

Mail Prep and Entry Steering Committee Session Notes

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 2015

DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Newspapers
 - Discussion on process opportunities. Publishers will have good contact information to make sure processing needs are met.
 - Discussed problems with summer and part-time homes.
 - Newspaper industry worked with USPS to address concerns, and by utilizing direct containers is now receiving better delivery
- Broken Bundle
 - Bundle breakage increasing with Standard bundles. - Industry questions whether USPS has any data on who is creating the bundles that are breaking most frequently.
 - USPS will be sending out monthly reports to Industry that will have information on the plant, product, and percentage of breakage. These reports should start going out at the end of November.
 - USPS asking Industry for help on analysis of broken bundles.
 - Thoughts are that bundle breakage has a lot to do with the weight of the bundles; particularly when the individual pieces within the bundle happen to be thicker. Industry requested USPS to look into if the problems are indeed weight related.
 - Industry asked if there are certain sites that are poor performers and can Industry have that info. Thought is that 80% of the problem is probably taking place at 20% of the locations and industry would like that information. Industry also would like to know if there is an acceptable expectation for the number for Broken Bundles. Industry requested USPS to set a goal for what would be an acceptable number of broken bundles.
 - Will industry be proposing changes for bundles in the near future? USPS has been given some recommendations that are being evaluated by an internal team. Once the internal team finishes these discussions they will reach out to the industry before any changes are made.
- Change/Improvement Templates
 - Process explanation on templates
 - USPS receive ideas from Industry
 - USPS get clarity from Industry on idea and then follow-up on idea with an internal Postal board
 - USPS will then bring the idea back to the Industry committee
 - Finalize the template

- First Class Flats become Priority once 13 ounces
 - In the mid-1960s USPS working with the airlines came up with first class mail would be 13 ounces or less to be flown. For mail that was over 13 ounces it was decided that it would be classified as Priority. USPS did look later at increasing the ounce of First Class mail that could be flown, but due to security reasons this weight was not increased. Security officials believe that the weight should be lowered, but USPS has successfully pushed to keep the 13 ounce break point.
 - Discussed and closed
- Why doesn't FCM do 5 Digit Scheme for flats?
 - This was looked at using FY2013 and 2014 numbers
 - USPS would potentially lose money both years if we would do this. Cost saving don't make up for revenue lost
 - Pricing model doesn't work to be able to do this
 - Discussed and closed
- Eliminate ADC/SCF Minimums for Newspapers
 - Can you have a residual sack and pay a basic rate to be able to have a more desirable route
 - More discussion and kept open for further analysis
- Optimize Work Share Signals
 - If USPS would do this it would give smaller mailers some flexibility
 - For large mailers it would make it more complex
 - Pricing will evaluate and move forward with recommendations
- Node Based Prep and Entry Rules
 - Discussion on operational flexibility and how USPS needs it
 - Node based meaning certain product to certain facilities
 - Will get more information and clarification from the author of the request
- Ideas Log
 - #74 - Proposing to have bundles on pallets instead of single sacks on pallet
 - Sacks needed for verification based on DMM
 - #91 - Changing the priority level and looking at monitoring on what can be changed to help strengthen FSS prep. Right now Industry is keeping mail off FSS due to pricing
 - #85 - Waiting for Work Group #168 to finish
 - #84 - Looking at different weights and trying to see if there is better estimates on weights

ACTION ITEMS

- Eliminate ADC/SCF minimums will be considered by USPS and kept as an open discussion between Industry, Ops, and pricing
- Optimization of workshare signals will be considered between Industry, Operations, and Pricing.
- Idea Log #74: USPS will review and report back to industry at January 12th meeting
- Look at raising Periodicals to over 24 ounces in a co-mail environment