

# **Rates Calculators**

**USPS Web Tools™**

## **Application Programming Interface User's Guide**

**Document Version 1.0 (11/8/04)**



## To Our Customers

In registering for use of the USPS Web Tools™ (Web Tools), you received a password and user ID that will allow you to begin sending calls to the server when you are ready. Any additional information or contact with you will occur as indicated on the registration form, please return to the Web Tools [documentation website](#) for the most recent documentation from any of the Web Tools.

If you require technical support, contact the USPS Internet Customer Care Center (ICCC). This office is manned from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST daily.

E-mail address: [icustomer care@usps.com](mailto:icustomer care@usps.com)

Telephone: 1-800-344-7779 (7:00 AM to 11:00 PM EST daily)

### USPS Customer Commitment

The United States Postal Service fully understands the importance of providing information and service anytime day or night to your Internet and e-commerce customers. For that reason, the USPS is committed to providing 24 x 7 service from our Web Tools servers, 365 days a year.

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## 1.0 Introduction To Web Tools

The USPS Web Tools allow developers of web-based and shrink-wrapped applications access to the on-line services of the United States Postal Service (USPS). They provide easy access to shipping information and services for your customers. Your customers can utilize the functions provided by the USPS without ever leaving your web site. Once the Web Tools are integrated, your server communicates through the USPS Web Tools server over HTTP using XML (eXtensible Markup Language).

**Important:** Implementing these Web Tools requires experienced programmers who are familiar with Internet and web site development tools and techniques.

There is a *Web Tools User's Guide* for each Web Tool listed on the [documentation website](#). These user guides provide examples of the XML transactions to the USPS Web Tools server and guidance for installation.

### 1.1 Implementation Overview

As shown below, before you go live with any of the Rates Calculators Web Tools, you must perform testing. Following the diagram is a brief description of the steps illustrated.



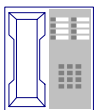
#### Register Online

Users only have to register once at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) to download and install Web Tools.



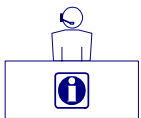
#### Test your XML

All Web Tools must be tested using the test scripts provided in this guide.



#### Call the ICCC

After successful testing, call the ICCC.



Customer Service

#### The ICCC sets you to "Production."

After the ICCC verifies your test results, it grants access to use Live data.



#### Go Live with your Web Tool.

### Step 1: Register

To use the USPS Web Tools you must be a registered user. Completing the registration process resulted in the receipt of your user ID, password, and test server URL.



If you have not registered, go to the Web Tools [web site](#) and follow the instructions to register for the Web Tools.

### Step 2: Test Your XML

The next step is to test your Web Tools. As a registered user you have been granted access to the test server. **An important note:** The test server is set up to only accept the pre-defined XML transactions and return the pre-defined XML responses provided in this document. For the testing phase, follow the specific instructions in the *Run Scripted Test* section for the Web Tool you are installing.

### Step 3: Go Live with Your Web Tool

At this point, you have completed all testing and are now ready to send Live data. Follow the instructions provided in the *Run Live Data* sections for the Web Tool you are installing.



**Note:** The United States Postal Service expressly prohibits the use of Web Tools "scripting" without prior approval. Web Tools scripting can be defined as a technique to generate large volumes of Web Tools XML request transactions that are database- or batch-driven under program control, instead of being driven by individual user requests from a web site or a client software package. The USPS reserves the right to suspend server access without notification by any offending party that does not have prior approval for Web Tools scripting. Registered Web Tools customers that believe they have a legitimate requirement for Web Tools scripting should contact the ICCC to request approval.

## 1.2 User ID and Password Restrictions

The user ID and password that you have received is for you or your company to use in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Use to which you agreed during the registration process. **This user ID and password is not to be shared with others outside your organization, nor is it to be packaged, distributed, or sold to any other person or entity.** Please refer to the Terms and Conditions of Use Agreement for additional restrictions on the use of your user ID and password.

**Warning:** If the U.S. Postal Service discovers use of the same user ID and password from more than one web site, all users will be subject to immediate loss of access to the USPS server and termination of the licenses granted under the Terms and Conditions of Use.

The documentation and sample code contained in the *Web Tools User Guide* series may be reused and/or distributed to your customers or affiliates to generate awareness, encourage Web Tool use, or provide ease-of-use. It is your responsibility to ensure that your customers do not

use your password and user ID for any purpose. Direct your customers to the Web Tools [web site](#) to register, agree to the Terms and Conditions of Use agreement, and receive their own unique password and user ID.

**Note to Software Distributors:** The user ID and password restrictions discussed above are intended for online retailers that use the USPS Web Tools exclusively within their own web sites. If you plan to distribute software with the USPS Web Tools embedded, contact the ICCC for guidelines.

For more information regarding the USPS Web Tools password and user ID policy, or for questions regarding the distribution of documentation, send e-mail to [icustomer@usps.com](mailto:icustomer@usps.com).

### 1.3 USPS Corporate Branding Guidelines

The U.S. Postal Service requests to be referenced and acknowledged as the source of information for all U.S. Postal Service data that has been acquired through the Internet and/or from other sources. However, this is not mandatory. The following guidelines should be followed for those that want to authenticate and/or validate the data displayed from the U.S. Postal Service.

#### 1.3.1 Preferred Reference

Use one of the following when the USPS is the only referenced source:

- “Information provided by <http://www.usps.com/>.”

*or*

- Use the official USPS corporate logo or USPS product-specific logos.

Digital copies of USPS corporate trademarks/logos are available through the U.S. Postal Service, Public Policy and Communications Department, Washington, D.C. You can request the USPS corporate logo and/or product-specific logos by sending an e-mail to [ilogo@email.usps.gov](mailto:ilogo@email.usps.gov). Requests will be responded to by e-mail within 10 days. We will review your web site, and if appropriate, provide the logo for usage in accordance with the guidelines and the license grant contained in the Terms and Conditions of Use for Internet Shipping Application Program Interfaces (Web Tools). If your web page is not available over the Internet, please provide a screen shot of the page where the logo will reside.

When requesting logo(s) you must provide the following information:

- Company name.
- URL and page where logo will reside.
- Type of business.
- How and where the logo will be used.
- Contact name.
- Telephone number.
- E-mail address.
- Desired graphic format, e.g., GIF, TIF, JPEG, etc.
- Logo desired:  
    \_\_\_\_ USPS Corporate Eagle logo

- \_\_\_\_ Priority Mail
- \_\_\_\_ Express Mail
- \_\_\_\_ Other (describe)

### 1.3.2 Alternative Reference

Use one of the following when the USPS is listed with other shipping carriers or web sites:

- United States Postal Service.
- U.S. Postal Service.
- U.S.P.S. (use period after each initial).

The above alternatives are listed in the order of United States Postal Service preference.

### 1.3.3 Trademark Ownership and Use

The USPS trademarks listed in the front of this guide and any logos requested from USPS Public Policy and Communications Department should not be altered or abbreviated.

