

1/11/13 - Team Discussions/Actions Required (bolded):

- ❖ The USPS clarified the following: Communications to the PRC – did look like it was contradicting what was said to the Task Team about the 2 ounce only mailing being able to get \$.48 cents.
 - Yes, if you are a 2 ounce only mailer – then you are eligible for the \$.48 cent rate.
 - If a combined mailer and 1 & 2 ounce – you must have 1 & 2 ounce in the residual.
 - **Action Required: Becky Dobbins will determine how this clarification improvement will occur, since this is in conflict with the current understanding of what was submitted to the PRC and what is understood and being shared by industry.**

- ❖ The USPS agreed that they will be adjusting the Postage Statement failures for the impacted products for Mail.Dat & Mail.XML and ensuring that this is in production prior to January 27th. CAT testing will be available for these fixes by January 24th at the latest.
 - Industry thanked the USPS for taking the steps to get this issue resolved prior to the release. This is a critical step in progress with the USPS and industry to have this resolved ahead of the release. Thank you!!!!
 - **Action Required: The USPS (Lance/Uni) will notify industry when CAT Testing is available on this fix.**

**MTAC #21 Task Team | Single Piece Residual
Team Meeting Scribble Notes – 01/10/13 & 01/11/13**

Provided by Sharon Harrison

	Prior January 12, 2013	Jan 13 - Jan 26, 2013 mailing date of Jan 27 -	Effective January 27, 2013
Mail.XML	MPU Rate Schedule (Blank=Commercial Base, R = Retail, P=Commercial Plus)		
CARDS			
B2 Single-Piece - Cards Only	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
B2 Single-Piece - Cards and Letters	Blank or Retail	Retail Only*	Blank or Retail
LETTERS			
B6 Single-Piece From Standard Mail Mailing	Blank or Retail	Retail Only*	Blank or Retail
Nonmachinable Letters			
B8 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Retail Only*	Blank or Retail
B9 Single-Piece From Standard Mail Mailing	Blank or Retail	Retail Only*	Blank or Retail
Flats			
B13 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
B14 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
Parcels			
B15 Single-Piece/Does not meet content stds.	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
Permit Reply			
B16 Single-Piece Letter (1 oz. or less)	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
B17 Single-Piece Letter (over 1 oz. to 3.5 oz.)	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
B18 Single-Piece Flat (1 oz. or less)	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
B19 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
Commercial Base Parcels			
C4 Single-Piece/Mixed ADC	Blank or P	Blank or P	Blank or P
C5 Single Pc/From Std Mail Mailing	Blank or P	Blank or P	Blank or P
Commercial Plus Parcels			
C10 Single-Piece/Mixed ADC	Blank or P	Blank or P	Blank or P
Round Trip Mailings that Contain a DVD, CD, or Other Disc			
Presorted letters			
D6 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Retail Only*	Blank or Retail
Presorted Flats			
D12 Single-Piece	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
Permit Reply Mail			
D13 Single-Piece Letter (1 oz. or less)	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail
D14 Single-Piece Flat (2 oz. or less)	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail	Blank or Retail

Note: Retail Only: There are only two options to submit a job with mailing date of January 27, 2013 or forward during the January 13 - January 27, 2013: Change MUP Rate Schedule to Retail or Do not submit a mailing until January 27, 2013 for B2 (Cards and

- ❖ We discussed the need to get clear communication out to the industry on all of these SP topics ASAP. The USPS committed to getting the documentation approved and out to industry immediately. It is in the final steps for VP approval/release.
 - **Action Required: USPS (Lance/Chris) to release Single Piece Commercial Documentation to industry immediately!**

- ❖ Industry again stressed the importance of communication to the PostalOne Help-Desk and the need for the USPS to ensure appropriate instructions to the Help-Desk team so consistent treatment/approach is managed with customers as future issues and confusion will arise.
 - **Action Required: USPS (Lance/Chris) are working to ensure the appropriate communication and direction is supported to the PostalOne Help-Desk.**

1/10/13 - Team Discussions/Actions Required (bolded):

The Task Team members were pulled together for an emergency meeting to discuss an issue identified by the USPS during their regression testing. The USPS has identified several products in both the Mail.Dat & Mail.XML where postage statements are failing to process due to a conflict with the MPU being blank. This is resulting as a by-product from the Commercial/Residual Single Piece change and thus the team was pulled together to discuss it. Impacted processes included:

CARDS (Letters & cards)
Standard Mail Non-Machineable Letters
DVD / CDS

The USPS reviewed the products impacted. Immediately the vendor team was trying to solve this problem. The team then discussed it was not reasonable for industry/vendors to put in place fixes to this issue and that the USPS would be required to correct this problem prior to the January deployment. There was no other reasonable approach. Industry requested the USPS escalate this issue for resolution immediately.

