

PAF Data Specification & Notes

Introduction

All text on PAF products is held in upper case.

A delivery point is composed of a combination of the following elements. Not all elements are present for each delivery point. Postcode and Post Town are the only two elements that are mandatory. County is no longer required as part of a correct postal address and therefore is not supplied.

Field Description

Field Name	Type	Width
Organisation Name	Text	60
Department Name	Text	60
PO Box	Text	255
Building Name	Text	50
Sub_Building Name	Text	30
Building Number	Text	255
Thoroughfare	Text	255
Street	Text	255
Double Dependent Locality	Text	35
Dependent Locality	Text	35
Post Town	Text	30
Postcode	Text	8
Postcode Type	Text	1
Mailsort SSC	Text	5

Notes

Address Details

An address is composed of the following address elements.

Premise Elements

- Sub Building Name
- Building Name
- Building Number

Thoroughfare Elements

- Thoroughfare (name and descriptor)
- Street (name and descriptor)

Locality Elements

- Double Dependent Locality
- Dependent locality
- Post Town

Extract from Royal Mails PAF Digest Issue 6.0 (December 2003)

Data Source: www.postcodeaddressfile.co.uk & www.list-logic.co.uk

- Postcode

Premise Elements

A combination of these elements may be present. A Sub Building Name cannot be present on its own. There will always be Building Name or Building Number data present when a Sub Building is present.

If the address relates to an Organisation Name then it is possible that none of the premise elements will be present.

If the address relates to a PO Box then it is possible that none of the premise elements will be present.

Building Number

When blank this indicates that a building number is not required for this address.

Thoroughfare Elements

There may be no Thoroughfare information present for an address. This usually occurs in rural areas when the Locality information identifies the location of an address.

Thoroughfare cannot be present on it's own, there will always be Street data present when a Thoroughfare is present.

Locality Elements

A Locality is a geographic area. Currently PAF holds details of approximately 30,000 Localities in the UK.

A Locality consists of a Post Town, with Dependent Locality and Double Dependent Locality further defining the geographic area where required. The Post Town will always be present – all Localities have a Post Town. For some Localities this will be the only element present. A Double Dependent Locality can only be present where a Dependent Locality is present.

Postcode

Formerly a Postcode could contain between 1 and over 300 addresses. This is now restricted to a maximum of 100 although the average number of addresses per Postcode is 15.

There can be only one Locality per Postcode – all addresses in a Postcode have the same Locality.

Formerly a Postcode could cover addresses on up to 12 Thoroughfares (streets). This is now restricted to 1 although some existing Postcodes may contain more.

Postcode Type

Postcode Type is 'S' for small users and 'L' for large users.

PO Box Number

PO Box numbers are only allocated to Large Users.

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Mailsort SSC

The Mailsort Standard Selection Code comprising of the 3 digit Residue Identifier and the 2 digit “Direct Within Residue Indicator”.