# CANADIAN METER STAMP NEWSLETTER

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SSUE NO. 70

2005

#### Please record e-mail addresses as shown in masthead

#### **EDITORIAL**

The Government has struck a major blow against our collecting interests with the passing of the Privacy legislation. I was the recipient of several bags of insurance company letters on a quarterly basis. There was usually nothing collectable in them but when a new meter showed up it made sorting worthwhile. Now, the company shreds all these covers. It will be harder to keep up with new items unless they show up in your personal mail.

Note: First Class postage increased on January 17, 2005, to 50 cents so with tax that is 54 cents, no wonder e-mail is so inexpensive and handy.

Want to buy meter stuff? Try:- www.worldmeterstamps.com

This issue has repeat material from other issues, for two reasons. The first is I don't get many items from members to include and the second is to dwell upon the digital postage meters that exist today to highlight any differences in appearance from a collection point of view and to add them to our CMSG catalog.

Rudolf von Fischer of Switzerland collects International Year of the Child, 1979. If you have such material e-mail hime at <fifi@mydiax.ch>

I didn't get even one response to my request on how you store and catalog your meter collection!



What's In the Mail Today?

I did a census of covers last March (2004) to see what was in the mail. To a great extent this will change with the company but for what it is worth here are the results. I hope you can identify with the meter group serial number. It is obvious which postage meters are in common use.

Meter type	No. of Covers	Meter type	No. of Covers
PB 500 PB 1000000 PB 022 PB 155 PB 110 PB 688 PB 1500000 PB 160 PB 140 PB200000 PB 177 PB 172	2 48 39 63 100 1 70 8 43 19 14	FP 415 FP 400 FP CPPC FP MP H dml H old ml F at base F ML at base	3 5 7 24 6 total FP - 45 47 12 total Hasler - 59 31 9 total Friden - 40
PB 170	32 total PB - 465	N at base	3 total Neopost - 3
N371 NE 330 NE 320 NE 340	3 9 6 9 total Neopost - 27		

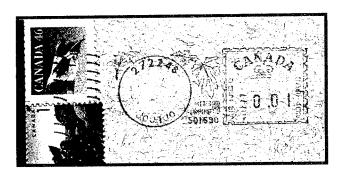
In CMSG Newsletters 10, 11 and 12 we showed illustrations of the use of "Postage" meters by the Canadian Standards Association to confirm the length of wire in spools. Since there is a Nexans wire manufacturing plant at Fergus, Ontario, and I had a contact there, I asked him to get me some examples of their meter impression as mine are in very rough shape.



I show what they use now. A very large stick-on with a bar code. So here is another collecting area gone to new technology. I have five different examples but just show one here.

Pitney Bowes postage meter 501690 with the postal code in the townmark. 272245 / J0J 1J0. The return address on the cover is St. Jean - sur Richeleu and J2X 2R7.

The J0J 1J0 postal code in the townmark is Lacolle, PQ. Brown cover.



### KNOWN POSTAL CODES IN THE TOWNMARK

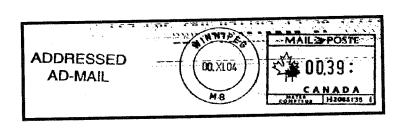
Top Section H3C 1S0 E.T.L.C. ETL CV H4Y 1C9 blank CMPM-MPCF	Bottom QC H3C 1S0 H3C 1S0 blank H4T 1A0 H4Y 1C9	1010148 1011945 1053351 1052311 501123	Identity of User Succ. Centre Ville, Montreal; Sun Life, Toronto NBCN, Montreal  Dorval Financial Bank, Montreal
L3R 0A0	blank	1052913	Mailing company, Royal Ct., Markham
L3R 0A1	ON	1052913	
WLPP	L4W 1T0	1006594	
blank AB C.M.P.P.	N2J 2X0 T2E 0A0 T2E 0A0	1004854 1052135 1003210	Manulife Financial, Waterloo Albern Coins, Calgary
V6B 3A0	blank	H2004771	Terminal, Georgina St
Blank	V6V 2K9	1010735	Telus, Calgary ????

