

Before The
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes, 2005)

Docket No. R2005-1

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
INTERROGATORIES TO UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
(OCA/USPS-34-42)
(May 13, 2005)

Pursuant to Rules 25 through 28 of the Rules of Practice of the Postal Rate Commission, the Office of the Consumer Advocate hereby submits interrogatories and requests for production of documents. Instructions included with OCA interrogatory OCA/USPS-T1-1, dated April 12, 2005, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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OCA/USPS-34. Please refer to the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) §604.1.1, January 6, 2005, and the table referencing First-Class Mail precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps.

- a. Please state whether there are precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamp(s) for each First-Class Mail presorted rate category, and provide the rates of postage for each stamp.
- b. Please provide the date that the Postal Service first offered precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps with respect to each First-Class Mail presorted rate category identified in subpart a. of this interrogatory.
- c. Please provide the date(s) that the Postal Service changed the design of the precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps with respect to each First-Class Mail presorted rate category identified in subpart a. of this interrogatory.
- d. Please state whether there exists nondenominated postage stamps for any First-Class Mail subclass or rate category, other than nonautomation presort and automation presort rate categories, and provide the rates of postage for each stamp.

OCA/USPS-35. Please refer to the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) §604.1.1, January 6, 2005, and the table referencing Standard Mail precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps.

- a. Please state whether there are precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamp(s) for each Standard Mail subclass or rate category, and provide the rates of postage for each stamp.

- b. Please provide the date that the Postal Service first offered precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps with respect to each Standard Mail subclass or rate category identified in subpart a. of this interrogatory.
- c. Please provide the date(s) that the Postal Service changed the design of the precanceled, nondenominated presorted rate postage stamps with respect to each Standard Mail subclass or rate category identified in subpart a. of this interrogatory.

OCA/USPS-36. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.1, January 6, 2005, concerning precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail.

- a. Please identify and discuss the policies and other factors considered that resulted in the Postal Service's initial decision to issue precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail.
- b. Please provide any economic, marketing, or other research or documentation supporting the Postal Service's initial decision to issue precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail.
- c. Please provide any Postal Service economic, marketing, or other research or documentation prepared subsequent to the Postal Service's initial decision to issue precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps for First-Class Mail and Standard Mail with respect to such postage stamps.

- d. Please provide any economic, marketing, or other research prepared by the Postal Service or any other entity concerning a nondenominated single-piece, first-ounce First-Class Mail postage stamp.

OCA/USPS-37. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.2, January 6, 2005, which states, in part, “Unless excepted by standard, the total postage affixed must equal at least the postage charge for the class of mail and, if applicable, the fee for the extra service requested.” Please explain the phrase “excepted by standard” as used in the context of the above quoted sentence. Please give examples.

OCA/USPS-38. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.2, January 6, 2005, which states, in part, “All nondenominated postage and makeup rate stamps, including official mail stamps, are valid at the original rates of issue.”

- a. Please define the phrase “nondenominated postage . . . stamps.” Are semipostal stamps defined as nondenominated postage stamps?
- b. Please define the phrase “makeup rate stamps.” Are makeup rate stamps defined as nondenominated postage stamps?
- c. Please define the phrase “official mail stamps.” Are official mail stamps defined as nondenominated postage stamps?

OCA/USPS-39. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.2, January 6, 2005, which states, in part, “All nondenominated postage and makeup rate stamps, including official mail stamps, are valid at the original rates of issue.”

- a. Please explain how postage revenue is protected by the Postal Service in the case where precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps

purchased in a period prior to a change in presort rates are used in periods subsequent to the change in presort rates?

- b. Please provide any reports by the Postal Service, the Postal Inspection Service, the Office of Inspector General, or Government Accountability Office concerning revenue protection by the Postal Service in the case where precanceled, nondenominated presorted postage stamps purchased in a period prior to a change in presort rates are used in periods subsequent to the change in presort rates?

OCA/USPS-40. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.10c., January 6, 2005, which states, in part, “The postage value of semipostal stamps purchased before any subsequent change in the First-Class Mail nonautomation single-piece first-ounce letter rate is unaffected by any subsequent change in that rate.”

- a. Please confirm that the Breast Cancer semipostal stamp, when initially issued, was priced at 40 cents. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- b. Please confirm that the “postage value” of the Breast Cancer semipostal stamp, when initially issued, was 32 cents. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- c. Please confirm that the design of the Breast Cancer semipostal stamp has not changed since it was initially issued. If you do not confirm, please explain.
- d. Pursuant to the sentence quoted above, please confirm that customers who purchased a Breast Cancer semipostal stamp when the “postage value” was 32 cents may use that semipostal stamp, without adding any additional

postage, for a First-Class Mail nonautomation single-piece first-ounce letter.

If you do not confirm, please explain.

OCA/USPS-41. Please refer to the DMM §604.1.10c., January 6, 2005, which states, in part, “The postage value of semipostal stamps purchased before any subsequent change in the First-Class Mail nonautomation single-piece first-ounce letter rate is unaffected by any subsequent change in that rate.” Also, please refer to USA Philatelic (“Comprehensive Edition”), Summer 2005, Vol. 10, No. 2, page 16, and the Note which states: “Postage value of Breast Cancer semi-postal will be valued at current First-Class rate.” Please reconcile the sentence from the DMM with the Note from USA Philatelic.

OCA/USPS-42. Please refer to the DMM §604.3.2.1, January 6, 2005.

- a. Please provide a copy of Form 3615, authorization to use precanceled stamps.
- b. At the end of FY 2004, how many mailers were authorized to use precanceled stamps?