UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

Postal ZIP Code Boundaries

Background
The U.S. Postal Service introduced the Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) Code in 1963 as an internal tool to more efficiently handle the increase in mail volume. In 1983, we expanded the system to include ZIP+ 4 information, allowing mail to be directed to a unique delivery point or mailbox.

Operational Purpose
The ZIP Code system is designed to provide an efficient postal distribution and delivery network. ZIP Code assignments are closely linked to factors such as mail volume, delivery area size, geographic location, and topography, but not necessarily to municipal or perceived community boundaries.

The general stability of ZIP Code boundaries is essential to prompt and accurate distribution of mail. However, delivery growth and changing demographics can necessitate adjustments to ZIP Code boundaries to achieve our objectives.

Boundary Review Process
Although the Postal Service must be guided primarily by concerns for service and efficiency, we appreciate the identity and addressing concerns of local communities. The Postal Service has established a ZIP Code Boundary Review Process to consider municipal requests to modify authorized last lines of address and/or ZIP Code boundaries to provide municipal identity.

Within this process, our policy is to offer reasonable administrative or operational accommodation that can correct or alleviate the municipal identity concerns. One accommodation that may be made after evaluating postal operational concerns is to allow the alternate use of more than one city name in the last line of an address, while retaining the use of the ZIP Code of the Post Office providing delivery. If USPS considers changing ZIP code boundaries based upon customer request, and a potential accommodation is identified and agreed upon, customer support is confirmed via a survey.

To help ensure stability in the ZIP Code network, facility planning, and postal operations, and because it is a very costly process, once a request to adjust a ZIP Code boundary has been accommodated, additional requests to amend that boundary will not be considered more frequently than once every 10 years.

A municipality or community group requesting a ZIP Code boundary adjustment should submit its request in writing to the district manager responsible for the affected territory. The district manager will review the impacts and operational feasibility of the request. Should the request be denied, the process allows for an appeal to the manager of delivery at Postal Service Headquarters. Private individuals, companies or organizations do not have standing on their own to request a ZIP Code boundary review.

41,683 **ZIP Codes in the country**

They range from 00501, belonging to the Internal Revenue Service in Holtsville, NY, to 99950 in Ketchikan, AK.

1,200 **ZIP Codes**

Within the Military and Diplomatic Postal Service around the world.