UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

Zone Charts

Zone 9

&

5-Digit ZIP Code Exceptions

https://ribbs.usps.gov/index.cfm?page=zonecharts

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

- The National Zone Charts Matrix assists mailers in applying the proper postage rates to a mail piece. The following mail classes require the use of the Zone Chart when computing postage prices:
  - **Bound Printed Matter**
  - **Critical Mail**
  - **Standard Post® - Retail Parcels**
  - **Parcel Return Service**
  - **Parcel Select**
  - **Periodicals**
  - **Priority Mail® & Priority Mail Express**
- Postage rates for zoned mail are based on mail piece weight and the distance the mail piece travels using these zone assignments.
- The matrix is used to determine the distance that a mailpiece travels based on the 3-Digit Origin ZIP Code and the 3-Digit Destination ZIP Code). The origination and destination of a mailpiece is referred to as “ZIP™ pairing”.
- Zones have been designated as "local" or Zones 1 through 8.
- The distance computation used to create the Zone Chart has been used since 1984.

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

- **Local Zone**
  - The local zone applies to mail deposited at any post office for delivery to any address within the delivery area of that post office. Check with your local post office for specific details regarding the ZIP Codes that qualify for local zone in your area. The Zone Chart does **not** contain local zone information since local zones are at the 5-digit ZIP Code level.

- **Non-Local Zone**
  - Non-local zones are defined numerically as follows.

Zone	Distance
1	Non-local zones within a 50 mile radius of the point of origination
2	51 to 150 mile radius
3	151 to 300 mile radius
4	301 to 600 mile radius
5	601 to 1000 mile radius
6	1001 to 1400 mile radius
7	1401 to 1800 mile radius
8	1801 miles and over (currently)
***9**	**Yet to be defined**
******	**5-Digit ZIP Code Exceptions may be allocated as either local or non-local**

