

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

CONFIRM

Docket No. MC2002-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS BAKSHI TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF  
THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
(OCA/USPS-T1-19-20)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Bakshi to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T1-19-20, filed on May 24, 2002.

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

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Joseph K. Moore

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-3078, Fax -5402  
June 3, 2002

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**OCA/USPS-T1-19.** Assume that a Confirm® Planet Code has been printed on an envelope and that subsequently the mailing address is hand written on the same Planet Coded envelope so that the Planet Code barcode is not obscured. Can the USPS automation equipment still perform the following tasks:

- a. Read the address? If a hand-written address cannot be read on a Planet Coded mail piece, please explain.
- b. Sort the envelope to the next mail operation? If the Planet Coded mail piece can not be sorted due to the hand-written address, please explain.
- c. Collect and process Planet Code information on a pre-printed Planet Coded envelope with a hand-written address, to the same extent that a machine printed Planet Code and addressed envelope would be? If Planet Code information cannot be collected and processed similarly (hand-addressed versus machine addressed) please explain.

**RESPONSE:**

- a. The MLOCR may or may not be able to read the hand-written address. If it can read the address and finds a match in the address database, a POSTNET Code will be sprayed on the piece and it will then be treated as a “machinable” mail piece. If the MLOCR cannot read the address, then the piece would be sent to the RBCS for the remote barcoding process. If the remote computer reader or remote encoding center finds an address that matches to the address database, then a corresponding POSTNET Code is sprayed on that piece and it is then considered machinable and will be processed as a typical automated mail piece.
- b. The piece will be sorted as an automated piece after the POSTNET Code is successfully sprayed on the piece.
- c. Confirm data will be collected from the mail piece to the same extent as all other barcoded mail pieces after a readable, accurate POSTNET Code is applied to the piece affixed with a readable PLANET Code.

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**OCA/USPS-T1-20.** The first-two digits of a Confirm® Planet Code represent the service type – Destination or Origin Confirm®. Can the first two digits be used to expand the number of five-digit customer ID codes from the 100,000 five-digit customer IDs available? If you are unable to confirm, please explain.

**RESPONSE:**

As currently configured, the Confirm system is not capable of providing more than 100,000 five-digit customer IDs. However, as future needs develop, modifications can be made to extend the customer ID capabilities of the system beyond 100,000. However, the Postal Service has not examined the level of effort it would take to accomplish this modification.

## 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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Joseph K. Moore

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