Industry also suggested that the USPS should evaluate the number of customers /volume impacted by the products defined.

Action Required: The USPS (Lance/Uni) will investigate this further.

The USPS asked for assistance to submit this escalation request.

Action Required: Industry (Sharon) to submit escalation note to USPS TT#21 Leadership. (completed as below)

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From: HARRISON, SHARON J [<mailto:sh3157@att.com>]

Sent: Thursday, January 10, 2013 01:44 PM

To: Han-Norton, Uni K - Washington, DC; Bell, Lance A - Washington, DC; Monteith, Steven W - Washington, DC; Dobbins, Lizbeth J - Washington, DC

Cc: Bob Schimek (bschimek@satorisoftware.com) <bschimek@satorisoftware.com>;

'angelo@grayhairsoftware.com' (angelo@grayhairsoftware.com) <angelo@grayhairsoftware.com>;

Williamson, Jeffrey C - Washington, DC; Mehra, Pritha N - Washington, DC; Reblin, Gary C - Washington, DC; Phil.Thompson@qg.com <Phil.Thompson@qg.com>; Chris Lien (ChrisL@bccsoftware.com)

<ChrisL@bccsoftware.com>; anita.s.pursley@rrd.com <anita.s.pursley@rrd.com>; Robinson, Maura - Washington, DC; Owens, Sharon - Washington, DC

Subject: MTAC #TT 21 - Urgent Issue / Industry Escalation

MTAC #21 Task Team | Single Piece Residual
Team Meeting Scribble Notes – 01/10/13 & 01/11/13

Provided by Sharon Harrison

Uni – As requested –and based on our urgent Task Team call this afternoon, it has come to our attention that there are some conditions in which postage statements are failing in USPS testing resulting from the Commercial/Retail SP impact – which apparently is occurring when the MPU is blank. As was discussed– the USPS needs to urgently get these defects corrected. It isn't reasonable for the industry/vendors to have to make multiple changes to their products and then have to retest this across the entire industry – when it is a fix that can be supported in one location at the USPS.

The mailers and vendors instruct the USPS that the Postal Service needs to fix the Mail.dat &U Mail.XML issues related to Commercial Single Piece and not push it to multiple vendors and mail owners. The USPS can fix this once versus it being fixed hundreds of times by others. The cost and effort will be significant with industry to bear compared to the USPS fixing this once.

The USPS needs to ensure all appropriate documentation and escalations procedures are also established – since it looks like this is going to be a very bumpy deployment, at best.

It should also be noted that this seems to be a systemic problem in which it was suggested by the Task Team that a future evaluation of this process be conducted to look for ways to further mitigate these late changing issues from occurring in the future.

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The team also discussed the confusion caused in the industry with the recent filing to the PRC with the rate charts. The USPS shared that they made an error in this submission which has now caused major confusion within industry and was not intended

In addition, the price chart needs correction on the foot notes. Industry asked where a correct price chart can be found. This is currently not available. The USPS shared the PRC notice is not correct. The USPS shared the lawyers were trying to help resolve the issues and left out a word in the filing. The PRC has subsequently opened a docket and is requesting information from the mailing community. USPS will respond through a CHIR (Chairman Information Request) to clearly state if you have a mailing up to 2 ounces with residual pieces you are eligible for the .48 cents.

The USPS clarified: If you have a presort / automation mailing and if all of the pieces are 1.9 ounce and residual pieces can then claim the .48 cent price. If you have a mailing that 1 & 2 ounce pieces in the residual section then you have to have 1 & 2 ounce pieces in the residual piece. There is no refund – it has to be blended. USPS isn't going to spend the resources to figure out the mailing history –since it is only a small portion of the mailing as residual. The only other suggestions offered by the USPS is that a PostalOne Help-Desk ticket be opened if a file can't be submitted.

