

Merchant Returns Service

User's Guide

Document Version 2.0

2015



Version History

Version	Date of Addition	Summary of Additions
1.0	08/07/2014	Document created.
2.0	2/21/2015	Updated based on changes from April 2015 PC
3.0	3/31/2015	Updated with edits based on feedback



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Introduction

This guide will provide an overview of the USPS Merchant Returns including types of accounts, services offered, and generating labels.

USPS System Administrators

USPS Returns Administrators will onboard merchants using the USPS Merchant Returns Application. Administrators have the ability to onboard, edit, and generate transaction reports for the following merchants:

- Scan Based Payment (SBP)
- Merchandise Return Service (MRS)
- International Merchandise Return Service (IMRS)

Service Types Offered

The Service Types available for Scan Based Payment merchants using the Returns Tool are listed in full below:

SBP Service Types
Priority Mail Returns [®] service
Priority Mail Returns [®] service, Insurance <= \$500
First-Class Package Return [®] service
First-Class Package Return [®] service, Insurance <= \$500
Ground Return Service

The Service Types available for Merchandise Returns Service merchants using the Returns Tool are listed in full below:

MRS Service Type
First-Class - Merchandise Return Service
Priority Mail - Merchandise Return Service
Priority Mail - HAZMAT - Merchandise Return Service

The Service Types available for International Merchandise Returns Service merchants using the Returns Tool are listed in full below:



Country	IMRS Service Type	
Canada	Expedited Parcel Service - USA	
Australia	Australia - IMRS - Inbound Priority	

New Merchant Registration

To begin the onboarding process, Administrators will need to verify the new merchant using the following parameters:

- Merchant Name the name given to the merchant in the Merchant Returns system
- Account Name the name given to the account of the Merchant in the Merchant Returns system
- The **Type of Merchant** can be Scan Based Payment (SBP) merchant, a Merchandise Return Service (MRS) merchant, or International MRS.
- A **MID**, or Mailer ID, is a number assigned to merchants for their mail pieces by the USPS Business Customer Gateway system. MIDs are featured on Intelligent Mail barcodes and are tied to a single **CRID**.
- A CRID, or Customer Registration ID, is a unique identifier assigned to a merchant and a unique location. This means that one merchant can have multiple CRIDs serving as multiple locations (e.g. a Merchant has a CRID for Seattle, Washington and a different CRID for New York, New York). The USPS Customer Registration system verifies assigned CRIDs.

The Business Customer Gateway system currently allows a Mailer to request five (5) sixdigits and ten (10) nine-digit MIDs per CRID. MIDs used by SBP and International merchants are unique and cannot be duplicated, e.g. MID # 854321 cannot be associated with two different CRIDs. A Mailer can be assigned MIDs that are programspecific – for instance, a Mailer who has MIDs assigned to Electronic Verification System (eVS) must use those exclusively for the eVS program. The number of MIDs assigned to a Mailer is dependent on which programs they are enrolled in and their shipping volume, per the General USPS MID Guidelines.



Scan Based Payment (SBP) Merchant

SBP – Onboard New Merchant

When onboarding an SBP merchant, Administrators will need to fill in several details about the merchant, including a merchant contact, label information, and service types that they will be offering their customers.

Administrators also have the option to indicate if the merchant being onboarded intends on receiving FTP (File Transfer Protocol) scan event extracts.

SBP – Label Options

There are several aspects to the Onboard New Merchant form that relates directly to how the returns label looks when a customer prints it out including:

- RMA/Order/Invoice number
- Additional Label Instructions
- Label Message

The **RMA/Order/Invoice number** is package information that a merchant may ask the customer to provide when returning a package. This information is not for USPS' benefit and is solely for the merchant – it can be displayed on the label to make it easier for the merchant to keep track of their returns inventory. The package information permits alphanumeric digits (no spaces or special characters) and has a maximum length of 15 characters. If a merchant decides to have it displayed on a label, this is how it would look on a 3x6 label (see circled in red):