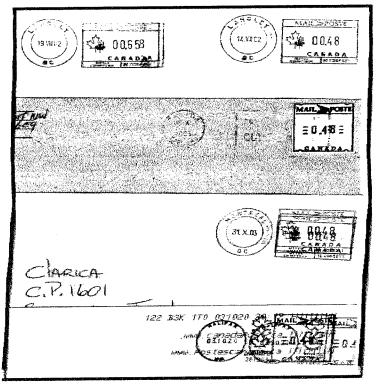
## OFFICIAL POST OFFICE PROVINCE IDENTIFICATION CODES

Official 2-letter province abbreviation and first letter of the Forward Sorting Area (FSA) of the postal codes used within that area

YK NT BC AB SK MB ON	Y X V T S R P	Yukon Territory North West Territoies British Columbia Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba Northern Ontario	ON ON PQ PQ PQ NB PE	L K J H G E C	Central Ontario Eastern Ontario Western Quebec Montreal Eastern Quebec New Brunswick Prince Edward Island
				.—	

Hasler meter with "ADDRESSED / AD-MAIL" postal directive. Postage rate 39 cents.



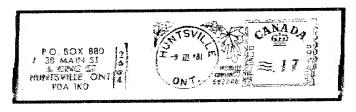


From my files I dug out two items Jack previously sent to me. From the same Hasler2060332 meter at Langley BC. Standard print dated 14.VIII.02. Note the one dated 19 VIII 02. The value is a strange 00.0658. Looks like an extra "8" and the right bar is duplicated as well as the "A" of CANADA. The proper rate for the cover was 48 cents. Has anyone an explanation for this?

Also shown is a Pitney Bowes where a secretary has cut out the rate and pasted it on the cover. Is it legal?

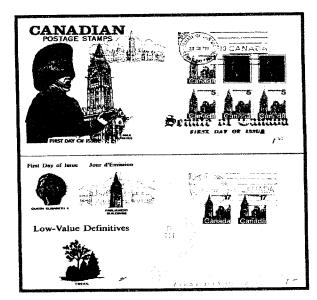
Double imprint Hasler again but the townmark has not been affected. How?

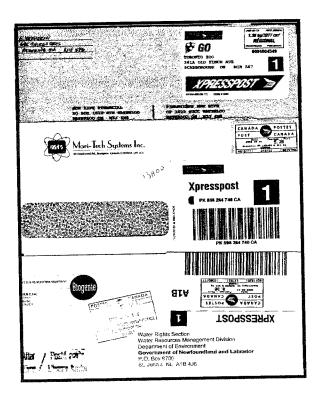
Just a double, or overlay, impression. Too big a hurry. Appear to be both 48 cents.

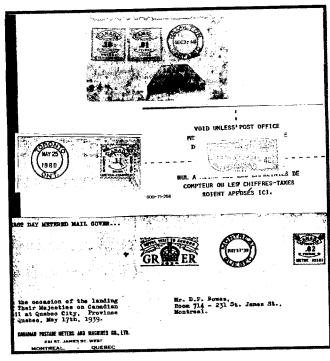


Pitney Bowes meter 582248 from Huntsville dated 1981. Anyone have an idea what the vertical number "2664" represents in the postal ad?

Two nice looking covers created by an obvious stamp collector in Ottawa







On left, several forms of XPRESSPOST labels with other forms to show the postage paid

On right, even in the early days people cut out meter impressions and glued them to a bag tag.

A scarce Type 8, 11 cent value.

A postage due bill with a P.O. meter impression showing payment of 42 cents.

A copy (wish I had an original) of a Royal Visit souvenir cover to Quebec City in May 1939.

### 

Another survey of meter use from an examination of a mixed bag of metered mail. Too many to count so these are estimates for early 2004.

There were equal numbers of covers for the PB1000000 series (PB6900 models), the PB Postage by Phone and the Hasler models.

Friden and Francotyp each represented one-quarter of the above.

Ninety-five percent were so heavily cancelled they were not worth storing



The illustration above shows, besides two examples of "metor" can register stamps, also two examples of meter stamps as used by private firms. At the left is a current type of "Gollect permit" postage, while in upper right centre is a type "permit" postage which is replacing precancelled adhesive stamps, and below this can be seen the latest in Revenues — a "meter permit unemployment" stamp as used by some private firms.

