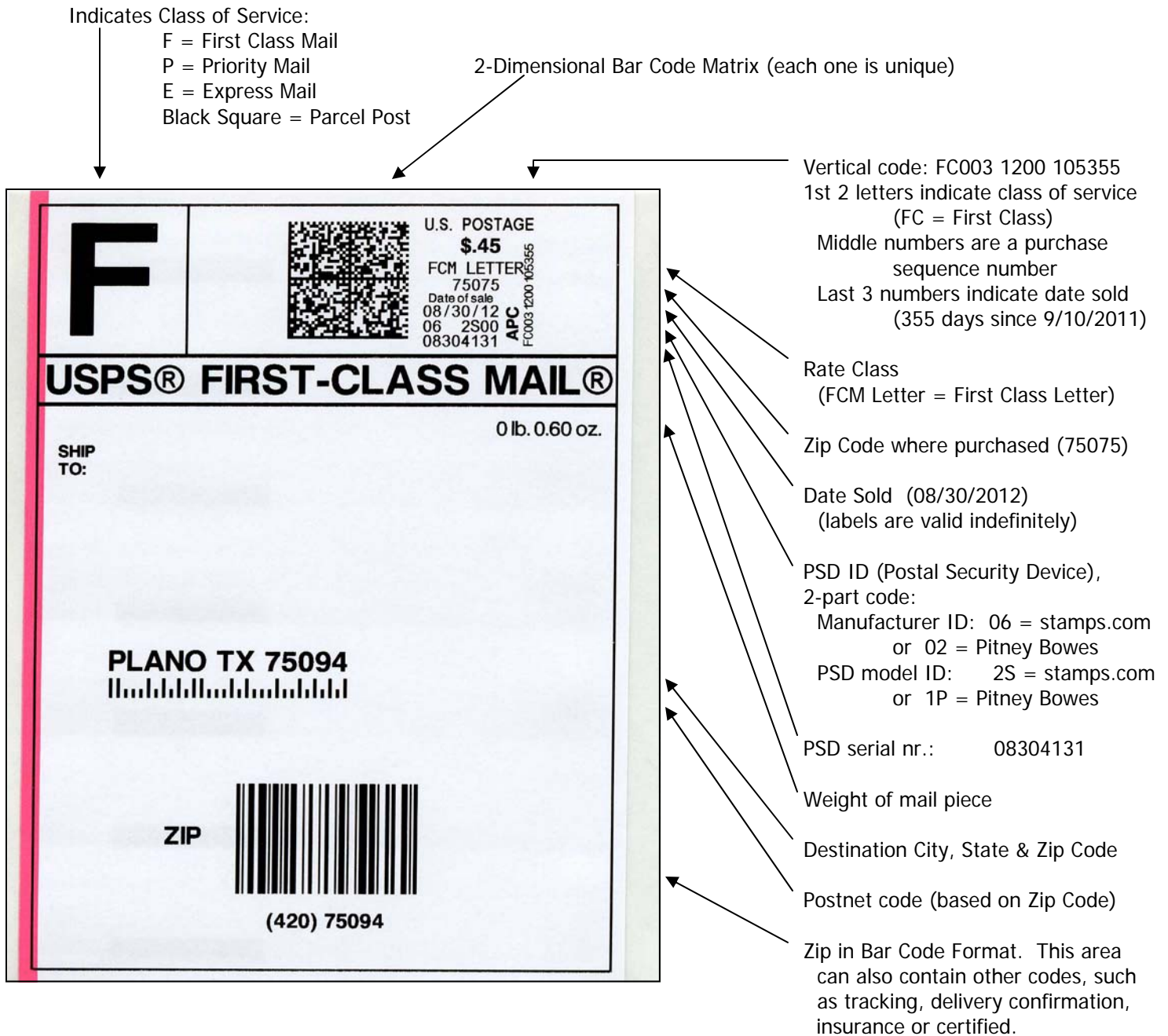


Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Large First Class Label

There are 5 types of Standard Design Labels:

1) Basic First Class Label

A basic first class label is just paying for the postage with no extra services or endorsements.



The City, State & Zip Code are printed based on the Zip Code entered by the customer.

There is no provision for typing in the rest of the address; only a basic 5-digit Zip Code is printed.

The blank area above the City, State & Zip is provided for the consumer to write in the Name and Address.

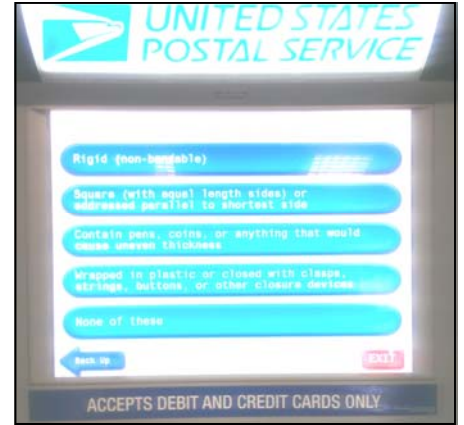
On subsequent pages, only items different from the above will be mentioned.

Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Large First Class Label

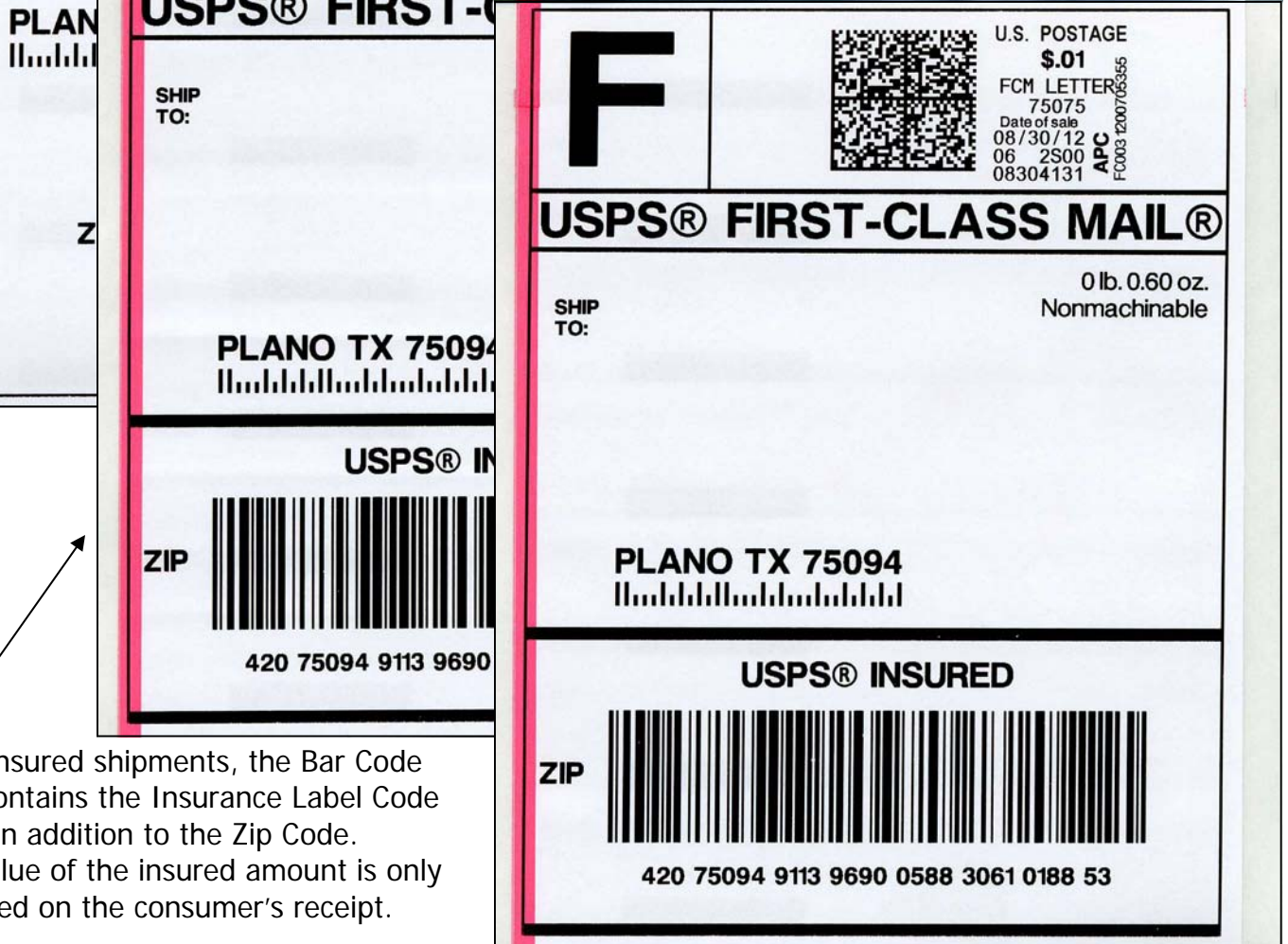
1) First Class Label with endorsements

Additional endorsements for First Class labels can include:

- Nonmachinable
- Insured
- Insured + Nonmachinable



“Nonmachinable” prints when certain options are chosen on the menu.



For Insured shipments, the Bar Code now contains the Insurance Label Code in addition to the Zip Code. The value of the insured amount is only listed on the consumer's receipt.

Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Large Postage Label

3) Priority Mail Label



The basic Priority large label prints a “**USPS TRACKING NUMBER**” whether purchased with or without the “Delivery Confirmation” option.

The difference is that the Delivery Confirmation option costs \$0.75 extra and prints the delivery confirmation number on the receipt, while the basic option does not (yet there is still a tracking number and the customer would have to write it down manually).

Other inscriptions at the top of the Zip barcode include:

USPS SIGNATURE TRACKING NUMBER

USPS CERTIFIED MAIL

USPS INSURED

These will be shown on the following pages.

Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Large Postage Label

P		U.S. POSTAGE \$01	APC PM00 1980 1005359
		PRIORITY 75075 0006 Date of sale 09/03/12 06 2S00 08304094	
USPS® PRIORITY MAIL®			
SHIP TO:		0 lb. 3.20 oz.	0006
PLANO TX 75094 			
USPS CERTIFIED MAIL			
ZIP			
420 75094 9502 6000 1880 2247 0001 50			


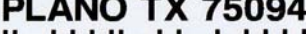
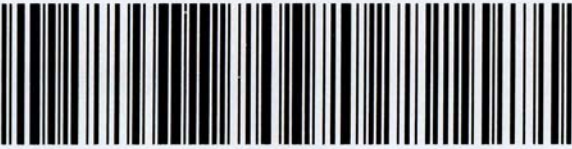
3) Priority Mail Label with Certified



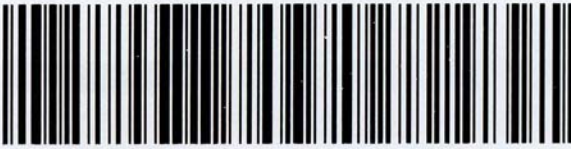
← Basic "Insured" option (\$500), results in "USPS CERTIFIED" (also used with the "Return Receipt via Email" option). It is also possible to add the "RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED" and "RESTRICTED DELIVERY" options (not shown).

3) Priority Mail Label with Insurance & Delivery Confirmation

As with the Certified options, the "Insurance + Delivery Confirmation" option can be had with no endorsement inscriptions, as well as "Return Receipt Requested" and/or "Restricted Delivery" Options. (below left)

Note that when using a "Flat Rate" box or envelope option (rather than generic Priority), the resulting labels can have the various endorsements shown previously, HOWEVER, flat rate priority labels do NOT show the weight of the item and have a different RDC code (0005). (below right)

P		U.S. POSTAGE \$01	APC PM00 1980 2205359
		PRIORITY 75075 0006 Date of sale 09/03/12 06 2S00 08304094	
USPS® PRIORITY MAIL®			
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED RESTRICTED DELIVERY TO: WHOEVER ANSWERS THE DOOR		0 lb. 4.10 oz.	0006
SHIP TO: PLANO TX 75094 			
USPS® INSURED			
ZIP			
420 75094 9105 9690 0588 3006 0051 54			

P		U.S. POSTAGE \$01	APC PM00 1980 2305359
		PM LFR BOX 75075 0005 Date of sale 09/03/12 06 2S00 08304094	
USPS® PRIORITY MAIL®			
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED RESTRICTED DELIVERY TO: WHOEVER SHOWS THEIR VALID ID			0005
SHIP TO: PLANO TX 75094 			
USPS® INSURED			
ZIP			
420 75094 9105 9690 0588 3006 0051 61			

Anatomy of a SSSMC Standard Design Large Postage Label

4) Express Mail Label - Sunday & Holidays

Express Mail is the only USPS service that offers delivery on Sundays and Holidays.

The customer can choose whether to allow or not allow delivery on Sundays or Holidays, including the ability to "Waive the Signature".

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM PFR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304094 APC
EH002550 #605336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

NO DELIVERY WEEKEND 0 lb. 1.50 oz.

