

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

EXPERIMENTAL PARCEL RETURNS SERVICES

Docket No. MC2003-2

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS GULLO TO INTERROGATORIES OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
(OCA/USPS-T1-24-36)

The United States Postal Service hereby files the response of witness Gullo to the following interrogatories of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T1-24-36, filed on June 10, 2003.

Each interrogatories is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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June 20, 2003

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OCA/USPS-T1-26. Please refer to the manifesting and payment system described at page 7, lines 19 – 23, of your testimony.

- a. Do all of these activities take place at the shipper's plant, as described at pages 8 -9?
- b. Do any of the manifesting and payment activities take place at the return facility?
- c. Please explain your answers to parts a and b. Reconcile the location of the manifesting and payment activities, if necessary.

RESPONSE:

a-c. The manifesting and payment activities described at page 7, lines 19 – 23 discuss the process for parcels picked up at an RDU. The scans from these parcels would be transmitted to the Product Tracking System database and used to generate a daily payment manifest. On a daily basis, this payment manifest would be used by the post office where the permit is held to deduct the appropriate postage from the permit holder's Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) account. The manifesting and payment described on pages 8 – 9 describe the activities performed for parcels picked up at an RBMC. The parcels would be manifested at the shipper's or agent's facility where the shipper or agent would calculate the postage due for the parcels. The manifest would be verified by a postal employee at the shipper's or agent's facility and used to deduct the appropriate postage from its CAPS account at the servicing post office.

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OCA/USPS-T1-27. Please refer to your testimony at page 9, lines 16– 18.

- a. Will sampling information be collected for every returned RDU parcel?
- b. Please list individually all items of information that will be collected, preserved, and reported to the Commission during the course of the experiment.
- c. Identify those items of information that are generated by the scanning of the barcode; and separately identify those items of information that are generated by other means. Specify the other means, if any.

RESPONSE:

- a. No. We will use this process to collect random sampling information on parcels picked up at RDUs.
- b. As stated in my testimony, USPS-T-1, page 15, lines 18 – 22, the Postal Service proposes to collect and report the following information to the Commission every six months as part of the ongoing data collection in compliance with the experimental rules:
  - Volume
    - By RDU and RBMC
    - By weight and zone (as possible)
  - Pickup frequency by facility type
  - Number and types of facilities used as pickup locations
- c. The following information is generated from scanning the barcode within Postal Service:
  - Barcode number
  - Type of scan event (“available for pick up” or “picked up by agent” for RDU parcels and “enroute” for RBMC parcels)
  - Date & time of scan event

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- ZIP Code of facility where scan is generated

Additionally, the following information is collected by the shipper or agent and included in the manifest file it transmits to the Postal Service:

- Date & time parcels are manifested
- Barcode number of parcel
- ZIP Code of facility where parcel was picked up
- Origin ZIP Code of parcel
- Rate category
- Weight
- Zone
- Postage

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OCA/USPS-T1-28. Please refer to your testimony at page 10, lines 2 – 3, and page 13, lines 8 –10.

- a. What information is generated by BMC passive scanners? Please describe fully.
- b. Do BMC passive scanners function similarly to Mobile Data Collection Devices? Please explain.
- c. Are BMC passive scanners part of the Product Tracking System? Please explain.

RESPONSE:

- a. The following information is generated from the information collected by the BMC scanners:

- Barcode number of parcel
- Enroute scan event
- Date & time of scan event
- ZIP Code of facility where scan is generated

- b. They function similarly in that when a parcel barcode is scanned, the scan details are transmitted to the Postal Service Product Tracking System. In contrast, the Mobile Data Collection Devices require a person to manually scan the barcode where the BMC passive scanners are fixed equipment and automatically scan the barcodes on parcels as they pass under them.
- c. The BMC scanners are not part of the Product Tracking System. They are a system component of the parcel sorting machines in the BMCs. The scanners are programmed to read postal routing barcodes for sorting purposes and collect confirmation services barcode information which is subsequently passed to the Product Tracking System.