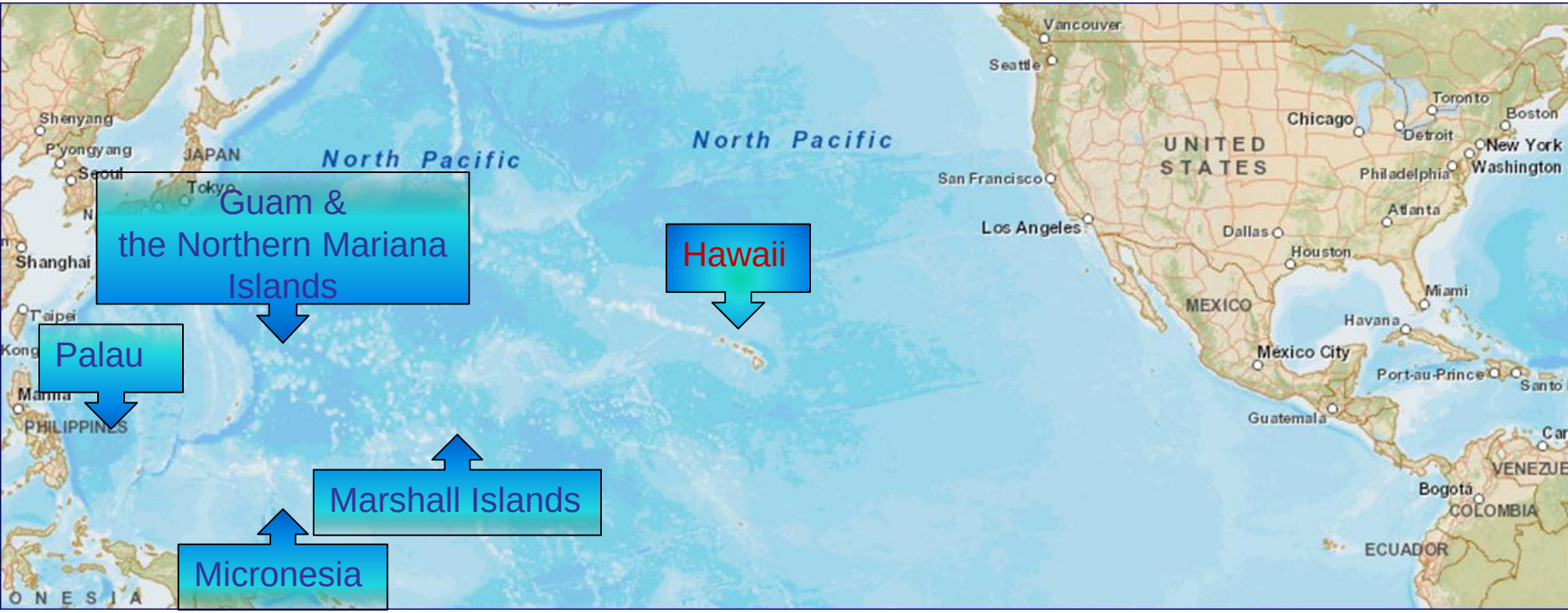
Zone Chart & Exceptions File

CURRENT MATRIX FILE STRUCTURE

Description	Start Position	End Position	Field Length	Acceptable Values
Originating ZIP Code™	1	3	3	N
Zone to Destination: ZIP™ 001	4	4	1	N
Filler: ZIP 001	5	5	1	*** e b or space**
Zone to Destination: ZIP 002	6	6	1	N
Filler: ZIP 002	7	7	1	*** e b or space**
Zone to Destination: ZIP 003	8	8	1	N
Filler: ZIP 003	9	9	1	*** e b or space**

This format continues for each 3-digit ZIP to the end of the 3 Digits matrix file.

Zone to Destination: ZIP 969	1940	1940	1	N
Filler: ZIP 969	1941	1941	1	*** e b or space**
(etc…)				
Zone to Destination: ZIP 998	1998	1998	1	N
Filler: ZIP 998	1999	1999	1	*** e b or space**
Zone to Destination: ZIP 999	2000	2000	1	N
Filler: ZIP 999	2001	2001	1	*** e b or space**
Carriage Return Line Feed	2002	2003	2	



Consider the US Territories, Commonwealths and Freely Associated States:

- Palau
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Republic of Marshall Islands
- Guam
- Northern Marianna Islands

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

ZIP Code	Two-Letter State Abbreviation	City	Freely Associated States
96939	PW	PALAU	PALAU
96940	PW	PALAU	PALAU
96941	FM	POHNPEI	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
96942	FM	CHUUK	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
96943	FM	YAP	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
96944	FM	KOSRAE	FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
96960	MH	MAJURO	REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
96970	MH	EBEYE	REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

- There are 8 ZIP Codes assigned to the Freely Associated States
- The remaining 16 ZIP Codes belong to Guam and the Mariana Islands.
- In this scenario, mail sent to the Freely Associated States will be assigned Zone 9 when it originates from any 3-Digit ZIP Code within the 48 contiguous states and Alaska.

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

ZIP Code	Two-Letter State Abbreviation	City	Territory / Commonwealth
96910	GU	HAGATNA	GUAM
96912	GU	DEDEDO	GUAM
96913	GU	BARRIGADA	GUAM
96915	GU	SANTA RITA	GUAM
96916	GU	MERIZO	GUAM
96917	GU	INARAJAN	GUAM
96919	GU	AGANA HEIGHTS	GUAM
96921	GU	BARRIGADA	GUAM
96923	GU	MANGILAO	GUAM
96928	GU	AGAT	GUAM
96929	GU	YIGO	GUAM
96931	GU	TAMUNING	GUAM
96932	GU	HAGATNA	GUAM
96950	MP	SIAPAN	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
96951	MP	ROTA	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
96952	MP	TINIAN	NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