USPS trademarks are trademarks owned solely and exclusively by USPS and may be used only in the form and manner, and with appropriate legends prescribed by USPS. All advertising and other uses of USPS trademarks must include a legend indicating that USPS trademarks are the property of USPS and that they are being used under license from USPS, together with any other legends or marking that may be required by law. Nothing contained in this document shall be deemed to convey any title or ownership interest to any user except for the nonexclusive rights granted under the Terms and Conditions of Use for Internet Shipping Application Program Interfaces and this document.

## 1.4 XML Overview

XML uses a hierarchical (tree) element structure. Each element consists of a start tag of the form `<Name>`, and an end tag of the form `</Name>`, between which can be data and other elements. `<Name/>` is shorthand for `<Name></Name>`, an element with no data. Attributes such as user ID and password can be included in the start tag. **All data and attribute values in this document are for illustration purposes and are to be replaced by the actual values.** Developers must use the order and case for tag names of the sample code contained in this document. The tabs and carriage returns in the XML structures are for readability only; there is no need for white space in the actual code.

For more information about XML, browse the [W3C web site](#) or the [XML.com web site](#).

## 1.5 Error Responses

Error conditions are handled at the main XML document level. When parsing, it is best to check for an error document first before checking for good data. Error documents have the following format:



```

<Error>
  <Number></Number>
  <Source></Source>
  <Description></Description>
  <HelpFile></HelpFile>
  <HelpContext></HelpContext>
</Error>

```

Where:

- Number = the error number generated by the Web Tools server.
- Source = the component and interface that generated the error on the Web Tools server.
- Description = the error description.
- HelpFile = [reserved for future use].
- HelpContext = [reserved for future use].

Errors that are further down in the hierarchy also follow the above format.

Some web items allow you to submit multiple requests within a single XML document. For instance, you may request multiple rate quotes, where each rate quote is identified by an “ID” attribute. Within a given package, an <Error> may be returned. For multiple request documents, you need to check if there is an <Error> within a given <Package>, <Address>, etc.

```

<RateV2Request>
  <Package ID="0">
    . . .
  </Package>
  <Package ID="1">
    <Error>
      . . .
    </Error>
  </Package>
</RateV2Request>

```

A sample domestic rate response error is shown below:

