

MAC 001

Date: 12/14/2011
To: MAC™ / MAC Gold Software Developers
Subject: Certification Cycle N Calendar

The USPS plans to implement a new Certification Cycle Release Schedule to streamline their certification processes. The goal for this new Release Schedule is to allow adequate time for software development and to verify compliance within that software with January 22, 2012 price changes as soon as feasible after price implementation. Therefore, the Cycle N Certification Period would last three months (90 days) to ensure MAC and MAC Gold customers receive and use software that has the most current USPS prices.

These changes to the certification period and processes require discontinuation of all prior certification period processes and exceptions, to include no longer maintaining developers on respective Certified Products List (CPL) in a temporary next-cycle certification status.

Cycle N Release Schedule

**MAC/MAC Gold Certification Advisory
Cycle N Calendar
January 2012**

January 3, 2012 – MAC Cycle N Order Forms Accepted

January 9, 2012 – Cycle N Testing Begins

March 12, 2012 – Testing Fees take Effect

April 30, 2012 – Cycle M Certifications Expire

April 30, 2012 – Cycle N Testing Ends

April 30, 2013 - Cycle N Certifications Expire

Interim Cycle Certification Policy

- Starting January 3, 2012, the MAC and MAC Gold Certification Group will accept Cycle N Testing Order Forms.

Developers should:

1. Access Order Forms from RIBBS at:
https://ribbs.usps.gov/mac/documents/tech_guides/Forms/
2. Email their completely filled-in Order Form to manifest.ncsc@usps.gov or
3. Fax their completely filled-in Order Form to (650) 357-6796

MAC and MAC Gold Software Developers must make all necessary changes to their software packages for the January 22, 2012 Price Change Implementation Date and distribute the certified products to their customers in a timely manner.

- Cycle M certified Developers with their Products will remain on the respective CPL, due to expire April 30, 2012.

- Only Developers that submitted Cycle N Order Forms for their products by March 12, 2012 and still in certification processing after April 30 would remain on the respective Cycle N CPL until they successfully finish certification.
- The MAC and MAC Gold Certification Group will remove all other developers and their products at the end-of-certification-cycle date (April 30) from the RIBBS Cycle N CPL.
- So, effective January 2012, Cycle M would show as the current certification cycle at the bottom of each CPL page, and shift to reflect Cycle N after April 30, 2012.

Developers requesting extension regarding new USPS prices should direct their correspondence to:

Pricing and Classification Service Center
90 Church Street, Suite 3100
New York, NY 10007-2951
212-330-5300

For certification processing questions or concerns, please contact the MAC/MAC Gold Certification Group by e-mail at ncsc.manifest@usps.gov or call 800-331-5746, option 0 and ask for the MAC Certification Group.

Regards,

BMA Certification – MAC/MAC Gold Group
800-331-5746