

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

RECEIVED  
MAY 12 4 35 PM '00

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2000

Docket No. R2000-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORY OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
(OCA/USPS-134)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-134, filed on April 28, 2000.

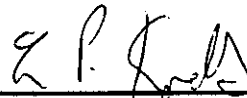
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking



Eric P. Koetting

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-2992 Fax -5402  
May 12, 2000

**RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY  
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

**OCA/USPS-134.**

- (a) Has the Postal Service conducted any studies on the relationship between the weight of a mailpiece and its aspect ratio? If yes, please provide a copy of any such studies.
- (b) In the absence of any studies referred to in part (a) of this interrogatory, what is known by the Postal Service about the relationship between the weight of a mailpiece and its aspect ratio? Please explain.
- (c) In the absence of any studies referred to in part (a) of this interrogatory, what is known by the Postal Service about the relationship between the weight of a low aspect ratio mail piece and its propensity to "tumble"?
- (d) As a matter of the physics and engineering of automated letter-processing equipment, are heavier low aspect ratio pieces more likely to "tumble" than lighter pieces (due to the effect of inertia during acceleration)? Please make inquiries at Merrifield before answering this question.

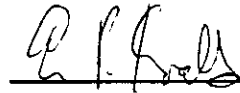
**RESPONSE:**

(a) No.

(b) (c) (d) In the absence of any studies, the relationship between mail piece weight (or distribution of weight within a given mail piece) and aspect ratio is not known. Inquiries to Merrifield have revealed no further information.

## 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.



---

Eric P. Koetting

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-2992 Fax -5402  
May 12, 2000