

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 MAJOR MAILERS ASSOCIATION
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS ROBINSON
(MMA/USPS-T29-7)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Kingsley to the following interrogatory of Major Mailers Association: MMA/USPS-T29-7, filed on October 26, 2001, and redirected from witness Robinson.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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MMA/USPS-T-29-7 On pages 13-14 and 16-18 of your Direct testimony you discuss your proposal to modify the current nonstandard surcharge by extending it to include mail that is nonmachinable and renaming it the “nonmachinable surcharge.”

- A. How will the Postal Service handle a single piece letter that is nonmachinable because the handwritten address is too messy to be read but pays no surcharge? Please explain.
- B. How will the Postal Service handle a single piece letter that is nonmachinable because the envelope is too dark leaving too little contrast for the envelope to be read by an OCR, but pays no surcharge? Please explain.
- C. How will the Postal Service handle a letter that is nonmachinable because the paper is too flimsy to successfully be sorted by automation, but pays no surcharge? Please explain.

Response:

- A. A messy handwritten address does not make the piece nonmachinable. The physical characteristics of the piece affect machinability. If it is too messy to be read by the OCR, RCR, or REC keyer, it will be sorted out as non-readable at the OSS and flow to manual for processing. If the REC keyer cannot read the address, the manual clerk is also unlikely to be able to interpret the address. This piece may be marked “return to sender” if a legible return address exists or it will be sent to dead letter operations. See DMM F010.8.
- B. The gray scale cameras on the OCRs translate the image into 256 shades of gray to improve the likelihood of distinguishing the print from a darker background (see my testimony, USPS-T-10, page 4, from Docket No. R2000-1). If the background is too dark for the OCR, RCR, or REC keyer to distinguish the address, it would be handled similar to the illegible letter in sup-part A. Again, this piece is not considered nonmachinable.

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- C. The flimsy piece may be pulled from the automated mail stream at the AFCS, at the feed end of letter automation equipment, or pulled from the automation equipment after it has jammed or been damaged. The flimsy pieces would then proceed to manual operations. If no surcharge had been paid, it would be treated similar to a nonstandard piece today that had not paid the surcharge. See response to OCA/USPS-63 (a), (b), (f-j).

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.

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