

BEFORE THE  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORY OF VALPAK (VP/USPS-1)  
(June 27, 2006)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to the following interrogatory of Valpak, filed on June 13, 2006: VP/USPS-1.

Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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June 27, 2006

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
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**VP/USPS-1.**

Please refer to the response of the Postal Service to VP/USPS-11, Tr. 8D/5150, Docket No. R2005-1, which provided rural carrier allowances in minutes for several categories of letters.

- a. Please provide similar, most recent time figures for all categories of mail and special services delivered by rural carriers.
- b. For the base year or a recent year, please provide an estimate of the total number of minutes allowed nationally for mail falling within each category.
- c. Please indicate the category into which each of the following fall:
  - (i) Addressed and simplified-address non-DPS'd DALs;
  - (ii) Addressed saturation flats;
  - (iii) Unaddressed (separate DAL presented) saturation flats;
  - (iv) Addressed and simplified-address non-saturation flats;
  - (v) Addressed and simplified-address non-saturation non-DPS'd letters;
  - (vi) DPS'd letters and DALs.

**RESPONSE:**

- a. Rural carrier allowances have not changed since BY 2004. These are the time allowances for all categories of mail and special services delivered by rural carriers:

| EVALUATION CATEGORY    | TIME ALLOWANCE<br>IN MINUTES |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| LETTERS DELIVERED      | 0.0699                       |
| FLATS DELIVERED        | 0.1143                       |
| PARCELS DELIVERED      | 0.5000                       |
| BOXHOLDERS DELIVERED   | 0.0400                       |
| COD DELIVERED          | 5.9670                       |
| ACCOUNTABLES DELIVERED | 4.4670                       |
| DPS                    | 0.0333                       |
| SECTOR SEGMENT         | 0.0587                       |
| POSTAGE DUE            | 0.2000                       |
| RETURN RECEIPTS        | 0.2500                       |

- b. Please note that rural carrier routes are evaluated each year during a specific time period, lasting from 2 to 4 weeks. Rural carrier pay for a route is determined by the most recent evaluation for that route, and is based on the weekly time allowances for all evaluation categories, *during the time of the rural mail count*. Therefore, there is no national yearly number of the allowed minutes for each evaluation factor. It is possible, however, to calculate a national average weekly time allowance using the most recent rural

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evaluations. These averages can be found in Workpaper B of Witness Milanovic, CS10.xls, worksheet 10.1.1 for evaluated routes and 10.2.1 for other routes.

c.

- i. Addressed non-DPS'd DALs receive the Letters Delivered time allowance.  
Simplified addressed non-DPS DALs receive the Boxholder time allowance.
- ii. Addressed saturation flats receive the Flats Delivered time allowance.
- iii. Unaddressed saturation flats receive the Boxholder time allowance.
- iv. Address non-saturation flats receive the Flats Delivered time allowance.  
Simplified address non-saturation flats receive the Boxholder time allowance.
- v. Addressed non-saturation non-DPS'd letters receive the Letters Delivered time allowance. Simplified address non-saturation non-DPS'd letters receive the Boxholders time allowance.
- vi. DPS letters and DALs receive the DPS time allowance.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document in accordance with Section 12 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

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June 27, 2006