

FAST to Replace DSAS

The U.S. Postal Service's Network Operations Management division has begun its transition from the Drop Shipment Appointment System (DSAS) to its new Facility Access and Shipment Tracking system (FAST). Mailers currently use DSAS to schedule drop ship appointments at USPS facilities.

The USPS began a phased national deployment of FAST in July 2005, with all areas set to be phased in over six months. One reason for the transition to FAST includes the Department of Transportation's rules that took effect last year, which cut the number of hours that truck drivers can work. FAST aims to offer a simplified scheduling process and provides more detailed information about a mailer's appointments. Specifically, the new program enables postal facilities to understand mailers' requirements in advance, and thus offer appointment slots based on their capacity. The USPS plans to use the data to improve dock processes and personnel scheduling as well, which in turn will reduce trailer hold and unload times. *See also Surface Visibility article on page 2.*

Quebecor World Logistics (QWL) has been working with the USPS throughout its pilot of the program to ensure that all mailers' specifications are met with FAST. Through Web services, XML messaging, FAST enhances QWL's ability to make drop shipment appointments. Electronic submission of content-rich detail in FAST appointing will enable QWL to better notify facilities about the specific content of the mailing and

Reminder: USPS Standard Mail Eligibility Standards Took Effect!

The new standards clarifying when mail containing "personal" information may be eligible for Standard Mail rates went into effect on June 1, 2005. DMM 300 has been updated to reflect the change and is available via Postal Explorer at <http://pe.usps.com>; click on "DMM Summary of Changes" to view the revisions.

Please direct any questions regarding Standard Mail eligibility to Debbie Cooper, Postal Operations Manager, at 630-438-2329.

to link multi-stop and recurring appointments.

The USPS plans to offer preferred status to mailers meeting FAST requirements. Future FAST status will be enacted via a rating system whereby mailers are scored based on content detail of appointment information, timeliness of load arrival to appointment time as well as accuracy of detail submitted compared to actual induction scans. Effective as of August 28th, all of QWL's systems will be modified to require a record layout that is consistent with the new FAST requirements. This detail is necessary to allow accurate and detailed appointment requests to the USPS.

To learn more about FAST, go to the "FAST/Surface Visibility" link at <http://www.ribbs.usps.gov> or contact your QWL representative to find out if the transition to FAST requires a revised record layout when submitting your mail file electronically. ■

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QWL Continues to Work with USPS to Increase Surface Visibility

While FAST is certainly one of the major components of the USPS' Surface Visibility initiative, Quebecor World Logistics (QWL) has been working closely with the Network Operations Management division on several other components as well. In general, the USPS' goal is to use bar codes and scans in order to collect end-to-end data to create mail induction, processing and distribution visibility and thus support the planning, management and optimization of its surface transportation network.

Specifically, the program aims to:

- ◆ Uniquely identify assets (sacks, trays, mail transport equipment, trailers)
- ◆ Track assets at key handoff points (arrival, departure, interim points)
- ◆ Implement quality checks (preventing mis-loads and mis-routings in real time)
- ◆ Utilize electronic forms (automate data collection)
- ◆ Provide decision support

to mailers (improved dock management and advance notifications)

Mailers who adopt the proposed data exchanges and container bar coding enable the USPS to improve its service performance, track mail volume between processing plants, optimize its network, better manage its platform operations and reduce transportation costs. QWL is currently testing options that would increase visibility at the container (pallet) level. For instance, QWL plans to add a new, USPS bar code to all the pallets of mail it's entering into the postal system. The additional bar code will facilitate USPS acceptance at the destination and will provide specific arrival, unload and processing date and time data to QWL.

For USPS internal tracking, pallet bar code scanning tracks container assignment, close, stage, load and unload times. So, the bar code scan would trigger quality checks to warn USPS personnel if a container, for instance, were

to be loaded onto the wrong trailer. The USPS could then go on to analyze staging times to identify the available containers that missed an available dispatch. Plus, trailer utilization could be measured based on container load scans. Finally, with mailers adding this additional bar code to their containers, the USPS can create an electronic manifest to automate data collection. By automating many of the procedures that are currently manual at the dock, the electronic forms would, of course, eliminate redundant data entry, which reduces unload time and induction errors!

Aside from the FAST appointment system and the pallet placard bar code, other initiatives to be tested include an enhanced distribution label, trailer bar codes and an induction manifest (pre-shipment notification). For more information regarding QWL's involvement in the USPS Surface Visibility initiatives, please contact Debbie Cooper, Postal Operations Manager, at 630-438-2329. ■



Canada Post to Raise Rates

Canada Post Corp. recently announced a one-cent (2 percent) increase in the domestic basic letter rate as well as its proposed increases for USA and International letter rates for implementation in January 2006. Even at the new rate of 51 cents, Canadians reportedly still pay one of the lowest domestic basic letter rates among industrialized nations. Canada Post also announced an increase of four cents (to 89 cents) for letters, cards and postcards up to 30 grams destined for the U.S. and a four-cent increase (to \$1.49) for letters, cards and postcards up to 30 grams to foreign destinations. Detailed information on these changes is available in the Canada Gazette, Part 1 at www.canadagazette.gc.ca/partI/index-e.html. ■



Quebecor World

Logistic Solutions

Going Global with Your Mail?

