

DPS mail (30-day reviews)

During a mail count, it appears that everything that can be run in DPS mail is stuffed in there, and when the count is over and the new evaluation takes effect, we receive more raw mail to case and less DPS mail. When the route is counted, there is a percentage set of DPS mail versus raw letter mail. Management must maintain that same percentage all year long.

The PO-603 section 541.42 states in part

“If a route receiving DPS mail frequently experiences significant decreases in the quality of the DPS mail or there is a disproportionate reduction in DPS volume in relationship to the total letter volume of the route, the carrier may make a written request asking for a formal review of the DPS processing for the route.” If your route receives more raw letter mail versus the amount of DPS mail that you had from the routes previous mail count, you can put it in writing requesting a formal 30-day review of your route for a quantity or quality issue or both.

You do not have to count any mail, get end of run reports, or use a specific form in order to have this request granted. Just be sure to sign and date your request and keep a copy. When you do this, a 30 day clock starts for management to count your raw letter mail (just like during a mail count including letters removed from DPS, etc.). If there is any decrease from the percentage set during the previous mail count, they have 30 days to get it fixed. It does not mean they will count your mail for 30 days. If they count for a two week period and find the percentage is good, they will stop, but if the percentage is below what it was from the previous mail count, they will place as much in DPS as they can to bring the percentage back up.

If you request the review for a quality issue, they will do the three-day quality check for errors as DPS mail must be 98% correct. For example, if you get 100 letters in DPS and 2 are out of route order (miss-sequenced) and 1 is not for your route (miss-sorted), the DPS would be 97% for that day. The errors for DPS mail are miss-sorted, miss-sent and miss-sequenced.

When a route fails the requested review and is not fixed within the 30-day period, that is serious stuff. Your route will be taken off DPS, returned to sector/segment, and made retroactive to the beginning of the pay period when you made the request.

These requests should not be done frivolously or as a “getting back at you” tool. You know your route better than anyone does. If you receive a large amount of raw letter mail on one day, and then, the next few days you get a lot of DPS mail and a little raw mail, then, on average, it is not a problem. If you, on average, are receiving a plethora of raw letter mail verses DPS mail than you did from the previous mail count, you now know how to fix it. It is up to you to take the steps to fix these problems as it is your pay that is being effected, not the Postal Service, and with 30 letters per minute for DPS mail, I would keep them on track for the same product they gave at mail count.

Respectfully, Greg Rowe grlca state steward