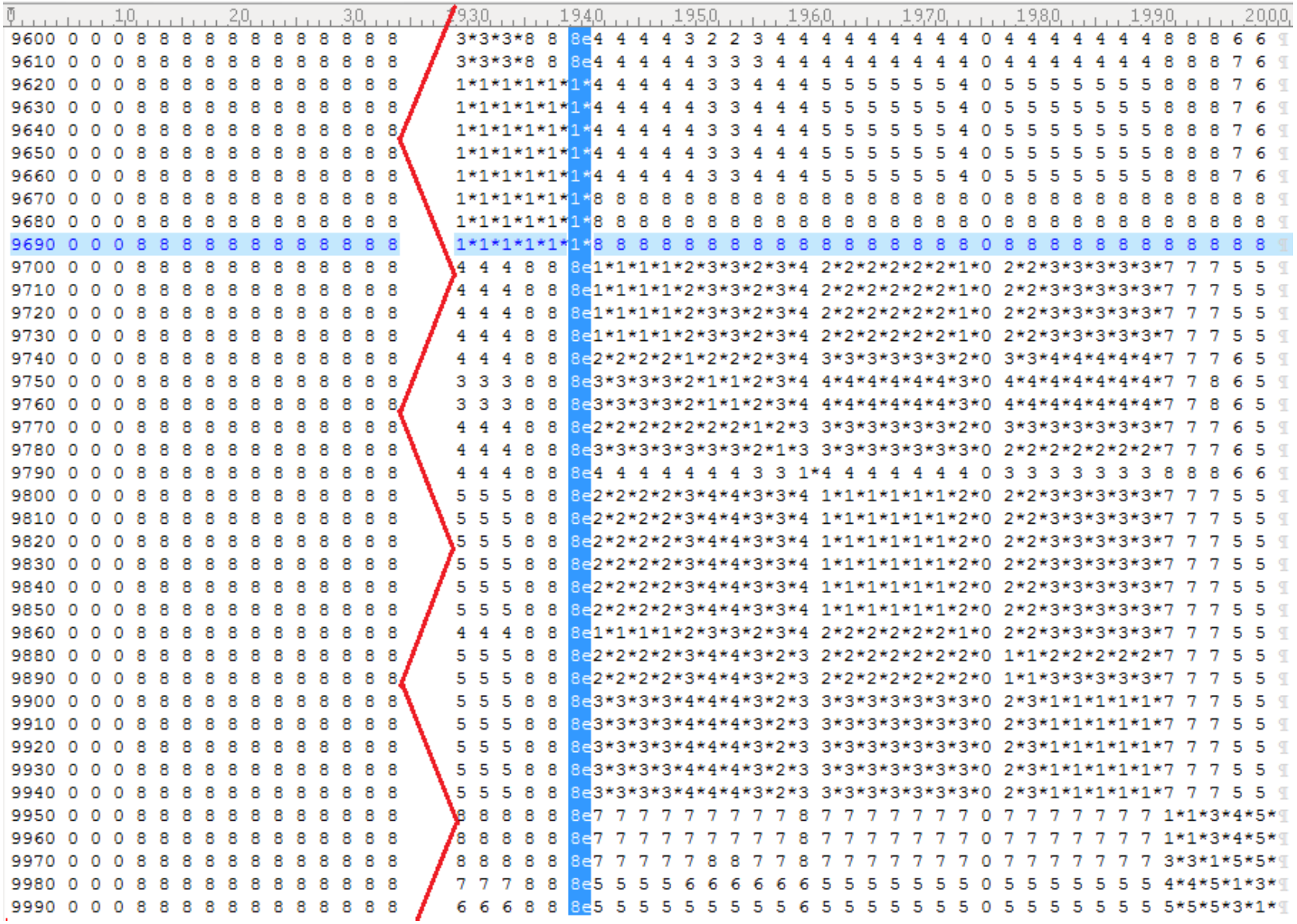
- The other ZIP Codes in the 969 area are not affected.

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

	001	filler	002	filler	003	filler	004	filler	005	filler	006	967	filler	968	filler	969	filler	970	filler	971	filler	972	filler
005	0		0		0		0		1	*	7	8		8		8	e	8		8		8	
006	0		0		0		0		7		1	*	8		8		8	e	8		8		8	
007	0		0		0		0		7		1	*	8		8		8	e	8		8		8	
962	0		0		0		0		8		8		1	*	1	*	1	b	4		4		4	
963	0		0		0		0		8		8		1	*	1	*	1	b	4		4		4	
969	0		0		0		0		8		8		1	*	1	*	1	b	8		8		8	
970	0		0		0		0		8		8		8		8		8	e	1	*	1	*	1	*
971	0		0		0		0		8		8		8		8		8	e	1	*	1	*	1	*

