

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-122(c)-(e), 159, 177-181, 189, 235]
(September 8, 2005)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides its responses to the above-listed interrogatories of David Popkin. Each interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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DBP/USPS-122 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-71 subpart e. [a] Must provisions be made for a customer to be able to claim a Post Office-to-Post Office Express Mail article on a Saturday at a post office that does not have normal retail window hours on Saturday? [b] Must provisions be made for a customer to be able to claim a Post Office-to-Addressee Express Mail article addressed to a post office box on a Saturday at a post office that does not have normal retail window hours on Saturday? [c] Must provisions be made for a post office box customer to be able to claim accountable or articles too large for the box on a Saturday at a post office that does not have normal retail window hours on Saturday? [d] Must provisions be made for a street delivery customer to be able to claim accountable articles on a Saturday at a post office that does not have normal retail window hours on Saturday? [e] Please explain and provide the rationale for any negative responses.

RESPONSE:

(c) – (e) No. POM section 126.44 states that: “At the postmaster’s discretion, when no one is on duty, lobbies may remain open to allow customers access to Post Office boxes and self-service equipment, provided that customer safety, security provisions, and police protection are deemed adequate by the Inspection Service.”

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DBP/USPS-159 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-85 subparts c and d. [a] In the example that you provided in your response to subpart b, you indicated that the CFS unit has until 5 PM on Tuesday to process the mail. The question that I had is that once the mail has been processed [I assume that means that the yellow label has been affixed with the new address], that the mail will be dispatched to the addressee. The question is will First-Class Mail that is destined from the P&DC for overnight delivery receive overnight delivery and mail that is destined to the 2-day delivery standard area from that P&DC receive delivery on the 2nd day and mail destined to the 3-day area receive delivery on the 3rd day [assuming no non-delivery days are involved]? [b] You indicate that First and Standard letters will be combined into a single group and that First, Periodicals, and Standard flats will also be combined into a separate single group. When those separate combined groups of mail are dispatched from the P&DC, what level of service will they receive? Will they be separated into the separate classes of mail by the P&DC and dispatched as appropriate to that class of mail or will they be sent as a single group - if so, what type of dispatch will they receive?

RESPONSE:

- (a) These are the Postal Service's objectives. As with all First-Class Mail, these objectives are not always met.
- (b) CFS operations process forwardable mail based upon the shape rather than the class of the mail. Consequently, the outflows to the P&DC from CFS operations are also shape-based. Because the mail from a CFS operation includes preferential mail, the P&DC processes all CFS mail as preferential mail.

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DBP/USPS-177 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-55 subpart b. The postage meter that I am referring to is a customer leased machine such as provided by Pitney Bowes and not the PVI strip provided at the USPS retail window. Please respond to that question.

RESPONSE:

Barcodes for Meters and PC-Postage come in a variety of shapes. Postage meters currently produce either no barcode at all, a barcode that is close to .8 X .8, and one that is a rectangle. It all depends on the actual meter and the vendors.

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DBP/USPS-178 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-55 subpart d. Are there plans to make use of the APC and/or postage meter barcodes in the future? If so, please explain the expected use and the timeframe for implementation.

RESPONSE:

As of yet, there are no such plans.

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DBP/USPS-179 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-60. [a] Please confirm, or explain if you are not able to confirm, that if I present two, one ounce letters in a standard #10 envelope to a retail window clerk for sending by Certified Mail the required postage will be \$2.67 and assume that letter "A" has no postage affixed while letter "B" has the full \$2.67 postage affixed. Letter "A" will have the \$2.67 postage affixed with a PVI strip and the letter will be scanned into the system on the POS terminal as being accepted. Letter "B" will be accepted but not scanned in. The PS Form 3800 for both letters will be postmarked and/or validated. Within a short period of time, if I access the USPS website I will find that letter "A" is in the system and it will allow me to enter my e-mail address to receive an e-mail of upcoming delivery events while letter "B" will not appear in the system and will not allow for requesting an e-mail update of delivery events until the delivery is attempted one or more days later. [b] Please confirm, or explain if you are not able to confirm, that letter "A" has a higher value of service than letter "B" solely because of the lack of advance payment of postage. [c] Please confirm, or explain if you are not able to confirm, that letter "A" will incur a greater window time than letter "B" due to the affixing of the postage and the processing of the payment. [d] Is a mailer permitted to request that the retail window clerk scan letter "B" into the system to allow for the earlier e-mail notification request? [e] If not, why not? [f] Is a mailer permitted to overpay the postage on letter "B" by one or more cents to "force" the window clerk to scan the letter in at the time of mailing? [g] If not, why not? [h] Are there any plans to allow for requesting the e-mail notification of delivery events prior to the first scan of the mailpiece? [i] If not, why not? If so, when will it be implemented?

RESPONSE:

(a) Confirmed.

(b) Not confirmed. The Postal Service has no basis for determining whether one letter has a higher value of service than another. Additionally, Letter "A"'s entry into the system is not due to the lack of advance payment of postage, but is due to an acceptance scan.

(c) Confirmed.

(d) Yes.

(e) Not applicable.

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- (f) A mailer is permitted to overpay postage, but this does not force the window clerk to scan the letter in at the time of mailing.
- (g) Not applicable.
- (h) No.
- (i) Because there are no such plans in existence.

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DBP/USPS-180 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-62. Do all APCs allow for an Express Mail cutoff time of 5:30 PM or should that time be shown as "the established cutoff time"?

RESPONSE:

The response should have stated that "the APC screen shows the guaranteed delivery time assuming that the article would be deposited in the APC by the established cutoff time."

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DBP/USPS-181 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-63. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that an article that weighs over 16 ounces may be deposited in an APC drop, a post office lobby mail drop, or a collection box so long as the postage for it is paid either totally or partially by an APC stamp an/or a postage meter.

RESPONSE:

Confirmed.

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DBP/USPS-189 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-95. Please confirm, or explain if you are unable to confirm, that the 4-state barcode will not show the specific address and/or ZIP Code but will only show a unique sequence number that the equipment that reads the 4-state barcode will read and then go to a centralized database to determine the address information for processing that mailpiece, in other words, that if I could manually decode a specific 4-state barcode, I would not be able to check or determine the ZIP Code or other address information.

RESPONSE:
Confirmed.

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DBP/USPS-235 Please refer to your response to DBP/USPS-161. [a] Do you believe that filing a Change of Address Order relates to a Postal service? [b] If not, please explain why not. [c] If so, please explain why the rate does not appear in the DMCS.

RESPONSE:

This interrogatory cannot be answered because it calls for a legal conclusion, and is not a request for factual information.