

MTAC Workgroup #162 - Multiple Periodicals in a Wrapper (AKA “Poly Wrap”)

Interim Recommendation

Final Recommendation

Purpose

To find a way to have two Periodicals publications in one wrapper or as one piece and output the correct postage statements/data for both of the Periodicals publications enclosed in the wrapper. Currently, when two publications are mailed as one wrapped piece, the advertising, weight, and postage reflects only one of the publications and cannot attribute this data to each publication accurately in an electronic environment.

Participation and Discussion Format

Industry Leadership: Kevin Elkin, RR Donnelley

USPS Leadership: Chuck Tricamo, USPS

The workgroup encompassed Periodicals Publishers, Mail Service Providers, Software Providers from the industry side and Mail Entry Postage Payment Technology, Product Classification, Operations and Pricing and Classification Service Center from the USPS. There were meetings (phone) on a weekly basis for the first six months of the workgroup. At that point the USPS had to determine programming costs and then there was a sunset call on February 10, 2015.

Recommendations

Due to the high cost of programming by USPS to resolve this issue combined with the minimal amount of instances that this scenario occurs, the recommendation is a workaround on the industry’s part to reconfigure the Mail.dat file that will result in an electronic submission of the file that will cover the both publications for presort, weight, etc., and the postage payment for only the host publication in the piece with a manual postage statement for the non- host publication enclosed in the wrapper. This will include a Customer Support Ruling (CSR) to support/explain the process to the industry and Job Aid for USPS acceptance personnel to understand the procedure upon acceptance. (Procedures attached)

Conclusion

The conclusion is that this workaround recommendation is the only viable option at this time due the extreme high cost of reprogramming to obtain an electronic outcome that would work. The one downside is that this recommendation would not be feasible in a Seamless environment.