

**Mailer Technology Advisory Council (MTAC)
Meeting Report
03/12/2014 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM**

USER GROUP 4 (UG4) SESSION

AGENDA

1. Update on NPF Planning – Judy Kalus / Lisa Bowes
2. Update on Op Code Lists – Himesh Patel
3. Flats & Bundle Prioritization Logic Cheat Sheet Review – Himesh Patel
4. Redirection IMb Concept Overview
5. Any Other Business

DISCUSSION POINTS

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an ongoing forum to facilitate communications between the Postal Service and users, define and review improvements in process/production functionality and address and resolve issues.

NPF Planning

- In-person meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 10:15 – 11:00am in the Annapolis 3 / 4 conference room. Currently the room is setup with 50 seats, but working to add another 15 seats (65 total).
- NPF handout was completed. It will be placed on the MTAC table and handed out in various sessions. Himesh will try to get 500 copies printed.
- It is still not clear if Jim Cochrane is going to be in attendance at NPF. Industry would like to meet the new VP of Product Information, Robert Cintron. Additionally, they would like whichever USPS executives end up in attendance to discuss USPS's Top 5 Visibility initiatives (current & planned). Specifically, the group would like to learn more about the timeline and vision for Informed Visibility going forward including adding additional data elements to IMb Tracing.

Update on Op Code Lists

- Himesh has received a paired down Op Code list from USPS Operations and has asked several MTAC members to review it.
- **ACTION:** Himesh will share the revised Op Code List with the larger group for review and will post to RIBBS afterward.

Flats & Bundle Prioritization Logic Cheat Sheet Review

- Himesh shared with the group a cheat sheet that was developed to convey the rules and prioritization logic that USPS will use when handling pieces bearing two or more IMb barcodes.
- **ACTION:** Himesh will send out the cheat sheet to the group.

Redirection IMb Concept Overview

- Himesh gave the group an overview of the current mail visibility issue that arises when letter mail is either forwarded or returned to the sender. Typically when a piece is processed on a PARS-equipped platform the original, mailer-applied IMb is overlabeled with an adhesive label containing a postal-applied PIMb that includes updated routing information. The current PIMb barcode follows a data construct similar to an ID Tag and there is no linkage of the two barcodes such that the mailer can continue tracking the mailpiece.
- In an attempt to address this issue, Himesh has been working on an approach that will preserve visibility of forwards and returns. The new approach will use a new Barcode Identifier (BI) of "93" to indicate that the barcode has been amended by USPS. USPS will re-use the STID, MID, and mailer-generated tracking ID and append updated routing information in the new Redirection IMb (rIMB).

Status of Tray / Pallet / Container Subgroup

- Angelo provided the group with some news coming out of Monday's MTAC leadership meeting. It seems that the roles of MTAC Workgroups and Subgroups was clarified and subgroups are only supposed to be thinktanks designed to report back up the parent User Group. Subgroups seem to lack "official" status and are not intended to be used for smaller projects/topics. Based on this clarification, Angelo is advising that the Tray / Pallet / Container Subgroup be elevated to its own Workgroup.
- Based on Angelo's information, Lisa Bowes recommended that the Reply Mail Subgroup be converted to its own Workgroup as well.

Any Other Business

- There was considerable concern from industry participants regarding Load Leveling. The Postal Service has released its Federal Register final rule revising the service standards for Standard Mail that is eligible for Destination Sectional Center Facility (DSCF) rates. These changes will allow a more balanced distribution of DSCF Standard Mail across delivery days. With its new rules, USPS is extending delivery expectation to four days for mail entered on Friday and Saturday. The effective date is April 10, 2014. The group felt there are so many questions and that this will have such a big impact on their mail operations that an out-of-cycle, ad hoc meeting is required.
- **ACTION:** Himesh will try to find someone that is knowledgeable of the Load Leveling effort, the new rules, and who can explain the impact on service performance. He will then schedule an out-of-cycle, ad hoc UG4 meeting.