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®	PRIORITY MAIL® RETURN SERVIC	E
Greg Johnson 745 Lenfant Plz S Rm 500 Washington DC 2	A Return Co Attn: Returns Dept 901 D ST SW STE 101 WA\$HINGTON DC 20024-2198	E 1IF HE TES
SAM	USPS TRACKING # 9201 9967 7892 3400 0000 39	



The **Additional Label Instructions** is for any instructions that merchants would like placed on the PDF printout that includes the label. The instructions are not an actual part of the label, but they are a part of the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" printout page. See the printout on the next page, and see the portion outlined in red:



Merchant Instructions

--×-----

USPS Instructions

Additional Label Instructions displayed here

Cut On Dotted Line

Online e-Label Record

USPS Tracking Number: 9201 9967 7892 3400 0000 46 Priority Mail® Return Service

Print Date: 8/4/2014

From: Greg Johnson 745 Lenfant Plz SW Rm 500 Washington DC 20024

To: Return Co Attn: Returns Dept 901 D ST SW STE 101 WASHINGTON DC 20024-2198

RMA #: 123RMA

 If reusing box or container, remove, cover, or mark out completely any other barcode and address markings.
 Mail the parcel at a Post Office, drop it in a collection box, leave it with a letter carrier or schedule a free carrier pickup at usps.com

 Center the label onto the largest side of the package so that the label information does not wrap around any edge.
 If not using a self-adhesive label, tape or glue shipping label to

the package. DO NOT TAPE OVER BARCODE. Be sure all label edges are secured. 3. DO NOT PHOTOCOPY. Each shipping label number is unique to

the intended shipment and can be used only once. If needed, contact merchant for replacement label.

> <u>UNITED STATES</u> POSTAL SERVICE Thank you for shipping with the United States Postal Service! Check the status of your shipment on the Track & Confirm page at www.usps.com



A **Label Message** may be placed in 4x6 labels (but not on the 4x4 and 3x6 labels, due to size limitations). The Label Message is then featured as such on the label itself (see red):



Merchants can offer their customers up to four different service types on behalf of the SBP merchant:

- Priority Mail® Return Service
- First-Class Package Return® service
- Ground Return Service



• PRS – Full Network (NSA Only)

Merchandise Returns Service (MRS) Merchant

MRS – Onboard New Merchant

The Administrators follows a similar process to SBP when onboarding an MRS merchant, but some of the fields needed to complete the onboarding process will be different.

The Administrator will fill in several details about the merchant, including a WebTools ID, permit information, a merchant contact, and address information, postage due unit information, RMA Information and returns services that they will be offering their customers.

Administrators also have the option to indicate if the merchant being onboarded intends on receiving FTP (File Transfer Protocol) scan event extracts.

MRS – Label Options

There are several aspects to the Onboard New Merchant form that relates directly to how the returns label looks when a customer prints it out including:

• RMA/Order/Invoice number

The **RMA Information**, similar to its usage for SBP merchants, is package information that a merchant may ask the customer to provide when returning a package. This information is not for USPS' benefit and is solely for the merchant – it can be displayed on the label to make it easier for the merchant to keep track of their returns inventory. The package information permits alphanumeric digits (no spaces or special characters) and has a maximum length of 25 characters. The merchant can opt to include the RMA in a barcode or as human-readable. The merchant also has the option to include both a barcode and human-readable for the RMA on the label. If a merchant decides to have both the RMA number and barcode displayed on a label, this is how it would look:





The system allows an Administrator user to select up to four different service types on behalf of the MRS merchant:

- First-Class Package Return® service
- Priority Mail
- Priority Mail HAZMAT
- Ground Return Service

MRS – Bulk Printing

MRS Bulk Printing is a feature intended for Merchandise Return Service (MRS). The feature allows Administrators the ability to generate up to 30 labels at one time via the User Interface. Label sets are sent to MRS Merchants via email only, not available for API.

The image below shows the "Bulk Label Printing" page. The "Bulk Label Printing" page allows merchants the ability to specify the quantity of labels (10, 20, or 30) and the Service Type. The page has an editable email address fields that defaults to the merchant's email address on file and a CRID field that adds a level of security to Bulk MRS printing by requiring Merchants to enter their CRID in order to generate Bulk MRS Labels.







Bulk Label Printing

Choose the number of labels to generate, the service type, and enter a recipient email address to receive your bulk labels.

* Denotes a required field

Enter Package & Shipping Information	Merchant Name MRS Merchant Account Name MRS Returns PDU Address: 901 D ST SW STE 101 WA SHINGTON, DC, 20024-2198 *Quantity	
	10 🔻	
	*Service Type	
	▼	
	Email Address:	
	name@email.com	
	Confirm Email Address:	
	name@email.com	
	*CRID Confirmation	

Submit



International Merchandise Returns Service (IMRS)

IMRS – Onboard New Merchant

International MRS is able to support returns originating in both Canada (Canada Post) and Australia (Australia Post).

The Administrator will need to fill in several details about the merchant, including permit information, merchant contact information, Postage Due Unit information, RMA information, and service types that they will be offering their customers.

IMRS – Label Options

There are several aspects to the Onboard New Merchant form that relates directly to how the returns label looks when a customer prints it out including:

- RMA/Order/Invoice number
- Additional Label Instructions (Canada Only)

The **RMA/Order/Invoice number** is package information that a merchant may ask the customer to provide when returning a package. This information is not for USPS' benefit and is solely for the merchant – it can be displayed on the label to make it easier for the merchant to keep track of their returns inventory. The package information permits alphanumeric digits (no spaces or special characters) and has a maximum length of 25 characters. If a merchant decides to have it displayed on a label, this is how it would look on a Canada Post Return Label (see outlined in red):



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An Australia Post Return Label would appear as follows:



The **Additional Label Instructions** (see selected screenshot of onboarding screen below) is for any instructions that merchants would like placed on the PDF printout that includes the label. This feature is not available to Australia (Australia Post) International Merchants.

Please include additional label instructions (250 characters max):

The instructions are not an actual part of the label, but they are a part of the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" printout page. See the printout below, and see the portion outlined in red:





Canada Post

The system allows an Administrator user to select only one service type on behalf of the International (Canada) merchant:

• Expedited Parcel – USA



Australia Post

The system allows an Administrator user to select only one service type on behalf of the International (Australia) merchant:

• Australia - IMRS - Inbound Priority

Proximity Routing

Proximity Routing is a feature intended for Scan Based Payment (SBP) merchants that have multiple accounts that serve as different return locations. With Proximity Routing enabled for a merchant, the system will determine what destination address to print on the return label, based on the distance of the customer to the merchants return location. SBP Merchants will be provided two routing options: **Automatic and Manual Proximity Routing**

- Automatic Proximity Routing: If Automatic Proximity Routing is enabled, the system will automatically select the closest return location to a customer's address and route packages to the address.
- Manual Proximity Routing: Manual Proximity provides the merchant the ability to manually select the account locations to route packages. The merchant can associate states to each of their accounts- packages from a particular state will be routed to the account it is associated with.

Note: Proximity Routing is not a requirement for merchants with multiple return locations. Merchants who wish to maintain their accounts without proximity enabled can continue without either of the two proximity options.

Providing Merchants Different Ways of Accessing the Returns System

While there is only one way to offer merchants a call center URL ("Merchant URL"), the Administrator user may now provide the merchant one of three ways to offer end customers the USPS Returns application / service:

• Option 1: Provide a Generic Link. This is as simple as copying and pasting the "Customer URL" seen in the above screenshot. The merchant would receive this URL, and place it in their website to direct customers when they need to print returns shipping labels. This option is the least amount of work for developers working for the merchant; this means that when a customer reaches the USPS returns website, the fields are not pre-populated; the customer need to enter in all their details. (name, address, label size, service type, etc.)

