

# Intelligent Mail Indicia (IMI) to be Required on All Postage Meters

The old IBI system required mail machines to connect to the server for updates every 90 days, but a lot can change in three months. Systems using Intelligent Mail Indicia will now be mandated to connect every 72 hours. Dial-up connections with the IBI system are a thing of the past. The new connectivity requirement guarantees the USPS receives frequent postage use updates, allowing them to better manage mail flow throughout the postal system.

This change will also ensure a company's mail system receives automatic updates with software improvements, rate changes, etc. A failure to comply with the 72-hour connection mandate will result in the meter being locked out. For that reason, a constant internet connection through a dedicated LAN line is imperative. This continuous connection also eliminates the cost incurred from having a separate phone line for the postage system.

Every organization now requires a high level of security at all end points. Protecting private information, including personal identity, sensitive financial information, files and more on both ends of the mail system is critical. IMI technology provides users with FIPS 140-2 security, the latest standard that is recognized outside of the US as the most up-to-date security standard.

The new system also allows businesses to track usage by providing department codes and pin #s, reducing unauthorized users from incurring unapproved expenses. Tracking helps company's identify trends and provide better budgeting data.

To be compliant, your Postage Meter must produce an Intelligent Mail Indicia (IMI). IMI compliant Postage Meters are defined in the IMI Performance Criteria (IMI-PC) and produce only IMI. Any non-compliant Postal Evidencing Systems (aka Postage Meters) are decertified as of June 30, 2024 and must be withdrawn from service by December 31, 2024. Postage indicia printed by Decertified PES will no longer be considered valid postage for use or refunds after June 30, 2025

For more information follow this link to the USPS Website: [2020-26129.pdf \(federalregister.gov\)](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/20/2020-26129)