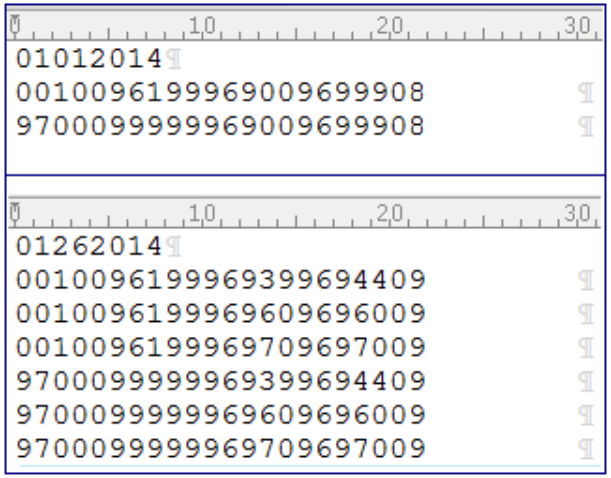
- User must recognize “9” in the zone field
- “ * “ indicates NDC Discount is available
- New indicator “ **e** “ for Priority Mail 969 Exception New indicator “ **b** “ for both NDC Discount and FAS Exceptions
- **“e”** and **“b”** = Check the Zone Chart Exceptions file.

Zone Chart & Exceptions File



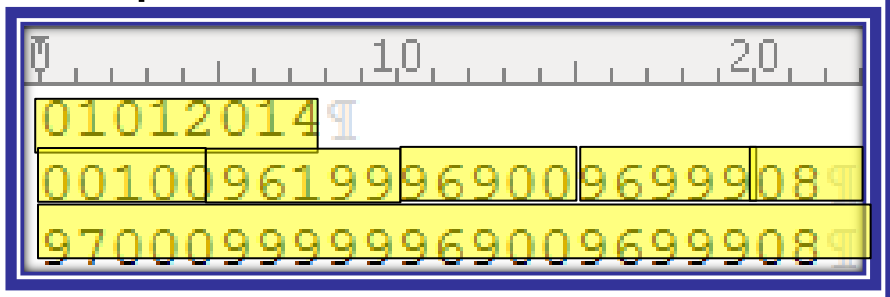
Zone Chart & Exceptions File

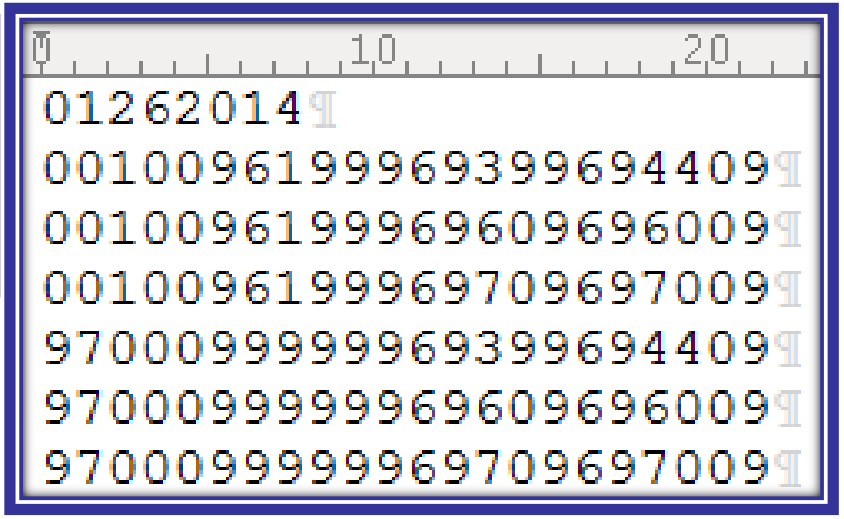
- The Exception File must be checked when the Zone Chart has an “ e “ or “ b “ indicator for the O/D pair
- A header identifies the effective date of the Exceptions file.
- The January Zone Chart release will include a preliminary Exception File dated for 1/1/2014
- The contents will match the Zone Chart because there are no exceptions to apply at this time.
- Distribution of updated Exceptions files may be coordinated with price changes when appropriate.



