



USPS Ground Advantage Service Changes Effective July 9, 2023

Preliminary Documentation
1.0

5/18/2023

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Revision history

Version	Date	Change
1.0	5/18/2023	Initial release.

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Overview

This document provides a preliminary view of the changes that will be introduced with the new **USPS Ground Advantage** service proposed to be launched by the USPS on July 9th 2023. The document provides high-level information about the new service. Pitney Bowes recommends referring to <https://faq.usps.com/s/article/USPS-Ground-Advantage> for detailed USPS information on the service. Additionally, this document describes preliminary changes to the Pitney Bowes API to support this new service. Further detailed documentation will soon be available and accessible through this site.

Summary

Ground Advantage is the new brand name for the combination of these existing services:

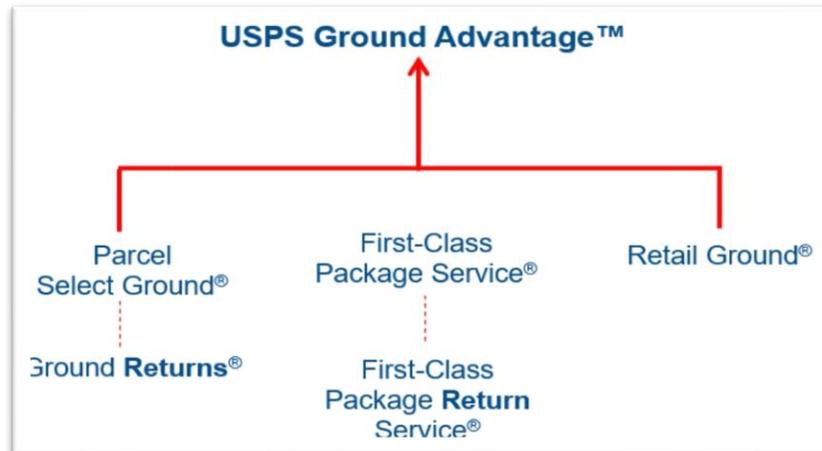
- First Class Package Service (FCPS)
- Retail Ground
- Parcel Select Ground (PSG).

In addition, **Ground Advantage Returns** replaces First Class Package Returns and Ground Returns products. By combining these services, the USPS hopes to simplify and create a more competitive offering. The USPS has prioritized redesigning and reconstructing its network to be optimized for ground parcel service. This includes significant investments in new hubs and optimization of existing ones.

The USPS has proposed new prices for Competitive and Market Dominant products as well as structural changes. **The effective date is July 9, 2023.**

Notable changes include:

- The USPS will merge Parcel Select Ground (PSG), First Class Package Service (FCPS) and USPS Retail Ground (RG) into the new USPS Ground Advantage (UGA) to streamline its competitive products.
- The USPS will merge Ground Returns (GR) and First Class Package Return Service (FCPRS) into the new USPS Ground Advantage Returns (UGAR).



For further information on the USPS July 2023 rate change please visit:

<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/USPS-Ground-Advantage>

Additional Details

- The new structure of the USPS Ground Advantage prices will include 9 zones with the following weight breaks:
 - 0 to 15.999oz is divided into the following weight breaks:
 - 0 to 4oz
 - >4 to 8oz
 - >8 to 12oz
 - >12 to 15.999oz
 - 1 to 70 pounds is divided into 1 pound weight breaks.
 - Oversize
- USPS Ground Advantage will also include a cubic rate structure, replacing the Parcel Select Ground cubic rates.
- **Insurance:** Ground Advantage provides \$100 of insurance.
- **Return To Sender:** USPS Ground Advantage pieces that are undeliverable-as-addressed are entitled to be forwarded or returned to the sender without additional charge.
- USPS Ground Advantage *retail* only will be sealed against inspection.
- **Pickup:** en-route carrier pickup is free of charge. On demand pickup is available for \$26.50. For clarity, Priority Mail volume is not a requirement for pickup service.
- **USPS Ground Advantage** will carry an estimated national service standard of 2-5 days within the contiguous United States and outside the contiguous United States for packages up to 15.999 oz.
- Service standards originating or destinating outside the contiguous United States over 15.999 oz will continue to receive the same service standards they do today based on Package Services standards.
- Refer to the price list at <https://pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index> for all the USPS Ground Advantage prices per zone and weight.

- **First Class Parcel Service (FCPS), Retail Ground (RG), Parcel Select Ground (PSG)** and cubic will be eliminated.
- **USPS Ground Advantage Returns** with similar weight/zone requirements as listed above for outbound shipments will replace the **First-Class Parcel Return Service (FCPRS)** and **Ground Returns (GR)**.

Preliminary Pitney Bowes API Detail

Backwards Compatibility

Pitney Bowes is prepared to support the new USPS service and is updating our API accordingly. This includes new service codes and compliant labels. We understand that changes to development could have an impact. To provide a means to mitigate this impact, Pitney Bowes provides backwards compatibility for a limited period to give developers time to make the necessary changes needed to their systems.

Pitney Bowes supports the old service codes associated to First Class Parcel, Parcel Select Ground and USPS Retail Ground service provided in the API calls and process those requests as USPS Ground Advantage parcels.

- This backwards compatibility feature will be available for **90 days after the July 9th USPS** change.
- Developers are urged to make the required changes to their platform on or before July 9th or as soon as possible after July 9th.

When a shipment is processed using the above feature, the service used and returned shall be the associated USPS Ground Advantage service.

Modifications to the Pitney Bowes API Request and Response

You can send in the new serviceId for USPS Ground Advantage before the rate change to have a smooth transition.

The following is a preliminary overview of new changes to support the new USPS Ground Advantage service:

API Request

```
"serviceId" : "UGA"
```

```
"parcelType" : "PKG" or "LP"
```

Request		Weight (oz)	Response effective 90 days after July 9th	
serviceld	parcelType		serviceld	parcelType
UGA	PKG or LP	<=15.999	UGA	PKG or LP
UGA	SOFTPACK	<=15.999	UGA	SOFTPACK
FCM	PKG or LP	<=15.999		Error
PRCLSEL	PKG or LP	<=15.999		Error
PRCLSEL	SOFTPACK	<=15.999		Error
STDPOST	PKG or LP	<=15.999		Error
UGA	PKG or LP	>15.999	UGA	PKG or LP
UGA	SOFTPACK	>15.999	UGA	SOFTPACK
FCM	PKG or LP	>15.999		Error
PRCLSEL	PKG or LP	>15.999		Error
PRCSEL	SOFTPACK	>15.999		Error
STDPOST	PKG or LP	>15.999		Error

USPS Ground Advantage Example Label Change

Service (Mail Class) Icon



Service (Mail Class) banner text

