

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0000

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No. R97-1

**RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF NASHUA, DISTRICT, MYSTIC & SEATTLE
(NDMS/USPS-T32-37d, 38, 43, AND 46)**

The United States Postal Service hereby files its responses to the following interrogatories of Nashua, District, Mystic & Seattle, dated September 4, 1997: NDMS/USPS-T32-37d, 38, 43 and 46.

Redirected from witness Fronk, 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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September 19, 1997

RESPONSE OF U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES OF NDMS
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS FRONK

NDMS/USPS-T32-37.

- a. What was the total number of BRMAS accounts in Base Year 1996?
- b. What was the total volume of BRMAS mail which paid BRMAS rates in Base Year 1996?
- c. What was the average volume of BRMAS mail paid by BRMAS accounts in Base Year 1996?
- d. When BRMAS mail is handled manually through the postage due unit, is such BRMAS mail processed seven days a week, including Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays?

RESPONSE:

(a)-(c) Redirected to witness Needham.

(d) The number of days per week that BRMAS mail is handled manually through the postage due unit will vary across postal facilities, depending on a number of factors, including the level of volume received and staffing constraints.

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NDMS/USPS-T32-38. Please provide all available data showing the distribution of BRMAS mail volume received (either daily, weekly, monthly, or annual) by BRMAS users in Base Year 1996, using whatever breakdowns are available (e.g., fewer than 1,000 pieces/year; 1,000-10,000 pieces/year; 10,000 to 100,000 pieces/year; more than 100,000 pieces/year).

RESPONSE: Please see Table H180-A, in USPS LR-H-180. It gives the distribution of annual BRMAS-rated volume for letters and cards.

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NDMS/USPS-T32-43.

a. In what ways, and to what extent, has the Postal Service publicized the existence and the amount of the First-Class nonstandard surcharge to the general public since Docket No. R78-1? Please explain in full, including such dates as available, any changes in the various methods used, and copies of print advertisements used (if any).

b. Since Docket No. R78-1, has the Postal Service ever commissioned any surveys of the general public's awareness of the existence of the First-Class nonstandard surcharge? (i) If so, please indicate when each survey was conducted and provide a summary of the results. (ii) If not, why not?

RESPONSE:

(a) Please see response to OCA/USPS-T32-8, which includes a description of all such efforts over the last three years. Copies of the materials cited in OCA/USPS-T32-8 are contained in USPS-LR-H-243. These materials are representative of the kind of educational materials the Postal Service has historically prepared following a rate change, including pamphlets and posters. Such historical material is typically discarded as it becomes obsolete.

(b) No. The Postal Service has not had need for such data.

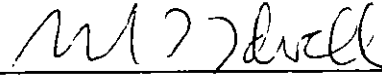
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NDMS/USPS-T32-46. Library Reference H-112 (the nonstandard surcharge cost update) utilizes manual letter cost data (see LR-H-112, Exhibits A and B). Where else does the Postal Service utilize manual letter cost data?

RESPONSE: Manual letter cost data are used only in this Library Reference.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date 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 "M T Tidwell", written over a horizontal line.

Michael T. Tidwell

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