

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

REVISED RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-340 AND 341) [ERRATA]

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its revised institutional responses to the above-listed interrogatories. The original responses were filed on August 7, 2006, and appear in the evidentiary record at Tr. 18C/5975-76.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN**

Revised: October 11, 2006

DBP/USPS-340.

- [a] With respect to the proposed Forever Stamp, will the use of the stamp be limited to only paying the postage for the first ounce of a single-piece First-Class Mail letter rate regardless of the postage value in effect at the time of mailing?
- [b] Please explain the rationale for the response to subpart a.

RESPONSE:

- [a, b] No. As indicated in the proposed new DMCS Section 241, the Forever Stamp is intended for single-piece First-Class Mail letters weighing up to an ounce. However, mailers will, no doubt, in some instances, use the stamp in other postal applications. The Postal Service wishes to avoid punishing these mailers by not giving them credit for the stamp they have affixed (and cannot remove and reattach to a one-ounce letter). Therefore the Postal Service is considering giving postage credit for such applications, at the "forever value" (*i.e.*, the contemporaneous first-ounce rate for single-piece First-Class Mail letters).

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN**

Revised: October 11, 2006

DBP/USPS-341. This Interrogatory refers to the Forever Stamp and at a time when the one ounce single-piece letter rate is 45¢. The other rates for the examples have been assumed.

- [a] May these stamps be utilized to pay the postage on any mailpiece at their current postage value? For example, can two Forever Stamps be utilized together with 5¢ in other postage to pay the 95¢ postage required on a 3-ounce letter? Please explain and discuss any exceptions.
- [b] Is the ability to utilize these stamps as noted in subpart a above limited to any specific service, such as First-Class Mail, or may they be used on any class of mail that may otherwise be paid for with denominated stamps? For example, can five Forever Stamps be utilized together with 25¢ in other postage to pay the \$2.50 postage required on a 2-pound Media Mail Single-Piece? Please explain and discuss any exceptions.
- [c] May these stamps be utilized to pay the postage on mail destined to an international destination? For example, can two Forever Stamps be utilized together with 5¢ in other postage to pay the 95¢ postage required on a 1-ounce letter to Great Britain? Please explain and discuss any exceptions.
- [d] Please explain the rationale for any negative responses.

RESPONSE:

- [a-c] See the revised response to DBP/USPS-340. The Forever Stamp is not meant to be “forever postage” and used on items other than one-ounce letters. However, the Postal Service anticipates that, inevitably, the stamp will be used on other pieces as described in these questions and such use will be tolerated. While this introduces some potentially negative financial implications, the Postal Service recognizes, on balance, that administrative efforts to value the stamps at anything other than the prevailing rate for one-ounce letters would be unwieldy and subject to error.
- [d] N/A