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OCA/USPS-T1-29. Please refer to USPS-T-1 at 10, lines 16–17. List each of the individual items of information that will be captured as “scan data.”

RESPONSE:

This information can be found in the response to OCA/USPS-T1-27(c).

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OCA/USPS-T1-30. Please refer to USPS-T-1 at 10, lines 17 – 18. List each of the individual items of data that will be submitted by the shipper and collected in PTS.

RESPONSE:

This information can be found in the response to OCA/USPS-T1-27(c).

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OCA/USPS-T1-31. Please confirm that shippers who send merchandise using carriers other than the Postal Service, e.g., United Parcel Service or Fedex, will be able to offer Parcel Return Service to their customers. If so, please confirm that RDU parcel labels would not have a parcel routing barcode assigned to the unique ZIP code of the origin BMC because there would not be an origin BMC. If you cannot confirm these statements, please explain.

RESPONSE:

There is no restriction on participation for other carriers. As stated in USPS-T-1, page 6, lines 19 – 21, all parcels, including those addressed to an RDU, are required to include a postal routing barcode for the origin or RBMC. The origin BMC for this service refers to the BMC responsible for servicing the ZIP Code of the consumer returning the parcel.

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OCA/USPS-T1-32. Please refer to page 12, lines 5 – 6, and page 13, lines 21 – 22. Is it correct that a Postal Service employee will load PRS parcels onto the shipper's truck? If not, please explain.

RESPONSE:

This process for loading parcels into the shipper's truck is different at an RDU from the process at an RBMC. Parcels picked up at an RDU would be moved to a loading area where they would be scanned by a postal employee and handed off to the shipper's or agent's driver to load onto its truck. Parcels picked up at an RBMC would be containerized (into pallet boxes) and require BMC personnel to use a forklift to perform loading activities.

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OCA/USPS-T1-33. Please reconcile your statement at page 12, lines 11 – 12, “At a minimum, participating shippers or agents would be required to pick up once a week from each post office where they receive returns;” with your statement at page 13, lines 17 – 19, “Shippers would be required to pick up Parcel Return Services parcels on a regular schedule, every two days at a minimum . . . .”

- a. Which of these statements is correct?
- b. Are the pick up requirements different for RDU PRS and RBMC PRS? Please explain.

RESPONSE:

- a-b. Both statements are correct. Page 12 refers to RDU and page 13 refers to RBMC. Also, as stated on page 12, lines 16 – 18, the shipper may be required to pick up more frequently at an RDU based on the size of the return parcels and post office space constraints.

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OCA/USPS-T1-34. Please explain what the expression “early bird” office means? Why is it necessary to limit RDU to early bird DDU offices?

RESPONSE:

The expression “early bird” office is a term used to describe post office delivery units that offer extended acceptance hours in the morning for destination delivery unit mailings. The proposed limit to the RDU offices included in the experiment would allow the Postal Service to better manage and evaluate the operating procedures developed for this service. In general, the “early bird” offices represent approximately 6,500 of our largest offices and typically include space and resources that can be used to support the experiment.

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OCA/USPS-T1-35. Please provide a sample (or prototype) RDU label.

RESPONSE:

The attached image is a prototype of a Parcel Select Return Service RDU label.

John Doe 123 Main St Washington DC 20260	<b>DRAFT</b>	<b>NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES</b>
<b>PARCEL SELECT RETURN SERVICE</b> PARCEL RETURNS PER MIT NO. 12345		
BMC ZIP - USPS PARCEL RETURN SVC	RDU RETURN SERVICE 1859 S ASHLAND AVE CHICAGO IL 60608-9998	<b>A01</b>
 4206 0130 9158 0268 3733 1000 0010 14		

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OCA/USPS-T1-36. Please provide a sample (or prototype) RBMC label.

RESPONSE:

The attached image is a prototype of a Parcel Select Return Service RBMC label.



## **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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