

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001

Docket No. R2001-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS KINGSLEY TO INTERROGATORY OF OCA
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS MAYO
(OCA/USPA-T36-12-13, 15(a), 16, and 17(h))

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Kingsley to the following interrogatory of Office of Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T36-12-13, 15(a), and 17(h), filed on October 1, 2001. These interrogatories were redirected from witness Mayo.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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October 16, 2001

REDIRECTED RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS KINGSLEY TO INTERROGATORIES OF OFFICE OF CONSUMER
ADVOCATE TO WITNESS MAYO

OCA/USPS-T-36-12 Please provide an explanation of all the mail processing steps a non-local destinating Certified Mail piece undergoes once it has been accepted by a USPS window clerk. Please include in your response an explanation of: (a) how the mail piece is processed on incoming and outgoing equipment, and (b) how the DPS equipment differentiates the routing of a non-Certified Mail piece versus a Certified Mail piece.

Response:

(a) Currently, Certified Mail is processed no differently than it would have been without the Certified tag until reaching incoming secondary operations.

REDIRECTED RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS KINGSLEY TO INTERROGATORIES OF OFFICE OF CONSUMER
ADVOCATE TO WITNESS MAYO

OCA/USPS-T-36-13 Please explain how a mail carrier carries and is able to differentiate a Certified Mail piece from any other mail piece when the carrier is on the street. For example, is Certified Mail carried as a separate bundle? If so, in which of the carrier's three bundles is it?

Response:

It is my understanding that Certified Mail is not carried as a separate bundle. Certified Mail is accountable mail and therefore carriers must sign for the mailpieces. At the discretion of the local office, Certified Mail is generally sorted into delivery sequence with other letter/flat mail, and is usually placed as the first piece(s) for the delivery point, along with a salmon-colored PS Form 3849 (*Delivery Notice/Reminder/Receipt*). PS Form 3849 is completed for each Certified Mail piece and is completed before the carrier starts his/her route. At the delivery address the carrier fingers through the letter/flat mail, retrieves the Certified Mail piece(s) and the PS Form 3849, and completes delivery. Both PS Form 3849 and the green color of the label, that is folded over the top edge of the mailpiece to the right of the return address, act as flags that a Certified Mail piece is present for that delivery address. It is also my understanding that if a Certified Mail piece is occasionally found in the Delivery Point Sequence bundle, a carrier will complete a PS Form 3849 immediately and complete delivery.

REDIRECTED RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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ADVOCATE TO WITNESS MAYO

OCA/USPS-T-36-15 Please provide an explanation of how a Delivery Confirmation mail piece is processed once it is accepted by a local USPS window clerk and is destined for a non-local destination. Please include in your response an explanation of: (a) how the piece is processed on incoming and outgoing equipment; (b) where and when the mail piece is scanned, and (c) how the information on the final scan is uploaded for public viewing. Provide specific cites to all source documents used in preparing your response and include a copy of each source document if one has not been previously filed in this docket.

Response:

(a) The equipment used would depend on the class and machinability characteristics of the piece. Regardless, the Delivery Confirmation mailpiece is processed to carrier route no differently than it would have been without Delivery Confirmation.

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OCA/USPS-T-36-16 The following question refers to the way in which a mail carrier handles a Delivery Confirmation mail piece once the carrier is on the street. Is a Delivery Confirmation mail piece carried as a separate bundle? If not, please explain how a Delivery Confirmation mail piece is handled on a carrier's route.

Response:

It is my understanding that a Delivery Confirmation mailpiece is not carried as a separate bundle unless it is a parcel. Even for parcels, Delivery Confirmation parcels are kept with other parcels, rather than as a separate Delivery Confirmation bundle. Since Delivery Confirmation does not make a mailpiece accountable, and since parcels/Priority Mail are not sorted to DPS by equipment, no flags are necessary for the carrier. Once the carrier is on the street, a Delivery Confirmation mailpiece is handled like any other piece except that the barcode on the Delivery Confirmation label is scanned upon delivery.

REDIRECTED RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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OCA/USPS-T-36-17 The following refers to the USPS Delivery Confirmation product offering.

(h) Why hasn't the Postal Service extended the Delivery Confirmation offering to First-Class letters?

Response:

(h) My testimony, USPS-T-39 pages 8 and 28, explains the problems that would occur in identifying and extracting Delivery Confirmation on letters and how it is easier for carrier identification of Delivery Confirmation on parcels and Priority Mail.

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.

Joseph K. Moore

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