

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

REVISED RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN (ERRATUM)
(DBP/USPS-69(d))
(June 28, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its revised institutional response to interrogatory DBP/USPS-69(d). As noted in the Postal Service's response to DBP/USPS-135, the original response to this interrogatory incorrectly referenced part (d) of DBP/USPS-69 rather than part (a). The response to part (d) of this interrogatory has therefore been revised to provide the correct cross-reference.

The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the revised response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking

Keith E. Weidner

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260-1137
(202) 268-6252, Fax -3084

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DBP/USPS-69. Please refer to your response to DFC/USPS-6 subpart b. The average time of delivery for Next Day Service is shown as less than one day.

- (a) Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to do so, that the average time of delivery is calculated by adding up the total number of days that letters took to deliver and then dividing that by the total number of pieces.
- (b) In the calculation, did the Postal Service utilize calendar days or delivery days and explain the reason for the choice?
- (c) Please confirm, or explain if unable to do so, that the Postal Service uses the date of first attempted delivery rather than the date of actual delivery.
- (d) This would appear to indicate that there are a number of letters that were delivered in zero days (on the day of mailing). Please confirm or explain and also please advise the conditions under which same day delivery would take place and the types of letters that might be delivered on the same day.
- (e) Does the number of delivery days shown in the calculation utilize the 24-hour period from midnight to midnight or does it utilize the 24-hour period based on the guaranteed time of delivery. For example, a letter mailed on Monday to an overnight location with a 12 Noon guarantee and delivered at 2 PM Tuesday, does it count a one day since it was delivered on Tuesday or two days since it was delivered after the guarantee time on Tuesday? Please explain the reason for the choice.
- (f) How does the inability to deliver Express Mail on certain days of the week (such as Sunday and holiday) affect the response?
- (g) Please provide a breakdown from zero calendar days to four calendar days and then for five or more calendar days and show the percentage of letters delivered in each of the fifteen categories in the response to DFC/USPS-6 subpart b.
- (h) Are there any reasons known for the 74% increase in the time for Custom Design mail between 2003 and 2004.

RESPONSE:

(a) Not confirmed. The average time to deliver is the weighted average of hours to deliver divided by 24 (the number of hours in one day). The hours to deliver are the amount of time (in ten-thousandths of hours) from the time of acceptance to the time of attempted delivery or delivery.

(b) As noted in the response to subpart (a), hours to deliver were used to calculate the average days to deliver.

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(c) Confirmed.

(d) Please see the response to part (a), which states how the 24-hour period is calculated. Express Mail is often delivered at an earlier time of the day than when it was accepted. Thus, an Express Mail piece can be accepted before the cutoff time and early enough to be delivered within the same 24-hour period.

(e) The 24-hour period begins at the time of acceptance of the mailpiece.

(f) It does not affect the response.

(g) The following table reflects the number of days to deliver based on actual clock time as reflected in the Program Tracking System. Zero indicates 0 to 24 hours, 1 indicates 24 to 48 hours, etc.

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		Days	Days to Delivery			Volume Share			
			FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	
PO to PO	Next Day	0	0.78	0.78	0.79	84%	84%	85%	
		1	1.19	1.18	1.17	15%	15%	14%	
		2	2.37	2.41	2.40	1%	1%	1%	
		3	3.60	3.55	3.58	0%	0%	0%	
		4	4.58	4.57	4.54	0%	0%	0%	
		>4	10.67	10.70	10.19	0%	0%	0%	
	2 Day	0	0.74	0.74	0.73	40%	39%	40%	
		1	1.55	1.58	1.60	52%	53%	54%	
		2	2.37	2.41	2.41	6%	6%	5%	
		3	3.48	3.49	3.53	1%	1%	1%	
		4	4.61	4.61	4.60	0%	0%	0%	
		>4	8.13	8.16	8.09	0%	0%	0%	
	PO to Addressee	Next Day	0	0.83	0.83	0.83	73%	74%	75%
			1	1.16	1.16	1.15	25%	25%	24%
2			2.28	2.34	2.33	1%	1%	1%	
3			3.43	3.37	3.42	0%	0%	0%	
4			4.36	4.41	4.40	0%	0%	0%	
>4			10.83	10.55	9.65	0%	0%	0%	
2 Day		0	0.79	0.79	0.78	35%	33%	34%	
		1	1.61	1.63	1.64	49%	49%	52%	
		2	2.20	2.22	2.22	14%	15%	13%	
		3	3.35	3.36	3.49	1%	2%	1%	
		4	4.43	4.43	4.45	0%	0%	0%	
		>4	8.40	8.18	7.90	0%	0%	0%	
Custom Designed		0	0.70	0.71	0.71	66%	63%	56%	
		1	1.30	1.32	1.36	22%	24%	22%	
	2	2.55	2.58	2.62	6%	6%	9%		
	3	3.59	3.61	3.61	3%	4%	6%		
	4	4.57	4.58	4.58	1%	2%	3%		
	>4	13.74	10.43	9.10	2%	2%	3%		

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(h) The Custom Design data in the table in DFC-USPS-6(b) was erroneous for FY 2003 and FY 2004. The correct average days to deliver for Express Mail Custom Design should have been 1.33 and 1.58, respectively, as opposed to 1.34 and 2.33 as previously reported. Appropriate errata will be filed shortly.