

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

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

Docket No. R2000-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS TAUFIQUE TO INTERROGATORIES OF  
THE PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.  
(PFPA/USPS-T38-1-7)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Taufique to the following interrogatories of the Professional Football Publication Association, Inc.: PFPA/USPS-T38-1 to 7, filed on March 23, 2000

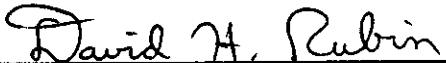
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

  
David H. Rubin

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-2986; Fax -6187  
April 6, 2000

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PUBLICATION  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

**PFPA/USPS-T38-1.** What are the service standards for Periodicals mail?

**RESPONSE**

Please see DMM D210.1.0.

My understanding is that while the Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of Periodicals within a specified time, the Postal Service provides a Service Standard Map (CD-ROM) as a "guideline" for Periodicals delivery across the nation. These service standards are based on 1 – 7 days delivery over 8 zones. Delivery can vary somewhat depending upon level of sortation provided the mail (i.e., Carrier Route, 5-Digit, 3-Digit, ADC, Mixed ADC), volume, containerization, and whether the mail is automation or non-automation. Proper preparation, labeling and entry are paramount to meeting service standards.

Also, I understand that a free service standards map on a CD-ROM is available to all customers through the Address Management National Customer Support Center by calling 1 800 238-3150, ext. 4484 or ext. 4442.

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**PFPA/USPS-T38-2.** If a tabloid size newspaper sorted at the basic rate, non-automation, is entered in a general mail facility in Buffalo, NY how many days would you expect it to take for the newspaper to be delivered to a home in:

- a. Charlotte, NC.
- b. Atlanta, GA
- c. Miami, FL

**RESPONSE**

My understanding is that the service standard map does not take into account the dimension, processing type, or rate category of the mail. The newspaper as described above entered in would indicate the need for manual processing techniques and would need to be processed in more than one facility including an Area Distribution Center prior to delivery. Based on the service standards map for Periodicals a periodical mailed from Buffalo, NY (3-Digit Zip 142) to Charlotte, NC (3-Digit Zip 282), Atlanta, GA (3-Digit Zip 303), or Miami, FL ( 3-Digit Zip 331), delivery would take approximately:

- a. 3 days
- b. 4 days
- c. 5 days

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**PFPA/USPS T38-3.** If Periodical A had 10 copies to be delivered to 10 different zip codes within Zone 8 (as measured from its office of entry), would you expect all 10 copies to be delivered at the same time as those of Periodical B, if the latter Periodical were entering at the same office and mailing 10 copies to one zip code within Zone 8? Please explain your response.

**RESPONSE**

My understanding is that the service standards map does not take into account the make-up or category of the mail. Therefore, Zone 8 reflects a service standard of 7 days. In either scenario as described above, the make-up level could be 5-Digit (skin sack) or mixed ADC. My understanding is that Mixed ADC mail is worked in several processing units prior to delivery while 5-Digit mail is transported directly to the delivery unit or destinating plant for processing. Therefore, depending upon make-up level and labeling, the Periodicals A and B could be delivered at different times.

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**PFPA/USPS-T38-4.** Would you expect delivery times for a periodical to be shortened for copies that were bar-coded and readable by automated sorting equipment? Please explain your response.

**RESPONSE**

My understanding is that since automated flat sorting is faster than manual sorting, mail that is automated has a greater opportunity of meeting various transportation leaving a plant. Therefore, delivery time could be shortened.

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**PFPA/USPS-T38-5.** Does the Postal Service maintain any ongoing, objective measurement of Periodicals delivery performance, such as that used to measure on-time delivery of first-class mail? If your answer is yes, please describe that measurement. If your answer is no, please explain why no such measure exists.

**RESPONSE**

Not currently. My understanding is that the Postal Service is working with the MTAC Periodical Service Improvement Team, Information Systems subgroup, on a Periodicals Measurement System entitled "ESP (Entry Schedule for Periodicals)". This system is currently under Beta testing with several mailers and postal facilities. The program is expected to be ready for implementation during Fall of 2000.

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**PFPA/USPS-T38-6.** Please provide a list of all committees and task forces formed within the Postal Service or jointly with periodicals mailers from the base year to date for purposes of improving delivery.

**RESPONSE**

- MTAC Periodicals Service Improvement Workgroup
- Area Periodicals Service Improvement Coordinators work with the national team and independently with their District Service Improvement Coordinators/teams
- Periodicals Process Management Team (Headquarters)

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE  
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**PFPA/USPS-T38-7.** Please provide copies of all public reports, minutes and public briefings issued from base year to date for any committees or task forces named in PFPA/USPS T-38-6.

**RESPONSE**

Minutes and related material from the National Periodicals Service Improvement Team are being filed in LR-I-289. Other materials are available for viewing at Postal Service Headquarters. Activities of the District Periodicals Service Improvement teams vary. A sample of their submissions is also available for viewing at Postal Service Headquarters. There are no public reports, minutes or public briefings available from the Periodicals Process Management Team. Their efforts resulted in the development of an internal SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) and an internal training video for Operations.



## DECLARATION

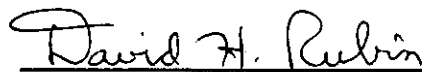
I, Altaf H. Taufique, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Taufique", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Dated: APRIL 6, 2000

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David H. Rubin

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