



HIGHLIGHTS

September 29, 2011

Statistical Tests for Fiscal Year 2011

Report Number FF-MA-11-168

IMPACT ON:

The U.S. Postal Service's accuracy of data collected for Origin-Destination Information System-Revenue, Pieces, and Weight (ODIS-RPW) tests.

WHY THE OIG DID THE AUDIT:

Our objective was to determine whether the Postal Service conducted statistical ODIS-RPW tests to collect revenue and volume data in accordance with policies and procedures. We conducted this review in support of the audit of the Postal Service's financial statements.

WHAT THE OIG FOUND:

The Postal Service did not always conduct ODIS-RPW tests in accordance with established data collection policies and procedures. We identified 77 errors in 32 of 65 tests observed, including data collectors not:

- Determining the appropriate random start and mailpiece and/or container skip intervals.
- Verifying information keyed into the [REDACTED] laptop.
- Properly identifying, isolating, and capturing mail to be sampled/tested.
- Using marking slips to identify mail being tested.
- Conducting the necessary interviews with facility personnel.

We also identified issues related to the [REDACTED] scales not being leveled and/or calibrated and data collectors in one district not receiving mandatory

statistical programs training. Further, we continue to identify issues regarding protection of data collection equipment. When ODIS-RPW test procedures are not followed, there is an increased risk that the Postal Service will incorrectly estimate revenue and mail volume.

WHAT THE OIG RECOMMENDED:

Because Statistical Programs did not have enough time to implement its corrective action from last year's report, we are not making a recommendation related to test errors. We did recommend that each district certify that all data collectors received training and scales are properly calibrated and/or leveled before conducting tests.

WHAT MANAGEMENT SAID:

Management agreed with all the findings and recommendations. Specifically, management will provide scale calibration training modules and videos to be included in the quarterly training. In addition, it will direct district managers of Finance Programs Compliance to ensure that training has been entered into the Learning Management System.

AUDITORS' COMMENTS:

The OIG considers management's comments responsive to the recommendations and corrective actions should resolve the issues identified.

[Link to review the entire report](#)