QW Express, a division of Quebecor World Logistics, provides Canadian and international distribution solutions to Quebecor World and third party customers. By utilizing QW Express for international distribution of your printed product, you can easily manage and communicate critical information, rather than working with multiple vendors throughout the supply chain who do not necessarily offer a streamlined process flow. QW Express' international distribution solutions include list processing, lettershop and fulfillment, mailing services, transportation/freight management, Customs clearance and postal services worldwide.

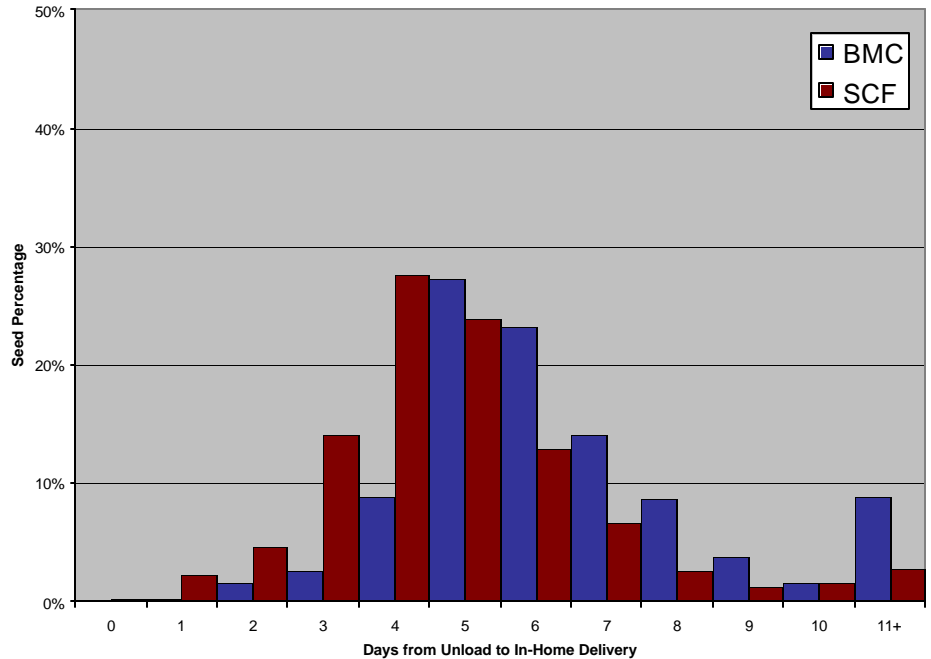
QW Express' International Mail Program serves numerous Canadian catalogers, like The Bradford Exchange and Nature's Bounty, for which in-home delivery dates are typically time sensitive. This

Continued on Page 4

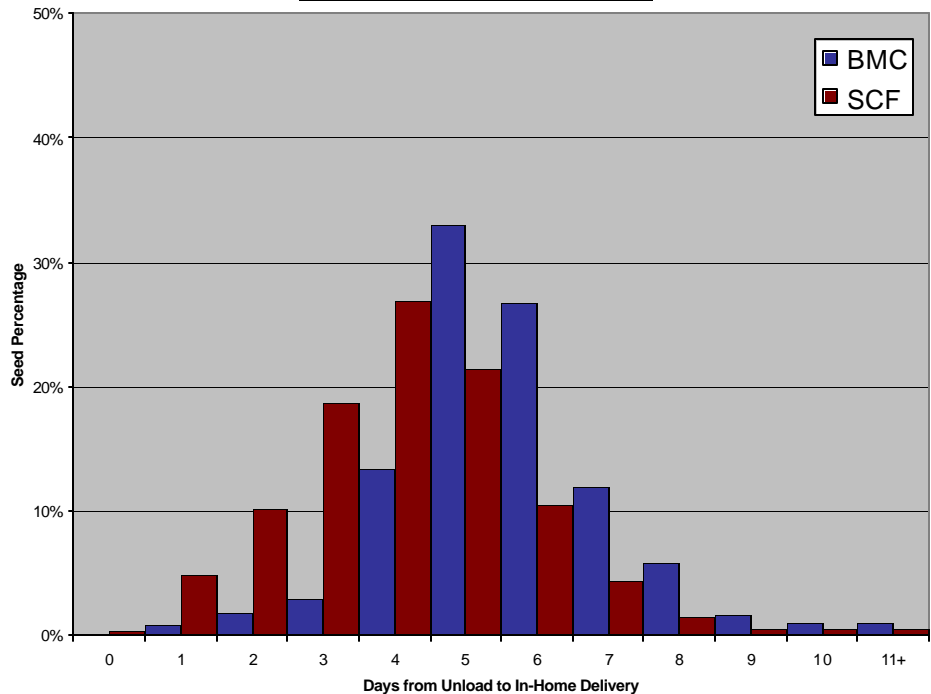
Ø These performance charts are based on the variance between individual seed responses and the corresponding unload dates at the U.S. Postal Service. This issue of Logistic Solutions features cumulative data from January through March, compared to the April through June data. In comparing the two sets of data, notice the steeper bell curve for the Apr-Jun period, which illustrates speedier processing through the USPS network. This can be attributed to a decrease in volume during the Apr-Jun period. Notice that more of the mail was being delivered on days 2 and 3 (compared to Jan-Mar data) and that there is no spike on day 11 at the tail-end of graph.

