

# MTAC Workgroup 144

## Modify Intelligent Mail Container Barcode Construct

November 2011

# Issue Statement

The USPS identified the need for modifying the IMcb barcode construct to add a destination identifier within the barcode data construct. The goal is to:

- Enhance handling efficiency
- Enable more consistent Start-the-Clock scans
- Better support tray-to-container nesting
- Increase visibility of containers within the USPS network by eliminating overlabeling of IMcb placards with MTEL placards

# Workgroup Action

- Reviewed existing IMcb barcode construct
- Reviewed existing IMcb placard layouts
- Reviewed MTEL barcode construct
- Reviewed MTEL placard layout
- Reviewed the addition of various data elements to IMcb:
  - CIN
  - Locale Key facility ID
  - Line 1 “Destination Designation” from IMcb placards
  - Destination ZIP Code the “Label To” ZIP
  - NASS code facility ID

# Issues Discussed

- Mailers use Labeling List information and Local Key today
- Surface Visibility IMDAS devices use NASS codes from internal MTEL placards, but mailers don't readily have access to NASS codes
- Line 1 "Destination Designation" currently printed in the human readable information on the placard (derived from the labeling list) conveys the destination, but it cannot be used by Surface Visibility and Operations
- Trying to find a compromise that minimizes impacts to mailer software and does not require a significant amount of software changes to IMDAS scanners

# Current Status

The group concluded with the following recommendations:

- Do nothing now and leave the IMcb specification unchanged.
- Continue using mailer-generated 99M placards, but begin associating them with 99P MTEL placards to preserve container visibility within the network
- Find a long-term solution that is smoother. Our objective is to have all transportation legs identified on the placard.
- This workgroup will be sunsetted.

# Workgroup Leaders

## **Steve Dearing**

US Postal Service

[steve.m.dearing@usps.gov](mailto:steve.m.dearing@usps.gov)

## **Bob Schimek**

Bell and Howell

[bobs@bccsoftware.com](mailto:bobs@bccsoftware.com)

## **Himesh Patel**

US Postal Service

[himesh.a.patel@usps.gov](mailto:himesh.a.patel@usps.gov)