

# **MTAC User Group 1**

## **Full-Service Gaps**

**Mail Entry & Payment Technology**

**3/2/2012**

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## Notes from 3/2/12 Meeting Notes:

- This Special Topic meeting was requested by the UG 1. Objective of meeting is to identify *PostalOne!* Full-Service gaps (i.e., functionality that does not exist today) in view of Full-Service IMb requirement for automation price eligibility for letters and flats by January 2014.
- Common concern from industry was that various systems changes/enhancements (e.g., eInduction, SEAMLESS, FAST, CSAs & SASP, MID/CRIDs, continuous mailers, Visibility initiative, the BMA Clerk processes) need to be fully coordinated regarding future functionality for USPS January 2014 Full-Service readiness. There are business gaps and technical gaps that the USPS should consider identifying. In turn, USPS responded that the mailing industry is encouraged to submit comments to articulate these concerns via the upcoming Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding the IMb requirement for automation discounts.
- UG 1 Mail.dat/Mail.XML Issues Lists also contain Full-Service related issues which the Postal Services plans to prioritize with more vigilance. This listing was not discussed.
- Section 6 Mail.dat unsupported cases (extracted from Mail.dat Tech Spec, Section 2.2.9) below were added during the meeting to discuss the Full-Service impacts. Postal Service Mail.dat Tech Spec, Section 2.2.9 subsequently requires updates, deletions and additions. Refer to section 6.
- SME for eInduction, FAST, CSAs, SASP and the BMA Processes are to be invited to the 3/16/2012 for panel discussions.
- Next meeting will focus on parcels and general discussions on other systems Full-Service issues. USPS to prepare preliminary document listing known gaps and future enhancements for non-*PostalOne!* systems.

**3/2/2012 Note:** Items 1 through 5 below have been recognized as a business need and have been proposed as new features for an October 2012 implementation. Requirements have not been written yet.

### 1. **Postal Wizard eDocs**

- The Postal Wizard system will need to support Bound Printed Matter class of mail based upon the DMM and Full Service rules. *Proposed for October 2012.*
- The Postal Wizard system will need to support Periodicals class of mail and combined periodicals based upon the DMM and Full Service rules. *Proposed for October 2012.*

## 2. Mail.dat eDocs

### 2.1 Unsupported MLOCR Scenario

- Certain mailings are implemented with a non-supported MLOCR copal solution for Full Service when mail is paid on origin mailings and then co-palletized in the same plant where logical tray from copal job are linked to a logical tray in the origin job. These jobs are failing Full Service and MLOCR mailers are unable to get COA, nixie and other Full Service data. The solution will be to discuss with the industry this solution/scenario and get it documented in the Mail.dat spec/USPS Guides, and have PostalOne! implement this solution. **3/2/2012 Note:** Proposed for Oct 2012 assumes no IDEAlliance tech spec change. If there is an IDEAlliance technical spec change, the solution would be pushed out to Jan 2013.

### 2.2 Sibling Tray to Physical Pallet Linkage

- Some mailers want to be able to co-palletize, in a 3<sup>rd</sup> party copal process, MLOCR mailings with other staged mailings creating a Sibling Tray to Sibling Pallet linkage and creating a sibling Tray to a real pallet linkage. These discussion are on going in the industry and identified as an eDocs gap for Full Service. The solution will be to discuss with the industry this process, get it documented in the Mail.dat spec, and have PostalOne! implement this solution.

### 2.3 Unsupported Mail.dat Scenarios

- There are certain Mail.dat scenarios that the USPS does not support for the Full Service and should look at supporting, the gaps are:
  - a. Since SEG ID was removed as a postage statement generation variable, it is currently possible to have a full service and non-full-service segment on the same postage statement. A check needs to be implemented before writing SASP Extracts for a non-linked container (one whose "included in other documentation" field is blank) to see if they are indeed full service containers. It is desired to have a SEG ID to for postage statement generation variable. **3/2/2012 Note:** Proposed to drop on 3/2/2012, but other Industry Members would like to further consider.

### **3. Mail.XML eDocs**

#### **3.1 Support for Mixed Class Comail/copal**

- Mixed Class Comail/copal was only supported in Mail.dat last year. The same functionality is to be supported through Mail.XML (Periodicals/Standard). Requirements have already been written a while back, need to review/update and re-file for October.

#### **3.2 Unsupported MLOCR Scenario**

- Certain mailings are currently coming from a non-supported MLOCR copal solution for Full Service when mail is paid on origin mailings and then co-palletized in the same plant where logical tray from copal job are linked to a logical tray in the origin job. These jobs are failing Full Service and MLOCR mailers are unable to get COA, nixie and other Full Service data. The solution will be to discuss with the industry, get it documented in the Mail.XML spec/USPS guides, and have PostalOne! implement this solution.

#### **3.3 Sibling Tray to Physical Pallet Linkage**

- Certain mailers want to be able to co-palletize, in a 3<sup>rd</sup> party copal process, MLOCR mailings with other staged mailings creating a Sibling Tray to Sibling Pallet linkage and creating a sibling Tray to a real pallet linkage. These discussion are on going in the industry and identified as an eDocs gap for Full Service. The solution will be to discuss with the industry this process, get it documented in the Mail.XML spec, and have PostalOne! implement this solution.

