

CONDÉ NAST

P U B L I C A T I O N S

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The Honorable Dan G. Blair
Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

Dear Chairman Blair:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Postal Regulatory Commission's request for feedback on the Postal Service plans to monitor their service performance and their measurement system.

Conde Nast Publications supports the Postal Service proposed service measurement and reporting plan. Due to its complexity we would rather think that it should be considered as a work in progress. There will no doubt be fine tuning required as the plan goes forward but this is to be expected.

Our major concern is that the plan is based on the use of the IMBC with the only exception being for Periodicals for possibly the next two years. Therefore we believe the IMBC project needs to be implemented with the least amount of strict requirements. Without widespread mailer usage the anticipated success of IMBC (and in turn the success of service measurement) will not be accomplished.

The Service needs to provide mailers with the anticipated difference between Full Service IMBC, Basic Service IMBC and continued use of the Postnet barcode as soon as is possible. Without knowing the potential savings which Full Service will provide the required capital investment will be held in abeyance.

Another concern we have deals with Critical Entry Time (CET) for our Periodicals. We understand that each FSS machine will operate 17 hours per day. Our drop ship loads of periodicals will probably arrive during the course of this 17 period and certain automated zones will have already been run and yet others zones will not be scheduled to run for several hours after we arrive. Our question is whether or not any of our periodicals will be processed on the day of arrival if we miss the official CET time even by a few minutes. Since the FSS will be processing each zone once per day over 17 hours we may arrive too late to catch a few zones but possibly more than in sufficient time to catch most of the others. FSS is not currently operational but as you can see it may have a severe impact on service performance and measurement.

Thanks again for giving us the opportunity to comment on these matter.

Very truly yours,