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<Error>
  <Number>-2147219488</Number>
  <Source>Rate_Respond;SolServerRates.RateV2_Respond
</Source>
  <Description>Invalid value for container.</Description>
  <HelpFile />
  <HelpContext>1000440</HelpContext>
</Error>
.
.
</RateV2Response>

```

If you need assistance with an error response, contact the ICC.

### 1.6 Structure of this Guide

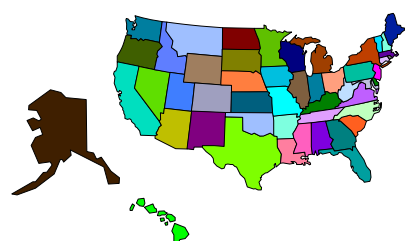
This document provides guidance and step-by-step instructions for installing the Rates Calculators Web Tools and fulfilling various administrative requirements. There are two separate Web Tools that can be implemented:

- Domestic Rates Calculator Web Tool.
- International Rates Calculator Web Tool.

Each Web Tool is described in its own section. The steps must be followed in the order presented for each Web Tool.

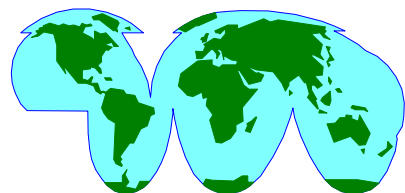
## 2.0 Rates Calculators Overview

Domestic and International Rates Calculators provide quick and accurate information on the cost of mailing packages with USPS.



The Domestic Rates Web Tool provides automated online access to all domestic rates for Express Mail, First-Class mail, and Priority Mail, as well as single-piece rates for all four Package Services: Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail, and Media Mail. APO/FPO mailing restrictions, when applicable, are also provided. Requests for shipping rates will be processed for up to 25 packages per request.

*Note to Developers:* USPS shipping rates must not be misrepresented on web sites as “Handling Charges.” USPS rates can, however, be included in total “Shipping and Handling Charges.” Do not mislead consumers by disguising handling charges as USPS shipping charges.



The International Rates Web Tool provides automated online access to international rate information for Global Express Guaranteed (GXG), Global Priority Mail, Global Express Mail, Airmail (including both letter-post and Parcel Post), and Economy mail (including both letter-post and Parcel Post), along with service standards for each class of service.

Requests for shipping rates will be processed for up to 25 packages per request. Unlike the Domestic Rates Web Tool, the International Rates Web Tool will provide all available services based on the package description provided during input. (Refer to the *Live XML Tags* section for values allowed.) You can either provide all possible options or you can strip out any unnecessary options. ***Ensure that the end-users understand that, in many cases, international packages may need a Customs Declaration form, and may also be subject to mailing restrictions unique to the destination country.*** To assist you with this important information, the International Rate Calculator Web Tool will return all the necessary mailing restrictions, prohibitions, observations, names of required customs declaration forms, and Global Express Mail delivery areas. These international requirements can also be found at [Postal Explorer web site](#) (select the International Country Listings). See your local Post Office for actual Customs Declarations.

*Note to International Shippers:* If you regularly ship packages internationally, you may want to implement the USPS Online Custom Forms Web Tools available from the [USPS Web Tools web site](#) (listed under Shipping Labels Web Tools).

### 2.1 Domestic and International Rates FAQs

For the most up-to-date answers to your Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to our FAQs web site for [domestic mailing](#) and [international mailing](#).

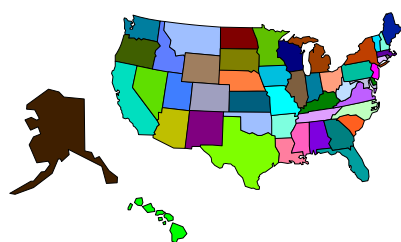
### 2.2 Aviation Mail Security & Hazardous Materials

The Aviation Mail Security and Hazardous Materials Programs represent the U.S. Postal Service's commitment to provide a safe environment for our customers, employees, and the traveling public.

The U.S. Postal Service has taken a proactive role in the areas of aviation mail security and hazardous materials acceptance, handling, and transport for many years. Over 200,000 hours of training has been provided to our employees, supervisors, and managers in the last year alone. Each year these programs are modified to meet increased challenges through improved technology. Our multi-phased programs are in effect 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The particulars of our programs are withheld for security reasons. However, complying with the following restrictions will assist us in securing a safe mailing environment for us all:

- Priority Mail envelopes or packages weighing 16 ounces or over with adhesive postage stamps cannot be deposited at unattended receptacles such as collection boxes and lobby drops. These mail pieces must be taken to your nearest USPS retail unit or may be given to your carrier if you are a known customer to him/her and have included your return address. Refer to [Domestic Mail Manual](#) section 100.2.6, *Restrictions*.
- International Mail envelopes or packages weighing 16 ounces or over with adhesive postage stamps or customer applied postage meter strips cannot be deposited at unattended mail receptacles such as collection boxes and lobby drops. These mail pieces must be taken to your nearest USPS retail unit or may be given to your carrier if you are a known customer and have included your return address along with a completed, signed, and dated PS Form 2976 or 2976-A. Refer to [International Mail Manual](#) section 123.5-7.

## 3.0 Domestic Rates Calculator Web Tool



The Domestic Rates Web Tool provides automated online access to all domestic rates for Express Mail, First-Class mail, and Priority Mail, as well as single-piece rates for all four Package Services: Parcel Post, Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail, and Media Mail. APO/FPO mailing restrictions, when applicable, are also provided. Requests for shipping rates will be processed for up to 25 packages per request.

### 3.1 Domestic Rates Standards

The table below provides allowable container types for each mail service based on package size, along with weight limits:

Service Type	Package Size	Container Types	Weight Limit	Machinable
Express	Regular, Large	Flat Rate Envelope	70 lbs.	N/A
First Class	Regular, Large	N/A	13 oz.	N/A
Priority	Regular, Large	Flat Rate Envelope Flat Rate Box	70 lbs.	N/A
Parcel Post	Regular, Large, Oversize	N/A	70 lbs.	TRUE or FALSE
Bound Printed Matter	Regular, Large	N/A	15 lbs.	N/A
Media Mail	Regular, Large	N/A	70 lbs.	N/A
Library Mail	Regular, Large	N/A	70 lbs.	N/A
All	Regular, Large, Oversize	N/A	70 lbs.	TRUE or FALSE

The Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) provides mailing standards, including:

- Eligibility (what items can be mailed at Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail rates).
- Characteristics (physical size and weight limits for packages).
- Rate Markings (marking on package indicating the class of mail).
- Rates (rate charts that will be calculated by the Web Tools).

The DMM is available on the U.S. Postal Service Postal Explorer Home Page at [Postal Explorer web site](#) and is updated monthly. The following sections of the DMM contain specific information that will assist you in understanding the eligibility, characteristics, markings, and rates for the mail classes listed below, and may be useful to review before implementing any Web Tools. The USPS also has a series of Quick Service Guides that summarize the information in the DMM. The Quick Service Guides are available on the Postal Explorer Home Page and are linked to the DMM for easy reference. All information is available in both PDF and HTML.

References below are to Domestic Mail Manual sections:

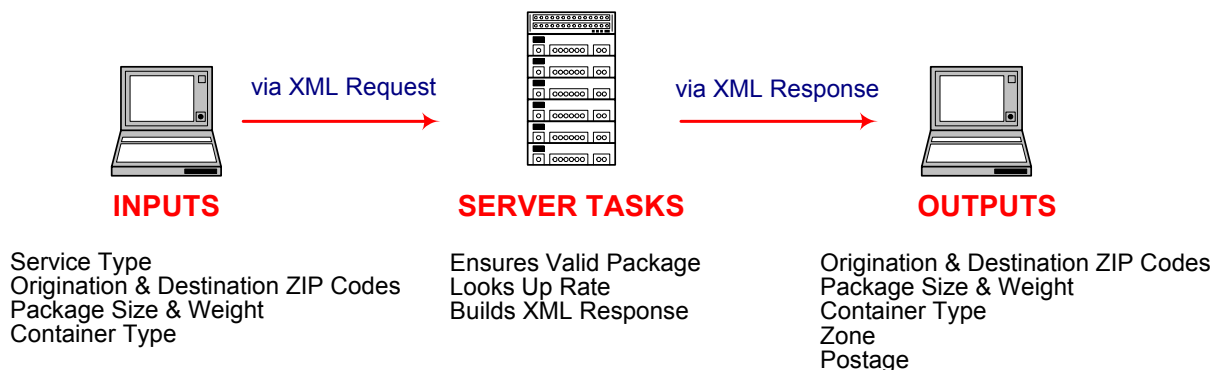
- *First-Class Mail*  
(C100) First-Class Mail Criteria. ([PDF format](#)) ([HTML format](#))

- (E130) First-Class Eligibility Standards. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- (R100.1.2) First-Class Rates. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- *Priority Mail*
  - (E120) Rate marking on packages, Flat Rate envelope, and balloon rate information. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (R100.8) Priority Mail rate chart. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - Quick Service Guide 120—Priority Mail. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- *Parcel Post*
  - (C700.2) Nonmachinable surcharge criteria. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (E711.2) Parcel Post packages less than 15 pounds and 84 to 108 inches (balloon rates), and Oversized rates. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (R700.1) Parcel Post rate charts. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - Quick Service Guide 710 Package Services—Parcel Post. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- *Bound Printed Matter*
  - (E712) Content eligibility standards and 15 pound maximum weight limit. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (M721) Required rate marking “Bound Printed Matter.” [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (R700.2) Bound Printed Matter rate charts. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - Quick Service Guide 720 Package Services—Bound Printed Matter. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- *Media Mail*
  - (E713) Content eligibility standards. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (M730) Required rate marking “Media Mail.” [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (R700.3) Media Mail rate chart. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - Quick Service Guide 730 Package Services—Media Mail. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
- *Library Mail*
  - (E714) Qualifying organizations and items that mail at Library Mail rates. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (M740) Required rate marking “Library Mail.” [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - (R700.4) Library Mail rate chart. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)
  - Quick Service Guide 740 Package Services—Library Mail. [\(PDF format\)](#) [\(HTML format\)](#)

## **3.2 Domestic Rates Calculator Web Tool Transaction Procedures**

The illustration below shows the transactional flow of information to and from the USPS Domestic Rates Calculator Web Tool server:

## Domestic Rates Calculator Web Tool Server



### 3.3 Run Scripted Test

#### Step 1: Build the XML Request

For testing purposes, the only values in the test code in this section that you should change are the user ID and password. Enter the user ID and password you received in the registration e-mail for testing. **All remaining code in the test scripts provided below must remain unchanged.**

#### Testing URL

To make test calls to the Domestic Rates Calculator server, use the Testing URL provided in the registration e-mail.

#### Scripted Test Requests

There are two test requests included in this procedure. All of the test script code contained in this document can be cut and pasted for your use in testing the software. Be sure to note the request numbers so you can match up the responses you will receive as provided in the *Successful Test Responses* section.

#### Test Request #1

```

<RateV2Request USERID="xxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxx">
  <Package ID="0">
    <Service>PRIORITY</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20008</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>10</Pounds>
    <Ounces>5</Ounces>
    <Container>Flat Rate Box</Container>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
  </Package>

```

</RateV2Request>

## Test Request #2

```
<RateV2Request USERID="xxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxx">
  <Package ID="0">
    <Service>All</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20008</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>10</Pounds>
    <Ounces>5</Ounces>
    <Size>LARGE</Size>
    <Machinable>TRUE</Machinable>
  </Package>
</RateV2Request>
```

## Step 2: Make the Internet Connection & Send the XML Request

This step involves four separate functions:

1. Making the connection to the USPS Shipping Web Tools server.
2. Sending the request (whether Visual Basic, Perl, ASP, or any other language).
3. Receiving the response from the Web Tools server.
4. Closing the Internet connection.

If you have recently registered, the registration e-mail will have the name of the server. If you are an existing user and do not have the name of the server, please contact the ICCC. When sending the XML request, the Web Tool name must be specified. The server name can be found in your Web Tools registration e-mail. The Web Tool name is RateV2. The format of the XML transaction is:

