

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

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 108-18

Docket No. R2005-1

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID POPKIN [DBP/USPS-46]
(June 15, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its response to above-listed interrogatory of David Popkin, filed on April 29, 2005.

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

Michael T. Tidwell

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2998, Fax -5402
michael.t.tidwell@usps.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the foregoing document in accordance with Section 12 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Michael T. Tidwell

RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO
INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN

DBP/USPS-46

The increase in the Single-piece Nonmachinable Surcharge is proposed to be increased from 12¢ to 13¢. [a] Please provide a complete listing of the criteria which will require payment of this surcharge. Please provide the specific wording of each of the required criteria. [b] For each of the separate criteria shown in subpart a, please confirm that the reason for the payment of the surcharge is that the letter can not be processed in the automated system and therefore requires manual processing. [c] For each of the separate criteria shown in subpart a, indicate whether there have been any changes in the mail processing equipment which would allow the letter to be processed in the automated system without the need for manual processing and therefore allow for processing with payment of the surcharge.

RESPONSE:

- [a] See Domestic Mail Manual.101.1.2 (June 9, 2005).
- [b] Putting aside mail for which manual processing is specifically requested upon presentation and payment of the surcharge, that is the operational presumption underlying the surcharge.
- [c] The basis for the surcharge has never been that all mail with a particular nonmachinable characteristic is incapable of being processed on automation. Mail meeting any one of the nonmachinable criteria has such a tendency to be nonmachinable that a surcharge is assessed to cover a portion of the costs associated with the presumptive manual processing of such mail.