- Option 2: Provide a Link with Specified Parameters. This uses the "Customer URL" as a base, but then adds additional information to the end of the URL string. By adding this additional information to the URL, when the page is rendered, the fields are prepopulated with a customer's information (e.g. address). This would require a merchant's developer to code the transfer of information from the merchant's site to the USPS returns site.
- Option 3: Provide the Returns Web Service. The Returns service has been created as both a website and a Web Service. If a merchant elects to control the entire customer user experience, and wants the customer to be generating returns labels from their site (without having to redirect to the USPS Returns site), they have the ability to do so by calling the USPS Returns web service. Option 3 requires the most work from a merchant's developer to make the service available.

Generating a Label

Customer/Call Center User Interface

If the Customer Self-Service Label Generation URL is entered into a web browser, a user is directed to the following page to generate a Return Label. The example below shows an SBP pre-populated Customer Self-Service form.





Customer Self-Service

-		1	7
2	1		
	×	1	1
		V	

Generating a Returns Label is as Easy as 1-2-3.

Fill out a couple simple pieces of information, and you'll be on your way. We'll help you get your shipping label in minutes.

* Denotes a required field

Merchant Information	Merchant Name Test Account RMA
	123RMA
Enter Your Address Information	*Customer Name John Smith *Street Address Apt / Suite / Other 901 D Street SW 1000
	*City Washington *State ZIP DC - District of Columbia 20024
Enter Package & Shipping Information	Merchandise Description Return Item Please describe what you are returning. e.g. "Running Shoes" *Service Type *Label Type Priority Mail® Return Service 4X6
	Next

Alternatively, if the Call Center Label Generation URL is entered into a web browser, a user is directed to the following page to generate a Return Label. The example below shows an SBP pre-populated Call Center form.





Call Center

	9	1	1
-	2		
	×	1	1
-		V	

Generating a Returns Label is as Easy as 1-2-3.

Fill out a couple simple pieces of information, and you'll be on your way. We'll help you get your shipping label in minutes.

* Denotes a required field

Merchant	Merchant Name Test Account
Information	RMA
	123RMA
Enter Your	*Customer Name
Address	John Smith
Information	*Street Address Apt / Suite / Other
	901 D Street SW 101
	*City
	Washington
	*State ZIP
	DC - District of Columbia 20024
Entor Dookogo &	Merchandise Description
Enter Package &	Return Item
Snipping	Please describe what you are returning. e.g. "Running Shoes"
Information	*Service Type *Label Type
	Priority Mail® Return Service 💙 4X6 🗸
	Insurance Amount: \$

Next

Once information has been provided in the parameters on the customer page of the images above, customers or call center agents will be given the chance to review the inputted information on the "Your Label is Ready!" page.

If it is determined that the information is incorrect, users can click the "Go Back" button to return to the previous page and correct any errors. Users who determine that their information is correct have the option to select the manner in which they will receive their label.

	Call Center
	Your Label is Ready!
	Now just select a way to have your label delivered, and we'll get it to you. You may only print or email you label once - after you select one of the two options below, you will be redirected away from this page.
	Labels are generated in PDF format. Get Adobe PDF Reader
Shipping	Merchant Name:
Information	RMA
	123RMA
	Customer Name: John Smith
	Customer Address: 901 D St SW Ste 101 Washington, DC, 20024-2198
	Merchandise Description: Return Item
	Label Type: Priority Mail® Return Service 4X6
How Would You	Print Label (PDF)
Like Your Label Delivered?	O Email
	Please note that you may only Print or Email your label once. Once you click "Submit", you will not be able to retrieve your label again.
	Go Back Submit

The "How Would You Like Your Label Delivered?" section is defaulted to provide the customer with a printable PDF label that will appear in a popup window upon clicking the "Submit" button. Customers who would rather have the label emailed to them for later printing will be asked to provide and confirm an email address as shown below:

Print Label (PDF)
email
Email Address:
Confirm Email Address:
Please note that you may only Print or Email your label once. Once you click "Submit"
you will not be able to retrieve your label again.