The team discussed – that critical communication needs to occur with industry immediately.

The USPS will notify the changes for the weekend regarding what will be failing for CAT Testing.

Action Required: USPS (Becky) to clarify the PRC filing/rate chart issues and get this corrected.

Also, USPS (Uni/Chris) to ensure appropriate communication occurs to industry regarding PostalOne User Group and CAT Testing impacts.

The team discussed that future validations or edits appended to PostalOne need to be worked directly with the mailing industry. The USPS agreed that the industry would be consulted prior to finalizing plans for any future edits. The timing with these edits will be jointly agreed to by Industry & USPS so that there is alignment on the approach.

Action Required: USPS to engage the MTAC PostalOne User Group once determined what edits they are considering for the future – to ensure industry is aligned on requirements and timing.

The team agreed that if any additional issues arise that the MTAC TT#21 Leadership should be notified immediately so that the team can determine if an additional call is needed prior to our final recommendation call planned for early February.

Action Required: (ALL TEAM MEMBERS) TO NOTIFY MTAC TT#21 LEADERS IF ISSUES ARISE.

**Next Task Team Meeting is planned for:
Monday, February 4th at 12PM PT / 2PM CT / 3 PM ET**

Final Recommendation Document will be created and discussed at this last meeting:

- Final Recommendation Document to include:
- Task Team Purpose Statement
- Initial Charter
- Team Participants
- Number of meetings
- 1 Page Summary of Recommendations
- Description/Attachment of what the team accomplished



Need to follow-up and further refine the below in final documentation:

- USPS is working on the MLOCR Rule - which is not related to this – but this is still not permitted. MLOCR rule – as originally written – can’t use 1st pass reject counts for residual 3600. You can’t put residual counts into P1. So the metered / permit mail falls into the separate category. Some of these older rules need to be re-evaluated – since it doesn’t make sense to put in on a separate statement. **Action – Still need to come up with recommendation on how to solution MLOCR mailers.**
 - **The USPS was encouraged to research the PRC changes/notification or any modifications to a Federal Register or DMM language that would be needed to support the intention. This will need to be investigated to determine timing of when a future change can occur.**

There was some dialogue about the cause of this gap. The vendor indicated the USPS had originally requested having a separate rate type within Mail.Dat. It was discussed that within Mail.Dat it is possible to do what the USPS is wanting. The vendors have indicated that architecturally adding another rate type isn't the right answer and doesn't solve the problem with the implementation. The team discussed that if everything is 1 ounce you pay .46 cents then PostalOne can look at this to determine the right value. The USPS can determine this by looking at other things in the mail.dat. The USPS has stated that industry rejected this change. Industry has stated that this is not what this change impacted.

Team Recommendations by January:

- USPS will accept less than 200 pieces in either residual or retail – so that it would minimize churn/issues with mailers. No additional markings will be required. The USPS will ensure the DMU/BMEU is instructed correctly on this approach. No override by the USPS is required. Pop up warning is given. Click OK to continue
- The DMM rules need to be changed for permit imprint / 200 piece / 50 lbs. The way it is re-written, these are now considered retail – part of the larger mailing. The language has to be changed to allow the clerks to do this.
- DMM 1 ounce or less – DMM language has to be changed. DMU Clerks need something to go by with Advisory on how to manage the clerk advisory.
- USPS to evaluate all CSA's with Industry partners to ensure no change or impact is associated with new SP Commercial/Residual rate.

Team Recommendations PROPOSED ? - TBD:

- Allow all mailings that consist entirely of mail pieces weighing one ounce or less, the ability to record the residual mail on line B5 at the \$0.46 price.
- Allow all customers the ability to choose between the Residual Rate option or the Retail Rate option on the same postage statement with their automation/presort mailings. Residual pieces would be recorded n B4 and Retail pieces on B5. Allowing these to be presented together.
- Allow MLOCR mailers to record their permit imprint residual rate mail pieces on the same postage statement as their automation/presorted mailings.
- Review Pricing Strategy to align Commercial/Residual Rate to the Retail Rate – or provide at a lower price. This would significantly minimize confusion and complexity of this single piece mail.