

Postal Rate Commission  
Submitted 8/22/2005 3:25 pm  
Filing ID: 46518  
Accepted 8/22/2005

**Docket No. MC2003-2  
Experimental Parcel Return Services  
Third Semiannual Data Collection Report  
for the period January 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005  
(filed August 22, 2005)**

**A1. Volume by RDU and RBMC, by weight and zone (as possible).**

Due to the fact that only two Parcel Select customers are participating, these data are not provided.<sup>1</sup>

**A2. Weekly volume for each RDU and RBMC (identification of facility names/locations not required and data may be provided electronically in a PC-compatible format without hardcopy).**

Due to the fact that only two Parcel Select customers are participating, these data are not provided.

**A3. Pickup frequency by facility type.**

Both participants pick up Parcel Select Return Bulk Mail Center (RBMC) product pieces at all 21 BMCs. The pickup frequency varies by mailer and facility, ranging from two days a week to seven days per week. In most cases, the participants retrieve the PRS mail pieces three or five days per week.

As of June 30, 2005, the Return Delivery Unit (RDU) service has been rolled out to 432 Delivery Units within 17 districts. On average, preliminary field observations indicate that the PRS participants retrieve the mail pieces three days per week.

**A4. Number and types of facilities used as pickup locations.**

See response to A3.

**A5. Evaluation of whether the process flows match those used to estimate costs.**

For RBMC machinable mail pieces, please see the report filed on August 25, 2004.

For RBMC Non Machinable Outsides (NMO) and oversize pieces, it is recommended that a change be made to the mail processing cost models. The last five operations in the cost models found in Docket No. MC2003-2, USPS-T-2, Attachment C, pages 11 and 12 are: NMO sort, move NMOs to machine runoff, sort by mailer ID, load on pallet, and move pallet. During field observations, the PRS separations performed in NMO operations occur like any other separation. Some of the tasks in the original cost models would therefore

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<sup>1</sup> Footnote 1 of the Data Collection Plan filed as Attachment C to the Stipulation and Agreement approved in Docket No. MC2003-2 provides: "For any period of time in which fewer than three BPM and/or Parcel Select mailers are participating, any data that would otherwise be provided, but which, due to the limited number of shippers, would constitute, or could be used to determine, mailer-specific information, would not be reported."

be imbedded in the NMO productivity. It is recommended that the "move NMOs to machine runoff," and "sort by mailer ID" tasks be eliminated from both cost models.

For RDU, the mail processing mail flows are very simple as expressed in Docket No. MC2003-2, USPS-T-2, Attachment C, pages 13-15. Preliminary field observations indicate that the actual process flows match those used to estimate the costs.

**A6. To the extent possible, RDU volume broken down between regular-sized and oversized parcels.**

Due to the fact that only two Parcel Select customers are participating, these data are not provided.

**A7. RBMC volume broken down among machinable, non-machinable and oversized parcels.**

Due to the fact that only two Parcel Select customers are participating, these data are not provided.

**A8. Number of pieces addressed to an RDU but picked up at an RBMC, broken down into machinable, non-machinable, and oversized groups.**

These data are not available as the Postal Service has converted to "static " address block labels that do not contain physical street addresses for both the RBMC and RDU services. The labels contain the agent/merchant name, indicate Parcel Return Service, and bear the appropriate 569XX ZIP Code. Delivery Units can now capture any PRS mail pieces, regardless of origin, as long as that facility is "RDU active."

**A9. To the extent possible, the number of machinable pieces addressed to an RBMC or an RDU that were transported inter-BMC.**

It is estimated, on average, that 1.9 percent of the mail pieces isolated as PRS at a given BMC were actually entered as origin mail within the service area of another BMC.

**A10. The number of shippers participating in BPM PRS.**

Zero.

**A11. The number of shippers participating in Parcel Select PRS, broken down into shippers that participate solely in RBMC; solely in RDU; or participate in both.**

Both participants are now using both the RBMC and RDU products.