```
http://servername/ShippingAPITest.dll?API=RateV2&XML=<RateV2Request USERID="username" PASSWORD="password">.....</RateV2Request>
```

There are several ways to make the Internet connection and send the XML request. Please contact the ICCC for code examples.

## Step 3: Unpack the XML Response

When the USPS Shipping Web Tools returns a response, it will either return a successful response document or an error document. If you need software to unpack the response, contact the ICCC for sample code you can use.

## Successful Test Responses

For your test to be successful, the following responses to the scripted test requests should be returned *verbatim*.



**Response to Test Request #1**

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<RateV2Response>
  <Package ID="0">
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20008</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>10</Pounds>
    <Ounces>5</Ounces>
    <Container>Flat Rate Box</Container>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Zone>3</Zone>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail Flat Rate Box (11.25"
        x 8.75" x 6")</MailService>
      <Rate>7.70</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail Flat Rate Box (14" x
        12" x 3.5")</MailService>
      <Rate>7.70</Rate>
    </Postage>
  </Package>
</RateV2Response>

```

**Response to Test Request #2**

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<RateV2Response>
  <Package ID="0">
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20008</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>10</Pounds>
    <Ounces>5</Ounces>
    <Size>LARGE</Size>
    <Machinable>TRUE</Machinable>
    <Zone>3</Zone>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Express Mail PO to Addressee</MailService>
      <Rate>39.20</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail</MailService>
      <Rate>11.05</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Parcel Post</MailService>
      <Rate>8.61</Rate>
    </Postage>
  </Package>
</RateV2Response>

```

```

</Postage>
<Postage>
  <MailService>Bound Printed Matter</MailService>
  <Rate>3.53</Rate>
</Postage>
<Postage>
  <MailService>Media Mail</MailService>
  <Rate>5.14</Rate>
</Postage>
<Postage>
  <MailService>Library Mail</MailService>
  <Rate>4.91</Rate>
</Postage>
</Package>
</RateV2Response>

```

### Scripted Test Error Responses

If any values were changed in your request, the following is an example of an error that can occur. The following error shows an example of using Test #2 with an invalid container value.

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<Error>
  <Number>-2147219488</Number>
  <Source>Rate_Respond;SolServerRatesTest.RateV2_Respond
</Source>
  <Description>Invalid value for container.</Description>
  <HelpFile />
  <HelpContext>1000440</HelpContext>
</Error>

```

Although the input may be valid, the response will still raise this error, because those particular values have not been included in this test server. Refer to the *Error Responses* section for an explanation of any other returned errors.

Upon successful completion of the scripted test phase, call the ICCC. The ICCC will verify your test results and provide you with privileges necessary to proceed to the next step—running Live requests.

## 3.4 Run Live Data

### Step 1: Build the XML Request

#### Live XML Tags

The table below presents the XML input tags for generating Live requests and the restrictions on the values allowed. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Also, be

aware of the maximum character amounts allowed for some tags. If the user enters more than those amounts, an error will not be generated. **The Web Tool will simply pass in the characters up to the maximum amount allowed and disregard the rest.** This is important since the resulting value could prevent a correct response.

When building the XML request, pay particular attention to the **order and case** for tags. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Remember that all data and attribute values in this document are for illustration purposes and are to be replaced by your actual values. For instance, a line of sample code may be:

**<ZipDestination>12345</ZipDestination>**

In this instance, you will replace “12345” with the destination ZIP Code for the domestic-bound package.

XML Tag	Required/ Optional	Description & Values Allowed
<RateV2Request...	Required	Notifies Web Tool that a request for a <b>Live</b> label is being sent. Input tag exactly as presented.
...USERID="userid"...	Required	Use user ID provided with registration.
...PASSWORD="password">	Required	Use password provided with registration.

e.g., <RateV2Request UserID="yourID" Password="yourPW">

Tags within the above defined call are as follows:

XML Tag	Required/ Optional	Description & Values Allowed
<Package ID="#">	Required Tag/ Required Value	No restrictions on number or type of characters. <b>For example:</b> <Package ID="0">
<Service>	Required Tag/ Required Value	The service type must be one of the following: "Express" "First Class" "Priority" "Parcel" "BPM" (Bound Printed Matter) "Library" "Media" "All" – Displays rates for all service types within one simple request. The Web Tool validates the entry to the service type. <b>For example:</b> <Service>EXPRESS</Service>
<ZipOrganization>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Input <b>tag</b> exactly as presented. ZIP Codes must be valid. Maximum characters allowed: 5 <b>For example:</b> <ZipOrganization>20770</ZipOrganization>
<ZipDestination>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Input <b>tag</b> exactly as presented. ZIP Codes must be valid. Maximum characters allowed: 5 <b>For example:</b> <ZipDestination>54324</ZipDestination>
<Pounds>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Value must be numeric. Package weight cannot exceed 70 pounds. (First-Class Mail cannot exceed 13 ounces. Bound Printed Matter cannot exceed 15 pounds). <b>For example:</b> <Pounds>2</Pounds>

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<Ounces>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Value must be numeric. Package weight cannot exceed 70 pounds. (First-Class Mail cannot exceed 13 ounces. Bound Printed Matter cannot exceed 15 pounds). <b>For example:</b> <Ounces>0</Ounces>
<Container>	Optional Tag/ Optional Value	See <i>Container Standards</i> section below for valid entries. <b>For example:</b> <Container>None</Container>
<Size>	Required Tag/ Required Value	See <i>Container Standards</i> section below for valid entries. <b>For example:</b> <Size>Regular</Size>
<Machinable>	Optional Tag/ Optional Value	<Machinable> applies only to Parcel Post. (Machinable criteria do not apply to Priority Mail, Express Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail, or Media Mail.) The size, content, and weight of a Parcel Post package determine whether it is machinable or nonmachinable. For Parcel Post, the value entered must be either "True" or "False." The "True" or "False" value specifically applies to the size and content of the package. Based on weight, the Web Tool will automatically apply the nonmachinable surcharge on Parcel Post packages weighing less than 6 ounces or over 35 pounds. For all other services (Priority Mail, Express Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Library Mail, or Media Mail) omit the tag. If the tag is specified it will be ignored.<Machinable> can be specified on service type ALL but it will only apply to the Parcel Post rate. <b>For example:</b> <Machinable></Machinable>

### Container Standards

The <Container> tag is only applicable for Express Mail and Priority Mail. The tag will be ignored if specified with any other service type. When used, the <Container> field must contain one of the following valid packaging type names:

