

Basic Barcode Construction. In the postal barcode system the USPS uses a combination of two tall bars and three short bars to create each number in a barcode. For every number you want in a barcode you need 2 tall bars and three short bars. Each barcode also needs a tall bar at the beginning and end of each barcode. These two bars are called **frame bars**.

Example: For the 12 numbers below that we wanted to represent in a non-standard barcode we would need 12 times 5 bars (60) to represent our 12 numbers and then a tall bar for the beginning and end of each barcode. It would take 62 bars to represent our 12 digit barcode.

The post office barcodes are either:

- 5 digits for a 5 digit ZIP code,
- 9 digits for a 9 digit ZIP code, or
- 11 digits for a delivery point barcode.

Why is our barcode called non-standard? Because it represents 12 numbers, not 5, 9, or 11 like the post office uses.

Values for SUT and Solid Waste nonstandard barcodes:

TTTTDDD#YJJJ

where:

- **TTTT** is the **tax category**. Usually this is contained in the OCR line.
- **DDD** is the **document type**. Usually this is contained in the OCR line.
- **#** is the **dollar range** the taxpayer falls into. ISP pre-populated this field from the database and values range from 0 to 9 with “9” being the most money.
- **Y** = the last digit of the Late After date year (the “5” in 2005).
- **JJJ** = the Julian date that represents the Late After date.

EXAMPLE: The 12-digit barcode value for a sales tax return (DR-15) with a Late After date of February 22, 2005, would be: 000103105053

The barcode would contain 60 bars that represent numbers and 2 more bars which are the frame bars for a total of 62 bars.