

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-179 – 182)
(July 1, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the following interrogatories of the OCA, filed on June 17, 2005: OCA/USPS-179 – 182.

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

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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July 1, 2005

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OCA/USPS 179. Please explain where and how city carrier delivery supervisors obtain counts of accountable pieces each day. Address this separately for DOIS and non-DOIS offices.

- a. Are city carrier delivery unit supervisors responsible for making these counts? If not, please explain.
- b. For delivery offices that are in the DOIS system, are accountable volumes entered into DOIS each day?
 - i. If so, where do the counts come from?
 - ii. How are they entered?
 - iii. Are the counts made for each carrier route? An entire ZIP code? Please explain.
 - iv. Please provide a sample DOIS screen shot showing accountable volumes for a specific city carrier route.
- c. For delivery offices not in the DOIS system, are counts of accountables made each day? How are the counts obtained? What is the postal form used to report the volume of accountables to be delivered on a particular carrier route? Please provide a copy of such a form.
- d. In the Mail Count and Route Inspection Procedure for city carriers, is the number of accountables part of the evaluation? If so, where do the accountable volume counts come from? What is the rule of thumb for estimating the amount of time required to deliver accountables in the annual (or other periodic) Mail Count and Route Inspection Procedure.

Response:

A, B, and C. No daily count of accountable pieces is required or conducted in City carrier operations. Time for the daily handling of accountable mail is included in a City route's evaluation as fixed office time (see D below).

D. When evaluating a City route following the Mail Count and Route Inspection procedure, carriers and inspectors count the actual numbers of accountable pieces an assignment receives each day during the week of inspection. They also record the actual time necessary to receive the accountables and to get clearance for either returning receipts or the pieces upon returning to the office.

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There is no 'rule of thumb' regarding the allowance for handling accountables. If the average daily actual time during the week of inspection is more than six minutes, the assignment receives that average actual time for handling accountables. Otherwise, the route receives a minimum allowance of six minutes per day for handling accountables. The time necessary for handling accountables is a factor in the assignment's fixed office time.

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OCA/USPS-180. Please provide a copy of the May FY 2005 Financial and Operating Statement. Also furnish copies of the June, July, August and September FY 2005 Financial and Operating Statements when they become available.

RESPONSE:

These Statements are posted on usps.com when they become available.

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OCA/USPS-181. Please file a copy of the Operating Budget for FY 2006 at the time it becomes available and if the record is still open. Provide the level of detail requested in interrogatories OCA/USPS-T6-12 and -13.

RESPONSE:

This will be provided when available.

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OCA/USPS-182. Please confirm that the screen shots produced by DOIS utilize an electronic database containing electronic data on volumes, workhours, routes, ZIP Codes, and mileage. If this is not confirmed, then please explain.

- a. Is the database a Microsoft Access, or similar database? Please specify.
- b. Also confirm that software is available to organize the data referenced in part a. according to specific organizational and sortation criteria. If this is not confirmed, then please explain.
- c. Does the Postal Service ever generate reports for headquarters personnel using broad aggregations of the data referenced in part a.? If not, why not?
- d. Do delivery unit supervisors ever generate reports at the route or ZIP-Code level using aggregations of the data referenced in part a.? If not, why not?

Response:

The DOIS system does not produce screen shots.

The DOIS system is a supervisor tool that records and reports, among other data, volume and workhour data by carrier and by carrier assignment. DOIS provides reports that summarize and trend that volume and workhour data and compare it to prior carrier performance and assignment base data. These data and reports are organized by carrier, by assignment, and by DOIS unit. A DOIS unit does not necessarily correspond to a ZIP Code. The assignment base data includes the authorized mileage for the assignment. DOIS does not track actual daily mileage.

A. The DOIS system uses mainframe DB2 database software.

B. SQL is the query language for DB2 databases.

C. The Postal Service has generated reports for HQ management showing broad aggregations of DOIS data. To date, these requests have been infrequent

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and fulfilled using contracted resources. Because these requests have been so infrequent, the Postal Service does not maintain a staff of programmers familiar with both SQL and the data available in DOIS and the archived DOIS data files.

D. The DOIS system provides delivery unit supervisors many reports that include the referenced operational data. The Postal Service has demonstrated most of those reports for the OCA or has provided them as interrogatory responses. The responses to OCA/USPS-94-98 are examples.

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.

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