

**Mailer Technology Advisory Council (MTAC)
Meeting Report
09/03/2014 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM**

USER GROUP 4 (UG4) SESSION

AGENDA

1. Issues related to “Undocumented” pieces (Judy Kalus)
2. Origin tracking of BRM and registered POSTNETs (Judy Kalus)
3. WG164 Debrief
4. Update on the status of the Reply Mail sub-group
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.

“Undocumented” Pieces

- Judy Kalus described to the group a problem related to new direction from BMEU managers and clerks regarding the use of IMb barcodes on pieces that are not manifested in eDoc. The Mail Entry & Payment Technology (MEPT) group seems to be claiming that pieces with IMb are expected to be included on eDocs. Pieces that are scanned by MPE that do not appear on eDocs are being recorded as part of the Seamless Induction program as “undocumented” and USPS is attempting to charge postage for these pieces – even though the mailer may have metered the piece.
- Other participants substantiated the issue that Judy described. Sharon Harrison of AT&T and a representative from Verizon explained that they print the IMb as part of their normal print production process well before they know how the mail/ mailing will be finalized. Sharon and other participants feel strongly that it is unreasonable of USPS to ask that mailers remove /refrain from printing IMb barcodes on unmanifested pieces. Himesh commented that USPS has been working hard to get all mail barcoded and that any messaging or policies to the contrary would be hurting 100% Mail Visibility.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Himesh to investigate the issue with MEPT (Garrett Hoyt). Additionally, he will suggest that this issue be discussed as part of MTAC 143.

Origin Tracking of BRM

- Judy Kalus again described to the group the challenges that arise with trying to register a POSTNET to be used in conjunction with Business Reply Mail (BRM). Often the POSTNET is already registered to another mailer or preparer. It can be difficult to coordinate a reassignment. One solution is to use Courtesy Reply Mail (CRM); however, many times the mailer may not want to ask the recipient (a customer or member of the organization to pay for the postage). Sometimes preparers have to turn away business and/or redirect customers to a competitor. The problem is especially an issue with election-related mailings.
- Some participants suggested that a logical solution would be for the USPS to migrate away from the use of ZIP codes for identification and transition to an IMb that allows for the inclusion of a MID. A few participants balked at this idea stating that this legacy solution was still working for them.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The group felt that this issue should be turned over to the Reply Mail Subgroup for further discussion.

WG -164 Debrief

PRODUCT INFORMATION

- WG-164 continues to meet weekly. The key focus continues to be on improving the timeliness of tray and pallet/container scans. Industry has stated that tray and container scans must be provisioned in advance of piece-level IMb scans for them to have any value from a mail visibility standpoint.

Reply Mail Subgroup Update

- The Reply Mail Subgroup will meet Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM.