

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

EXPERIMENTAL PRIORITY MAIL FLAT-RATE
BOX, 2004

Docket No. MC2004-2

NOTICE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OF FILING REVISION TO
THE TESTIMONY OF WITNESS BARRETT (USPS-T-2) [ERRATUM]
(August 2, 2004)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides notice that it is today filing a minor revision to the testimony of witness Barrett (USPS-T-2). These revisions correct the dimensions and materials specification of the proposed Flat-Rate Boxes, as indicated in the response to interrogatory DBP/USPS-T2-2. The revisions are as follows:

<u>Page#</u>	<u>Line#</u>	<u>Change</u>
4	23	Change " 13.25" x 11.75" x 3.25" " to "13.625" x 11.875" x 3.375"
5	11-16	<p>Change "Both items will be manufactured using 32# edge crushed test board, the same material currently used to construct most Postal Service-provided Priority Mail boxes. Again, these specifications are in line with those used on most Priority Mail boxes offered today to Postal Service customers. Therefore, in terms of protecting the items mailed, the Flat-Rate Boxes are expected to perform equally well."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">to</p> <p>"In keeping with the design of currently available Priority Mail boxes, the two boxes will be constructed using slightly different boards. The regular slotted container will be constructed using 32# ECT B-flute board, while the full overlapping container will be constructed using 29# E-flute board. Again, these specifications are in line with those used on most Priority Mail boxes offered today to Postal Service customers. Therefore, in terms of protecting the items mailed, the Flat-Rate Boxes are expected to perform equally well. "</p>

Copies of revised pages 4 and 5 are attached to this notice.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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1 merchandise online might see value in the ability to communicate exact shipping
2 costs to customers in advance and up front. In short, the convenience of the
3 Flat-Rate Box is compatible with both the traditional and the alternate channels of
4 access to postal services.

5 The combination of the Flat-Rate Box and the variety of access channels and
6 postage payment options may make a special trip to the post office unnecessary
7 in many cases – thus saving customers' time.

8 Overall, the "Flat-Rate Box" concept represents an opportunity for the Postal
9 Service to enhance value for convenience-oriented customers, especially
10 consumers and small businesses who may not wish to calculate rates using zone
11 charts or scales, by simplifying its rating procedure to make Priority Mail service
12 easier to use.

13 **III. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLAT-RATE BOX**

14 The following addresses the production specifications of the proposed Priority
15 Mail Flat-Rate Boxes. The importance of these specifications is that they
16 determine box strength, and therefore affect the amount of mailable material that
17 can be accommodated, while ensuring safe delivery. Also of note is the nature of
18 the printed language on the box itself. Such language will instruct the customer
19 on how to use the box and clearly notes mail entry restrictions.

20 **A. Box Specifications**

21 Two corrugated fiberboard boxes are proposed. The outside dimensions of
22 the two options are 14" x 12" x 3.5" and 11.25" x 8.75" x 6" respectively, equating
23 to inside dimensions (available packing space) of 13.625" x 11.875" x 3.375" and 11"

1 x 8.5" x 5.5". The two box sizes will have the same cube (0.34 cu. ft.), and will
2 therefore afford the same amount of packing space to customers. The two
3 different shapes are intended to accommodate a variety of possible items, and
4 were chosen in part based on their relative similarity to corrugated box items that
5 have proven popular with Priority Mail customers in the past. For instance, the
6 longer, shallower, box might be particularly suitable for garments, while the taller
7 box would accommodate shoes or other items too tall to fit in the "garment" box.

8 One of the two boxes will be constructed as a regular slotted container, while
9 the other will be produced with full overlapping closure flaps and a 'self-sealing'
10 feature achieved through the application of pressure sensitive transfer tape.

11 In keeping with the design of currently available Priority Mail boxes, the two
12 boxes will be constructed using slightly different boards. The regular slotted
13 container will be constructed using 32# ECT B-flute board, while the full
14 overlapping container will be constructed using 29# E-flute board. Again, these
15 specifications are in line with those used on most Priority Mail boxes offered
16 today to Postal Service customers. Therefore, in terms of protecting the items
17 mailed, the Flat-Rate Boxes are expected to perform equally well.

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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