

1985 TO PAY LABELS

(Issued 21st August 1985)

The issue of “To Pay” Labels was not heralded within the Philatelic Bureau’s Bulletin, even though they were released for use by post offices on the same day as the 1985 definitive issue.

As with the rest of the world, the postage due label was discontinued, and, with the advent of charging a handling fee in addition to the unpaid postage, post offices began to release “To Pay” labels that served much the same function as postage due labels.

This first “To Pay” labels issued by the PTC was to last for ten years, until the release of the 1995 definitive issue. With inflation over the intervening period the face values of these labels became a significant issue. Waste paper baskets in front of the post office collection counters would bear witness to that. Within the bins could be found almost complete sheets of the To Pay labels, postmarked but not stuck onto the offending mail being collected. There simply was not enough room on the envelope to place the labels!

The first printing, in limited numbers, was printed on Paper Type C or “Postmaster’s paper”, this must have been in order to use up the remaining stocks of the paper. The paper was not used for the 1985 definitive issue, even though they would have been printed at much the same time. The reprint of the 1c, 2c and 6c labels were ordered on the day that the labels came into use, 21st August 1985.

The second feature is that, with the name change of Mardon Printers to National Printing and Packaging (or NatPrint) in January 1988, reprints of the labels after this date bore the NatPrint imprint. The last printing of all the values before the name change were released in July 1987. Unlike some of the commemorative issues after 1988, these labels did not have the full company name within the printer’s imprint.

The Labels



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
D28	D6	1c	Yellow-orange
	a.		HS6 paper (B)
	b.		HS8 (D)
D29	D7	2c	Magenta
	a.		HS6 paper (B)
	b.		HS8 (D)

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
D30	D8	6c	Blue-green
			a. HS6 paper (B)
			b. HS8 (D)
D31	D9	10c	Orange-brown
			a. HS6 paper (B)
			b. HS8 (D)
D32	D10	13c	New blue
			a. HS6 paper (B)
			b. HS8 (D)

Technical details

Stamp size: 26 x 22 mm

Sheet Size: 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps), two panes per printed sheet

Artist: Internal within PTC

Papers: **1985:** First printing Type C on a paper known as "Postmaster", manufactured and converted by Smith & McLaurin Ltd, Scotland. The coating is not as fluorescent as the previous papers and the gum is described as 'particle gummed'. It is a very different adhesive from PVA as it has a matt, non-reflective appearance. It is what is known as 'dry gum'

1985 - 1987: First and second reprints printed on type B "Harrisons HS6 coated blue-gummed postage stamp paper". HS6 is a fluorescent base paper converted by Harrison & Sons Ltd, England with a fluorescent clay coating especially for lithographic printing. Fluorescent front and back. PVA gum often with a bluish/greenish tinge

1991 - 1992: second to fourth reprints printed on type C "Harrisons HS8", another type of lithographic paper. Fluorescent front and back. PVA cream gum

Print colours: Single colour as described under catalogue

Perforations: Comb Perf: SG 14½, RSC 14¼
Left margin: Perforated through
Other margins: Imperforate

Printer: **1985 – 1987:** Mardon Printers (Pvt) Ltd., Harare, Zimbabwe

1991 – 1992: NatPrint., Harare, Zimbabwe

- Printer's Imprint:** **1985 – 1987:** Type PI 12, bottom margin below columns 2 to 4
Imprint printed in label's colour
- 1991 – 1992:** Type PI 16, bottom margin below columns 5 and 6. Imprint printed in label's colour
- Cylinder numbers:** Cyls. 1A & 1B bottom margin under R10/1, printed in label's colour.
- Colour register:** Type TL 4 – round boxed - left margin opposite R10/1, printed in colour of label
- Sheet Value:** Bottom margin, below R10/10, printed in colour of label
- Sheet Number:** Opposite R10/10, with prefix "PTC", type SN7, reading down, reprints with an 'R' with reprint number
- Print numbers:** The number or printing and volumes researched by Cecil Russell from actual orders placed by and delivered to the post office.³
- For the breakdown of the printings, prints numbers etc see table below.
- Issue date:** 21st August, 1985 (no postal notice necessary)
- Demonetisation:** Unnecessary, labels continued to be used by post offices until they had run out

Printings

Cecil Russell appears to have had access to the records of the Philatelic Bureau and was able to obtain detailed information of the size of the printings, when order and when delivered.²

First Printing on Postmaster Paper

Order Placed	28 th February 1985	
PTC Order No.	2678 M	
Mardon Job No.	80,345	
Numbers Ordered	5,000 sheets of all five values	
Cost of Order	\$11,832.47	
Delivery date to PTC.	1c & 2c	24 th April 1985
	6c, 10c & 13c	2 nd May 1985

Value	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
1c	001 – 2100	4200
2c	001 – 2400	4800
6c	001 – 2500	5000
10c	001 – 5100	10200
13c	001 – 4600	9200

Second Order on Paper Type B (HS6)

Order Placed 21st August 1985
 PTC Order No. 1697 N
 Mardon Job No. 81,829
 Numbers Ordered 10,000 sheets of 1c, 2c & 6c
 Cost of Order \$7,689.34
 Delivery date to PTC. All sheets 26th September 1985

Value	Reprint Ref	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
1c	R1	2101 – 7300	10400
2c	R1	2401 - 7700	10600
6c	R1	2501 – 7600	10200

Third Order on Paper Type B (HS6)

Order Placed 14th August 1987
 PTC Order No. 28955
 Mardon Job No. 87303-7 (separate number for each value)
 Numbers Ordered 10,000 sheets of 1c, 2c & 6c
 Cost of Order \$26,890.47
 Delivery date to PTC. See below