#### **3.4 Presort Validations and Account Retrieval**

- Add presort validations and support Postage account retrieval by MSPs and Vendors on behalf of the Mail Owners.
- Add presort validations and support Postage account retrieval by Mail Owners.

### **4. Data Distribution**

#### **4.1 Support Bundle Scans**

- Support Bundle Scans through BCG and Mail.XML.

## 4.2 Support Piece Scans

- Support Piece Scans through BCG and Mail.XML, and other avenues (No new BNS yet other than this current document).

## 5. Test Environment for Mailers

- Add reports to fill gaps for Microstrategy reports in TEM so mailers know that actually they are not ready for production. The MLOCR logical Copal mailings are a good example. We need to build and provided end to end support in TEM for Full Service mailings. Many issues occur today and we approve mailers in TEM even though there are issues with their mailings because the required interfaces for post-induction analysis such as SASP etc are not present. Proposed for Oct.

### 5.1 eDoc Filing Simplification

- Review and simplify filing of eDocs for Mail.XML/Mail.dat.

**3/2/2012 Note: Item 6 below added (extracted from the Postal Service Mail.dat Tech Spec Section 2.2.9)**

## 6. Unsupported Mailing Cases Postal Service Mail.dat Tech Spec, Sec 2.2.9

- Copalletized mailings where a segment contains only mother containers.
- International mail. INDC (Entry Point for Entry Discount – Facility Type of 'I') is not supported for any mail class.
- Pending Periodicals with parcels prices (including 16-20 ounce flats) do not have postage calculated from the PS Form 3605, the postal clerk shall enter this value using the postage statement provided by the mailer.
- Move Update method updates. **3/2/2012 Note: Previously USPS did not support Move Update-specific values. This has been fixed. USPS intends to remove this item in the next tech spec update.**
- Periodicals Exception to Sacking (DMM section 707.23.4.2). Sacking is not required for bundles prepared for and entered at a DDU when the mailer unloads bundles under (DMM section) 707.28.4.6. Mail presented under this exception is not subject to the container charge (but is still subject to the bundle charges). **3/2/2012 Note: PostalOne! used to throw an error. This scenario has been fixed. USPS intends to remove this item in the next tech spec update.**

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- For MLOCR mailings, postage statements cannot claim the “Single Piece” rate category. **3/2/2012 Note:** This is an item has been resolved and is a business gap with USPS communication. TTrack# was closed as “Single Piece” pieces need to be mailed under presort on its own, using separate mailing. Single Piece can be declared as a MLOCR Category. USPS intends to remove this item in the next tech spec update.
- Only two-pass MLOCR mailings yield valid results. One-pass mailings produce inaccurate reports and postage. Workaround: Use two-pass MLOCR. For two-pass MLOCR mailings the ZIP Destination report is not accurate. Workaround: Mailers must provide this report by alternative means. **3/2/12 Note:** There are really two issues with two-pass: 1) report accuracy and 2) ZIP Destination. Special Topic group requested to be formed to discuss enhancements to enable two-pass mailings to work correctly.
- Bound Printed Matter with copies greater than pieces. Workaround: Selective binding of multiple copies is supported if copies are equal to pieces and a new MPU record is created for each unique weight or unique combination of a particular number of copies. **3/2/12 Note:** Industry not satisfied and/or unsure workaround is works. Need to revisit the work-around. For workaround, mailers are using Postal Wizard. IMpb FRN January 2013 requirements. Proposal made to cover Parcel issues next meeting w/ SME representation.
- Logical container with weight over 9999.9 pounds. Workaround: use 9999.9 pounds. There is no check on weight for logical containers. **3/2/12 Note:** Fixed in 11-2, USPS intends to remove this item in the next tech spec update.
- For Postage Statements submitted via Mail.dat, the full-service discount on the non-incident enclosure when applicable is not supported at this time. Non-incident enclosures are eligible for the full-service discount when enclosed in host mailpieces that receive full-service discount and are letters or machinable flats. For Periodicals flats must have MPU Flat Machinable = Y for the non-incident enclosure to receive a full-service discount. Request a refund of the amount of this postage by the usual manual process (PS Form 3533 Application for Refund).
- Priority Mail is no longer supported. PS Form 3600 PM. **3/2/12 Note:** For PMOD customers are using Postal Wizard to link containers to Full-Service. Proposal to investigate Mail.dat input file for set-up, i.e., Standard Mail using Mail.dat for containers and update to Priority Mail Open and Distribute (PMOD). Requires IDEAlliance tech spec change. Need to add as agenda item for IDEAlliance Mail.dat discussions.
- Reply Rides Free is not supported for metered mailings with mailpiece weights reported at 1 oz. The work around is to report a weight over 1 oz up to 2 oz for

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these pieces. **3/2/12 Note:** This is now supported for 12-1, USPS intends to remove this item in the next tech spec update.

- **3/2/12 Note:** USPS currently does not support presorting into an Air Box, instead container is treated as pallet and charged as sack. There is a Mail.dat container, Air Box container type that could be used to support Airboxes. This unsupported case was proposed to be added to Section 2.2.9.