

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 DAVID POPKIN [DBP/USPS- 281 AND 282]
(August 3, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to above-listed interrogatories of David Popkin, filed on July 20, 2005.

The interrogatories are stated verbatim and are followed by the responses.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

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**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DAVID B. POPKIN**

DBP/USPS-281 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-129. Presiding Officer's Ruling No. R2005-1/43 issued on July 8, 2005, compelled a response to DBP/USPS-129. The two remaining questions are the dimensions and weight of each of the 19 categories of mailpieces A through S.

[a] Please provide the dimensions of the mailpiece [letters, cards, and flats] that are associated with each of the 19 categories A through S. Please provide a separate listing of the dimensions that are associated with each of the letters A through S.

[b] Please provide the weight [identify it as either one ounce or two ounces] of the mailpiece that are associated with each of the 19 categories A through S other than the categories that are associated with cards.

[c] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that postcards are limited to a maximum size of 4-1/4 inches high and 6 inches long and that a postcard that was 4-3/4 inches high by 6-1/2 inches long would not be classified as a postcard and would require the payment of the letter rate postage, currently 37¢.

[d] Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the mailpiece referred to in subpart c above is the mailpiece listed as category C and is listed as a CDLTR type since it looks like a postcard but is oversize and therefore categorized as a letter.

RESPONSE:

- (a-b) The Ruling compelled a general response to the interrogatory, which is what the Postal Service provided.
- (c) Confirmed. That is the amount of postage affixed.
- (d) Confirmed that the piece in question is the CDLTR.

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DBP/USPS-282. Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-129 subpart c. Evaluation of this chart appears to indicate that a very significant improvement on overnight flats and in all categories of 2- and 3-day mail occurred towards the end of FY 2002 and then has remained fairly level since then. Please provide any explanation on how this improvement was accomplished.

RESPONSE:

The performance improvements in two- and three-day performance beginning towards the end of FY 2002 are due to a combination of factors. First, recovery from the anthrax attack on the Postal Service and our customers, which occurred in the first quarter of FY 2002, benefited all categories of service performance. Second, removal of the ban on the transport of mail on commercial airlines also contributed to the improved two- and three-day scores. Third, service performance for flat-shaped mail in particular has benefited from deployment of the AFSM-100. Lastly, increased management attention was placed on two- and three-day service performance beginning in mid-FY 2002.