

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 POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS WESNER
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-T24-2-4)
(June 24, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the responses of witness Wesner to interrogatories DFC/USPS-T24-2-3, filed on June 1, 2005, and interrogatory DFC/USPS-T24-4, filed on June 21, 2005.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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DFC/USPS-T24-2. Please refer to your testimony at page 12, lines 5–7. Please explain in detail how the encryption of the signature works and how a person can confirm, by viewing e-mail headers or otherwise, that the Postal Service is, in fact, using encryption to send the signature.

RESPONSE:

The Postal Service is not using encryption technology to send the signature by email. If the Postal Service encrypted the signature letter in the email, the receiver most likely would not have a way to decrypt it. Instead, it is sent as an attached PDF file. The internal database that holds the signature data is secured based on best practices for the sensitivity of the data. Each system receives a security and privacy impact analysis.

As the new Intelligent Mail Data Acquisition System (IMDAS) scanners are deployed, the signatures will be encrypted on the scanner device. Signatures will be decrypted before they are transmitted to the customer, so the customer will not be aware of the previous encryption. Implementation is expected to be complete during the test year.

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DFC/USPS-T24-3. Please refer to your testimony at page 12, lines 5–7. Are signatures for both Signature Confirmation and electronic Return Receipt sent using encryption technology?

RESPONSE:

No. But see the response to DFC/USPS-T24-2.

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DFC/USPS-T24-4. Please refer to your response to DFC/USPS-T24-1. Please provide a derivation of, and a basis for, your estimate of 50 cents to transmit a digitally secure, encrypted signature by e-mail for electronic Return Receipts and Signature Confirmation.

RESPONSE:

50 cents is the best available estimate I have of the costs related to the encryption and transmission of the signature. The basis for the estimate of 50 cents is found in Docket No. R2001-1, USPS-T-26, at 15-16. While that estimate pertained to the costs charged by a third party for the digital transmission of an encrypted signature, I use that cost as a proxy for the Postal Service's computer-related costs associated with return receipt and Signature Confirmation services.