

## Work Group 163: Supply Chain Reporting and Invoicing

### 7/29/14 Meeting Notes

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

#### Agenda

- Review Feedback from last meeting
- Uniqueness Issues for the Supply Chain ( See PPT deck)
  - Discuss potential solution
  - Open discussion
- Next Meeting's Discussion Items

Bob R asked the group if there was any feedback on last week's By/For Strawman proposal. He asked the Group if there were any other scenarios that the Strawman Proposal from last week would not address. He asked the group if anyone did not see the Strawman working as a By/For solution assuming that the feedback Sue Redman receives and USPS are also in agreement. Based on the silence of the group, it seems that we have consensus on the By/For Strawman approach from the industry.

We then identified issues surrounding uniqueness and the potential root causes. Bob R provided an overview of the many challenges that may be present when there are uniqueness issues. He opened the floor for any other challenges that may not have been addressed in the slide. No additional challenges were noted.

Bob G asked a question about duplicates as to the exact determination of the error logic. Specifically which IMb is in error – the first occurrence or 2<sup>nd</sup>? Randy W is to research an answer and confirm for the group. **He performed the research and found that once a uniqueness issue is identified, the first barcode becomes a WARNING and each subsequent duplicate thereafter is logged as an ERROR.**

We then covered the Education issue as to what defines barcode uniqueness as to what specific portions of the barcode are used to discern uniqueness errors or not. It was clear that there was confusion on this topic. Shawn Baldwin and Jason Desplechins defined it verbally. Randy W offered to find and supply the written definition and clarification. The definition can be found below:

#### **On Page 13 of the Guide to Intelligent Mail-Letters and Flats:**

**“On a mailpiece, IMb uniqueness is determined by the six or nine-digit MID and six or nine-digit serial number, in conjunction with the mailpiece's class as indicated by the STID. The 15-digit MID / serial number combination must not be repeated in full-service mailings of the same class within 45 calendar days of the mailing date as defined in”**

**“Mailpiece uniqueness is not enforced across mail classes, meaning that a piece of First-Class Mail and a piece of Standard Mail could carry the same 15-digit MID / serial number combination within the 45-day uniqueness period. However, two pieces of First-Class Mail (for example) must not have the same 15-digit MID / serial number combination if the pieces are to qualify for the full-service.”**

[https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail\\_guides/documents/tech\\_guides/guidetointelligentmaillettersandflats.pdf](https://ribbs.usps.gov/intelligentmail_guides/documents/tech_guides/guidetointelligentmaillettersandflats.pdf)

Many thanks to Paula Stoskopf and Lisa Bowes that looked it up and found the precise written language on what defines uniqueness.

We then talked about Uniqueness issues for all 3 areas: pieces, Handling Units, and Containers. From our prior Supply Chain Grid discussion, all agreed that there could be many different parties in the Supply Chain managing uniqueness compliance today who are some supplier other than the eDoc Submitter.

Bob R then asked the group to consider a proposed solution for Uniqueness Supplier identification. Is this the same need and solution as discussed previously in 163 for Move Update method and supplier linked to a piece level?

Phil Thompson suggested that it differs significantly from Move Update. With the Uniqueness issue, it is a fairly *static* environment for the Supply Chain vs. the *dynamic* environment for Move Update. Uniqueness management , methods, and responsible Supplier CRID could be provided initially by the eDoc Submitter with their responsibility to maintain that reference table. Pieces, Handling Units, and Containers would all need to be addressed and identified upfront for Uniqueness management linkage.

That is as far as we got on the subject and will revisit solution discussion next week.

**Mark your calendars!!** The group decided to have a MTAC Face to Face 163 meeting on Tuesday morning 7/19/14 at 11 am EST before the MTAC Stakeholders meeting Tuesday afternoon. Webex and concall dial –in number will be available for those not traveling to MTAC. Room location and details for Webex will be sent with Outlook invite when Room location is confirmed.