

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 108-18

Docket No. R2005-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF THE OFFICE OF
THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE (OCA/USPS-133)
(July 8, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional response to interrogatory OCA/USPS-133.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

Keith E. Weidner

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-6252, Fax -3084

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TO OCA INTERROGATORY**

OCA/USPS-133. Please refer to Table 1, below, entitled “Expected Actual Delivery Day for Express Mail Based Upon Next Day or Second Day Service Commitment and Day of Mailing,” which is intended to be used as a guide to consumers. Please confirm that Table 1 and the notes thereto are accurate. If you do not confirm, please explain and make whatever changes are deemed appropriate to improve the accuracy of this guide.

Table 1
Expected Actual Delivery Day for Express Mail Based Upon Next Day or
Second Day Service Commitment and Day of Mailing

Table 1.A.
Day of Mailing (prior to published "Drop-Off" Times)

Service Commitments _1/	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Next Day_2/	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY

Table 1.B.
Day of Mailing (prior to published "Drop-Off" Times)

Service Commitments _3/	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Second Day_4/	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	TUESDAY
"2nd Delivery Day"	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY

Notes:

1/ Next Day Express Mail service is determined by the ZIP Code of mailing (origin ZIP Code) and the ZIP Code of receipt (destination ZIP Code), referred to as the ZIP Code “pair.”

2/ Next Day Express Mail Service is available to many ZIP Code “pairs” for items mailed during the week, Monday through Friday. For items mailed on Saturday, or where the “Next Day” falls on a federal holiday, Next Day Express Mail service to the same ZIP Code “pairs” may not be available. In such circumstances, customers will be informed that the item can be mailed as Second Day Express Mail service (see Table 1.B.).

3/ Second Day Express Mail is never delivered on Sundays or federal holidays.

4/ To determine the expected actual delivery day for Second Day Express Mail service: do not count the day of mailing or any days that are Sundays or federal holidays. The expected actual delivery day will be the “2nd Delivery Day,” as shown in Table 1.B. Consequently, the “2nd Delivery Day” could be 3 or 4 calendar days after the day of mailing if the “Second Day” or the intervening day is a Sunday or a federal holiday. For example, a Second Day Express Mail item mailed on Friday would “normally” be delivered on Monday, the third calendar day. That same item mailed on Friday would be delivered on Tuesday, the fourth calendar day, where Monday is also a federal holiday.

RESPONSE:

The Postal Service does not confirm Table 1.B and its accompanying footnotes 3 and 4.

First, the statement in Footnote 3 that “Second Day Express Mail is never delivered on Sundays or federal holidays” is incorrect. Second, there are two service commitments for Express Mail under the DMCS—Next Day and Second Day; when the second day falls on a Sunday or holiday, and the destination ZIP Code does not deliver Express Mail on Sundays or holidays, then the Second Day piece would be delivered on the “Second Delivery Day.” Therefore, an Express Mail article for which a Next Day commitment is not available would receive a “Second Day” commitment and would be

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delivered on the second calendar day, unless the second calendar falls on a Sunday or holiday and the destination ZIP Code does not deliver Express Mail or Sundays or holidays (in which case the piece would be delivered on the "Second Delivery Day").

Assuming that when you talk about "Service Commitments" you are referring to the "Next Day," "Second Day," and "Second Delivery Day" boxes on Label 11-B, Table 1.B is incorrect. For example, an article sent on a Friday whose Label 11-B is checked "Second Day" would be delivered on Sunday, and an article sent on a Saturday whose Label 11-B is checked "Second Day" would be delivered on Monday. An article sent on a Friday whose Label 11-B is checked "Second Delivery Day" may be delivered on Monday or Tuesday, depending on whether Monday is a holiday. An article sent on Saturday to a destination in which a Next Day commitment is unavailable would either be delivered on Monday (and thus have its Label 11-B checked "Second Day") or on Tuesday (and thus have its Label 11-B checked "Second Delivery Day"), as the Postal Service is unaware of any circumstances in which both Monday and Tuesday would be a holiday.