

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
TO INTERROGATORIES OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS XIE
UPS/USPS-31-33, 34(d)
(April 12, 2000)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of United Parcel Service: UPS/USPS-31-33, 34(d), filed on March 23, 2000, and redirected from witness Xie.


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



Kenneth N. Hollies

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE,
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS XIE

UPS/USPS-T1-31. Has the data collection process for the TRACS Commercial Air Subsystem (USPS-LR-I-49) ever undergone an audit or other quality control evaluation? If so, explain the procedure used and provide copies of the management reports describing the outcome of the audits or evaluations.

RESPONSE.

Yes. The Data Quality Study, conducted by A. T. Kearney, evaluated the quality of the major statistical systems underlying the Postal Services ratemaking process, including the TRACS Commercial Air, Network Air and Highway Subsystems. A copy of the Data Quality Study findings is available via the PRC's old website. In addition to the Data Quality Study, the Manager of Statistical Programs in each of the 87 field statistical programs offices is responsible for monitoring (performing a quality control evaluation) every data collector twice each year on every system for which they collect data. The PS Form 1444-I is used to record their observations for TRACS. A copy of the PS Form 1444-I, with instructions, is contained in USPS-LR-I-264. There are no management reports describing the outcome of these evaluations.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS XIE

UPS/USPS-T1-32. Has the data collection process for the TRACS Network Air Subsystem (USPS-LR-I-51) ever undergone an audit or other quality control evaluation? If so, explain the procedure used and provide copies of the management reports describing the outcome of the audits or evaluations.

RESPONSE.

Yes. Please see the institutional response to UPS/USPS-T1-31.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS XIE

UPS/USPS-T1-33. Has the data collection process for the TRACS Highway Subsystem (USPS-LR-I-51) ever undergone an audit or other quality control evaluation? If so, explain the procedure used and provide copies of the management reports describing the outcome of the audits or evaluations.

RESPONSE.

Yes. Please see the institutional response to UPS/USPS-T1-31. Additionally, in support of the independent audit of the CRA, the Inspection Service audits numerous TRACS tests at BMCs each year. A copy of the Inspection Service management report for FY 1998, along with a copy of their audit procedures, is contained in USPS-LR-I-264.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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UPS/USPS-T1-34. For the TRACS Highway Subsystem (USPS-LR-I-52) explain the following details of the data collection process:

- (a) How does the process ensure that expedited mail is retained for sampling?
- (b) Do containers contain markings, labels, or other indications indicating whether they contain expedited or non-expedited mail?
- (c) Given that a TRACS test can take considerable time, what steps are taken to avoid delaying the movement of time critical products
- (d) Have any audits been conducted to determine whether mail movement is evading the TRACS inspection procedure? If so, provide copies of the management reports describing the outcome of such audits.

RESPONSE.

- a) Answered by Witness Xie.
- b) Answered by Witness Xie.
- c) Answered by Witness Xie.
- d) No.

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.

K N Hollies

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