Package Name	Description
<b>Express Mail</b>	
Flat Rate Envelope	Express Mail Flat Rate Envelope, 12.5" x 9.5
<b>Priority Mail</b>	
Flat Rate Envelope	Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelope, 12.5" x 9.5"
Flat Rate Box	Priority Mail Flat Rate Box, 14" x 12" x 3.5" Priority Mail Flat Rate Box, 11.25" x 8.75" x 6"

Package <Size> must be one of the following:

Package Size	Description	Service(s) Available
Regular	package length plus girth (84 inches or less) (See below for how to measure length and girth.)	Parcel Post Priority Mail First-Class Mail Express Mail Bound Printed Matter Library Mail Media Mail All
Large	package length plus girth (Priority Mail and Parcel Post parcels that weigh less than	Parcel Post Priority Mail

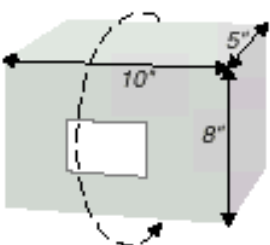
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	15 pounds but measure more than 84 inches (but less than 108 inches) in combined length and girth are charged the applicable rate for a 15-pound parcel.) (This tag does not affect the rate for Express Mail, Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail or Library Mail.)	First-Class Mail Express Mail Bound Printed Matter Library Mail Media Mail All
Oversize	package length plus girth (more than 108 but not more than 130 inches) (Parcel Post packages that measure more than 108 inches but not more than 130 inches in combined length and girth are charged the oversized Parcel Post rate regardless of the weight of the package.)	Parcel Post All

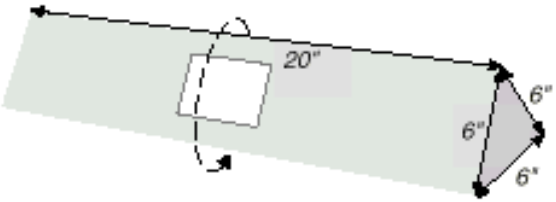
To determine the appropriate package size, measure the combined length and girth in inches as shown below:

**How to Measure Length and Girth**

For parcels, length is the measurement of the longest dimension and girth is the measurement around the thickest part (perpendicular to the length).



Length = 10"  
Girth (8 + 5 + 8 + 5) = 26"  
Length + Girth = 36"



Length = 20"  
Girth (6 + 6 + 6) = 18"  
Length + Girth = 38"

Measurement	Maximum
Length + Girth	108 inches <sup>1</sup>
Weight	70 pounds

<sup>1</sup> Except for Parcel Post, no mailpiece may measure more than 108 inches in length and girth combined. Parcel Post pieces measuring over 108 inches but not more than 130 inches in combined length and girth are available at the applicable oversized rate.

### Flat Rates

USPS provides flat rate postage for Express Mail and Priority Mail. To obtain the flat rate postage you can specify Express Mail or Priority Mail as your service type and use one of the container types explained in the section on Container Standards. However, if you are using service type “All” to obtain all possible rates for your package, the flat postage rates will be displayed only if package size is “Regular”, *i.e.*, using the <Size>Regular</Size> tag. Flat rates are not available for mailing Large and Oversize packages.

### Live URL

To gain access, all users, including those registered for previous Web Tools use, must contact the ICCC for the URL to make Live calls. The ICCC will send the Live URL via e-mail.

## Live XML Request Example

The Live XML request should be in the following form and sequence:

Example #1:

```
<RateV2Request USERID="xxxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxxx">
  <Package ID="0">
    <Service>EXPRESS</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>54324</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <Size>Regular</Size>
  </Package>
  <Package ID="1">
    <Service>PRIORITY</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>02912</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>20</Pounds>
    <Ounces>8</Ounces>
    <Size>Regular</Size>
  </Package>
  <Package ID="2">
    <Service>PARCEL</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>02912</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>20</Pounds>
    <Ounces>8</Ounces>
    <Size>Regular</Size>
    <Machinable>True</Machinable>
  </Package>
</RateV2Request>
```

Perhaps a simpler way to perform a similar request is to encode a single package with a <Service>All</Service>. For example,

Example #2:

```
<RateV2Request USERID="xxxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxxx">
  <Package ID="0">
    <Service>All</Service>
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20088</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>3</Pounds>
    <Ounces>2</Ounces>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Machinable>TRUE</Machinable>
  </Package>
</RateV2Request>
```

Contact the ICCC for a code example of building the XML request.

## Step 2: Make the Internet Connection & Send the XML Request

This step involves four separate functions:

1. Making the connection to the USPS Shipping Web Tools server.
2. Sending the request (whether Visual Basic, Perl, ASP, or any other language).
3. Receiving the response from the Web Tools server.
4. Closing the Internet connection.

If you have recently registered, the registration e-mail will have the name of the server. If you are an existing user and do not have the name of the server, please contact the ICCC. When sending the XML request, the Web Tool name must be specified. The server name can be found in your Web Tools registration e-mail. The Web Tool name is RateV2. The format of the XML transaction is:

```
http://servername/ShippingAPI.dll?API=RateV2&XML=<RateV2Request
USERID="username" PASSWORD="password">.....</RateV2Request>
```

There are several ways to make the Internet connection and send the XML request. Please contact the ICCC for code examples.

## Step 3: Unpack the XML Response

When the USPS Shipping Web Tools returns a response, it will either return a successful response document or an error document. If you need software to unpack the response, contact the ICCC for sample code you can use.

### XML Output from Unpacked Response

After unpacking the XML response, you will have the output from your request—an XML response with the following tags:

Output	XML Tag
Type of Response	<RateResponse>
Package Identification Number	<Package ID="#">
Origination ZIP Code	<ZipOrigination>
Destination ZIP Code	<ZipDestination>
Package Weight (Pounds)	<Pounds>
Package Weight (Ounces)	<Ounces>
Shipping Container (appears only for service types Express Mail or Priority Mail)	<Container>
Package Size	<Size>
Machinable – appears for service type Parcel Post or All	<Machinable>
Postal Zone * Indicates the number of postal rate zones between the origin and destination ZIP Codes. Possible values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 0, local</li> <li>▪ 1, Intra-BMC</li> <li>▪ 2</li> <li>▪ 5</li> <li>▪ 6</li> </ul>	<Zone>

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<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <div>▪ 3</div> <div>▪ 4</div> </div> <div> <div>▪ 7</div> <div>▪ 8</div> </div> </div>	
Postage – tag that has nested postage rate and service description, can appear multiple times for each service type	<Postage>
Service Type	<MailService>
Rate	<Rate>
APO/FPO Restrictions**	<Restrictions>

\* U.S. Postal Service Zones are used for Priority Mail packages over 5 lbs.

\*\* This data is provided if the Destination ZIP Code is an APO/FPO ZIP Code. All of the APO/FPO codes and descriptions are available at the [Web Tools web site](#).

### Live XML Response

The following are examples of live XML responses.

