UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Classification and Fees
For Confirm

Docket No. MC2002-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 1

(Issued May 6, 2002)

On April 24, 2002, the Postal Service filed a request for a recommended decision on classification and fees for Confirm®, a new service using PLANET Codes (a new mailer applied of barcode) to enable commercial mailers to track individual automation compatible letter-size and flat mail pieces. The Postal Service is requested to provide responses to the following questions to assist in developing a record for the consideration of its request. In order to facilitate inclusion of the requested material in the evidentiary record, the Postal Service is to have a witness attest to the accuracy of the answers and be prepared to explain to the extent necessary the basis for the answers. The answers are to be provided by May 17, 2002.

1. On page 4 of USPS-T-1 it states that, "A Confirm® data record is generated each time the PLANET Coded mail piece is run on certain Postal Service automated mail processing equipment."
   (a) What operations, for example incoming primary, will generate a data record?
   (b) For each of these operations provide, by shape and subclass, the percentage of Confirm® piece that will be processed on automation equipment.
   (c) According to witness Miller's LR-61 in Docket No. R2001-1, only 65% of machinable flats are run on automated equipment at the Incoming Secondary level. Does this imply that 35% of Confirm® flats will not receive a scan at the incoming secondary level? If so, how will a data record be generated?

2. With respect to each subscription level described on page 2 of USPS-T-5,
   (a) What is the maximum number of scans a piece could receive?
   (b) What is the minimum number of scans a piece could receive?
   (c) What is the average number of scans per piece?
   (d) Does each scan count against the allocated scans per subscription level?
   (e) Can the subscriber specify the number of times it wants the piece scanned?
   (f) Can the subscriber specify where in the system it wants the scanning to commence, for example, only when it reaches the secondary sort?

3. Please refer to USPS-LR-1, the Confirm® Market Research. How many of the registered companies indicated that they would purchase the service at the proposed price levels?

4. Refer to USPS-LR-2, Worksheet A5.
   (a) The allocated scans for additional scans for the Silver package is given as 2,500,000, and 12,500,000 for Platinum. Witness Kiefer's testimony, however, states that users would be allowed to purchase additional scans in blocks of two million for Silver, and six million for Platinum. USPS-T-5 page 2. Please explain the additional 500,000 scans.
   (b) Please explain why the period of allocation for the Silver package is 30 days for additional scans, and 90 days for the base scans.

5. Please explain how the Postal Service proposes to calculate the duration of each subscription level.
   (a) For example, is the three months duration for Silver subscriptions based on a first-of-the-month start date, *e.g.*, February 1 through April 30, or does it also encompass any starting date with service terminating roughly 90 days thereafter, *e.g.*, May 15 through August 14? Do the three months have to run consecutively?

(b) Is the one-year term for Gold and Platinum subscriptions based on a calendar year or an annual period terminating on the anniversary of the commencement date of the subscription? Do the twelve months have to run consecutively?

George A. Omas
Presiding Officer