Zone Chart & Exceptions File

- Allows for expansion and 5 Digit O/D Exceptions
- The Zone is represented by 2 digits (01-09), to allow for expansion





Description	Start Position	End Position	Field Length	Acceptable Values
Origin ZIP Code™ Range START	1	5	5	3 or 5 Numeric
Origin ZIP Code™ Range END	6	10	5	3 or 5 Numeric
Dest ZIP Code Range START	11	15	5	3 or 5 Numeric
Dest ZIP Code Range END	16	20	5	3 or 5 Numeric
Zone	21	22	2	Numeric
Filler	23	30	8	Alpha/Num/Space
Carriage Return	31	31	1	

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

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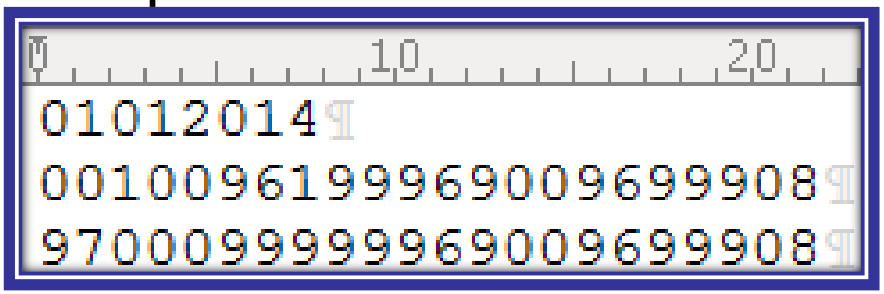

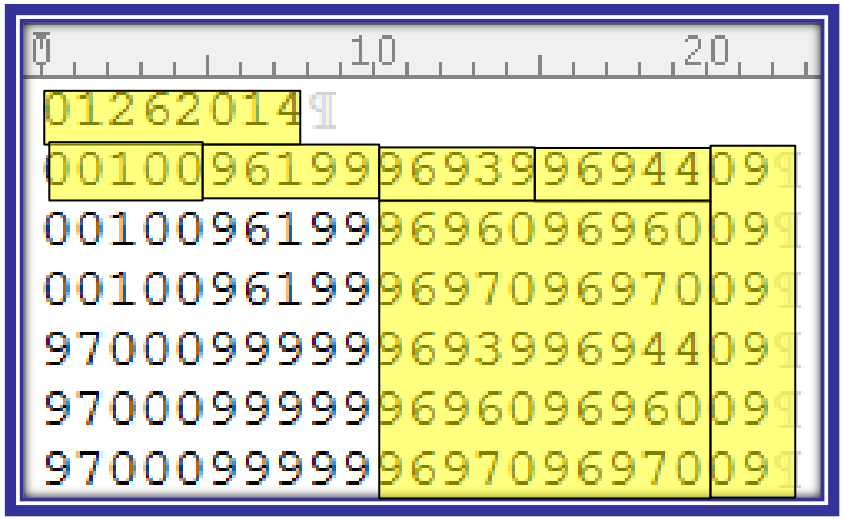

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Zone	21	22	2	Numeric
Filler	23	30	8	Alpha/Num/Space
Carriage Return	31	31	1	

Zone Chart & Exceptions File

Timeline

Thursday September 5, 2013	Message to Zone Chart subscribers. Update RIBBS page	Include sample Zone Chart and Exception Files in message
Friday September 6, 2013	RIBBS Zone Chart page updated	Sample file available on RIBBS
September 11, 2013	Zone Chart Subscribers Webinar	This Webinar will be recorded
Sunday December 15, 2013	Publication Date and Start Notification Date.	As per Release 5 Schedule
Sunday December 15, 2013	Zone Chart fulfillment via EPF with preliminary Exceptions file.	Exceptions file will reflect no exceptions
??	Exceptions File Release	On an as-needed basis and before exceptions are effective
Saturday March 15, 2014	April zone Chart release	Exceptions file will reflect proper zone assignments if needed.

Summary

- Expect to see new “e” and “b” indicators in the filler fields that tell you to look at the Exceptions file.
- Expect to see an additional Exceptions File that may provide 5-Digit ZIP Code Zone Assignment Exceptions and also has additional filler with Alpha/Numeric or spaces that may provide further exceptions, for example mail-class.