Value	Delivery date	Reprint Ref	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
1c	2/10/1987	R2	7301 - 12500	10400
1c	7/12/1987	R2	12501 - 12578	154
2c	11/11/1987	R2	7701 - 13000	10600
2c	7/12/1987	R2	13001 - 13010	18
6c	26/11/1987	R2	7601 - 12400	9600
6c	7/12/1987	R2	12401 – 12464	126
10c	17/11/1987	R1	6101 - 10200	8200
10c	7/12/1987	R1	10201 – 10261	120
13c	25/11/1987	R1	4601 - 9400	9600
13c	7/12/1987	R1	9401- 9410	18

All the stamps had small amounts delivered later than the other stamps, uncertain whether this was another printing or the discovery of sheets not delivered. Probably the latter. Why print 9 sheets of both the 2c and 13c labels?

Fourth Order on Paper Type D (HS8)

Order Placed 1c, 2c & 6c 22nd July 1991
 10c & 13c 23rd July 1991
PTC Order No. 0858 Z (both)
Mardon Job No. 3649 1c; 651 2c; 3653 6c; 3657 10c;3657 13c
Numbers Ordered See below
Cost of Order \$15,866.81
Delivery date to PTC. 28th August 1991

Value	Quantity ordered	Reprint Ref	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
1c	3,000	R3	12579 - 14120	3084
2c	2,500	R3	13011 - 14270	2520
6c	400*	R3	12465 - 12811	694
10c	3500	R2	10262 - 11865	3208
13c	1000	R2	9411 - 10260	1700

***Original order was for 200 sheets**

Fifth Order on Paper Type D (HS8)

Order Placed 5th June 1992
PTC Order No. 0969 A
Mardon Job No. 5924 10c; 5929 13c
Numbers Ordered 5,000 of each
Cost of Order \$14,734.17
Delivery date to PTC. 21st August 1992

Value	Reprint Ref	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
10c	R3	11866 - 15515	7300
13c	R3	10261 - 13755	6990

Sixth Order on Paper Type D (HS8)

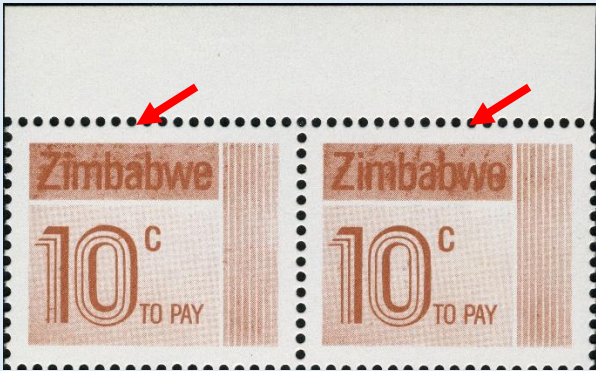
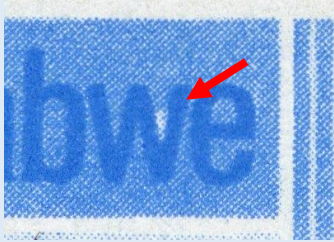
Order Placed 1c, 2c & 6c 1st October 1992
 10c & 13c 2nd October 1992
PTC Order No. 2595 A
Mardon Job No. 6573-8 (separate number for each value)
Numbers Ordered 10,000 sheets of each value
Cost of Order \$52,589.39
Delivery date to PTC. 2nd November 1992

Value	Reprint Ref	Sheet Nos 1A & 1B	No. of sheets
1c	R4	14121 - 20000	11760
2c	R4	14271 - 20100	11660
6c	R4	12812 - 18400	11178
10c	R4	15516 - 21600	12170
13c	R4	13756 - 19600	11690

Listed Varieties

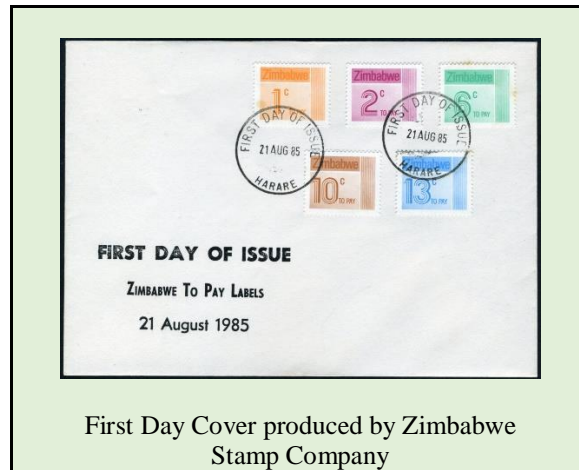
No listing has been found on the varieties found in these labels

Unlisted Varieties

 <p>10c: The background to 'Zimbabwe' appears mottled, 2nd printing on Paper Type B (HS6)</p>	 <p>13c: White mark appears be 'W' of Zimbabwe. Appears to be constant at R9/6, unknown which cylinder. On Paper type D (HS8) of 3rd to 5th printing</p>
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First Day Covers

The Post Office did not produce first day covers for postage due labels. The purpose of the labels is for making up deficiencies in the payment of postage on mail. It could be suggested that a true first day of use of the postage due labels should have payment of deficient postage.



Covers in the form of postcards, however, were produced to show the correct use of the postage due labels on the first day of release. These covers are all undoubtedly philatelic, where they were posted prior to the release of the 1985 To Pay labels in order to have them used on the date of release.



Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. Concise notes of Cecil Russell on the printings of this issue