

Mail Prep and Entry Steering Committee Meeting

November 18, 2014

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Location: USPS Headquarters
NOC Room 7801 – 7th Floor
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW

Welcome

Un-Lidded Flat Tub Test

Four Community newspapers were tested from Sept 20-26

PSCS issued exception to entry without lids

Test Results

No issues with newspapers during transport

No damage to the newspapers

No fallout from the tubs

To some extent, there were reduced cube spaces within the transportation used.

There is a potential costs savings on banding and un- banding of pallet straps

The test created higher visibility for the product at the plant

Outliers

Limited volume of the Community newspapers during test period

Next Step

Establish test criteria with higher density for a new test

Discussion

This test showed that it was successful at the SCF destination – final destination within SCF

What volume is USPS looking at? - More than 12 tubs per day to test increase volume

Some mailers don't want to convert from sacks to flat tubs

The committee thought that another test should be done with increased volume

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There were struggles with training staff to lid some flats tubs and some not to lid

What if you expand beyond SCF facilities? Mail processing would then take on the work of putting lids on to transport between facilities.

Project looking at reducing sacks in the mail stream – we can brainstorm about what they should look at and what is the potential.

DMM 704 removed language to allow periodicals to use tray labels – working with Manager, Product Classification, (Becky Dobbins) to add language - section 207 now bottom line - we need clear language on tray labels.

Springfield NDC

The committee was briefed on the Bundle Breakage project that Operations, Integrations & Support has begun. There were the following issues (Pictures)

Trailer Load Issues

Bundle Breakages

PODS breakage –

Pallet upside down

Lack of required straps or bands on stacked pallets - (DMM 705.83d)

Can't use shrinkable plastic to secure together or metal bands to fasten load

Stacked pallets exceeding max height of 84 inches -inches - unstable loads

Some Standard Flats arrive as loose bundles in cardboard boxes

Pallet integrity lost with some comingled loose pieces into Gaylord

Another example was mail that was entered as automation flat – but the envelope was not flat and wasn't sealed

One item for follow up is that we need to look at what qualifies as automation flats since these are inefficient to process.

Bundle Breakage

The committee discussed the Broken bundles on APPS

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There was a discussion around string, rubber bands and EMIR's

Working with the BSN to share the IMb data with customers to work to resolve broken bundles

BSN will be provided questions to ask mailers: Do you prepare your own mail? What did you use to secure the bundle? Did you use a third party to prepare the mail? This will help us to gather intelligence. Plan to conduct a controlled test in the lab to gather data on comingled mail, strapping and shrink wrap

Improvements on APPS/APBS bundle breakages mostly due to the reduction in nesting errors up to this point. Likely the majority of the remaining 7.5% actually represents bundle breakage.

Bundle breakage results in lower on-time service scores LSS Project launched looking at the machine, employee methods and bundle makeup to study impacts on breakage. APPS was compared to APBS and found to have a greater breakage rate.

The project will look at bundle volume, breakage rate by facility, by equipment

The team should gather data on type of equipment using by facility to see if that is contributor

We need to do a controlled study to better understand the impact of all of the variables such as string, rubber bands, number of straps, thickness of shrink wrap, bundles containing various size pieces, etc.

Increase Standard Mail Flats to 20 oz.

There was a briefing on why Standard Mail Flats cannot be increased to 20 ounces.

Review B&E Matrix

■ Nineteen(19) Benefit/Effort matrix items

- Eight (8)High Priority
- Six (6) Medium Priority
- Five (5) Low Priority
- High Priority:
 - Item 12 Clear authority and responsibility of management of CSA are not clearly defined.
 - Item 13 Allow comingled BPM Auto Flats with Standard Mail Flats. (recommended closing)
 - Item 43 Study and determine if a move to more cost based rates is beneficial – (suspended)
 - Item 79 Bundle and Container prices should signal 5D prep and DSCF entry
 - Item 80 Container and pound prices should signal the entry of 5D pallets to the DSCF and DDU(under review by Operations and Pricing)
 - Item 96 needs to be studied. (under review)
- Medium Priority:

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- Issue 21 Eliminate 3D CR prep level for STD and Periodical letters
- Issue 23: Origin Entry Separation. Origin entry separations requirements are not aligned across class/shape.
- Issue 26: Bundle processing bottleneck and problems. Need for APPS alternative such as AFP to process bundles and not share equipment with packages. (Moving forward with reviewing contract proposals for low cost bundle sorter - going through Question and Answer period.)
- Issue 44: The requirements to re-qualify mail should be further explored to be consistent across mail classes/type (recommend closing)
- Issue 74: Removal of Origin Sack Mail (LSS project on sacks)
- Issue 81: Ensure MDF facilitate all 5D containers to the deepest possible Dest. Facility. With exception to the FSS scheme pallets, redirects are limited to 3D movements.
- Low Priority:
 - Item 84: Re-evaluate non machinable barcoded rates (Under review)
 - Item 85: USPS enhances DPS bundle prep operations to be capable of processing facility pallets. (SAMP currently preps one scheme at a time. With modification it will have OCR capability to sort one scheme to each prep station with 3 or 4 FSS schemes on one pallet) Need a workgroup on this issue.
 - Item 91: Explore pricing methods to strengthen or create uniform signals for FSS prep across each class. (Proposed for 2015)
 - Item 104: Explore new presort options for parcels, including 3D at DSCF and PSM schemes at DNDC.
 - Item 117: Recommend closing
- Open Items
 - A workgroup should be considered to evaluate mail characteristics and mail processing on automation. All shapes would need review, but flats should be first.

Next Steps and Wrap-up

- Next webinar Meetings:
 - No December meeting (peak)
 - January 15, 2015: 2:00pm – 3:00pm EST
- Next Face-to-Face Meeting:
 - February 17, 2015: 9:00am – 12:00pm EST

Action Items

- Item 13 should be closed since the volume and cost is too little for USPS to consider.
- Item 117 should be closed as this would require a mail classification standard change and price change
- Item 44 should be closed.
- Item #76 should be closed as it has been worked by OIS.
- Item 85 will be updated on the next webinar.

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- Item 96 – need DMM language to allow software to utilize 1ft MM trays for overflow when using 2ft EMM trays.
- Max Heath– will check with two mailers who are hesitant to convert from sacks to tubs to see if they would like to participate in the test.
- Paul Mitchell - will provide an updated listing of equipment by facility – noting it will change with Net Rat Phase 2.
- Further discussion on placard label wording 5D at next telecom

Wrap Up