

## Flats Sequencing System



Systems Engineering May 15, 2009

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□ What we will cover...

- What are the tasks?
- When are they performed?
- How many operators?
- Seasonal challenges



| SAMP   | FSS   |
|--|---|
| Create ACTs of flats in dollies for induction into FSS | Create street trays of sequenced flats for carriers |



- SAMP throughput should mirror FSS throughput.
- SAMP schedule should be just-in-time to support FSS runs (balance risk of feeder starvation with availability of mail)



| Task |
|------|
|------|

|   | SAMP   | FSS   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | Create ACTs of flats in dollies for induction into FSS | Create street trays of sequenced flats for carriers |  |
| Prepping bundles and loose pieces in flat tubs            | $\checkmark$ 1-5 prep stations                         |   |  |
| Switching out full and empty containers                   | ✓ 1 ABSU<br>1 Dolly Maker                              | ✓ 1 Dolly Induct<br>2 CASTR Makers                  |  |
| Monitoring feeders (grooming, clearing jams)              |  | $\checkmark$ 4 feeders (2 feed lines)               |  |
| Monitoring ITCs (grooming, clearing jams)                 |  | √ 2 ITCs  |  |
| Transporting containers into and out of the FSS work area |  |   |  |

Existing LDC 17 work hours



## Staffing Requirements Throughout the Day







#### operations

Container Movement: Existing LDC 17 work







10:50 am – Prep Ahead



## SAMP

- Synchronize with sorter schedule
  - FSS throughput 16,500
  - SAMP throughput (150 ACTs/ hr x 110 pcs/ACT) 16,500
- Staff with 5 MH (4 prep stations and 1 ABSU / Dolly Maker)
- Shut down for lunch is a possibility
- Breaks supplemented with either MH from Dolly Induct or by another MH, or by reducing one prep station







12:50 pm – Run 1 Pass 1



## **Dolly Induct Operator**

- MH Only staffed during Pass 1, or a total of roughly 8½ hours per 17 hour day
- Dolly Induct operator moves empty dollies back to SAMP and brings full dollies to staging
- Dolly Induct operator takes lunch and breaks during Pass 2 cycles
- Other available time can be used to relieve other MH



### Feeders

- 2 Clerks each assigned to monitor 2 feeders
- Important role in achieving high throughput
- Lunches and breaks must be supplemented with another clerk
- Add one relief clerk per each two FSS on each shift



**Job Design** 



1:40 pm – Run 1 Pass 2



### Groomer

- Grooms RCTs on conveyors entering both ITCs
- Clears ITC jams when he/she is the closest person to the jam



## Grooming





**Job Design** 



2:30 pm – Run 2 Pass 1



## CASTR Maker Operator

- MH assigned to service 2 CASTR Makers
- Primary jobs are to:
  - Bring empty CASTRs to CASTR Maker
  - Switch out CASTRs
  - Move full CASTRs away from CASTR Maker
- Clears ITC jams when he/she is the closest to the jam
- Lunch and breaks can be provided by relief MH



**Job Design** 



3:20 pm – Run 2 Pass 2







5:00 am – Final Run CASTR Making



# Challenges Presented by Seasonal Volume Variability



## Variability: Daily Volume

#### **Northern New Jersey Machine #4**





### Variability: Run Window

#### **Northern New Jersey Machine #4**

FSS Daily Run-Time Analysis - Load Balancing Rules





## Seasonal Volume Variability

- Backfill lunches and breaks when daily window is  $\geq$  17 hours (don't shut down the process)
- Shut down for lunches and breaks when daily window is  $\leq$  15 hours
- Start time ~ 12:00 noon (prep 10:00-11:00 am) when daily window 15-17 hours
- Delay start time when daily window < 15 hours</p>
- Advance start time when daily window > 17 hours



## Closing





#### Crew size

- DAR assumption
  Current assessment
  Validation @ Dulles
  May-Aug 09
- □ SAMP and FSS schedules must be synchronized
- □ Some FSS tasks change with machine phase
- Existing LDC 17 work hours for container transport
- Scheduling strategies
  - Lunches and breaks
  - Seasonal volume variability
- Likely economies of scale for multiple machines