This is rather a long name for a small piece of paper but it is really self-explanatory. They are sometimes referred to as cash register stamps. The large Post Offices in Canada are supplied with special cash registers in which the amount of postage required for a parcel is rung up and the machine prints on a strip of paper, usually referred to as security paper. When first introduced on September 3, 1925, the Government permitted private firms to use these. The stamps were printed on white guinned paper by the machine. The first appeared printed in red but this was soon followed by violet. In April, 1927, the Post Office Department began

to use them themselves on parcels handed in by the public but they now used rolls of safety paper which had a small design with the words "Canada Postage" together with a crown and maple leaf as an all-over background printed in gray. Over this background the machine printed, each time the cash register was used, the words "Canada Postage Paid" together with the date, the amount of postage, the number of the machine and the city, all in violet, but later black was used for this printing.

These meter stamps have also been used to pay due postage in which case they read "Canada Postage Due," otherwise they appear the same. These machines will print from 1c to \$9.99.

The machines in use by private firms have also used a variety of security paper by using the words "Metered Mail" repeated in ovals and vertically between them a number of wavy lines printed in a pale green. Some of the earlier machines separated each same by a sawtooth type of perforation, otherwise these stamps are imperforate. Collectors make collections showing various denominations from various cities or firms.



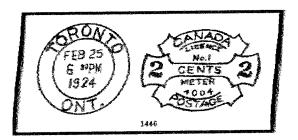




Above - The postage meter section from Dr. L.

Searle Holmes Handbook of Canada and British North America. 2<sup>na</sup> Edition. 1อีล

Below - The postage meter (p. 548-549) section from Fred Jarrat's 1929 "Stamps of British North America"



Metered mail, in various colors, usually red or green. The House of Assembly, Toronto, used green, License No. 410L from Spec. 1926. The use of the order has grown steadily until used in thousands of business offices.

Or entire correr. 15

(Not illustrated) Letter dated June 21, 1926, from A. Jacques Assestant Protessarer.

Or entire correct hated June 21, 1926, from A. Jacques, Assestant Postmaszer, Montreal: "Your communication dated the 18th inst. has been referred to us and in reply you are informed."

Jack Brandt sent me a cut of a meter in which the top section did not print. Anyone dealing with computerized graphics is familiar with this software problem. Unusual to see so much left off, what I have noted are just small missing line problems. Anyway, thanks Jack.



#### **DIGITAL POSTAGE METERS**

The 132,000 postage meters in Canada generate one-third of Canada Posts postage sales. It is an important part of its business. Canada Post announced a meter upgrading and replacement program in 1992 but it was not until March 31, 1999, that the program began with the conversion of all low-speed mechanical meters.

There included at that time the following series:- Postalia low speed MS5 and high speed KF1501; Pitney Bowes low speed 57XX and high speed 53XX; Neopost low speed 922X and high speed 923X; Ascom Hasler low speed 133 and 143 and high speed 13XXX, 25XXX, 43XX, 55XX, 58XX, 62XX, 75XXX, 76000X, 92XX, 93XX, 96XX, 97XX, 98XX AND 99XX. ("X" is the start of the series).

Following the lead of the USPS, and other postal authorities Canada Post instituted a Meter Replacement Program in February 2002 that involved the transition from non-digital postage meters that print indicia using letterpress technology to digital postage meters. The letterpress meters were subject to tampering and counterfeiting compared to the enhanced security with digital systems. The transition has been carried out under a four-phase plan to minimize the impact on customers and manufacturers.

First, meters not removed in 1999 which used mechanical dials to record postage spent and remaining were to be removed by December 31, 2002. These meters required resetting at a postal outlet.

These included Pitney Bowes models 649, 5306, 5319, 5321, 5397, 5714, 5717, 5740 and 6510. Neopost (Friden) models 9215, 9235, 9245, 9255, 9259, 9265, 9269, 9275 and 9279. Francotyp-Postalia models MS5 and 7000. Ascom Hasler models 133, 143, 1135, 4310, 5463, 6210, 6310, 13410, 13863 and models 1441, 16410 and 17560 which were electronic counter reset.

Canada Post no longer provided counter reset service. At the beginning of the year (2002) 24,000 old style meters were still in use but had dropped to 12,000 by September 2002.

