

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

---

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001

---

Docket No. R2001-1

RESPONSES OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS KINGSLEY TO INTERROGATORIES OF ASSOCIATION FOR  
POSTAL COMMERCE  
(POSTCOM/USPS-T39-20-21)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Kingsley to the following interrogatories of Association for Postal Commerce: POSTCOM/USPS-T39-20-21, filed on November 26, 2001.

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

---

Joseph K. Moore

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-3078, Fax -5402  
December 10, 2001

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS KINGSLEY  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF ASSOCIATION FOR POSTAL COMMERCE

**POSTCOM/USPS-T39-20** Please refer to your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(a) where you discuss ID codes for flat mail. Please discuss how you expect the Postal Service will place the ID code on non-prebarcoded flats. In your discussion, please describe the mail processing operations and equipment that will be used as well as personnel and material requirements. If the Postal Service has not determined the preferred method for placing ID codes on non-prebarcoded flats, please describe all alternatives being considered.

**Response:** The process to apply ID codes for flat mail is still being tested and evaluated. The solution being worked on would tag only those pieces that do not contain a readable or complete barcode. The technologies now being developed and evaluated include applying fluorescent and photochromic inks, and developing a system to track the ID tags and results.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS KINGSLEY  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF ASSOCIATION FOR POSTAL COMMERCE

**POSTCOM/USPS-T39-21** Please refer to your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(c) where you state, “Current data indicate that the finest depth of sort rate for all machinable flats to vary between 63-75 percent (depending on the operation). We expect that this rate will be lower for nonbarcoded flats,”

(a) Please define “finest depth of sort” as used in your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(c).

(a) (*sic*) Please describe the current data and the source of the data that you refer to in your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(c).

(b) Did any of the machinable flats referred to in your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(c) have 11-digit barcodes on them?

(c) What proportion of the machinable flats referred to in your response to POSTCOM/USPS-T39-15(c) were nonbarcoded?

(d) How much lower do you expect the accept rate for nonbarcoded flats to be? Please explain your response fully and provide any underlying data you used to develop your estimate.

(e) What do you expect the accept rate will be for sorting flats with 11-digit barcodes to delivery point sequence? Please explain your answer fully and provide any underlying data you used to develop your estimate.

**Response:**

(a) “Finest depth of sort rate” in this response refers to the finest level of sort that can be achieved on our automation equipment when the address on the mail piece is processed using the information contained in our address database. The finest depth of sort may be only 5-digits for a non-automated zone, 9-digits for a firm or PO Box, and, usually, 11-digits to the delivery point – for example, not to a building default.

(a) The percentages cited were obtained by running the AFSM-100 OCR First Article Test image set through the latest AFSM-100 OCR hardware/software configuration.

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS KINGSLEY  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF ASSOCIATION FOR POSTAL COMMERCE

- (b) I would expect that some percentage of flats contained 11-digit barcodes given the mail I receive.
- (c) Approximately 50 percent were nonbarcoded.
- (d) I would expect the accept rate for nonbarcoded flats to be somewhat lower than for barcoded flats but I do not have an exact figure. Refer to USPS LR-J-61, page 84 for current BCR and OCR accept rates for Standard Mail.
- (e) At this time, we do not have accept rate projections for 11-digit barcoded pieces in a DPS environment. It would depend on a number of factors, such as whether barcodes and/or ID codes are applied to flats as part of the DPS process. Also, future improvements in readability will impact the accept rate.

## 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

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
December 10, 2001