

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

RECEIVED  
SEP 11 4 55 PM '97  
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
WITNESS MODEN TO INTERROGATORY OF  
THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE  
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS FRONK  
(OCA/USPS-T32-56(C))

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response of witness Moden to the following interrogatory of the Office of the Consumer Advocate: OCA/USPS-T32-56(c), filed on August 28, 1997, and redirected from witness Fronk.

The 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



Scott L. Reiter

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
(202) 268-2999; Fax -5402  
September 11, 1997

RESPONSE OF POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS MODEN TO  
INTERROGATORIES OF OCA REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS FRONK

**OCA/USPS-T-32-56.** The Postal Service response to AMMA states: "We have not gathered data and have no plans to compile data identifying customers or geographic areas producing unreadable barcodes. The evaluation process will notify customers when errors occur and encourage those mailers to correct the problem. We see no value in pointing out such incidences of specific customer or geographically."

c. Please describe what happens to mail in the mailstream once a barcoding error is detected, include additional sortations that must take place.

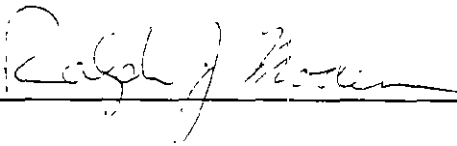
RESPONSE:

c. When a mailpiece with an unreadable barcode is found, there are a couple of factors that determine how the piece may be handled. For instance, there are considerations such as the placement of the barcode on the mailpiece. If the barcoding error is in the barcode clear zone (see DMA/USPS-T4-19(b) for a description of the barcode clear zone), the mailpiece may be processed through the Letter Mail Labeling Machine which can apply a blank label over the barcode error. The blank label, in essence, creates a new barcode clear zone, and the mailpiece can then be processed through any of the barcode application equipment mentioned on pages 5 through 7 of my testimony. If the barcoding error is an address block barcode and the mailpiece has a proper barcode clear zone, the piece can also be processed through the aforementioned barcode application equipment but would not require processing on the LMLM. The mailer applied barcoding error could be corrected by just applying a new barcode with USPS equipment since a USPS barcode in the barcode clear zone has precedence.

Other factors such as the volume of mailpieces with barcoding errors and machine availability can also affect how the pieces will be handled. For instance, if there are not many pieces that have barcode errors, it is often more practical and efficient to obliterate the barcode with a marker and sort the mailpiece in a manual case.

**DECLARATION**

I, Ralph J. Moden, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing answers are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 9/10/47

**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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott L. Reiter", is written over a horizontal line.

Scott L. Reiter

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137  
September 11, 1997