USPS Processing and Delivery Trends

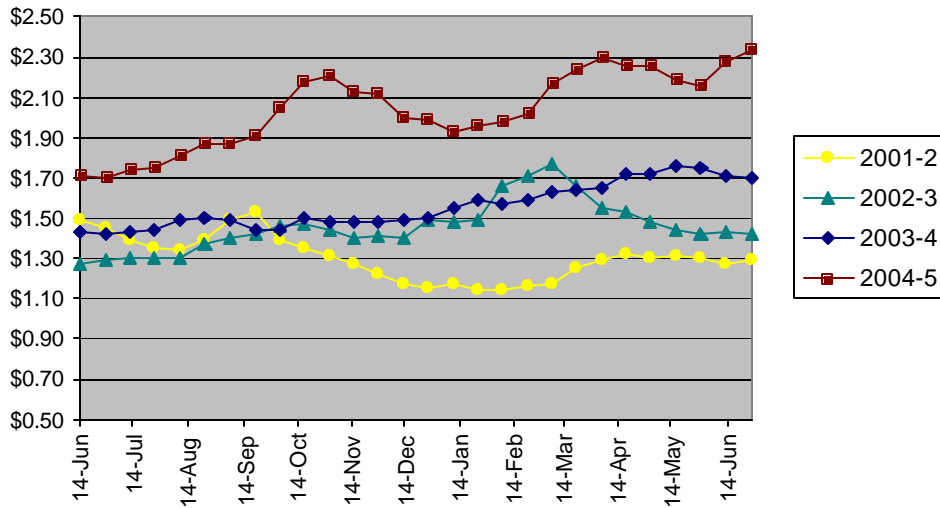
January-March 2005



April-June 2005



Diesel Prices Continue to Climb



The graph above illustrates the dramatic increase in the price of diesel, from July 2001 to date. Diesel prices are expected to remain at or near record levels throughout the summer, with supply fears and surging demand boosting prices. While the transportation industry scrambles to find new solutions to reduce fuel consumption and ways to lessen the impact of soaring prices on fleet operating costs, it's sure to be an ongoing cost control war.

The intense demand for diesel and gasoline is reportedly fueling part of oil's latest rally. The price of crude oil topped \$60 the morning of July 6th, as Tropical Storm Cindy struck the Louisiana coast. Cindy forced several oil companies to close their drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and closed the largest oil import terminal in the U.S., the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port. ■

Going Global? (Cont.)

includes processing the address file, transporting the mail from its print location, addressing the catalogs, applying the postal indicia, preparing the mail for Canada Post, clearing the mail through Customs, handling the Customs and postal paperwork, coordinating postage payment and inducting the mail on time to meet the customers' targeted in-home dates. The service and transit ends up being significantly less than what the USPS would have provided.

QW Express handles multiple commodities of international mail, including publications, books, catalogs, direct mail, etc. For instance, QW Express processes several magazine titles for major publishers like Hearst and Campbell-Ewald, who distribute worldwide. Services for these publishers include transportation from the manufacturing origin; processing the mail file; customizing paperwork for carriers; inkjetting special messages and address information; applying indicia; polybagging the paperwork with the magazine; preparing the books for postal distribution; managing Customs clearance, postage and final distribution to postal facilities abroad. Again, rates and services are comparable to USPS but with QW Express, the printer's international mail experts manage the process in-house, creating a one-stop-shop with seamless flow throughout the supply chain.

To have QW Express customize an international distribution and/or mailing program that meets your specific needs, contact Kim Greene, International Mail Manager, at 810-220-8855. ■

Join us in Chicago for Our Grand Opening Event!

Here's your chance to see the Express Collation Mailing SystemSM in action! You'll understand the power of co-mail, once you see our brand new, 30-pocket co-mailer, housed with QWL's Chicago consolidation operations in our amazing new, 315,000 sq. ft. co-mail and distribution hub!

CONTACT US FOR EVENT DETAILS - DATES TO FOLLOW
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