SHIP TO:

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM FR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304131 APC
EH002300705336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

WAIVER OF SIGNATURE REQUESTED 0 lb. 0.60 oz.
NO DELIVERY WEEKEND

SHIP TO:

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM LFR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304094 APC
EH002550 #705336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

SUNDAY/HOLIDAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED 0 lb. 1.80 oz.

SHIP TO:

PLANO TX 750

POSTAL USE ONLY

Date In: Mo. Day Year
Day of Delivery: Next Second
Return Receipt Sched DelDate

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM PFR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304094 APC
EH002550 #605336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

WAIVER OF SIGNATURE REQUESTED 0 lb. 1.60 oz.
SUNDAY/HOLIDAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED

SHIP TO: 0007

PLANO TX 75094

POSTAL USE ONLY

Date In: Mo. Day Year
Day of Delivery: Next Second
Return Receipt Sched DelDate

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM PFR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304094 APC
EH002550 #605336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

WAIVER OF SIGNATURE REQUESTED 0 lb. 1.60 oz.
SUNDAY/HOLIDAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED

SHIP TO: 0007

PLANO TX 75094

POSTAL USE ONLY

Date In: Mo. Day Year
Day of Delivery: Next Second
Return Receipt Sched DelDate

E

U.S. POSTAGE
\$01
EM PFR ENV
75075 0007
Date of sale
08/11/12
06 2S00
08304094 APC
EH002550 #605336

USPS® EXPRESS MAIL®

WAIVER OF SIGNATURE REQUESTED 0 lb. 1.60 oz.
SUNDAY/HOLIDAY DELIVERY GUARANTEED

SHIP TO: 0007

PLANO TX 75094

POSTAL USE ONLY

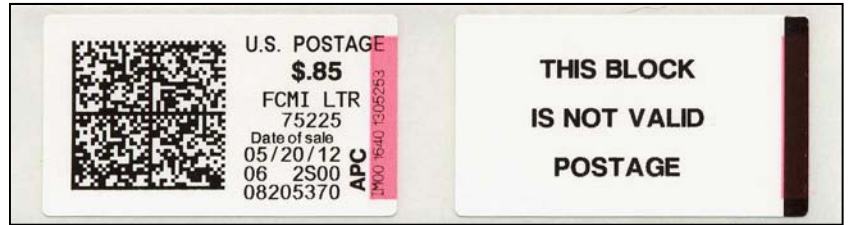
Date In: Mo. Day Year Time In: AM PM
Day of Delivery: Next Second 2nd Del Day Noon 3PM
Return Receipt Sched DelDate Additional Insurance Fee

No weekend delivery requested.

Delivery on Sunday or Holiday is requested.

Service Class Inscribed Stamps

If weighing a mail piece, you receive a small or large barcode matrix design stamp with the class of service inscribed below the denomination.



SSSMC & APC Service Inscribed Postage Labels		Small Label	Large Label
First Class		3	3
FCM LETTER	First Class Letter	X	X
FCM LG ENV	First Class Large Envelope	X	X
FCM PARCEL	First Class Parcel	X	X
First Class International		2	
FCMI LTR	First Class Mail International Letter	X	NA
FCMI L ENV	First Class Mail International Large Envelope	X	NA
Parcel Post		1	1
PARCEL POST	Parcel Post	X	X
Priority Mail		13	13
PRIORITY	Priority Mail	X	X
PM FR ENV	Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM SFR ENV	Priority Mail Small Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM LFR ENV	Priority Mail Legal Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM GFR ENV	Priority Mail Gift Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM WFR ENV	Priority Mail Window Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM PFR ENV	Priority Mail Padded Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
PM SFR BOX	Priority Mail Small Flat Rate Box	X	X
PM MFR BOX	Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate Box	X	X
PM LFR BOX	Priority Mail Large Flat Rate Box	X	X
PM RR BOXA	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box A	X	X
PM RR BOXB	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box B	X	X
PM RR BOXC	Priority Mail Regional Rate Box C	X	X
Express Mail		10	5
EXPRESS	Express Mail	X	X
EM FR ENV	Express Mail Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
EM LFR ENV	Express Mail Legal Flat Rate Envelope	X	X
EM PFR ENV	Express Mail Padded Flat Rate Envelope*	X	X
EM FR BOX	Express Mail Flat Rate Box	X	X
EM HFPU	Express Mail Hold for Pickup	X	NA
EM HFPU FR	Express Mail Hold for Pickup Flat Rate Envelope	X	NA
EMH LFR EN	Express Mail Hold for Pickup Legal Flat Rate Env.	X	NA
EMH PFR EN	Express Mail Hold for Pickup Padded Flat Rate Env.*	X	NA
EMHFPU FRB	Express Mail Hold for Pickup Flat Rate Box	X	NA
Merchandise Returns			10
GR RTN SVC	Ground Return Service	NA	X
FC RTN SVC	First Class Returns	NA	X
PM RTN SVC	Priority Mail Returns	NA	X
PR FR ENV	Priority Mail Returns - Flat Rate Envelope	NA	X
PR SFR ENV	Priority Mail Returns - Small Flat Rate Envelope	NA	X
PR LFR ENV	Priority Mail Returns - Legal Flat Rate Envelope	NA	X
PR PFR ENV	Priority Mail Returns - Padded Flat Rate Envelope	NA	X
PR SFR BOX	Priority Mail Returns - Small Flat Rate Box	NA	X
PR MFR BOX	Priority Mail Returns - Medium Flat Rate Box	NA	X
PR LFR BOX	Priority Mail Returns - Large Flat Rate Box	NA	X

The table to the left shows all the possible combinations of standard service classes and their abbreviations on the stamps.

Note:
Postage for the following mail classes are NOT available at the kiosks:

- Postcards
- Media Mail
- Library Mail
- International Parcels

Labels with a "" at the end of the descriptions were newly added on June 24, 2012.*

Service Class Inscribed Stamps - Padded Flat Rate

New rate inscribed labels for "Express Mail Padded Flat Rate Envelopes" were added on June 24, 2012 to the SSSMC kiosks (and older APC kiosks as well).

3 different Padded Envelope label varieties are available:

"EM PFR ENV"

Express Mail Padded Flat Rate Envelope:

Small & Large Labels

"EMH PFR EN"

Express Mail Hold-For-Pick Padded Flat Rate Envelope:

Small Label only



While one could purchase the "Express Mail Padded Flat-Rate" labels starting June 24, 2012, the USPS did NOT have the actual Padded Flat-Rate Envelopes themselves available until early August 2012!