Second, electro-mechanical meters which must be manually reset by a Canada Post employee were withdrawn by December 31, 2003. Pitney Bowes models 5384 and 5385 were affected. Did you get a last day use cover for these meters? That is, Dec 31, 2002, or, Dec. 31, 2003.

Third phase, involves the retirement of remote-set postage meters using letter-press technology and a Fouth phase which involves the retirement of the third phase postage meters having a time-out feature which disables the meter if not reset within a specified period. These postage meters are to be retired as of December 31, 2006.

These included Pitney Bowes models 6511, 6911, 6991, A911, B711, B911, E111, E710, E716, E717 and E719. Neopost models SM26, 9515, 9545 and 9555. Francotyp-Postalia models 8000 and Ml. Ascom-Hasler models Smile, and remote set 1441, 16410 and 17560. Manufacturers are not to replace these later meters and all must be out of service by December 31, 2006. And all replacement meters must be IBI-compliant.

Current models that can be used after December 31, 2006, include the Pitney Bowes "DM" models, the Neopost "IJ" models, Francotyp Jetmail and T-1000 models.

Postage meters contain electronic postage, purchased from Canada Post, and stored in the "meters" memory. Users key in the amount of postage desired and the meter imprints the amount on an envelope, label or tape. A few meters are stand-alone units but most are designed to be used with a *mailing machine*. When additional scales etc are added to the system it becomes a *mailing system* of which the meter is the heart.

A digital meter prints a stamp that is software controlled, as opposed to the noisy "impact printing" technology used in old meters having an engraved mechanical stamp and town dies. (Unfortunately this is the heart of our hobby disappearing via technology)

This new Digital technology permits a number of features and benefits

- five-bank meter decimal capability, when required
- automatic date advance
- postage accounting can track mail to departments for billing
- security to restrict access via PIN numbers and passwords
- printing reports
- low postage warning
- user-definable text (post office ads)
- remote resetting to eliminate customer travel time and corporate retail effort to fill meters
- built-in rating for selected Lettermail and Letter-Post services
- a greater number of product options that can be indicated on the mail piece by a meter
- use of a digital bar code indicia to support introduction of these options and to provide more security for the mail piece.
- other so-called benefits include silent printing, no more messy liquid ink, clear and crisp
  printing at all times, capability to print on thicker envelopes, proven and reliable Hewlett
  Packard inkjet printing technology.

The U.S. Postal Service initiated IBIP (Information Based Indicia Program) standards for reducing mail fraud, increasing levels of metered mail and making delivery more efficient to users. These standards provide greater revenue security through digitally signed bar code in the printed indicia. Each indicia indicates the postage has been paid, and is unique to the mail piece. Even many of our newer postage meters print "Invalid Postage" if a "0.00" is coded in. The digital signature verifies the integrity of the information in the bar code, which is automatically scanned for faster mail processing. IBIP also makes it easier for postage meter vendors to track and audit postage meter use. The Canadian postal code in the indicia is a key entry point.

The CMSG catalog for current digital postage meters, listed as Types 45, 46 and 47, are found later in this issue.

#### PB DIGITAL METER SERIES

The Pitney Bowes digital postage meters revisited. Shown here are four "types" of meter. They each look the same. The digital block is the same size, so is the rate block. They are 74

mm overall and have a setting of 12. Information between the blocks is similar. What makes the series collectable? That is, what is the difference between a PB030 and PB031?

Other than difference models there is no difference in the indicia. Previously we have never listed indica when only the serial number was different, maybe we should.

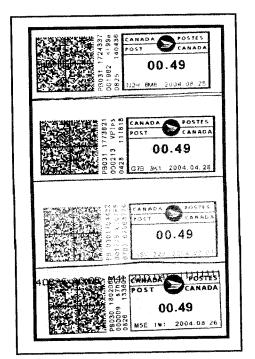
The list here includes the current highest serial number.

First - PB031 **1728824 DM 55**; **DM 400** 

Second - PB031 **1778824** Used with a Digital Mailing System - DM 230/DM 330

Third - PB (space) 030**1704432**. Space after PB instead of the 030

Fourth - PB030 **1802069**. Ink is usually dark red.. Note the larger Canada Post logo, the larger font, and the line omitted below POST and CANADA.



There does not appear to be varieties in the series other than the colour of the ink. Printing errors due to machine software error do occur where part of the indicia does not print. See Jack Brandt's illustration apove

A recent census of my "hoard" shows 5 of the new 180 series; 35 - 170 series; 15 - 177 series and 69 - 172 series.

