

Poste Italiane updates the zip codes in 14 cities

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The changes involve 20 thousand streets and around a million families. The previous zip codes will, however, remain valid for the next six months. Poste Italiane is updating the zip code in 14 cities, which as of 27 March 2009, will go from having a single zip code to being divided into a number of zones, defined in line with territorial changes. This change, brought about by the continual growth of the cities, is aimed at further improving the services provided by Poste Italiane.

47 new zip codes will be introduced in Alessandria, Cesena, Ferrara, Foggia, Forlì, Modena, Parma, Pesaro, Piacenza, Ravenna, Reggio Emilia, Rimini, Taranto and Trento. In addition a new zip code will be added in Bari, while in Trieste, Palermo and Roma some zones will be grouped together. In total, changes to the zip codes will affect 20 thousand streets and around a million families.

The zip code, which should be written correctly on all types of mail, is fundamental for the automatic processing of mail both at the sorting stage and during door-to-door delivery. The old zip codes will in any case remain valid for the next six months.

Available from Post Offices, the 2009 edition of the zip code directory contains, in addition to the changes regarding the 14 cities mentioned above, the zip codes of the over 8 thousand municipalities that make up Italy, 1900 new streets and 4200 streets that have been renamed.

The companies and administrations who need to update their zip code in electronic format can do so using the Cap Professional data bank. Other territorial databanks are available to support address processing, geomarketing analysis, logistic activities and leafleting campaigns.

Briefly said, Poste Italiane's new offer regarding territorial databanks is as below:

CAP Professional is the alphanumerical databank of zip codes (CAP), supplied in MS Access 2000 format. Registered in the databank are the zip codes for the Municipalities in Italy (8100), the localities/villages of major postal interest (approx. 8500), the individual streets of those cities divided up into postal zones (41 cities), the stretches of street identified by the first and last numbers in the case of streets covered by more than one zip code. The databank contains the standard names, the abbreviated names and the full names, complete with superscripts and punctuation marks, of municipalities, villages and streets.

CAP Street File is the street guide of the provincial capitals in Italy. This alphanumerical databank, available in MS Access 2000 format, completes the information contained in the CAP Professional databank, adding a street guide of a number of other Italian cities to give a total of 107 provincial capitals.

CAP Zone is the geographical databank of the "territorial polygons" that correspond to the boundaries of the zip code areas. A "territorial polygon" is a spatial vector that can be used in Geographical Information Systems, or GIS. This databank is supplied in shape file format. In addition, a separate file is provided along with the zip code(s), listing the total number of letter boxes in use for postage, divided up into three categories; Residential, Shops and Offices. The data regarding the letter boxes are provided only for those 41 cities covered by more than one zip code.

CAP Delivery Points is the databank that contains information on the "active letter boxes", as identified periodically via the delivery network. For each link "street/zip code" of the cities on the list, the databank supplies the number of letter boxes in use for postage, divided up into three categories; Residential, Shops and Offices. The street guide to the municipalities selected is certified by Poste Italiane, since it has undergone toponymic checks. In no case is a detailed list of the punctual street numbers supplied.