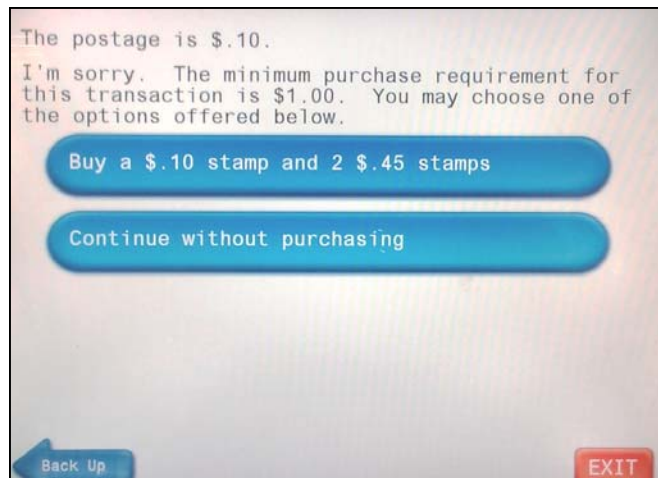
Since the "unconverted" APC kiosks were in operation at the same time as the converted SSSMC kiosks, they also received the same 3 label types; shown here is the EMH PFR EN version.

Minimum Purchase Required

The SSSMC stamps will ONLY accept credit or debit cards and require the postal customer to purchase at least \$1 worth of postage.

This can be done in a variety of ways:

- 1) A single user selectable stamp of > \$1
- 2) A weighed mail piece with > \$1 postage
- 3) A weighed mail piece + additional 45¢ or more to meet the \$1 minimum
- 4) 3x+ FOREVER stamps
- 5) 6x 17¢ stamps, 5x 20¢, or some multiplier of up to 6x of the same value as long as it is greater than \$1



If a simple mail piece, such as a 1 ounce letter is selected, then the machine will request additional 45¢ stamps are to be purchased to meet the \$1 minimum.



Minimum purchase by weighing a 1 ounce mail piece [45¢] that was stated to have had 44¢ already applied, triggering the 1¢ FCM LETTER label and then requesting an additional 3x 45¢ labels to go the minimum.



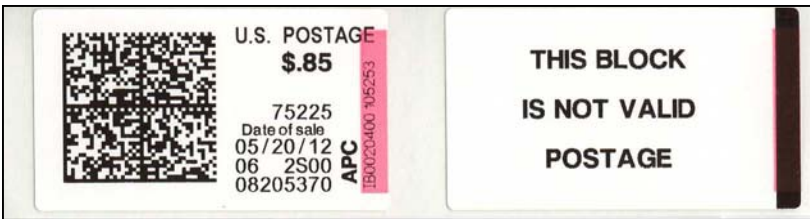
Minimum purchase by weighing a 1 ounce mail piece [45¢] that was stated to have had 35¢ already applied, triggering the 10¢ FCM LETTER label and then requesting an additional 2x 45¢ labels to meet the minimum.

The screen shot at the top is from this block.

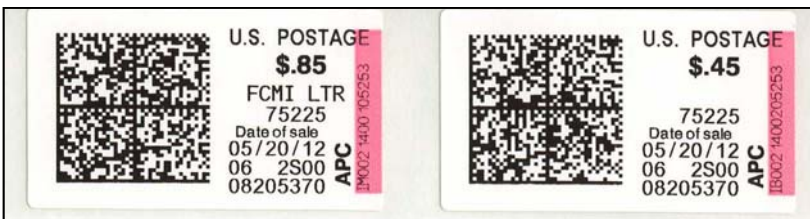
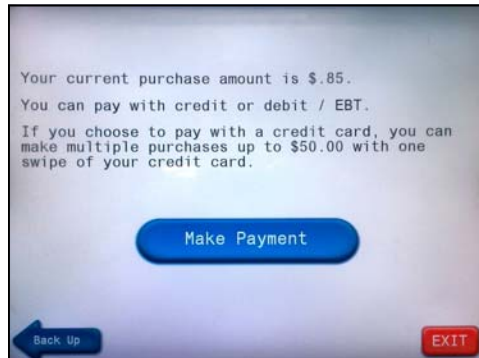
Only initial transactions using a weighed mail piece with less than \$1 postage will require additional 45¢ stamps and there is **NO other way to obtain combination blocks** (ie: multiple face values either with and without rate inscriptions on one block) such as this!

Minimum Purchase Required

There is one way, however, to purchase less than \$1 from these kiosks:

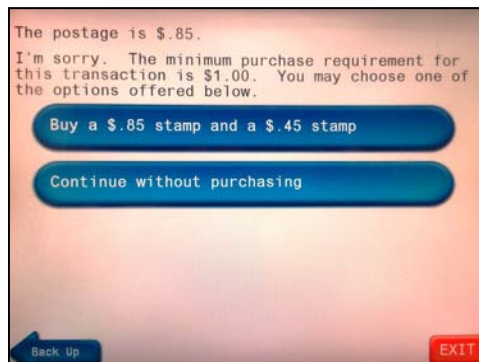


If one purchases a "1 oz. First Class Mail International" stamp from the "Buy Stamps", menu and chooses either Canada or Mexico, then one can pay just 85¢ for the transaction without a further purchase Requirement.



On the other hand, if one purchases a stamp using the "Weigh a Letter or Package" option, then "Letter" and then chooses the "International" option on the keypad screen and searches for Canada, one will get the screen shown below, asking to purchase an additional 45¢ stamp!

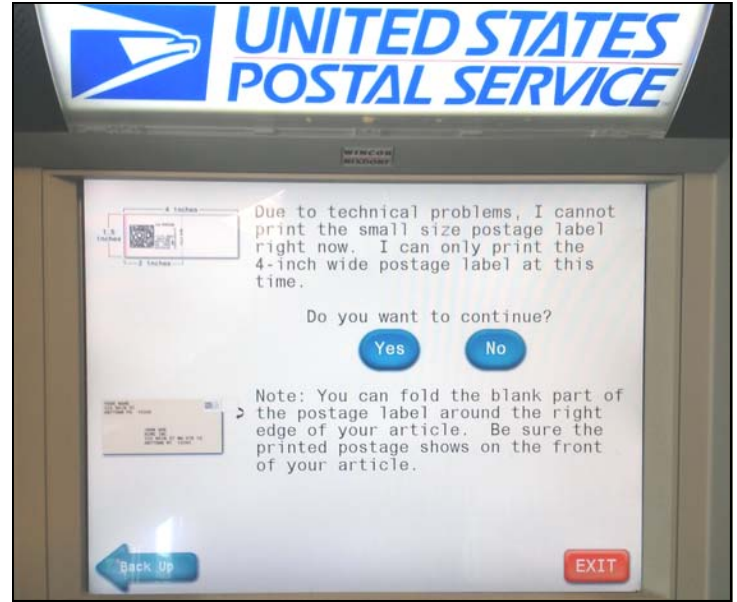
Note the top stamp is NOT rate inscribed (even though chosen as Canada), while the lower stamp shows the rate inscription of "FCMI LTR".