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<RateV2Response>
  <Package ID="0">
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>54324</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Zone>5</Zone>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Express Mail PO to Addressee</MailService>
      <Rate>17.85</Rate>
    </Postage>
  </Package>
  <Package ID="1">
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>02912</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>20</Pounds>
    <Ounces>8</Ounces>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Zone>4</Zone>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail</MailService>
      <Rate>20.45</Rate>
    </Postage>
  </Package>
  <Package ID="2">
    <ZipOrigination>20770</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>02912</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>20</Pounds>
    <Ounces>8</Ounces>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Machinable>TRUE</Machinable>
    <Zone>4</Zone>
```



```

    <Postage>
      <MailService>Parcel Post</MailService>
      <Rate>12.20</Rate>
    </Postage>
  </Package>
</RateV2Response>

```

If the “All Service Type” example is used, the following response will be received:

```

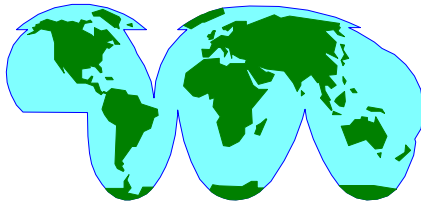
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<RateV2Response>
  <Package ID="0">
    <ZipOrigination>10022</ZipOrigination>
    <ZipDestination>20088</ZipDestination>
    <Pounds>3</Pounds>
    <Ounces>2</Ounces>
    <Size>REGULAR</Size>
    <Machinable>TRUE</Machinable>
    <Zone>3</Zone>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Express Mail PO to Addressee</MailService>
      <Rate>24.20</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Express Mail Flat Rate Envelope (12.5" x
        9.5")
      <Rate>13.65</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail</MailService>
      <Rate>5.30</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail Flat Rate Envelope (12.5" x
        9.5")
      <Rate>3.85</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail Flat Rate Box (11.25" x 8.75"
        x 6")
      <Rate>7.70</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>
      <MailService>Priority Mail Flat Rate Box (14" x 12" x
        3.5")
      <Rate>7.70</Rate>
    </Postage>
    <Postage>

```

```
    <MailService>Parcel Post</MailService>
    <Rate>5.20</Rate>
  </Postage>
  <Postage>
    <MailService>Bound Printed Matter</MailService>
    <Rate>2.26</Rate>
  </Postage>
  <Postage>
    <MailService>Media Mail</MailService>
    <Rate>2.68</Rate>
  </Postage>
  <Postage>
    <MailService>Library Mail</MailService>
    <Rate>2.55</Rate>
  </Postage>
</Package>
</RateV2Response>
```

If an error message is returned, refer to the *Error Responses* section for an explanation.

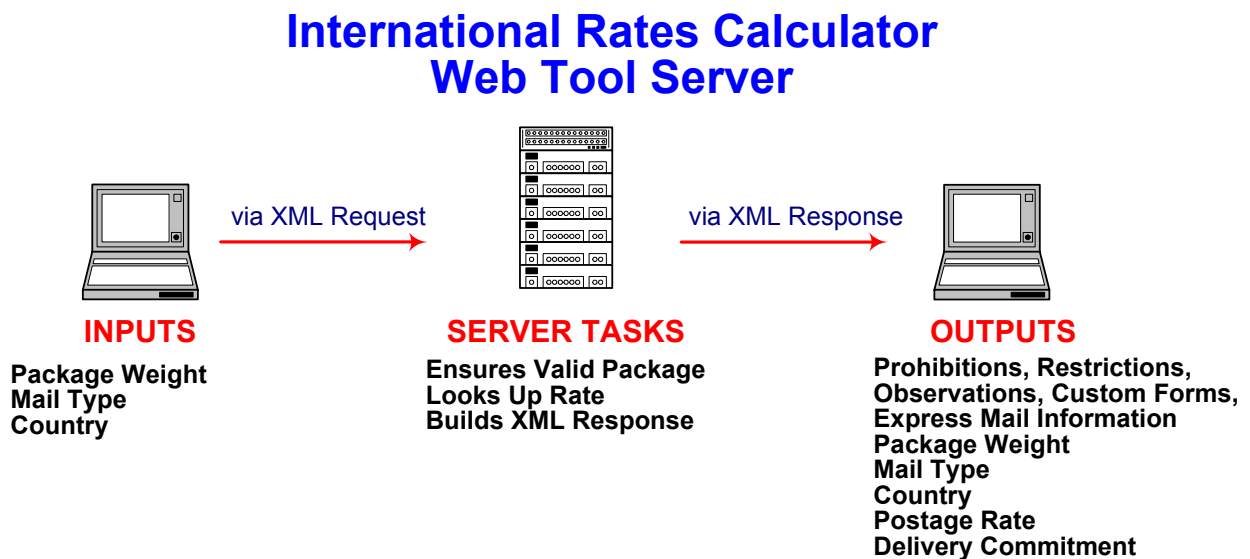
## 4.0 International Rates Calculator Web Tool



The International Rates Web Tool provides automated online access to international rate information for Global Express Guaranteed (GXG), Global Priority Mail, Global Express Mail, Airmail (including both letter-post and Parcel Post), and Economy mail (including both letter-post and Parcel Post), along with service standards for each class of service.

### 4.1 International Rates Calculator Web Tool Transaction Procedures

The illustration below shows the transactional flow of information to and from the USPS International Rates Calculator Web Tool server:



### 4.2 Run Scripted Test

#### Step 1: Build the XML Request

For testing purposes, the only values in the test code in this section that you should change are the user ID and password. Enter the user ID and password you received in the registration e-mail for testing. **All remaining code in the test scripts provided below must remain unchanged.**

### Testing URL

To make test calls to the International Rates Calculator server, use the Testing URL provided in the registration e-mail.

### Scripted Test Requests

There are two test requests included in this procedure. All of the test script code contained in this document can be cut and pasted for your use in testing the software. Be sure to note the request numbers so you can match up the responses you will receive as provided in the *Successful Test Responses* section.

#### Test Request #1

```
<IntlRateRequest USERID="xxxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxxx">
  <PackageID="0">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>Albania</Country>
  </Package>
</IntlRateRequest>
```

#### Test Request #2

```
<IntlRateRequest USERID="xxxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxxx">
  <PackageID="0">
    <Pounds>0</Pounds>
    <Ounces>1</Ounces>
    <MailType>Postcards or Aerogrammes</MailType>
    <Country>Algeria</Country>
  </Package>
</IntlRateRequest>
```

### Step 2: Make the Internet Connection & Send the XML Request

This step involves four separate functions:

1. Making the connection to the USPS Shipping Web Tools server.
2. Sending the request (whether Visual Basic, Perl, ASP, or any other language).
3. Receiving the response from the Web Tools server.
4. Closing the Internet connection.

If you have recently registered, the registration e-mail will have the name of the server. If you are an existing user and do not have the name of the server, please contact the ICCC. When sending the XML request, the Web Tool name must be specified. The server name can be found in your Web Tools registration e-mail. The Web Tool name is IntlRate. The format of the XML transaction is:

