

Workgroup 163 Recommendation – USPS Response

This document was prepared as the USPS response to the recommendation provided by MTAC Workgroup 163 related to the supply chain reporting and invoicing (also been described as chain of custody determination).

Workgroup 163 Recommendation

This proposal will be complex to manage across the supply chain with different data tracked and available from different mail service providers with different desired engagement levels between their mail owners and the USPS. These changes add complexity to the reports, requiring different verifications to be placed on alternate versions of the Mailer Scorecard. Both the mailing industry and USPS would need to manage multiple relationships between mail owners, MSPs and service providers that will change over time. Additionally, these recommendations would require significant changes to USPS and mailer systems in order to manage complex relationships between eDoc submitter and eDoc submitter identified responsible parties. USPS systems would be required to extract data, display and provision differently than what is done today. Software vendors would also be required to make changes in order to manage these relationships.

The following is a summary of the proposal and the impacted metrics:

- **Move Update:** Identification of the responsible party occurs through fields within the Mail.dat or Mail.XML files.

This proposal requires the addition of data fields to the Mail.dat/Mail.xml specifications in order for mail prepares to identify a responsible party. Changes to USPS systems would be required to recognize the new fields in the eDoc, display and provision the verification data based on the new identifier and generate assessment reports against the new identifier. Changes to mailer systems would be required to track the Move Update providers across the supply chain, correctly populate the new fields in the eDoc, ensure each Move Update provider has an available CAPS account, and review revised reporting. Several MSPs have requested that the existing functionality of allowing the eDoc submitter to accept responsibility for all charges remain in place as an option.

- **Uniqueness issues** – A reference table would be developed to identify, by CRID, the party responsible for managing barcode uniqueness and serialization for each piece, handling unit, and container by mailer ID (MID). This reference table would be submitted electronically to USPS systems by the eDoc submitter.

This proposal requires USPS systems to be modified to accept the reference table, file format yet to be defined, and recognize fields within the table to display and provision the verification data according to the table elements and generate assessment reports against the identified party. Changes to the mailer software will be needed to track and update the USPS reference data with barcode uniqueness ranges when changing MSPs, ensure each barcode uniqueness CRID has an available CAPS account, and review revised reporting. Several MSPs have

requested that the existing functionality of allowing the eDoc submitter to accept responsibility for all charges remain in place as an option.

- **eInduction Mis-Shipped Errors** – All eInduction related errors should be invoiced to FAST Scheduler ID instead of the current description showing it under the Transportation Carrier ID under CSM-1142 and eInduction Mis-Shipped Container Payer CRID under CSM-1197.

This proposal would require a change to current functionality to generate assessment reports against the specified CRID. Changes to the mailer software may be needed to ensure that only one appointment from one scheduler is generated on an LTL load and that all scheduler CRIDs have the ability to pay an assessment and review revised reports

- **By/For issues:** A By/For Manifest would be created and submitted as a post mailing submission.

This proposal requires USPS systems to be modified to accept and recognize fields within the manifest to display and provision the verification data according to the manifest elements and generate assessment reports against the identified party. This proposal would add another layer of complexity to by/for reporting by allowing it to be provided days or weeks after mailing. This may impact data provisioning if the mail owner is not identified, or not accurately identified, at the time of mailing and may also adversely impact the accurate reporting of revenue by mail owner within *PostalOne!*.

Based on more detailed documentation submitted by the workgroup leadership, USPS IT's initial assessment is that this solution would be a significant multi-million dollar investment.

Alternate Approach

The USPS is reaching out to mailers using Mailer Scorecard data. Mailers that are exceeding Move Update, Full-Service, Seamless and eInduction metric thresholds for the month will be contacted by the USPS. This discussion will assess the current situation to identify root cause, and then provide solution opportunities to resolve issues and eliminate the errors.

The USPS recommends a simplified low-risk alternate approach to provide mail service providers additional visibility to identify mail owners with preparation issues. In this approach, the Mail Entry Invoice would allow a mail service provider to see the percent of errors caused by each mail owner within a specific error type such as Move Update. This visibility will allow a mail service provider to distribute assessment charges across mail owners.

Mail owners will be provided notification if a mail service provider chooses to pay an additional postage assessment using the mail owner permit through two mechanisms. The first is an opt-in email that will be sent to the VAE of the mail owner and the second is through the transaction details on the transaction summary report. Both the e-mail and transaction details will include critical information to allow the mail owner to identify the amount of the transaction include date of transaction, transaction amount, CRID and Name of Mail Service Provider, Month of Postage Assessment.

USPS will provide a limited group of internal users the ability to select any permit in the country for use in paying a specific mail entry invoice and invoice amount.

USPS IT has evaluated this proposal and determined a significantly lower investment than the MTAC 163 recommendations.