"Fold Here" Variety

If the kiosk experiences a malfunction of the small label printer (such as a paper jam), or has run out of the paper for the small labels, the consumer will have the choice of printing a larger label that can be folded over the edge of the mail piece (thus ensuring it is in the proper position for the USPS canceling & facing equipment).

Since this option only occurs when there is an issue with the printer, it makes these labels difficult to obtain.



Kiosk screen shot after small label printer malfunction occurs.



Both FOREVER and standard design labels are available during the emergency mode.



Small Font Variety - Forever Design

Small Font Variety

Regular Version



Small Font Regular Font

1. FOLD HERE line

27 mm long 36.5 mm long

1. FOLD HERE letters

1.5 mm tall 2 mm tall

2. Kiosk Serial number

Numbers Space between last
together & 3rd/4th digits
from the right

3. FOREVER letters

1.5mm x 9 mm 2 mm x 12.75 mm

A "small font" variety was discovered at a Chicago area (Zip 60057) SSSMC kiosk.

So far it has only been seen only on the "FOLD-HERE" labels, although another collector stated he has one on a "large" label.

The information above highlights the differences between the variety and the regular version of the FOLD-HERE label.

Clear Coat Variety

In the Northwest Plano, TX post office, labels procured on April 18 & 19, 2012 had a different appearance than those which were purchased on April 20, 2012 or afterwards.

The key visible differentiator was the black bar that covers up the pink stripe on the "This Block is Not Valid for Postage" block. On the April 18 & 19 postage strips, the black bar appears mostly "gray" while on later issues it is "black".



April 20: The pink stripe glows nicely under Long wave UV.

Stripe is black.

April 19: The pink stripe has little glow and appears dull and dark red.

Stripe is gray.

April 18: The pink stripe has little glow and appears dull and dark red.

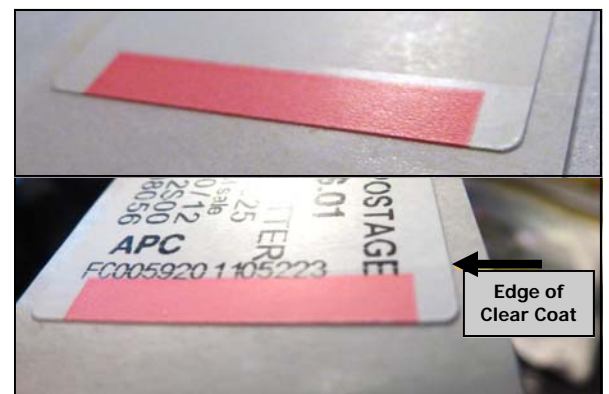
Stripe is gray except where there is no clear coat (left edge of the black/gray stripe).



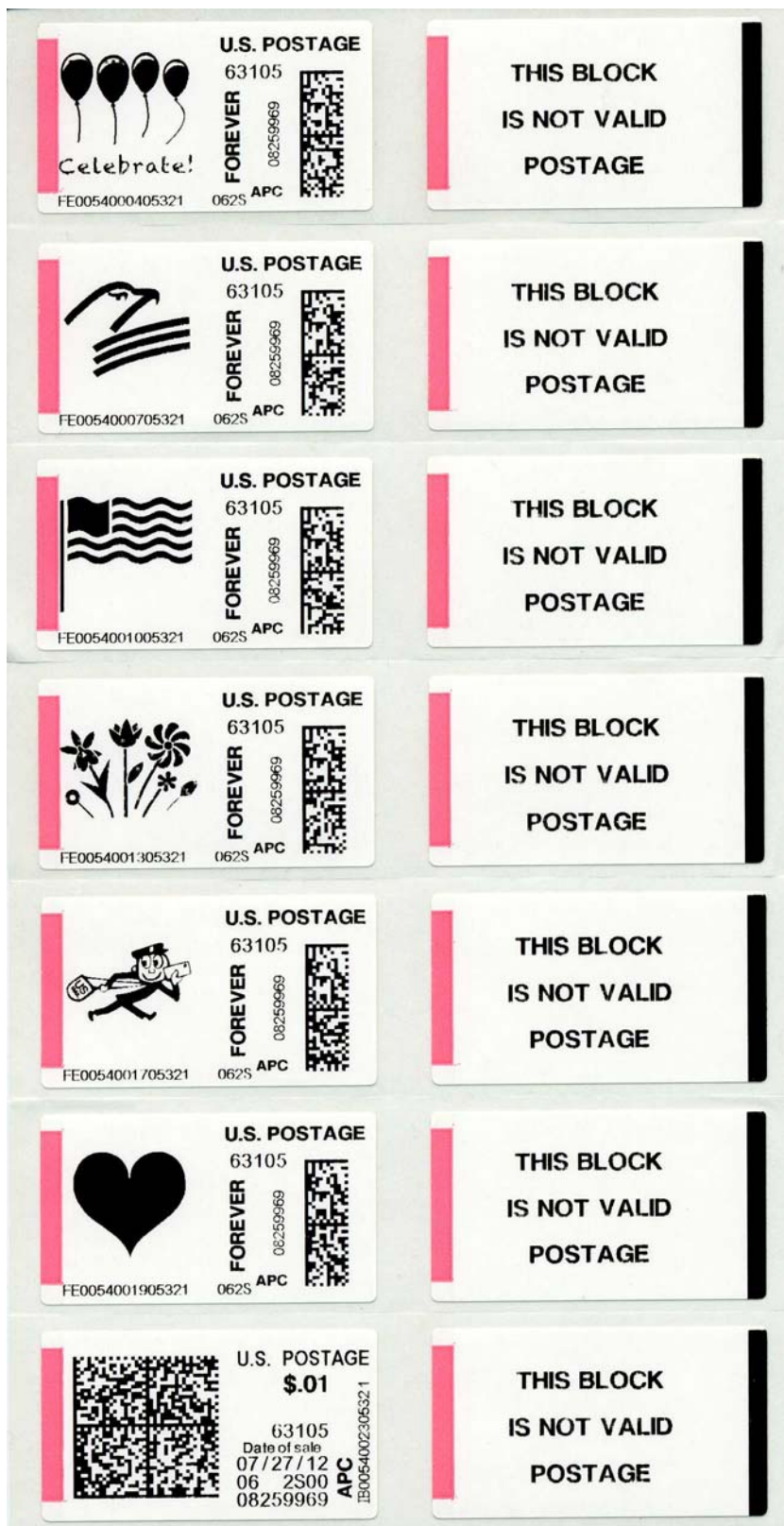
What would cause this? Best guess is a manufacturing defect. While the paper itself is overall tagged, there is a separate fluorescent pink stripe printed on the postage labels along with a clear coat of some sort.