Current Pitney Bowes digital models (capacity in letters per minute in brackets) now include:-DM200 (40), DM300 (65), DM500/550 (160); DM800 (240); DM1000 (260). Stiii in use are E510/E520 (80), E585/E595 (155), U570 (175) and U580 (200).

Pitney Bowes mechancial meters decertified in **1999** were the Model R, Model DM, Models 5300, 5380, 5711, 5410, 5600,6100 and 6200.

### FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA DIGITAL METER SERIES

There appear to be two series that can be identified. No line under Canada Post

FP0004000001 with value 5 mm from T-1000 Conquest

FP0004150001 with value 4 mm; postal code in two sections

My serial number range for these series are -FP0004150039 - FP0004150193 FP0004001286 - FP0004008978

These serial blocks are unusual since they appear to be concurrent. Any comments?

Francotype-Postalia now markets four basic digital models.

The 8500 series includes 8510 (60); 8512 (60), 8513 (85), 8515 (120); JetMail Concorde (117); "M" series M2000 (75), M3000 (100), M5000 (200); and the T1000 (20). How do we identify them?

#### **NEOPOST DIGITAL METER SERIES**

NE 01 03200001 value 3 mm, setting 8, overall 66

NE 013300001 value 4.5 mm, setting 6, overall 66

NE 01 03400001 value 3 mm, setting 10, overall 67

NE 014 3300001 value 5 mm, overall 77, setting 10

My serial number range for these models are:-

NE01 03200009 - NE01 03203699

NE01 03300011 - NE01 03301549

NE01 03400322 - NE01 03401683

NE 014 3301691 - NE014 3301710

I wonder if the new "014" is a continuation of the previous "033". Anyone have a high and low for these two series?

Neopost now market its digital "IJ" and "SM" series. These include IJ25 (20), IJ35 (60), IJ45 (90), IJ65 (80), IJ75 (180), IJ105 (217) and SM22 (40), SM26 (40), SM58 (40), SM75 (170), SM78 (100), SM85 (200), SM94 (220), and SM95 (240).

#### **ASCOM HASLER (Neopost)**

Hasler still markets models 1201 (40), 1501 (60), 2201AS (120), 2201BS (80), PostLink (10), PowerPost (216), WJ20 (20), WJ60 (60), WJ90 (90), WJ135 (135), and WJ180 (180).

Please help with this survey to determine when digital covers were first used in Canada. What is your earliest date of use for each of these meter types? See below. Send me, or e-mail at my masthead address, any changes for next issue.

Meter Serial Number	Earliest Known Date on Cover
FP 000 <b>415</b> 0009	2000-06-12
FP 000 <b>400</b> 6816	2001-12-11
PB 030 <b>170</b> 0409	2002-06-26
PB 031 <b>172</b> 1109	2003-08-19
PB 031 <b>177</b> 2335	2003-03-07
PB 030 <b>180</b> 1022	2004-08-25
NE 01 <b>030</b> 00011	2001-12-05
NE 01 <b>032</b> 00578	2002-08-29
NE 01 <b>033</b> 00312	2003-04-23
NE 01 <b>034</b> 00216	2003-02-27
NE 014 <b>33</b> 00175	2003-10-28

MSS Quarterly Bulletin No. 266 contains two pages from a Pitney Bowes brochure which illustrates international indicia. That for Canada is shown below.



Wilf Whitehouse sent in the Hasler 2063927 meter. The townmark reads:- MAILED FROM // M3J 3G5  $\,$ 



Shown below is an early (June 23, 1924) letter from Robert Hill of the Postage Meter Company to the Deputy postmaster General ensuring the 1924 Canada postal Guide provided that meters could be used for 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mail as well as 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Mail.



