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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Special Services Fees and Classifications

Docket No. MC96-3

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO.

(July 12, 1996)



The Postal Service is requested to provide the information described below to assist in developing the record for consideration of its request for classification changes. In order to facilitate possible inclusion of the requested material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service is to have a witness attest to the authenticity of each item provided and be prepared to explain, to the extent necessary, the content of each item provided. Please provide responses by July 22, 1996.

1. In his testimony, witness Lion states that, "All other costs are primarily labor costs for sorting mail to boxes and related supervisory activities." USPS-T-4, page 35. Please indicate which costs in USPS LR SSR-3 attributable to post office boxes include labor costs related to "sorting mail to boxes."

2. Summary definitions for activity codes are given in Table B-2 of the Summary Description of USPS Development of Costs by Segments and Components. However, activity code 5041, which is shown in witness Patelunas' WP C, W/S 3.0.3 as being applicable to post office boxes, is not defined. Please define activity code 5041 and describe the types of activities covered by this activity code.

3. Line 3 of the sample USPS Facilities Costing Study Questionnaire, Docket No. R94-1 LR G-120, asks for the square

feet for "Post Office Boxes and Parcel Lockers (floor area and lobby in front of boxes)." Line 7 asks for the square feet for the "Work area behind Post Office Boxes and Parcel Lockers." There do not appear to be any instructions dealing specifically with these two lines.

a. How does the Postal Service determine how much of the floor area and lobby in front of boxes is allocated to post office boxes?

b. How does the Postal Service determine how much of the work area in the back of the boxes is allocated to post office boxes?

c. Is all front lobby space directly allocated to one of the categories of Lobby Services? If not, how is any remaining space allocated?

d. How does the Postal Service ensure that the space measurements are done in a consistent manner for each facility?

4. According to the Domestic Mail Manual, in Group I offices if a customer's post office box mail volume exceeds the capacity of the box on 12 of any 20 consecutive business days the customer can be required to use caller service. D920.1.7. Caller Service is only available in Group II offices when there are no post office boxes of the appropriate size available. D920.4.3b. What is current policy for Group II offices when a customer's post office box mail volume routinely exceeds box capacity? What are the current fees for such a customer?

5. Is highway delivery considered equivalent to rural delivery for purposes of determining post office box fees?

6. For purposes of post office box fees, in what group (I, II, or III) are community post offices included?

7. Are there any post offices which do not offer city, rural, highway, or general delivery service? If yes, please describe the type of office that falls under this category. Please provide a list of all such post offices.

8. In his response to OCA/USPS-T7-2, witness Lion states, "For Group E offices, as proposed, no city or rural delivery service is available." Are offices that provide no city, rural or highway delivery, but do provide general delivery, currently considered Group III offices for purposes of post office box fees? Are box holders at these offices currently paying \$2 a year for box rental?

9. USPS-T-4, Table 16, shows 7,790,631 as the number of Group II post office boxes in use. Are any of these boxes located in offices which do not provide city or rural service but do provide general delivery? If yes, how many?

10. Please explain the difference between the number of boxes listed as Group III in USPS-T-1, WP C, 2,707,964, and the number of possible PO box deliveries, 338,510, given in LR SSR-93, page 6. Does either number represent the PO box customers currently paying \$2 a year for box rental? Does either number represent the number of PO box customers who will be paying \$0 under the Postal Service's proposal?

11. Are there any customers in group II offices who are not eligible for rural delivery? If yes, what is the current box rental fee for such customers? What is the proposed box rental fee for such customers?

12. Please identify where specifically in LR SSR-109, pages 7-11, the insured pieces in range \$500.01 to \$600 (USPS-T-1 WP A, page 3, column 1) appear. If the exact number of pieces in range

\$500.01 to \$600 does not appear in LR SSR-109, please explain the derivation of the numbers in USPS-T-1 WP A , page 3, column 1.

13. In the Value Level column of USPS-T-1 WP A, page 4, where does the value level increment \$800-\$900 appear? Should the average step for the increment \$900-\$1,000 be \$950 rather than \$850?



H. Edward Quick, Jr.
Presiding Officer