The function of the clear coat is unclear (no pun intended), but most likely serves as a base coat for the pink stripe that is printed on top.

Based on the evidence under UV light above, and basic light reflectance, the cause is most likely that the order in which the clear and pink ink was applied might have been switched or possibly that the chemical composition of the clear coat was somehow different and when heat was applied by the print heads, that not sufficient heat made it to the underlying paper to turn it completely black.



Left-Side Facing Stripe Variety



The label sheets that are used in the SSSMC kiosks are in a "Z-fold" pattern and come in a corrugated box with an open top.

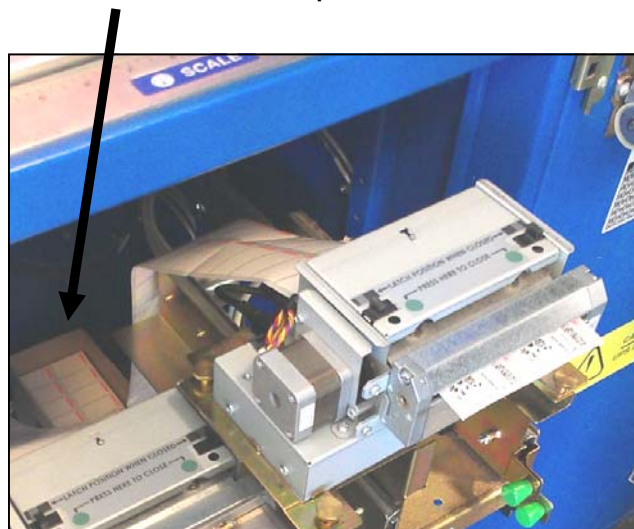
When a new box is used, the top sheet is fed into the printer and has the pink "facing stripe" on the RIGHT side.

The labels shown to the left have the facing stripe on the LEFT side.

This variety can ONLY occur due to human error when the labels are removed from the box and the stack is then flipped upside down. When the labels are then fed into the printer, the stripe is now on the left.

Why would this be done? The best guess is that after a paper jam, the stack was so far down the box that it couldn't be lifted out, so the USPS personnel simply turned the box over and dropped the stack out.

The picture below shows the label box in its' normal position.



Left-Side Facing Stripe Variety

While the left-side stripe variety from the Clayton, MO post office was known first to collectors, it was discovered later that an Arizona post office also had put the stack of paper into the kiosk upside down.

In fact, these labels were from one of the early installed kiosks, dated 5/7/2012, which was only about 3½ weeks after the initial kiosks were converted on 4/12/2012.

Additionally, this variety must have occurred during that kiosk's initial conversion, as the PSD is "021P", which is normally only available during the first 24 hours following the conversion.

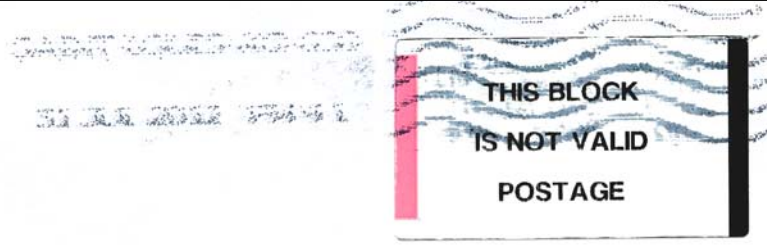
For this to occur on an initial kiosk conversion would show that there was little or no training for personnel.

Generally speaking, the IBM technician that converts the kiosk installs the initial stack of labels. Afterwards, USPS personnel change out labels or correct paper jams.

The person that bought these did not initially know at the that he had a fairly scarce variety (left stripe AND 021P code)!



Left-Side Facing Stripe Variety Usage



“VOID” label with left-side facing stripe used without triggering postage due.

This shows that the USPS Automation did NOT detect that this was not a valid stamp.

Peter Elias
P.O. Box 940427
Plano, Texas
 75094-0427

75094042727



Frank W. Sutera
5 Spencer Path
St. Peters, Mo.
 63376-2559

Left-side facing stripe postage label properly used.



Peter Elias
P.O. Box 940427
Plano, Texas
 75094-0427

75094042727



Frank W. Sutera
5 Spencer Path
St. Peters, Mo.
 63376-2559



The Clayton Post Office has both a new SSSMC and older APC style kiosk in the lobby.

Peter Elias
P.O. Box 940427
Plano, Texas
 75094-0427

Properly used cover mailed on date of purchase containing both left-side stripe variety & older style APC label.

Small Font Variety - Standard Design

Small Font Variety

Regular Version

U.S. POSTAGE
 \$01
 60657
 Date of sale
 07/22/12
 06 2S00
 08205394
 APC
 IB000730 45053 16

U.S. POSTAGE
\$0.85
 75075
 Date of sale
 08/10/12
 06 2S00
 08304131
 APC
 IP0046202206335

U.S. POSTAGE
 \$32
 60657
 Date of sale
 07/22/12
 06 2S00
 08205394
 APC
 IB000730 45053 16

Small Font

Regular Font

1. FOLD HERE line

27 mm long

36.5 mm long

1. FOLD HERE letters

1.5 mm tall

2 mm tall

2. Denomination

1.5 mm tall

2.5 mm tall +
BOLD

3. Kiosk Serial number

Space between
 2nd/3rd & 7th/8th
 digits from the right

Numbers
 together

U.S. POSTAGE
 \$85
 60657
 Date of sale
 07/22/12
 06 2S00
 08205394
 APC
 IP000730 45053 16