```
http://servername/ShippingAPITest.dll?API=IntlRate&XML=<IntlRateRequest USERID="username"
PASSWORD="password">.....</IntlRateRequest >
```

There are several ways to make the Internet connection and send the XML request. Please contact the ICCC for code examples.

### Step 3: Unpack the XML Response

When the USPS Shipping Web Tools returns a response, it will either return a successful response document or an error document. If you need software to unpack the response, contact the ICCC for sample code you can use.

### Successful Test Responses

For your test to be successful, the following responses to the scripted test requests should be returned *verbatim*.

#### Response to Test Request #1

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<IntlRateResponse>
  <Package ID="0">
    <Prohibitions>Currency of the Albanian State Bank
      (Banknotes in lek). Extravagant clothes and other articles
      contrary to Albanians' taste. Items sent by political
      emigres.</Prohibitions>
    <Restrictions>Hunting arms require an import permit.
      Medicines for personal use are admitted provided the
      addressee has a medical certificate.</Restrictions>
    <Observations>1. Letter packages may not contain dutiable
      articles. 2. Parcel post service extends only to: Berat
      Konispol Milot Bilisht Korce Pegin</Observations>
    <CustomsForms>Postal Union Mail (LC/AO): PS Form 2976 or
      2976-A (see 123.61) Parcel Post: PS Form 2976-A inside
      2976-E (envelope)</CustomsForms>
    <ExpressMail>Country Code AL Reciprocal Service Name EMS
      Required Customs Form/Endorsement 1. For correspondence and
      business papers: PS Form 2976, Customs - CN 22 (Old C 1)
      and Sender's Declaration (green label). Endorse item
      clearly next to mailing label as BUSINESS
      PAPERS.</ExpressMail>
    <AreasServed>Tirana.</AreasServed>
  <Service ID="0">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
```

```

    <Postage>87</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>See Service Guide</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Global Express Guaranteed (GXG) Document
    Service</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 46", depth 35", height 46" and
    max. girth 108"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>22</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="1">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>96</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>See Service Guide</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Global Express Guaranteed (GXG) Non-
    Document Service</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 46", depth 35", height 46" and
    max. girth 108"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>22</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
</Package>
</IntlRateResponse>

```

## Response to Test Request #2

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<IntlRateResponse>
  <Package ID="0">
    <Prohibitions>Articles made of tortoise-shell, mother of
    pearl, ivory, bone meerscham and amber (succin), natural
    or reconstructed, worked jade and mineral substances
    similar to jade.</Prohibitions>
    <Restrictions>Articles of gold or platinum, jewelry and
    precious stones must be licensed by the Algerian Ministry
    of Finance. Coins, banknotes, negotiable securities, checks
    and other instruments of payment, may only be imported by
    the Central Bank of Algeria or approved intermediary
    banks.</Restrictions>
    <Observations>Import permits or licenses are required for
    many types of goods; therefore, the sender should ascertain
    from the addressee before mailing whether the necessary
    documents are held.</Observations>
    <CustomsForms>Postal Union Mail (LC/AO): PS Form 2976 or
    2976-A (see 123.61) Parcel Post: PS Form 2976-A inside
    2976-E (envelope)</CustomsForms>
  </Package ID="0">
</IntlRateResponse>

```

```

<ExpressMail>Postal employees must tell customers that
there is no service guarantee on any EMS item to Algeria.
Country Code DZ Reciprocal Service Name EMS Required
Customs Form/Endorsement 1. For correspondence and business
papers: PS Form 2976, Customs - CN 22 (Old C 1) and
Sender's Declaration (green label). Endorse item clearly
next to mailing label as BUSINESS PAPERS.</ExpressMail>
<AreasServed>Adrar RP Ain Benian Ain Defla RP Ain Smara Ain
Temouchent RP Alger aeroport EMS</AreasServed>
<Service ID="0">
  <Pounds>0</Pounds>
  <Ounces>1</Ounces>
  <MailType>Postcards or Aerogrammes</MailType>
  <Country>ALGERIA</Country>
  <Postage>0.7</Postage>
  <SvcCommitments>N/A</SvcCommitments>
  <SvcDescription>Postcards-Airmail</SvcDescription>
  <MaxDimensions>4-1/4" x 6"</MaxDimensions>
  <MaxWeight>0</MaxWeight>
</Service>
<Service ID="1">
  <Pounds>0</Pounds>
  <Ounces>1</Ounces>
  <MailType>Postcards or Aerogrammes</MailType>
  <Country>ALGERIA</Country>
  <Postage>0.60</Postage>
  <SvcCommitments>N/A</SvcCommitments>
  <SvcDescription>Aerogrammes - Airmail</SvcDescription>
  <MaxDimensions>7-1/4" x 3-9/16"</MaxDimensions>
  <MaxWeight>0</MaxWeight>
</Service>
</Package>
</IntlRateResponse>

```

## Scripted Test Error Responses

If any values were changed in your request, the following is an example of an error that can occur. The following error will occur for Test #2 if an invalid country was provided.

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<IntlRateResponse>
  <Package ID="0">
    <Error>
      <Number>-2147219076</Number>
      <Source>SQLServerTest;SQLServerTest.CallIntlRateDll</Source>
      <Description>Invalid Country.</Description>
      <HelpFile />
      <HelpContext />
    </Error>
  </Package ID="0">
</IntlRateResponse>

```

```

</Error>
</Package>
</IntlRateResponse>

```

Although the input may be valid, the response will still raise this error, because those particular values have not been included in this test server. Refer to the *Error Responses* section for an explanation of any other returned errors.

Upon successful completion of the scripted test phase, call the ICCC. The ICCC will verify your test results and provide you with privileges necessary to proceed to the next step—running Live requests to create or customize labels.

## 4.3 Run Live Data

### Step 1: Build the XML Request

#### Live XML Tags

The table below presents the XML input tags for generating Live requests and the restrictions on the values allowed. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Also, be aware of the maximum character amounts allowed for some tags. If the user enters more than those amounts, an error will not be generated. **The Web Tool will simply pass in the characters up to the maximum amount allowed and disregard the rest.** This is important since the resulting value could prevent a correct response.

When building the XML request, pay particular attention to the **order and case** for tags. An error message will be returned if an incorrect value is entered. Remember that all data and attribute values in this document are for illustration purposes and are to be replaced by your actual values. For instance, a line of sample code may be:

```
<Country>USA</Country>
```

In this instance, you will replace “USA” with the country to which the package will be sent using the international rates.

