Frequently Asked Questions
USPS Fuel Surcharge Implementation

The USPS is creating a Fuel Surcharge, which will be charged on all competitively priced packages and calculated as a percentage of the base postage. The surcharge will be updated weekly, based on the prices of diesel and jet fuel, as described on the eia.gov website.

1. When will the fuel surcharge be implemented?
    a. January 2027
2. Is this for commercial shippers and retail (residential) customers?
    a. Yes
3. How often will the surcharge fluctuate?
    a. Weekly
4. Is this for both domestic and international shipments?
    a. Domestic, only.
5. What products will this be applied to?
    a. Competitive products, including:
        - Priority Mail Express (PME), including PME Return (Jet Fuel)
        - Priority Mail (PM), including PM Return (Jet Fuel)
        - USPS Ground Advantage (GA), including GA Return (Diesel)
        - Parcel Select (Diesel)

6. Is the fuel surcharge percentage applied to the total postage due, including base postage, any extra services, nonstandard fees, etc.? If not, clarify if it is applied to only the base postage amount.
    a. Base postage.
7. Does it apply to some or all Negotiated Service Agreements (NSAs)?
    a. NSAs may have customized language.
8. How will the fee(s) be communicated?
    a. Shippers will receive updates electronically, through API or other means, for current/upcoming percentages to be applied, along with effective dates. Historical data will be posted publicly.

9. Is this going to be part of the Pricing API (domestic and international) and the Shipping Options API?
    a. Yes. When using APIs, shippers will also see the fees in the Domestic Labels, International Labels, and PMOD API responses when in effect.
10. Is this going to be a new API? Will the fuel surcharge table be accessed via API for reconciliation?
    a. The intent is to make use of the existing Pricing API.
11. How can we test this functionality prior to deployment in January?
    a. Changes are typically available for testing two weeks before the price change date.
12. How will USPS handle items that do not include the surcharge, for example a retail-priced, metered parcel picked up by a carrier or entered at retail.
    a. All USPS payment systems will be updated to apply the fuel surcharge.
13. How far in advance will the surcharge percentage be published?
    a. 3-4 days prior to implementation for jet fuel, 3-5 days for diesel.
14. What will happen to items that have the “old” surcharge amount (Retail / Commercial) — will they be postage due?
    a. Yes. Items should have the correct postage and fees paid for at the time of mailing.