After submitting their choice of how they want their label delivered, customers will be directed to the "Thank You for Shipping with USPS!" confirmation page displayed below:





	Customer Self-Service
	Thank You for Shipping with USPS!
	A pop-up window will display your PDF file. Please be patient - it may take a minute or two.
	What do you do with your package now?
	Now that you have your returns shipping label, you can either drop your package off at a local post office or have it picked up at your front door. See information about both options below.
	If you are finished and want to close this window, click on the "Exit" button below.
	Your tracking number is 930196554330000000033
	Note tracking information will not be available until USPS receives your package.
	Email Tracking Number
	Please enter your email address below to have your tracking number emailed to you. Email Address: Confirm Email Address: Email Tracking Number
	Exit
Option 1: Drop Off Your Package at a	Your returns package can be dropped off at local Post Office operated by the US Postal Service. If you would like to find post offices near the mailing address that you provided, click on the *Locate a Post Office* button below.
Office.	Locate a Post Office

Option 2: Have Your Package Picked Up At Home.	If you would like your mail carrier to pick up your package on the next Postal Delivery Day, please provide us with the following information. Asterisks (*) denote required fields. *Phone Number: *Package Weight: *Package Location by Address: *Please Select a Location - *Special Instructions: *Special Instructions: *Address: *Address: *Address: *Address: ***********************************
	Schedule Fackage Fickup

EDSIATES

From this page, customers will be provided with a tracking number for the label generated that can be used to track the package while it is en route and to determine when it has reached its destination. The tracking number will be displayed as plain text since the tracking information for the label will not be available until the label creation event information is uploaded to USPS Track & Confirm every two hours.

Customers who have selected to print their label in the PDF format will be given the option to email the tracking number to themselves as a hyperlink to their returns package's information page on USPS Track & Confirm. They need to simply enter and confirm their email address in the fields pictured below:

Email Tracking Numb	er			
Please enter your email address below to have your tracking number emailed to you.				
Email Address:				
Confirm Email Address:				
	E	mail Tracking Number		

The "Thank You for Shipping with USPS!" confirmation page offers customers the use of the USPS Post Office Locator. Clicking the "Locate a Post Office" button will redirect customers to

the PO Locator page where they will be provided with a list of the Post Offices and Drop Boxes nearest the address they entered on the "Generating a Returns Label is as Easy as 1-2-3" page.

The "Thank You for Shipping with USPS!" confirmation page offers customers the options of scheduling to have their postal carrier pick up the returns package free of charge from their home or office. Customers need only provide a phone number, the weight of the package, and the location at the address where the carrier can find the package (i.e. "Front Door"). Upon providing this information and clicking the "Schedule Package Pickup" button, customers will be directed to the "Your Pickup Has Been Scheduled" page where they will be provided with a date of pickup and a confirmation number.



Your Pickup Has Been Scheduled.

Customer Self-Service

Please make a note of the following information for the pickup you have scheduled, in the event that you need to cancel your pickup.

Confirmation Number: WTC71086548

Date of Pickup: Thursday, September 13, 2012



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The confirmation number provided can be entered into "Schedule a Pickup" page at usps.com in order to make adjustments to your scheduled pickup.

Customers generating a label for an International merchant will ship their packages through Canada Post or Australia Post and therefore will not have the option to locate a post office or to schedule a package pickup. They will be directed to the following "Thank You for Shipping with USPS!" confirmation page displayed below:



Customer Self-Service



Thank You for Shipping with USPS!

A pop-up window will display your PDF file. Please be patient - it may take a minute or two.

If you are finished and want to close this window, click on the "Exit" button below.

Your tracking number is CX477438448CA

Please click the tracking number above. Note tracking information will not be available until USPS receives your package. To track your package going tonward, please save the Track and Confirm web address for easy reference.

Exit



Support for Customers

The customer facing error pages of the Merchant Returns application will include a support email address that is shared by the Merchant Returns team. Customers who are directed to an error page will see the following:



Error Page

Sorry, An Unexpected Error Has Occurred

An error has occurred during the current request. Please re-try the link from your merchant's website to try again.

If the issue persists, please contact your merchant for more information on how to return your package.

Click here to email Merchant Returns Support.

Emails sent using the link on the page above will be directed to <u>Merchant.Returns.Support@usps.gov</u>.

For questions on comments please send an email to Merchant.Returns.Support@usps.gov.