XML Tag	Required/ Optional	Description & Values Allowed
<IntlRateRequest...	Required	Notifies Web Tool that a request for a <b>Live</b> label is being sent. Input tag exactly as presented.
...USERID="userid"...	Required	Use user ID provided with registration.
...PASSWORD="password">	Required	Use password provided with registration.

e.g., <IntlRateRequest USERID="yourID" PASSWORD="yourPW">

Tags within the above-defined call are as follows:

XML Tag	Required/ Optional	Description & Values Allowed
<Package ID="#">	Required Tag/ Required Value	No restriction on number or type of characters. <b>For example:</b> <Package ID="0">



XML Tag	Required/ Optional	Description & Values Allowed
<Pounds>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Value must be numeric. Package weight cannot exceed 70 pounds. Refer to Domestic Mail Manual C050.4 for weight requirements. The manual can be found at the <a href="#">Postal Explorer web site</a> . <b>For example:</b> <Pounds>2</Pounds>
<Ounces>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Value must be numeric. Package weight cannot exceed 70 pounds. Refer to Domestic Mail Manual C050.4 for weight requirements. The manual can be found at the <a href="#">Postal Explorer web site</a> . <b>For example:</b> <Ounces>0</Ounces>
<MailType>	Required Tag/ Required Value	The following are valid international mail types: "package" "postcards or aerogrammes" "matter for the blind" "envelope". <b>For example:</b> <MailType>Package</MailType>
<Country>	Required Tag/ Required Value	Entries must be from the USPS list of valid countries. To access the International Country Listings, go to the <a href="#">Postal Explorer web site</a> . <b>For example:</b> <Country>Albania</Country>

## Live URL

To gain access all users, including those registered for previous Web Tools use, must contact the ICCC for the URL to make Live calls. The ICCC will send the Live URL via e-mail.

## Live XML Request Example

The Live XML request should be in the following form and sequence:

```
<IntlRateRequest USERID="xxxxxxx" PASSWORD="xxxxxxx">
  <Package ID="0">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>Albania</Country>
  </Package>
</IntlRateRequest>
```

Contact the ICCC for a code example of building the XML request.

## Step 2: Make the Internet Connection & Send the XML Request

This step involves four separate functions:

1. Making the connection to the USPS Shipping Web Tools server.
2. Sending the request (whether Visual Basic, Perl, ASP, or any other language).
3. Receiving the response from the Web Tools server.
4. Closing the Internet connection.

If you have recently registered, the registration e-mail will have the name of the server. If you are an existing user and do not have the name of the server, please contact the ICCC. When sending the XML request, the Web Tool name must be specified. The server name can be found in your Web Tools registration e-mail. The Web Tool name is IntlRate. The format of the XML transaction is:

**http://servername/ShippingAPI.dll?API=IntlRate&XML=<IntlRateRequest USERID="username" PASSWORD="password">.....</IntlRateRequest>**

There are several ways to make the Internet connection and send the XML request. Please contact the ICCC for code examples.

### Step 3: Unpack the XML Response

When the USPS Shipping Web Tools returns a response, it will either return a successful response document or an error document. If you need software to unpack the response, contact the ICCC for sample code you can use.

### XML Output from Unpacked Response

After unpacking the XML response, you will have the output from your request—an XML response with the following tags:

Output	XML Tag
Type of Response	<IntlRateResponse>
Package Identification Number	<Package ID="#">
Prohibitions	<Prohibitions>
Restrictions	<Restrictions>
Observations	<Observations>
Custom Forms	<CustomsForms>
Express Mail	<ExpressMail>
Areas Served	<AreasServed>
Services Identification Number *	<Service ID="#">
Weight of package (pounds)	<Pounds>
Weight of package (ounces)	<Ounces>
Type of Mail	<MailType>
Destination Country	<Country>
Postage Rate Charged	<Postage>
Service Commitments	<SvcCommitments>
Service Description **	<SvcDescription>
Maximum Dimensions of Package Allowed	<MaxDimensions>
Maximum Weight of Package Allowed	<MaxWeight>

\* For each package submitted, the available services for that package are returned with a separate identification number. This tag and all the following tags will repeat for each service available.

\*\* This describes the service available (e.g., Airmail, Parcel Post).

### Live XML Output Example

The International Rates Calculator Web Tool returns the following information to the user if the information is valid and pickup is available to the supplied address:

```

<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<IntlRateResponse>
  <Package ID="0">
    <Prohibitions>Currency of the Albanian State Bank
      (Banknotes in lek). Extravagant clothes and other articles
      contrary to Albanians' taste. Items sent by political
      emigres.</Prohibitions>
    <Restrictions>Hunting arms require an import permit.
      Medicines for personal use are admitted provided the
      addressee has a medical certificate.</Restrictions>
    <Observations>1. Letter packages may not contain dutiable
      articles. 2. Parcel post service extends only to: Berat
      Konispol Milot Bilisht Korce Peqin</Observations>
    <CustomsForms>Postal Union Mail (LC/AO): PS Form 2976 or
      2976-A (see 123.61) Parcel Post: PS Form 2976-A inside
      2976-E (envelope)</CustomsForms>
    <ExpressMail>Country Code AL Reciprocal Service Name EMS
      Required Customs Form/Endorsement 1. For correspondence and
      business papers: PS Form 2976, Customs - CN 22 (Old C 1)
      and Sender's Declaration (green label). Endorse item
      clearly next to mailing label as BUSINESS
      PAPERS.</ExpressMail>
    <AreasServed>Tirana.</AreasServed>
    <Service ID="0">
      <Pounds>2</Pounds>
      <Ounces>0</Ounces>
      <MailType>Package</MailType>
      <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
      <Postage>89</Postage>
      <SvcCommitments>2 - 3 Days</SvcCommitments>
      <SvcDescription>Global Express Guaranteed Document
        Service</SvcDescription>
      <MaxDimensions>Max. length 46", width 35", height 46" and
        max. length plus girth 108"</MaxDimensions>
      <MaxWeight>70</MaxWeight>
    </Service>
    <Service ID="1">
      <Pounds>2</Pounds>
      <Ounces>0</Ounces>
      <MailType>Package</MailType>
      <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
      <Postage>96</Postage>
      <SvcCommitments>2 - 3 Days</SvcCommitments>
      <SvcDescription>Global Express Guaranteed Non-Document
        Service</SvcDescription>
      <MaxDimensions>Max. length 46", width 35", height 46" and
        max. length plus girth 108"</MaxDimensions>

```

```

    <MaxWeight>70</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="2">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>21.65</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>3 - 5 Days</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Global Express Mail
      (EMS)</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 36", max. length plus girth
      79"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>22</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="3">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>15.65</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>4 - 7 Days</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Airmail Letter-post</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 24", Max. length, height,
      depth combined 36"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>4</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="4">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>19</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>4 - 10 Days</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Airmail Parcel Post</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 42", max. length plus girth
      79"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>44</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="5">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>8.1</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>4 - 6 Weeks</SvcCommitments>

```

```

    <SvcDescription>Economy (Surface) Letter-
    post</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 24", Max. length, height,
    depth combined 36"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>4</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
  <Service ID="6">
    <Pounds>2</Pounds>
    <Ounces>0</Ounces>
    <MailType>Package</MailType>
    <Country>ALBANIA</Country>
    <Postage>22</Postage>
    <SvcCommitments>4 - 6 Weeks</SvcCommitments>
    <SvcDescription>Economy (Surface) Parcel
    Post</SvcDescription>
    <MaxDimensions>Max. length 42", max. length plus girth
    79"</MaxDimensions>
    <MaxWeight>44</MaxWeight>
  </Service>
</Package>
</IntlRateResponse>

```

If an error message is returned, refer to the *Error Responses* section for an explanation.