

# Mail Prep & Entry Steering Committees Session Notes

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Mail Prep & Entry Steering Committee Ideas Log

Follow up activities on Idea #23 – Origin Entry Separation – The Postal Service reported that several internal discussions had taken place on this item. Many of the First Class mail concerns are being addressed through the CSA process. The CSA process and software aligns with the seamless environment.

Committee agreed with recommendation to close this item.

Follow up activities on Idea #74 – Removal of Origin Sack – Not all of the Postal Service facilities have bundle sort capability and with the removal of the sack requirement, it would add transportation. The Chicago NDC is accepting Standard Mail on pallets (not in sacks) as part of local agreements with certain mailers. The issue is that there is no consistency to this rule. Mailers that have the local agreement and have mail brought in from another city must have their mail sacked. The Industry has requested that if they accept mail without sacks that they do so across the board from all mailers.

The committee did not agree with the recommendation for closure of this item and asked that more research be done to possibly change the procedures so they are consistent in Chicago.

Follow up activities on Idea #118 – First Class Flats – 5 Digit scheme – The Postal Service reported that data had been received from the Industry as well as from the Postal Service in terms of First Class Flats. After the analysis was done it was determined that if the Postal Service were to pursue a 5 digit scheme for First Class Flats, they would do so at a loss.

Committee agreed with recommendation to close this item.

Follow up activities on Idea #120 – Optimize Work Share Signals – At this time there are many different actions that the Postal Service is doing in order to optimize the work share with Flats. Currently there is an adhoc Flats committee, potential pricing and structure changes, FSS changes, etc. It was decided that further discussion will be needed on this item. The committee will need to wait until many of these actions are completed before doing so.

Committee agreed to place this item on hold until further notice to address this idea.

## **Other Items from Ideas Log**

Item #122 – Eliminate minimums for ADC / SCF sortation for service reasons. The current tray / sack requirement for Newspapers is 24 pieces per bundle and the request is to lower the minimum for reduced handlings and to achieve better service. The basic request is to minimize the mail into the OMX separation. What are the options to go below 24? How was the original 24 number developed?

There was an agreement that more discussion is needed on this item.

Item 121 – Node Based Prep & Entry Rules. All Postal facilities have unique capabilities and with additional factors, the handlings today are due to a Label list requirement. This item requires looking at total costs and complexity which also creates costs. There is predictive analyses data available with IV, but not with enhanced data yet, and facility data could influence presort.

There was agreement that more discussion is needed on this item.

Item #85 – USPS Enhance – DPS bundle prep operation (currently SAMP) to be capable of processing facility pallets.

The committee is waiting on recommendations of Work Group 168.

Item #91 – Explore pricing methods to strengthen or create uniform signals for FSS prep across each class

Committee is continuing to monitor price changes.

Item #84 – Re-evaluate non-Machinable barcoded rates. Industry is requesting that the current 20 oz. rule be increased to 24 oz. for co-mail. The volume during the test period was only 2-3% as reported by the Industry.

There was agreement that more discussion and research is needed on this item.

## **Committee Charter**

Industry requested that the success of the committee be measured. It was decided that the Postal Service would look at the accomplishments of the Committee and report back at the next meeting.

## Action Items

**Label List.** The Industry would like a report on the Label List process and the quality control steps that are in place to avoid mistakes in the future.

**NNA (newspaper issue).** The Industry addressed a specific newspaper issue and requested the Postal Service to research the issue. It was decided that a separate email would be sent to the Postal Service for follow up.

**Periodical News.** The issue with Periodical News on the pallet placard is mail is being entered per NDLL (mail process site) and for the most part is the manual sorting facility within mail processing.

The DMM States:

### 6.2.3 Line 2 (Content Line)

The content line must meet these standards:

- a. *General.* The content line must appear directly below the destination line as shown in [b.](#) or [c.](#) . This line must show the class, processing category, and the sortation level of the tray or sack as required by the applicable standards for the mailing. The appropriate content identifier number (CIN) in [6.2.4](#) that corresponds to that content line must be used in the barcode.
- b. *Periodicals.* Except as provided in [705.8.16](#) for copalletized mailings and in [207.27.2](#) for combined mailings, Periodicals publications must use one of the following for Line 2 class information:
  1. "PER."
  2. "NEWS" if published weekly or more often or if authorized newspaper treatment as of March 1, 1984.

In processing the Postal Service has always recognized "News" to mean newspapers a.k.a. manual sortation.

The real question is do we need the word "News" on the pallet placard for processing or do we change the word to "Newspapers" and change the entry point to match manual sortation.

## Next meeting:

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Time: 09:00 to 11:30 AM

Room #7801, Postal Service Headquarters