

Work Group 163: Supply Chain Reporting and Invoicing

7/22/14 Meeting Notes

Industry Lead: Bob Rosser, IWCO Direct, PostCom; USPS Lead: Randy Workman, Business Mailer Support

Agenda

- Review Feedback from last meeting
- By/For Issues for the Supply Chain
 - Discuss potential solution
 - Open discussion
- Next Meeting's Discussion Items

By/For Challenges

- Accuracy of data
- Timing
- How is USPS using the data and has the usage changed over time?
- Costs to the industry, particularly in a commingled environment
- Prone to manual data entry errors

Comment: A mail owner can send data to multiple MSPs, which can have an adverse effect on barcode uniqueness when using the mail owner MID. (This topic will be discussed in the next meeting).

Comment: Education is a challenge. Many in the industry and within the USPS do not understand data flow.

Comment: Mailers need to provide a lot more information than they had to years ago.

Response: Information required on postage statements is the same but information required for reporting is different.

Question: At what level does the USPS need the information and when does it need to be provided? There is a concern that people are making "their best guess" when populating data.

Example: Proposed Solution

- A solution was presented for a case when a Mailing Agent is a commingler and eDoc submitter that includes volume from another Mailing Agent. Mailing Agent 1 would not be required to provide By/For information for the other agent's volume. Mailing Agent 2 (and any additional Mailing Agents) would be responsible for providing mail owner information for their own portion, either at the time of mailing or later, whichever is easiest, by transmitting a By/For Manifest.

Discussion: What would be the format for the By/For Manifest submission? Mail.dat, Mail.xml?

Question: What information would the USPS require for the By/For Manifest submission? Sue Redman will check with the NSA Group to verify what information would be needed and report back in two weeks.

Discussion: It was noted that the timeliness of the information provided could affect data delegation.

By/For Manifest Considerations

- Add a Scorecard metric: Secondary By/For to accumulate counts for secondary mailing agents.
- Counts will be reported as warnings in month 1 and errors in month 2
- A threshold would be established to account for minor discrepancies
- eDoc submitters would not be required to supply the By/For manifest for its mailing agents. The secondary mailing agent would only be required to supply information for the outsourced volume.

Discussion: Does this solution replace the 5,000 piece rule? Or does it offer an alternative?

Question: Will the USPS support the Business Requirements case for this solution?

If yes, then forward proposal to Idealliance and mail.xml to determine technical and formatting issues.

Next Week

- Discuss barcode uniqueness challenges
- By/For in the background discussion