

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 DOUGLAS F. CARLSON  
(DFC/USPS-103-104)  
(July 14, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its institutional responses to interrogatories DFC/USPS-103 and 104, filed on June 30, 2005. Objections were filed to interrogatories DFC/USPS-101 and 102 on July 11, 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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RESPONSE OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON

**DFC/USPS-103.** Please refer to the response to DFC/USPS-T24-4. Please provide the Postal Service's estimate of the actual cost in the base year and test year for transmitting signatures by e-mail to customers who purchase Signature Confirmation and electronic return receipts.

**RESPONSE:**

The Postal Service does not have estimates of the base year or test year costs for transmitting signatures by email to customers.

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**DFC/USPS-104.** Please confirm that the Postal Service stated in Docket No. R2001-1 that it would transmit signatures by a digitally secure, encrypted method to customers who purchase Signature Confirmation and electronic return receipts. If you confirm, please explain how, when, and why this plan changed. If you do not confirm, please state how the Postal Service described the transmission method in Docket No. R2001-1.

**RESPONSE:**

Confirmed for electronic return receipt, but not for Signature Confirmation. In Docket No. R2001-1, Signature Confirmation signatures were to be provided only by fax or mail, so nothing was said about encryption of the signature for email transmission.

After the record closed in Docket No. R2001-1, the Postal Service needed to reevaluate its technological model for electronic return receipt, and decided during that period that encryption of the signature was not required, and could cause problems for customers unable to decrypt the signature.