

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

CUSTOMIZED MARKET MAIL MINOR
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

Docket No. MC2003-1

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS HOPE TO INTERROGATORY OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER
ADVOCATE (OCA/USPS-T2—1)**

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Hope to the following interrogatory of the Office of Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T2—1, filed on March 28, 2003. The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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April 8, 2003

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS HOPE TO INTERROGATORIES OF THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-T2-1:

At page 2 of your testimony you state, "...mailers would have to endorse pieces with the Carrier Release marking..."

- a. Please provide a copy of the Carrier Release marking you refer to.
- b. Please provide an explanation of the conditions under which a Carrier Release marking is required for Standard Mail.
- c. Is the Carrier Release marking used in other classes and subclasses of mail? If so, please explain fully the circumstances under which the marking is used.

RESPONSE:

a,b.) The Carrier Release marking is not currently required for mail in any subclass; it is optional in Standard Mail and other parcel subclasses (see response to subpart (c), below). Further details have been published in the Postal Bulletin, most recently in No. 22096 (2-20-03), which provides:

The Carrier Release Program under Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) section D042.7.0 was designed to increase customer convenience and satisfaction with the delivery of Standard Mail and Package Services materials. It allows letter carriers to leave uninsured parcels in a safe location protected from the weather when no one is available at the address to receive the parcel. There are no restrictions regarding size or subclass of the parcel, only that the mail is not accountable.

The sender requests this service by endorsing the parcel "Carrier – Leave if No Response" as described in DMM D042.7.0. Another option is to use Label 235, Carrier Release, which is applied at the retail counter.

Parcels endorsed under the Carrier Release Program should be left at the delivery address if at all possible. Mailers who use this service do so as a convenience for their customers because in some cases they may lose customers if the parcel is not left at the delivery address. Carriers are not liable for loss or damage under these circumstances. Mailers are aware that risks are associated with this type of delivery but have accepted the risks as reasonable.

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A copy of Label 235 is appended to this response.

Note that this is not a new service. It was first introduced on December 16,
1990.

c.) The Carrier Release program is also optional for parcel mailers in the
Package Services subclasses. See DMM D042.7.0 and M012.4.3.

Attachment to
OCA/USPS-T2-1 (Label 235)

Carrier:
Leave if
No Response