

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 UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DAVID B. POPKIN
(DBP/USPS-169-171)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of David B. Popkin, filed on June 16, 2005: DBP/USPS-169-171. Responses to DBP/USPS-167-168, and 172-173 are forthcoming.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
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June 30, 2005

Response of the United States Postal Service
to Interrogatory of David B. Popkin

DBP/USPS-169. Please refer to your response to DFC/USPS-69. DMM Section 163.3.1d states, "Be securely bound by permanent fastenings such as staples, spiral binding, glue, or stitching. Loose-leaf binders and similar fastenings are not considered permanent.

- [a] Please explain where it states who must make the secure binding of the mailing.
- [b] Please explain why I cannot take a copy of this morning's *The New York Times* newspaper and put several staples through the various sections and create a mailing which meets all of the criteria for mailing as Bound Printed Matter.
- [c] If the publishers of *The New York Times* were to place a number of staples into the newspaper at their printing plant before delivering the newspaper to me, would it then be mailable as Bound Printed Matter?
- [d] If so, please explain why two identical pieces of mail are not treated identically.

RESPONSE:

It is not possible to answer your questions in the abstract. Rulings about actual items and their eligibility for mailing are made under the procedures in Domestic Mail Manual 607.2 by local postal officials and/or the Pricing and Classification Service Center in New York, which can review the mailpiece and the circumstances involved in the mailing. This question does not seem to have been ruled on before. It is, therefore, unlikely that there have been or would be sufficient volumes of such material to have any effect on matters at issue in the instant docket.

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DBP/USPS-170. Please refer to your response to DFC/USPS-70. [a] Is there some particular significance to the ZIP Code order of the data provided? [b] If so, what is it? [c] Please provide a complete listing of all of the characteristics that apply to each of the Fee Groups. [d] If there are Erent costs involved, please provide the cutoff values between each of the fee groups as appropriate. [e] Have the Erent cutoff values and/or the criteria for determining them changed since that system was established in the original rate case? [f] If so, please provide complete details. [g] What is the date used to determine the fee category listed in the attachment? [h] At what intervals does the Postal Service plan to update the fee categories utilized? [i] When is the next reevaluation scheduled for?

RESPONSE:

[a-b] See Notice of Replacement of Excel File Associated with Response of the United States Postal Service to Interrogatory of Douglas F. Carlson (DFC/USPS-70), filed June 29, 2005. The original Excel file was supposed to be in ascending ZIP Code order, but was not.

[c-f] Objection filed June 27, 2005.

[g] The fee group listing applies currently. The listing is based on the analysis done for the implementation of Docket No. R2001-1, and this listing is also planned for use in the implementation of Docket No. R2005-1.

[h-i] Objection filed June 27, 2005.

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- DBP/USPS-171.** Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-8 subpart g.
- [a] In your upcoming responses to DBP/USPS-129, 130, and 131, it would appear that the revised response dated June 15, 2005 only stands to answer part of subpart a of DBP/USPS-129. Please also advise which of the 19 categories of mailpieces, if any, [A through S] use a CONFIRM code.
 - [b] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that CONFIRM codes are mailer applied.
 - [c] Please advise the use that is made of the CONFIRM code.
 - [d] Please advise the data that is contained in a CONFIRM barcode.
 - [e] Please advise whether your response to DBP/USPS-73 is still correct when one considers the availability of CONFIRM codes and their accessibility.

RESPONSE:

- a. Of the kit types for EXFC mail identified in the revised response to interrogatory DPB/USPS-8(g), kits E, F, J, K, L, M, O, P, Q, and R may have Confirm PLANET Codes imprinted.
- b. Confirm codes are applied by mailers or their agents.
- c. Confirm codes are part of the Confirm service. See Docket No. MC2002-1.
- d. Confirm can be used on outgoing or return mail. For outgoing mail, a Confirm PLANET barcode includes a 2-digit Service Type ID that mailers use to identify the service type, shape and class of mail piece; a 5-digit Subscriber ID issued by the Postal Service as part of a Confirm subscription; and 4 or 6 additional digits for subscribers to use as they see fit (*e.g.*, to identify entry point, campaign, client, etc.). For return mail (Origin Confirm), data include: 2-digit Service Type ID; and 9 or 11 additional digits for subscribers to use as they see fit.
- e. The response to interrogatory DBP/USPS-73 is correct.