

MTAC Workgroup 169: Refine Parcel Machinability Standards

Meeting date: April 11, 2016

Meeting format: web/phone

Attendees:

Name	Company
Bob Schimek	Satori Software Inc
Bryan Buri	Colony Brands
Debra Hutton	Hibu
Doug Ferguson	Newgistics Inc
John Medeiros	DHL eCommerce
Julie Bennett	Orchard Brands / Blair
Justin Krawczyk	FedEx Ground (PostCom)
Paul Klovackas	Pitney Bowes
Phil Thompson	Quad
Roger Franco	Newgistics Inc
Audrey Meloni	USPS, Classification Specialist, Product Classification
Becky Dobbins	USPS, Manager Product Classification
Christian Rivera (Lead)	USPS, Opns Industrial Engineer, Opns Integration & Support
Dane Coleman	USPS, Manager, Opns Integrations & Support
Dion Pifer	USPS, Pricing Economist, Competitive Products Pricing
Don Close	USPS, Scanning Technology Specialist, Engineering Package Technology
Ed Harants	USPS, NDC Operations
Garry Rodriguez	USPS, Product Classification
Nancy Harding	USPS, Strategic Account Manager
Patricia Harris	USPS, Product Development Specialist, New Products & Innovation Shipping Products Development
Peter Furka	USPS, Classification Specialist, PCSC

Agenda:

Polybags

Notes:

- Since data is currently not available to determine the root cause of polybag processing problems and volume is shifting to the DDU, USPS recommended developing a list of polybag best practices and then closing the workgroup
 - USPS plans to continue investigating polybag issues to identify root causes; issues would be addressed with the industry or specific mailers as needed
 - USPS would request industry participation if additional testing is needed
 - Depending on the findings and/or industry needs, another workgroup could be formed in the future to address concerns
 - Industry suggestion to ensure USPS is distinguishing cross-docked volume (5-digit) from “working” volume (origin & 3-digit) during the evaluation
- Discussed prior list of polybag best practices and the need to develop a more comprehensive list
 - Suggestion to provide thickness of poly per existing DMM standards
 - Suggestion to add general guidelines related to creating a smooth barcode/address surface, minimizing selvage, etc.
 - **Action:** Review the current list of polybag best practices and submit additions/edits to Christian Rivera by April 22 [all participants]

- Polybag best practices (as of 4/11/16):
 - Use multiple size bags and prepare with the least amount of selvage
 - Manually adjust the fold/seal to match bag size to contents
 - Use of “chute lube” in summer months to help polybags slide along chutes
 - Fill excess space with items such as invoices, air pillows, bubbles, etc.
 - Note: With the January 2016 price change, PSLW has the same rate for a range of weights, so it’s possible to add materials without changing postage rates, but further evaluation is needed
 - Higher quality print achieved when printing directly on the bag rather than a label, as reported by one company

Next meeting: Monday, April 25, 2-3 PM EDT