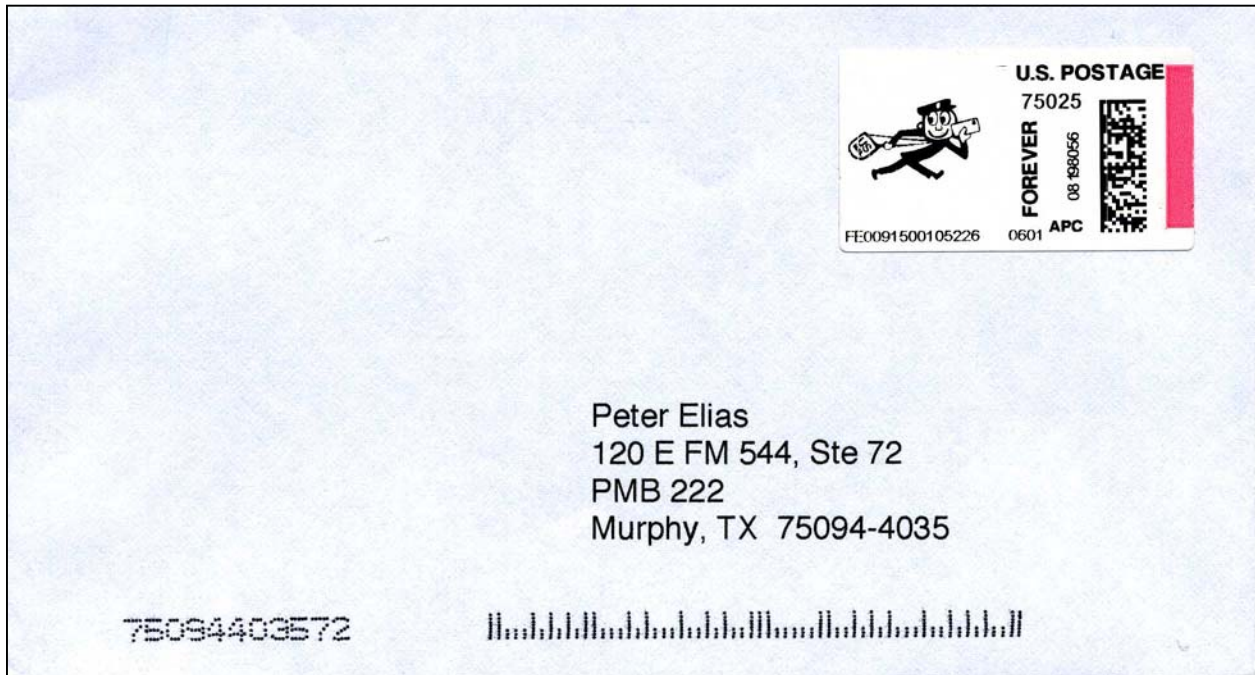


Scanned & cropped copy of the June 16, 2012 version from a mailed postcard

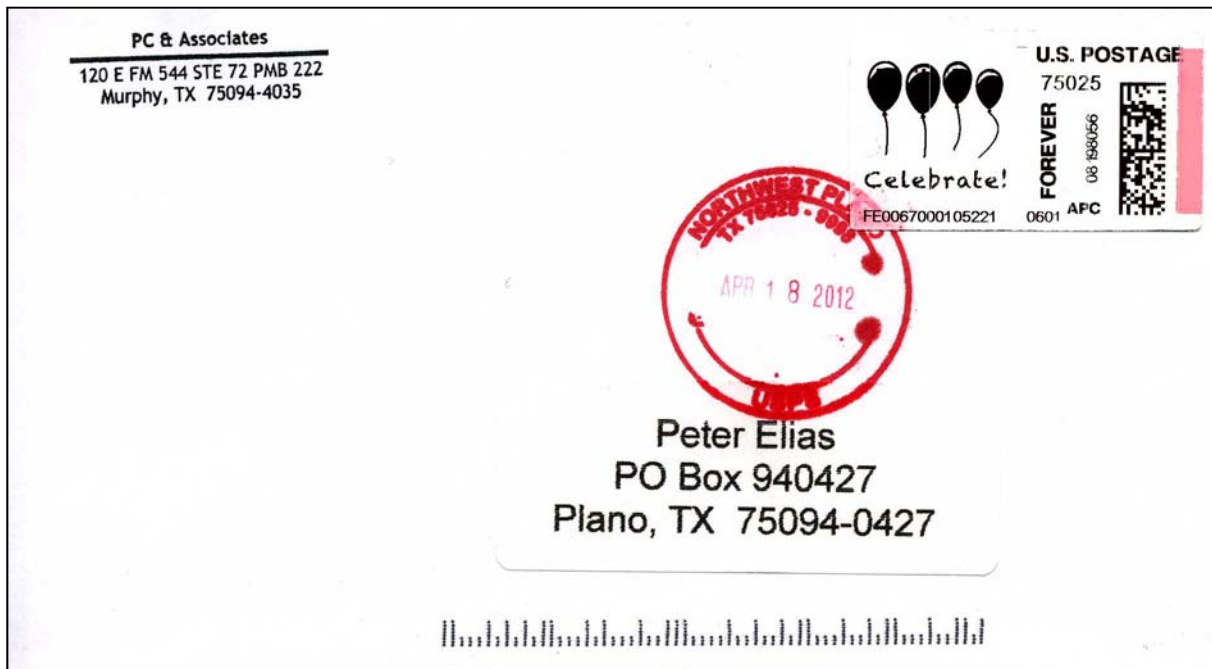
At this point, the documented versions of the "small font" variety are from June 16, 2012 and July 22, 2012.

Another collector has mentioned existence of this variety on a large label.

Usages



These postage labels normally do NOT get postmarked and get bypassed by the USPS cancelling equipment. A "Postnet" code (with the Zip Code) is sprayed on the bottom of the envelope for sorting purposes though.



The standard red ink used by the USPS does not dry quickly when applied to the thermal labels and smears easily. This postmark was favor-applied to actually show when the cover was mailed.

The purchase date code of the label is "221", which corresponds to April 18, 2012, thus an early usage only 6 days after these labels were first being used at this branch (Northwest Plano, Zip Code 75025).

Usages

There are only three USPS forms where the sender gets stamps to keep as a receipt for the fee being paid (since the sender retains the form as proof). All other USPS fees (such as for insured, certified, registered, delivery confirmation, etc) are a part of the outgoing mail piece and not part of the receipt for the mailer!

These three forms are:

- #3606 (Certificate of Bulk Mailing)
- #3817 (Certificate of Mailing) and
- #3877 (Firm Mailing Book for Accountable Mail)


United States Postal Service
Certificate of Bulk Mailing

Duplicate


MAILER: Prepare this statement in ink. Affix meter stamp or uncanceled postage stamps covering fee in the block to the right. Present for certification.

Fee for Certificate	Use Current Rate Chart
Up to 1,000 pieces (1 certificate for total number)	
For each additional 1,000 pieces, or fraction	

Duplicate Copy



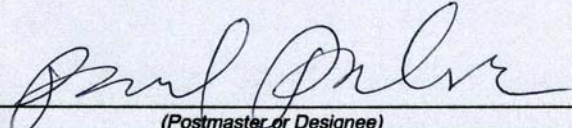
FOLD HERE



Number of Identical Pieces	Class of Mail	Postage on Each	Number of Pieces to the Pound	Total Number of Pounds	Total Postage Paid	Fee Paid
45	POST CARD	32¢	141	0.512 = 0.31875 165	\$ 14.40	1.15
Mailed For PC & Associates 120 E FM 544 STE 72 PMB 222 Murphy, TX 75094-4035		Mailed By PETER CLIAS				

Postmaster's Certificate

It is hereby certified that the above-described mailing has been received and number of pieces and postage verified.



