

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

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POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Docket No. R97-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORIES OF  
ADVO, INC.  
(ADVO/USPS-22-25)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides responses to the following  
interrogatories of Advo, Inc.: ADVO/USPS-22-25, filed on September 16, 1997.

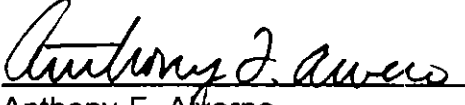
Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.  
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

  
Anthony F. Averno

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September 30, 1997

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO THE INTERROGATORIES OF ADVO

**ADVO/USPS-22.** Is the basic purpose of the facer/canceler operation to (i) assimilate and face loose mail into proper "face up" address orientation, and (ii) place cancellation marks on stamped mail? If not, please describe the basic purposes of this operation.

**Response:**

Yes, that is the basic purpose of the facer canceller operation. In addition, the Advanced Facer Cancellor System (AFCS) separates letter mail into basic processing categories (e.g., barcoded, script, OCR candidate) and, on those AFCS units equipped with an input subsystem (ISS) capability, lifts images for subsequent RBCS processing.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
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**ADVO/USPS-23.** Other than non-precanceled stamped mail and single-piece metered mail, is any other kind of mail (e.g., bulk metered mail, bulk permit imprint mail, bulk precanceled stamped mail, etc.) processed through facer/canceler operations?

(a) If so, please identify the specific kinds of such mail (subclasses, categories, preparation characteristics) that are so processed.

(b) For each kind of mail in (a), explain specifically whether and why it requires processing through the facer/canceler operation. (c) If any kinds of mail listed in (a) do not require processing through the facer/canceler operation but are nevertheless so processed, explain why.

**Response:**

Business Reply Mail (BRM) is also regularly processed through the facer/canceler operation since it is commonly dropped in collection boxes and therefore must be faced for cancellation and subsequent processing. BRM must bear a facing identification mark (FIM). BRM service enables a mailer to receive *First-Class Mail back from customers by paying postage only on the mail* returned to the mailer from the mailer's original distribution of BRM pieces. In the case of the AFCS, BRM with a barcode will be directed to a stacker with other prebarcoded letters while BRM without a barcode will be directed to a stacker for subsequent processing on an MLOCR.

RESPONSE OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES  
OF ADVO, INC.

ADVO/USPS-24. Please confirm the following:

- a. Bulk Rate Standard A mail must be prepared by mailers and presented to the Postal Service in presorted bundles or trays with the mail properly faced.
- b. Postage for Bulk Rate Standard A mail may only be paid by permit imprint, meter, or precanceled stamps; the use of uncanceled stamps is not permitted.

If you cannot confirm, please describe the circumstances (including citations to the Domestic Mail Manual) where mailers are allowed to present Bulk Rate Standard A mail in an unsorted or loose, unfaced manner, or to use uncanceled stamps.

RESPONSE:

- a. Mail must be properly faced in packages (which are subsequently containerized) or trays. There are a few exceptions, including: Irregular parcels, DMM610.5.2; loose packing, DMM610.5.4; and machinable parcels, DMM610.6.0
- b. Confirmed.

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO THE INTERROGATORIES OF ADVO

**ADVO/USPS-25.** Do any of the following kinds of Bulk Rate Standard A mailings [sic] require either facing or cancellation by the Postal Service?

(a) Bulk rate Standard A mail with postage paid by permit-imprint; (b) Bulk rate Standard A mail with metered postage;

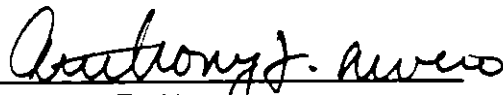
(c) Bulk rate Standard A mail with postage paid by precanceled stamp. If so, for each of the above categories, (i) describe the circumstances and the specific characteristics of the mailings that would require facing or cancellation, and (ii) quantify or estimate the percentage of the total mail volume in each category (either numerically or qualitatively) that requires either facing or cancellation.

**Response:**

None of the kinds of Bulk Rate Standard A mailings listed require cancellation by the Postal Service. Facing is only required in those instances when the individual pieces in a mailer-prepared mailing become "unfaced", e.g., when bundles break.

## 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.

  
Anthony F. Alverno

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