## THE POSTAGE METER COMPANY

HOLE DISTRIBUTORS OF

HOME OFFICE STAMFORD, CONS PHONE STAMFORD TO

THE PITNEY-BOWES POSTAGE METER

ROBERT HILL, CANADIAN AGENT ING QUEEN ST., P.O. SOX SOS ' PHONE QUEEN 8494

OTTAWA, CANADA June 23, 1924

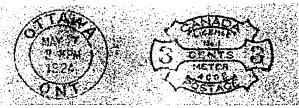
La Carlo

L. J. Gaboury, Maq., Deputy Postmaster General, Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada.

Sir:

Section 89 of the Canada Official Postal Guide 1924 contains under the heading of Third Class matter the following description of the metered mail authorized by the Canadian Post Office:-

"89. The Department has approved the use in Canada of a machine that will print on mail matter the words "Canada Postage", the amount of postage prepaid and the date stamp. The printing will be in red and will be in the upper right hand corner where postage stamps are usually placed, thus:



As the postage on such mail matter will have been prepaid in cash, the letters, postcards, circulars stars are to be forwarded and delivered free of charge.

I beg to point out that the above is not fully descriptive of the underlying principles of metered mail and this section belon placed under the heading of Third Class matter has given the impression to the public that it applies to circulars etc. I would therefore respectfully suggest that in the soming 1925 fease that the value

Туре	Indicia	Remarks
45.1	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the postal code of the issuing office and the date of origination at the base. Between the boxes the meter serial, code, date of posting and number of uses.  Serial block:- PB 0301700001 Space between PB and serial number. Value 4 mm. Setting 12 mm.
45.1.1	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  POSTES POST  A 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	As 45.1 except the serial number block is PB031 1720001. 73 overall, setting 12, matrix 23 Postal code - xxx xxx Date - xxxx.xx
45.1.2	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  14.000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 00	As 45.1 except the serial number block is PB031 1770001
45.2	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  OST	Similar to 45.1 except the serial number block is PB030 1800001. Value 4 mm. 73 overall, setting 10,  The Canada Post indicia is redesigned using larger and bolder type font and the lower line below POST and CANADA omitted. Circle is 9 mm.

	CMSG METER C	Remarks
Type	Indicia  CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  OO.49  L8N 3Y3 2004-05-03	Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the postal code of the issuing office and the date of origination at the base.  Between the boxes the meter serial.  Serial block:- NE 0103200001 Space between NE and serial number. Small font for rate.
46.1.1	EDDS PASTPL B3J 3K1	As 46.1 except the date is omitted in the rate box. Value 3 mm high. Overall 67. Postal code - xxx xxx
46.1.2	CANADA STES POST CANADA  00.48  14.10 H  B3J 1V7 2003-10-28	As 46.1 except the serial number reads TE ST 03200001
46.2	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  OO.49  M1W 3W3 2004-04-29	Similar to 46.1 except the serial number block is NE 0103300001 Rate font is 4 mm. Date - xxxx-xx-xx
46.2.1	CARADA POSTES POST CANADA  FOST CON CANADA  OC. 100 CANADA  OC	As 46.2 except the date is omitted in the rate box

CMSG METER CATALOG			
Туре	Indicia	Remarks	
16.2.2	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA POSTES CANADA O CANADA	As 46.2 except the postal code is omitted in the rate box	
46.3	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  00.49  L7M 1L1 2004-04-05	As 46.2 except the serial block is NE 01 034000001. Value is 3 mm high.	
46.4	NE 014 CANADA POSTES 3301716 POST CANADA 004425 Hugov 0624 0624 MEJ 277 2004 08 24	Square matrix box at left. Rate box as 46.2 with value 5 mm high. Setting 15. In the space between the two segments - NE 014 / 3300001 / counter / code / large date / number.	
	Addre Ad	Imail POST CANADA	
		100.28 上3R 3J9 2003-07-	

	CMSG METER C	Remarks
<b>Type</b> 47.1	CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  O O CANADA POSTES POST CANADA  O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	Basic type - Square 2-D bar code at left; Canada Post 3-segment box at right having 4 figures of value at centre, the date of origination above the postal code of the issuing office at the base. Between the boxes the meter serial, and the number of uses.  Serial block:- FP0004000001. Value 4 mm. Setting 10 mm. No line under POST and CANADA Postal code small font
47.1.1	CAHADA POSTES POST CAHADA POST CAHADA OO.47 00.47 20010703 K8N5S2	As 47.1 except the serial number block is FP0004150001. Value 5 mm. Date - xxx.xx.xx. Postal code not broken.
47.1.2	20040827 N3T 5T5	As 47.1.1 except the postal code is broken in 2 pieces.