(Postmaster or Designee)

PS Form **3606**, May 1992

Form 3606 is prepared as an original (see to the right) with a minimum fee of \$6.70; "duplicate" copies such as the one above can be obtained for a flat-rate of \$1.15 each. These forms are rarely seen by collectors.

Usages

United States Postal Service
Certificate of Bulk Mailing



MAILER: Prepare this statement in ink. Affix meter stamp or uncancelled postage stamps covering fee in the block to the right. Present for certification.

Meter stamp or postage (uncanceled) stamps in payment of fee to be affixed here and canceled by postmarking, including date.

Fee for Certificate

- Up to 1,000 pieces (1 certificate for total number)
- For each additional 1,000 pieces, or fraction
- Duplicate Copy

Use
Current
Rate
Chart



Number of Identical Pieces	Class of Mail	Postage on Each	Number of Pieces to the Pound	Total Number of Pounds	Total Postage Paid	Fee Paid
45	POSTCARD	32¢	141	5.102 (= 31875 lbs)	\$14.40	6.70
Mailed For PC & Associates 120 E FM 544 STE 72 PMB 222 Murphy, TX 75094-4035		Mailed By PETER ELIAS				

Postmaster's Certificate

It is hereby certified that the above-described mailing has been received and number of pieces and postage verified.

[Signature]

 (Postmaster or Designee)



Note: The image above is reduced in size to fit the page; on the original exhibit, this item is shown full-size (8.5" x 11") in landscape format

Usages

Form 3817 is primarily used by consumers or small business as "proof of mailing".

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CERTIFICATE OF MAILING		Affix fee here in stamps or meter postage and post mark. Inquire of Postmaster for current fee.
MAY BE USED FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MAIL, DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR INSURANCE-POSTMASTER		
Received From:		
Peter C. Elias		
PO Box 940427		
Plano, TX 75094-0427 USA		
One piece of ordinary mail addressed to:		
Andreas Lehr		
Lohweg 4A		
35716 Dietzhoelzel		
GERMANY		
		
		U.S. POSTAGE \$1.15
		75025 Date of sale 04/19/12 06 2S00 08198056 APC

PS Form 3817, January 2001
SSSMC stamps, forms 3877 + 48700

2001 version of Form 3817 with proper rate of \$1.15 paid by an early version standard design SSSMC label.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Certificate Of Mailing		To pay fee, affix stamps or meter postage here.
This Certificate of Mailing provides evidence that mail has been presented to USPS® for mailing. This form may be used for domestic and international mail.		
From:		
Peter Elias		
PO Box 940427		
Plano, TX 75094 USA		
To:		
MARTIN FRANKOVICZ		
SCOTT PUBLISHING		
PO BOX 828		
SIDNEY OH 45365		
		
		U.S. POSTAGE \$1.15
		75025 Date of sale 04/20/12 06 2S00 08198056 APC

PS Form 3817, April 2007 PSN 7530-02-000-9065

Current version of Form 3817 with proper rate of \$1.15 paid by early versions of the Standard & Forever design SSSMC labels.

Note that the receipt date is the same as the purchase date of the standard design label and that the proof of mailing was for samples of these labels mailed to Scott Publishing for inclusion in the next edition of their USA Specialized Stamp Catalog.

Usages

Name and Address of Sender		Check type of mail or service:		Affix Stamp Here (If issued as a certificate of mailing, or for additional copies of this bill) Postmark and Date of Receipt															
PC & Associates 120 E FM 544 STE 72 PMB 222 Murphy, TX 75094-4035		<input type="checkbox"/> Certified <input type="checkbox"/> COD <input type="checkbox"/> Delivery Confirmation <input type="checkbox"/> Express Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Insured		<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Delivery (International) <input type="checkbox"/> Registered <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt for Merchandise <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Confirmation		Article Number	Addressee (Name, Street, City, State, & ZIP Code)	Postage	Fee	Handling Charge	Actual Value if Registered	Insured Value	Due Sender if COD	DC Fee	SC Fee	SH Fee	RD Fee	RR Fee	
1	Set of 5 SSSMC Fold Here <i>slips</i>	Alan Maves	.45	.44															
2	5 SSSMC Stamp Sheets	Julie Delesseux	1.95	.44											N/C				
3	10x 10 SSSMC Fold Here	Sto Bereman	.45	.44															
4.	  <p style="text-align: center;">FOLD HERE</p>																		
5.																			
6.																			
7.																			
8.																			
Total Number of Pieces Listed by Sender		Total Number of Pieces Received at Post Office		Postmaster, Post (Name of receiving employee)		See Privacy Act Statement on Reverse													
3		3		<i>[Signature]</i>															

("Fold Here" variety used to pay the proper rate of \$1.32 for the form #3877 fee: 44¢ per mail piece with a minimum of 3 pieces)

Note: reduced size image; on the actual exhibit, this form overlaps onto the page to the left.

A Bit of Fun

On occasion,
a bit of fun is in order!

This is a Padded Flat-Rate Priority (PM PFR ENV) Mail label with the "Certified Mail" & "Return Receipt Requested" option along with the "Restricted Delivery" set to "**Any Movie Star**" in Beverly Hills, California's famous 90210 Zip Code.

Obviously this would never be mailed, although if one would find the actual address of a movie star living in Beverly Hills, one could use it along with the appropriate extra postage (and a request for an autograph and to return the outer envelope or label back to you).

The SSSMC kiosks do give you the opportunity to enter a "name" in the "restricted delivery to" option area, although nothing states it has to be a real name, and any standard letters (30 characters total will work (including commas, periods & the ampersand symbol)).

Conclusion

As postage and cost structuring requirements change, the US Postal Service will adopt new mechanisms to deal with them. The USPS is using these kiosks to aid in reducing their costs, such as having FOREVER stamps being sold through the SSSMC kiosks and having self-service mailing options available to reduce waiting lines at the counters. These kiosks have to sell \$15,000 in postage monthly to be viable!

This exhibit has covered the transition period from the old style "APC" kiosks in early April 2012 to the converted "SSSMC" kiosks by the end of September 2012. It is a continual "work in progress", but has attempted to show the wide variety of items that are available.