

USPS's AI-Assisted Counterfeit-Postage Detection — Real Capability, Audited Governance Failures

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

USPS says AI tools helped close 1,250 fraudulent accounts since January 2026, but its own Inspector General found counterfeit postage cost \$3.1 billion since March 2024, with 97% of fake labels still delivered and only about 1% of identified losses recovered through prosecution.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	3/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	0/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[USPS OIG — Management Alert: Counterfeit Postage](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[ValueAddedResource.net](#) — detailed breakdown of the OIG report — accessed 2026-09-26

[EcommerceBytes coverage](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Federal News Network — AI in the postal sector](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

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