

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

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OCA (OCA/USPS-140 – 142, 144)
(June 24, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of the OCA, filed on June 9, 2005: OCA/USPS-140 – 142, 144. An objection to OCA/USPS-43 was filed on June 20, 2005.

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

Eric P. Koetting

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2992, Fax -5402
June 24, 2005

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-140. Please provide by ZIP (encoded), by route, by date, for all ZIPs for which any data were collected for the CCSTS, the following information. The OCA will accept data from any source and in any medium.

- a. The number of delivery points by route section by mode (Foot, NDCBU, etc.)
- b. The number of sequenced mailings
- c. The number of sequenced mailings with detached address labels
- d. Number of carriers who delivered mail on a route
- e. Volume by shape for each carrier who delivered mail on a route
- f. Overtime street hours (actual or projected)
- g. Routes without an assigned carrier
- h. Volume in bulk deliveries by shape
- i. Carrier Type (e.g., REG, PTF, T-6, etc.) for each carrier who delivered mail on a route

RESPONSE:

a-c, e-i. The information requested is not available.

d. Attached electronically is an Excel file showing date, encrypted ZIP Code, route number, and the number of carriers who scanned for that route on that date. In instances where the route number was missing (indicated by '00' in the route number field) multiple times in a ZIP/day, it was not possible to distinguish between multiple carriers on a single route, or single carriers on multiple routes, and therefore such observations have been excluded.

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-141. Is DOIS a database (as witness Stevens states at page 23, line 5 of his testimony)? If not, what is it? If so, in what language and format is it written and stored, and what time period does it cover?

Response

DOIS is a Business Solution System that consists of a number of different applications including a database. Each application has different software. The software includes Visual Basic, COBOL, and DBII. The DOIS database only holds thirteen months of operating data.

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-142. Is DOIS “linked” to other databases (see USPS-T-15, page 23, line 7)? If not, please explain. If so, please list and describe all databases to which DOIS is linked.

Response

The DOIS system receives data from the Address Management System (AMS), the Time and Attendance Control System (TACS), End of Run (EOR) reports, and the National Budget System (NBS). The DOIS system provides data to the Delivery Performance Achievement Recognition System (DPARS), the Carrier Optimized Routing (COR) system, the Executive Information System (WEBEIS), and the FLASH system. In addition, the Postal Service archives DOIS data.

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

OCA/USPS-144. This interrogatory concerns the Address Management System (AMS).

- a. Please list and describe the data fields maintained in or accessible by AMS.
- b. Please describe the algorithm or procedure by which AMS classifies routes as Business Foot, Residential Park and Loop, etc.
- c. Please describe the procedures and protocols that allow data from individual delivery units or offices to be transmitted to AMS.
- d. Witness Kelley has stated that he “obtain[ed] total possible delivery points by delivery mode from the FY 2004 Address Management System (AMS).”¹ Does “delivery mode” refer to an entire route or to route sections?
- e. Please provide a copy of instructions followed by delivery supervisors when uploading data to AMS or inputting data that will be accessed by AMS.

Response

A. AMS maintains information on five basic types of entities: ZIP Codes, facilities, routes, address ranges, and individual addresses. ZIP Code information includes the ZIP Code, type of ZIP Code (unique, PO Box, military, or delivery), final sortation method, associated city/place names, Congressional District, and county. Facility information includes facility name, type, phone numbers, addresses, level, and status indicators. Route information includes route type, route number, delivery mode, casing method, status (phantom, auxiliary), and the facility in which the route is housed. Address range information includes the street name elements, address range high and low, route, Congressional District, county, municipality, last line of address (if different from the ZIP Code), and ZIP+4 Code. Individual address information includes address elements, delivery type, delivery status, residential/business indicator, route, delivery sequence, and ZIP+4 Code.

¹ Response of Postal Service Witness John Kelley to Interrogatory VP/USPS-T16-10(i) Posed by Valpak Dealer’s Association, Inc., June 3, 2005.

RESPONSES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORIES
OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE

B. AMS includes a “delivery mode” indicator for each route in the system. This indicator is set based on the method used to deliver to the majority of the addresses on the route. AMS does not classify routes as business or residential as part of this delivery mode indicator, nor does it classify routes as business or residential in any other way.

C. There are two methods used to transfer information from a delivery unit to AMS. First is the edit book, which is a binder containing the printout of the delivery addresses for a route, the edit sheet, listed in the order of delivery. Carriers note changes on the edit sheet, which is then sent to the AMS office for input. The second method is the Electronic Edit Sheet (EES), which is part of an application called EES/WinSSI. This is a program created by USPS Engineering which allows a delivery unit to make changes to their DPS sortplan, also capturing those changes and transmitting them electronically to the AMS office. These transmissions are received throughout the day and processed overnight, available to the AMS office the next day. The AMS personnel review the submitted changes and either edit, reject, or accept the changes into the database.

D. Delivery mode in AMS refers to the entire route.

E. Attached to this response electronically are the standard training package for edit book maintenance, and the users guide for EES/WinSSI.

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.

Eric P. Koetting

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-2992, FAX: -5402
June 24, 2005