

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2006

Docket No. R2006-1

RESPONSES OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
WITNESS ALTAF H. TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORIES OF DOUGLAS F. CARLSON
(DFC/USPS-T32-1 THROUGH 4)

The United States Postal Service hereby files the responses of witness Altaf H. Taufique to the following interrogatories of Douglas F. Carlson: DFC/USPS-T32-1 through 4, filed on June 2, 2006.

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 WITNESS TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-T32-1. Please provide the dimensions and other mail-piece characteristics that will determine whether a particular First-Class Mail item will pay the rate for letters, for flats, or for parcels.

RESPONSE

Current information is reflected in the following sections of the Domestic Mail Manual, DMM 300, January 8, 2006.

dimensions, 601.1.2, 601.1.3
discount flats, 301
discount letters, 201
discount parcels, 401
retail mail, 101

The DMM will be amended through the usual Federal Register process at an appropriate time in the future. Please see my testimony USPS-T-32, pages 19 and 20, for a brief discussion of the proposed changes in this area.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-T32-2. Please provide the rate that a #10 envelope that weighs 1.5 ounces and is 0.5 inches thick would pay. In your response, please explain whether this envelope would be considered a letter, a flat, or a parcel.

RESPONSE

Computing postage is explained in Domestic Mail Manual section 604.7 and in sections pertaining to individual classes of mail. Processing categories for all classes of mail are described in DMM section 601.1.

Assuming that the proposed rates are recommended by the Commission and approved by the Governors and assuming that the thickness of the mail piece exceeds the maximum of 0.25 inches for letters, such a mail piece would pay 82 cents. This is the sum of the proposed 62-cent first ounce postage for a flat shaped piece, plus the applicable 20-cent additional ounce rate.

DMM standards for classification proposed in this docket will be developed through the usual Federal Register process at an appropriate time in the future. Ultimately, the determination would have to be based on the examination of an actual mail piece by an acceptance employee applying the standards that will be developed to implement the new rate schedule.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
TO INTERROGATORY OF DOUGLAS CARLSON**

DFC/USPS-T32-3. Please refer to your response to GCA/USPS-T32-1.

- a. Would the mail piece be considered a letter, a flat, or a parcel?
- b. Suppose the letter described in GCA/USPS-T32-1 weighed 1.5 ounces. Which rate would it pay?

RESPONSE

- a. Current processing categories for all classes of mail are explained in Domestic Mail Manual section 601.1. Also, please see my response to your interrogatory DFC/USPS-T32-2.
- b. Assuming that the proposed rates are recommended by the Commission and approved by the Governors and assuming that the mail piece does not meet the aspect ratio requirement for letters, it could qualify for a rate of 82 cents -- the first-ounce rate for a flat shaped piece, 62 cents, plus the proposed additional ounce rate of 20 cents. The ultimate determination would have to be based on the examination of an actual mail piece by an acceptance employee applying the standards that will be developed to implement the new rate schedule.

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITNESS TAUFIQUE
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DFC/USPS-T32-4. Under the Postal Service's proposal, please confirm that a letter could pay the rate for a flat and that a flat could pay the rate for a parcel. If you do not confirm, please explain.

RESPONSE

A mail piece that does not meet one or more requirements for a certain shape is proposed to be charged the next higher shape category rate. For instance, a mail piece that appears to be a letter, but exceeds the maximum thickness allowable for letter-shaped pieces, would be charged the first-ounce rate for a flat-shaped piece, plus any applicable additional-ounce postage.