



Standardization of Mail Processing Equipment at Processing and Distribution Centers

Report Number NO-AR-12-001

IMPACT ON:

Standardization of selected mail processing equipment at major U.S. Postal Service processing and distribution centers (P&DCs).

WHY THE OIG DID THE AUDIT:

We performed this self-initiated audit to assess the level of standardization of equipment at major mail processing facilities and to identify potential efficiency gains from standardizing the equipment set deployed to each facility.

WHAT THE OIG FOUND:

The Postal Service has a sufficient number of machines available to process the mail and has achieved considerable standardization of equipment at the facilities reviewed. While the Postal Service has managed to reduce workhours and has introduced initiatives to improve mail processes at the facilities, it has not always matched equipment needs to mail volume. Consequently, opportunities for further standardization exist at some facilities. Additionally, reducing the number of Delivery Bar Code Sorter Phase I machines, which sort letter mail, and redeploying newer machines could lead to further standardization and reduce maintenance costs.

WHAT THE OIG RECOMMENDED:

We recommended the vice president, Network Operations, periodically compare equipment to mail volume at P&DCs and redeploy excess equipment to those sites where equipment deficiencies exist and, when funds are available, redeploy new equipment to replace older equipment wherever it is cost effective.

WHAT MANAGEMENT SAID:

Management agreed with the recommendations, stating the Postal Service consistently reviews and analyzes the capacity of equipment and continues its effort to modernize its equipment fleet. As part of recent announcements of facility consolidation studies, management expects to dramatically reduce mail processing equipment to come in line with workload needs and purge older equipment.

AUDITORS' COMMENTS:

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General considers management's comments responsive to the recommendations and corrective actions should resolve the issues identified in this report.

[Link to review the entire report](#)